

TOWN OF ARCADIA LAKES
COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2012

Town Council of Arcadia Lakes met January 5th at 6:00 p.m. at the Arcadia Lakes Town Hall.

ATTENDING were Mayor Richard Thomas; Mayor Pro Tem Rusty Onley; Council members: Tom Clark, Linda Jackson and Mark Robertson. Also attending were Town Attorney Charles Cook; Town Clerk Christine Murphy and Barbara Covington; CAT deputy Margaret Fisher. Town Residents attending were Peggy and Bill Smith; Susan and Michael Smith; George Geckle, Peter Chesney, Steve Brown, and Mark Huguley.

DEPUTY'S REPORT: Master Deputy Margaret Fisher reported that the Crime Stats showed nothing in Arcadia Lakes over the last month. Deputy Fisher reported that results of the Speed Sign on Arcadia Lakes Drive showed results from November 10, 2011 to January 5, 2012. There were 45,739 vehicles using the road; Maximum speed was 72mph; Average speed was 27mph; Only 780 vehicles were above the speed limit. Deputy Fisher reported that there had been a burglary at a home on Newport Drive (in Greengate). Parked in the driveway was a Burgandy SUV-4 Door. One man ran out the back door and was arrested. The other one ran out, jumped in the SUV, almost ran over the officer; finally ditched the car and ran away. They are still looking for him. Mayor Thomas said that his neighbor had spotted a red pickup in front of his house at 11:00 p.m. the other night, and also driving through Kaminer Station the next day. Mayor Thomas said he reminded him that 911 needs to be called immediately when something suspicious occurs. Deputy Fisher said they need all the help they can get from citizens. Mr. Chesney said that a Toyota Pickup had been reported stolen from Cary Lane a few weeks ago. Deputy Fisher said she would check on it. For non-emergency calls from residents, call 252-2911.

DECEMBER 1, 2011 MINUTES: Mayor Thomas asked if there were any corrections or additions to the December 1st minutes. Mr. Robertson said the discussion of use of web site and use of Town's E-mail list had been left out of the minutes. The minutes were approved with the e-mail and web site addition to be added.

ROPER POND: Ms. Jackson reported that she had not heard from Atty. Amy Armstrong, who she has been keeping apprised of what is going on with Roper Pond. She has contacted the Court of Appeals Clerk to see where the case was and The Court of Appeals Supreme Court, and they have not returned her phone calls. Ms. Jackson said she was on the property at 10:30 at night when they were digging Holes with a backhoe. She asked the deputy who showed up what they were doing There. He said they would be through in 30 minutes. They stopped work at 11:00. Ms. Jackson said she has been sending e-mails to Jim Manning on a regular basis about the noise and activity. There is no ordinance in the county pertaining to construction noise. She suggested that the Town residents get together and submit ordinances to Jim Manning, who is receptive to the idea. The Town of Bluffton

has a very good set of ordinances that we might all want to look at, Ms. Jackson said.

COG REPORT: Mayor Thomas said he has a call into the COG and hopes to have an Up to date report soon. Mr. Robertson asked if there was a written summary of the two Meetings they had with Town residents. Mayor Thomas said they would have a report On the meetings, as well as set up an internal meeting with council.

RAIN GARDEN SIGN Christine reported that Capitol Design said they could replace The Rain Garden sign that had been vandalized at the Tree of Life, for a cost of \$597.00, or repair it for approximately \$350.00. After discussion, Christine agreed to call Jim Bonneville at Fast Sign Company for a replacement or repair quote.

The Meeting was opened for questions and comments from residents:

ARCADIA LAKES DAM: Mr. George Geckle of 937 Arcadia Lakes Drive Reported that he is concerned about the condition of the dam on Arcadia Lakes Drive, near his property. The owner of the dam, Vera Cockrell, disclaims any responsibility of the dam. Therefore, brush, trees, etc. growing on the dam are causing problems that no one will take responsibility for. DOT owns the road over the dam. Recently they did remove a tree that was about to fall across the Road. After discussion, Mr. Geckle suggested that the mayor and council do Something about the upkeep and ownership of the dam. Mayor Thomas said That Linda Jackson had done research on the dam. Ms. Jackson said that she had all the records pulled from the courthouse, and it was determined that Vera Cockrell is the owner of the dam. Ms. Jackson said that Natalie Moore, who handles dams and roads for DOT, said they will not take responsibility for dam property, but are responsible for the road. Ms. Jackson that those who benefit the most are the people who live on the lake, and should decide what to do about the dam.

Councilman Robertson told Mr. Geckle that the Town owns no roads or property, and the way it is structured, had limited authority and responsibilities, and doesn't want him To think that the Town of Arcadia Lakes is in a position to help him solve the problem. Since Mr. Geckle is concerned about maybe having to take down some trees on the dam At his property; Mr. Robertson advised him to look up the Town's tree regulations in Section 6-12 in the Town's ordinances. Discussion was held.

ARCADIA LAKES Dr./TRENHOLM RD. INTERSECTION: Peggy Smith reported that Arcadia Lakes Drive and Trenholm Road Intersection is a dangerous location, especially to walkers having to walk in the street to turn onto Trenholm from Arcadia Lakes Drive. She thanked council for getting the Poison Ivy cleaned up there. She said a Resident's son was hit walking in the 800 block of Trenholm Road. Mayor Thomas

said he is working on getting a traffic signal study done at the intersection, as well as a study for the traffic coming out of Roper Pond Apartments, at the appropriate time.

Mayor Thomas said he is also looking at having brick or embossed crosswalks across Trenholm Road, Arcadia Lakes Drive and Cary Lane; as suggested by the Charette, that was done for the Town several years ago. This can be added to the COG's projects, he said. Also, Mayor Thomas reported that the white rail fence at the corner of Arcadia Lakes Drive intersection and Trenholm Road should be moved for site clearance. DOT has been notified to look into that, he said.

Mr. Robertson said that when the process was started with Council of Governments To do an analysis of how the Town might take care of it's business, govern itself, and address concerns like this earlier, he thinks it's important that the residents be involved. Right now the way the Town is set up, they don't have a lot of capacity to deal with issues like this. As choices are made about the Town over the next year as to what kind of capacity we want and what we are willing to spend money on, in order to deal with these problems, that is what the COG study is about. Is the Town willing to invest more money or more capacity in order to be able to deal with problems like this? Right now council has only Christine to hand off everything to, which is a lot of work. He said she does a great job, but that is a pretty limited approach as to how we deal with these problems, when residents want council to deal with them. Keep in mind, as we go through the whole study with the COG, if the residents want the Town to deal with these problems, Then we have to think about whether we change the Town in some way or not; or keep doing things the way we are doing them now. Take the problem of the dam and concerns over the traffic. In order to deal with them, we have to decide whether we want the Town to have more capacity, more ability, other than part time council members and Christine, Mayor Thomas said. The COG is already looking into the potential for a part time Town Administrator, which will give Christine the aid to follow up on these type of things and run with them.

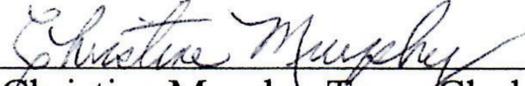
The idea of the contract with the COG is to go through a process with a lot of public input, to get a sense of what the people want, Mr. Robertson said.

SPEED SIGN ON TRENHOLM ROAD: Mr. Huguley asked about speed sign plans for Trenholm Road and if there were plans for relocating the sign from Arcadia Lakes Drive. Mayor Thomas said they were discussing getting an additional sign because there has to be a power source, which they have on Arcadia Lakes Drive. A portable sign, which would be movable, would also have to have a power source for it. Battery powered signs have been stolen. Mr. Huguley said he was looking at a solar powered sign, which might be another alternative. Mr. Clark said he had presented information on solar powered speed signs, which are inexpensive compared to the one on Arcadia Lakes Drive. Mr. Clark said he could bring back the sign information to the next meeting. Mr. Robertson said it is still a question as to whether the Town wants to have the capacity and take responsibility for these kind of things. He encouraged Mr. Clark to stay involved with

this whole process with the COG study. He told Mr. Huguley to stay engaged with that, because the Town has to answer some fundamental questions about whether we want to change the way we are now and take on more business. Traffic Calming on Trenholm Road is a major issue that we want to take on, Mayor Thomas said.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mayor Thomas said that council will go into executive session, to follow up on some information that was provided council two meetings ago. Nothing will be voted on in Executive Session; and he doesn't anticipate that anything will come up to be voted on after the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.


Christine Murphy, Town Clerk