

TOWN OF ARCADIA LAKES
COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 5, 2013

The Town of Arcadia Lakes Council met on Thursday, December 5th at 6:00 p.m., in the Town Hall Conference Room.

ATTENDING were Mayor Mark Huguley; Mayor Pro Tem Rusty Onley; Council members: Don Davis, Linda Jackson. Also attending were Town Attorney Charles Cook, and Town Clerk Christine Murphy. Town residents Peggy and Bill Smith, Mike Smith, Bob and Frannie Larsen; Mark King; George Geckle, Betty Walker, Bernie Gaudi, Bob Jackson, Bob Murphy, Steve Brown, and Alicia and Fred Myhrer attended.

DEPUTY'S REPORT: Cpl. Ortiz, who filled in for Deputy Margaret Fisher, reminded everyone to not set boxes out front, indicating recent purchases. This encourages thieves to break into your home. Mayor Huguley reported that there were several vehicle break-ins in the last couple of days; four on Cary Lane; One on Arcadia Lakes Drive; and two in the Commons. A rifle and phone were stolen from a car on Cary Lane, that was broken into twice. Steve Brown said he had a good video of someone checking out his locked car on Cary Lane, that he would turn over to Cpl. Ortiz. Alicia deMyrher said would like to see car break ins, and any other illegal activities, posted on the website. Residents were reminded to call 911 to report any suspicious persons or activities in the town, especially at night. Cpl. Ortiz said he would ask that patrols be stepped up in our area between 12 midnight and 5:00 a.m. Mark King said he has lived in the Town for three years, and has seen very little police presence in the area. Alicia deMyrher said she would like to have a neighborhood workshop meeting for the residents. Cpl. Ortiz said all she had to do was set up a date, and get with Deputy Margaret Fisher. Peggy Smith said she feels the residents should take more responsibility; lock cars, keep valuables out, and report anything suspicious. Further discussion was held.

SPEEDING ON ARCADIA LAKES DRIVE: Bernie Gaudi said there was still too much speeding on Arcadia Lakes Drive, and he wants to see more people arrested.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mayor Huguley said he was going to try to place comments at the beginning of the meeting rather than at the end. Residents can sign the roster to speak, and can comment on matters before and acted on by the council after they speak, he said.

FRANNIE LARSEN said she would like to see more people attend council meetings, and for Christine to contact each resident monthly, since not everyone has e-mail access. Meetings are always held on the first Thursday of the month, except when necessary to change the date, such as holidays, etc., Mayor Huguley said. Residents are encouraged to call the office to confirm the date, in case of change.

PEGGY SMITH said she would like to see the minutes posted on the web site more quickly, since they are drafts until approved. She said she has no decisive action to report on Arcadia Woods Lake Dam. DOT is a huge factor in the dam problem, since their road is over Highway Department Transportation fill, and has been considered dangerous since 1979. The Lake Association is getting hard facts, which are very costly, Mrs. Smith said.

MARK KING said that his big concern is the safety and security of families in the town, and feels that council should allot more money for that, rather than paying for garbage fees.

GEORGE GECKLE suggested that Council meetings be held in a different place, maybe next door, so more people will attend.

BERNIE GAUDI said he would like for Council to set a date for the Comprehensive Plan study, and have more input by the citizens. He said that volunteers could be used to help implement the Plan.

DECEMBER MINUTES: Mayor Huguley asked if there were any corrections or additions to the December minutes. Ms. Jackson moved that the minutes be approved as written; Mr. Davis seconded the motion, which was approved.

TOWN HALL COFFEE: Mayor Huguley said that the Chair would entertain a motion, that Council seek every opportunity to encourage and promote Citizen communication. Ms. Jackson seconded the motion, for the sake of discussion. Mayor Huguley suggested that Council have a periodic meeting for citizens to meet with Mayor and Council, or some combination thereof. One way is for the Mayor to call a special meeting of Council, that is provided for in the ordinances. His intent is for council members to decline pay for a special meeting, to avoid costing the Town. It would also be incumbent on the council members to attend, which may also be a hardship on some of the Council members. Council could vote to hold Town Hall meetings, where votes would not be taken, and would also apply with Freedom of Information Act. The last option would be for the Mayor to hold Town Hall coffee.

If only the Mayor and one council member attended, no Freedom of Information act requirements would kick in, Mayor Huguley said. No pay, no minutes required. Ms. Jackson said she would not approve of having special meetings, and encourages people to come to the monthly council meetings. She said she does not want to feel compelled to come to a special meeting, unless it is for an extremely necessary purpose. Mr. Davis said that he feels the same way about additional meetings. Mayor Huguley said the motion did not carry, but he does encourage participation, and said he will find a way to open his door to anyone who wants to speak to him.

STREET LIGHTS: Mr. Don Davis reported that he has received a copy of the proposal for street light upgrades for the Town. He said that he and Christine had met with the representative of S.C. Electric and Gas, with reference to upgrading lighting in the Town. He said that the difference going into Forest Acres is that they have 400W street lights, compared to the Town's 150W. Mr. Davis said it amounts to changing out 24 street lights on Trenholm Road; upgrading six intersections, feeding off Trenholm Road and Arcadia Lakes Drive. Some of the neighborhoods have 175W Mercury, he said. There will be no labor charge by SCE&G. The only additional charge will be \$223.72 on our monthly street light charge. Mr. Davis said that one of the lights to be used on Trenholm Road will probably cost \$100 compared to \$500 for LED bulbs, which makes LEDs cost prohibitive. After discussion, Ms. Jackson moved that the costs be reviewed with SCE&G and the budget, and make sure where the money is coming from, at the next meeting; Mr. Davis seconded the motion, which was approved.

Attorney Cook said that once the budget is approved, it needs to be considered how funds can be moved from one budgeted item to another. Discussion was held.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS: Mayor Huguley reported that, according to the Town Ordinance, regular council meetings be held in 2014, on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, with exception for holidays conflicting with this date. Council members approved.

MAYOR PRO TEMP ELECTION: Mayor Huguley said that the ordinance require that an election be held for a mayor pro temp at the first regular meeting of a new council. Mayor Huguley thanked Rusty Onley for his service for the past two years. He said that Rusty was the recipient of the greatest number of votes in the election preceding the last one; and Don Davis was the recipient of the greatest number of votes in the last election. Mayor Huguley moved that Don Davis serve as Mayor pro temp; Mr. Onley seconded the motion, which was approved.

SPEED SIGN: Christine reported that Steve Brown was working on having the Speed sign from Arcadia Lakes Drive, that was struck by lightning, repaired. Mayor Huguley reported that he had contacted a vendor about a portable solar powered speed sign that can be moved from pole to pole on brackets to different locations. The cost range is \$2500 to \$3600. After discussion, Mr. Huguley moved that council appropriate a one-time expenditure fund to cover the cost. Motion was seconded and approved.

EXTRA DEPUTY: Mayor Huguley said that there is an urgent need for extra sheriff's patrol, due to excessive car break-ins during the night. He recommended that an extra deputy be hired @45.00 per hour for additional 2 hours per day seven days a week, for 30 days through Christmas. Ms. Jackson moved that council work with Deputy Margaret Fisher, in adding two hours per night for 30 days, and fit cost into the budget. Mr. Davis seconded the motion, which was approved.

BUDGETARY LIAISON: Mayor Huguley moved that Peter Chesney be appointed the designated liaison for budgetary matters, which include reviewing monthly financial expenditures; Ms. Jackson seconded the motion, which was approved by council.

ARCADIA WOODS LAKE: After discussion, Ms. Jackson agreed to give reports on the Arcadia Woods Lake Dam, if President Peggy Smith is not present.

The next Council meeting will be held January 9th at 6:00 p.m., due to New Year's holidays.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Christine Murphy, Town Clerk