



CITY OFFICIALS

William Lawrence, City Manager
Maria Carmen Silva, City Clerk
John Scheel, Police Chief
Gerald Buhr, City Attorney

COMMISSIONERS

Duane Gardner, Mayor
Sam Fite, Vice Mayor
David Durastanti
Steven Spinks

Manager's Report

12/31/20

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Police News: The city experienced several burglaries and theft of a pickup truck during the Christmas weekend. The police have collected evidence and continue to investigate these property crimes. The Police Officer job posting was readvertised in both Polk and Highland's Counties.

Public Works has been busy fixing water leaks, which is normal when cold weather comes. Amy has power washed the bleachers and other city locations. The garbage haulers had a heavy workload Monday and Tuesday due to no pickups on Christmas Eve and Christmas. Amy took water samples for Inframark and delivered to the lab in Bartow. Wayne and Amy helped Inframark with the cutoff list. Wayne & Hunter passed out the rescission notices. Devin mowed and trimmed the water tower, water plant, and tennis court last week. Devin and Kyle trimmed and mowed all parks. Roy and Hunter cleaned out the problem manholes. The City of Wauchula Public Works Department fixed the streetlight on Hwy 17 and found a few more that needed repairs. We received two applications for the part-time laborer position for public works.

Clerk's Office: Carmen has been getting ready for the local elections on January 5th for the two vacant City Commission Seats for Bowling Green. She has already setup the poll workers, closed election books with the Supervisor of Elections, posted notices, and created the ballots for the upcoming election. Carmen also worked on the E-Verify system that will become mandatory as of January 1st. The E-Verify system is an online system that is part of the Department of Homeland Security used to verify employment eligibility in the U.S. Carmen also worked on two land development issues with Jennifer of the Central Florida Regional Planning Council with one still pending. The fence height limitation variance and the animal control ordinance were both advertised for January's meeting. This is the first month that Candice processes billing on her own and she is picking up very quickly. She was also trained on Occupational Licenses and fees this week.

Steve & Lori Spinks came in for their last visit this week. They have closed on their house and will be moving in a few days. It has been a pleasure to work with Steve as Commissioner and Mayor in the past two years. I wish them much happiness and success in their move.

New Commissioner Book: I worked on a book this week which should help new commissioners understand their role as a Commissioner and the basics of local government for after the elections. The book will contain the City's Charter, a budget, sample agenda, communication, and current project information.