

Governor vetoes city projects, leaves county funds in budget

By John Peery
Apopka Chief Staff

This week when Gov. Ron DeSantis slashed more than \$1 billion from the state budget as passed by the Florida Legislature, his

pen took out two projects that city of Apopka leaders were hoping might escape the governor's line-item veto power.

One other local project – a septic-to-sewer conversion program led by Or-

ange County Commissioner Christine Moore – survived the cutting in a year where revenue is down due to the economic downturn because of COVID-19.

Apopka was seeking to get \$750,000 for a permanent fire station 6 and \$500,000 for the extension of Harmon Road. City firefighters at station 6 are currently housed in trailers on the campus of AdventHealth Apopka hospital. The Harmon Road extension would help create a shortcut and, thusly, shorter transportation times from some areas of Apopka to the hospital. The project would extend Harmon Road from its end at Ocoee-Apopka Road near the hospital

about 2,000 feet to Marden Road, just south of State Road 414, paralleling SR 414 for about 1,000 feet before moving southwest and then looping back slightly to the northwest to meet up with the existing Harmon Road.

The fact that Gov. DeSantis vetoed the two requested appropriations that had passed the legislature was not a surprise to Mayor Bryan Nelson.

"When you think that the state's general revenue is down – 70 percent of that is based on sales tax at the state level – you knew they had to gut it. When he did the teacher raises, which, I know, was a big priority for the governor, that takes up a half-billion dollars and you know we're going to be shy (of tax dollars)," Nelson said.

Apopka is paying AdventHealth nearly \$2,000 a month to rent the space for station 6 so the city may look at borrowing \$500,000

to build the fire station.

"You could almost borrow a half-million dollars and – as far as from a cash-flow standpoint – be about the same, so we've got to look at it from that perspective, but it would be nice for them (the state) to help us with it because as soon as you start building it, you can't go next year and ask (the state) for money for something that's already started. You've either got to get it (state money) before it starts (to be built) or do it on your own," the mayor said.

Nelson said the state government may still face a budget shortfall despite the governor's vetoes as there is still a state budget of \$92 billion.

"I still don't know how the numbers work even with the billion dollars in cuts. I know they're going to have to dip into reserves pretty heavily, but I think we're in for a couple of challenging years. I still don't know how he balanc-

es the budget," Nelson said.

As expected, Orange County Commissioner Moore was more upbeat after the governor left the \$500,000 for her desired project in the state budget.

"On behalf of the residents of Sweetwater West and the Highlands, I am incredibly grateful to Gov. Ron DeSantis for recognizing the importance of funding septic-to-sewer conversions in the Wekiva Basin Management Area," Moore said.

"This success is due to the work of many including (state) Senator David Simmons, (Orange County) Mayor Jerry L. Demings, Wekiva Springs Alliance HOA board members and residents, Orange County Utilities, Bob and Andrea Samson, Friends of the Wekiva, county lobbying team, and my staff Daniel Vanegas and Kathy Marsh. It took a village, and when the village comes together, great things happen."

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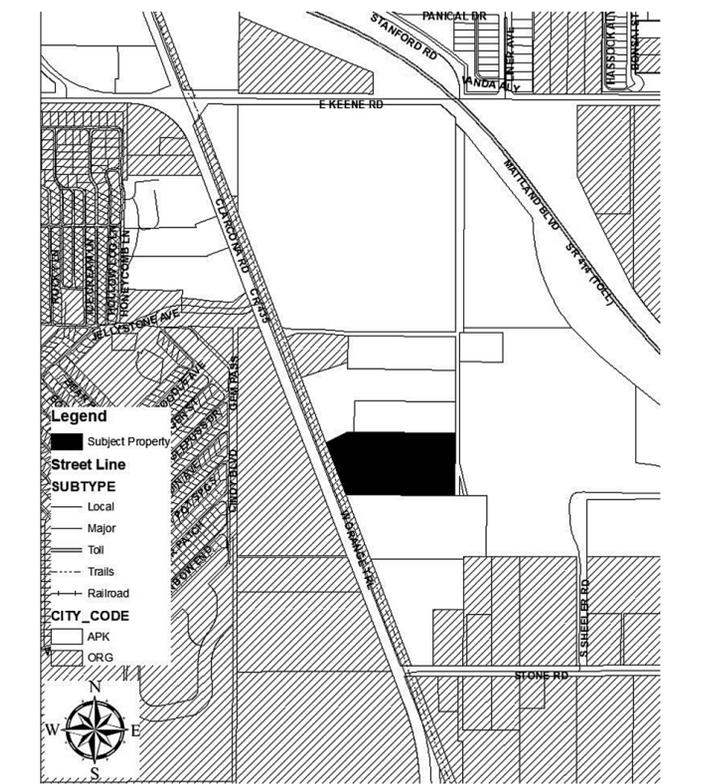
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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE SMALL SCALE FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT AND CHANGE OF ZONING

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Secs. 163.3187 and 166.041(3)(c), Florida Statutes and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7(B), that **Sidney L. Vihlen, III - Vihlen and Associates, P.A.** has made an application, to the City of Apopka City Council, and Apopka Planning Commission for a **change in the Future Land Use Designation for approximately 5.85 +/- acres from Agriculture to Industrial and a change in Zoning from AG (Agriculture District) to I-L (Light Industrial District).** This application relates to the following described property located North of Stone Road and East of Clarcona Road.



Parcel I.D.: 27-21-28-0000-00-038
Contains: 5.85 +/- Acres

ORDINANCE NO. 2776
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE APOPKA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF APOPKA; CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION FROM AGRICULTURE TO INDUSTRIAL FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED EAST OF CLARCONA ROAD AND NORTH OF STONE ROAD, COMPRISING 5.85 ACRES MORE OR LESS, AND OWNED BY 3307 S CLARCONA LLC; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 2777
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM AG (AGRICULTURE DISTRICT) TO I-L (LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT) FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED EAST OF CLARCONA ROAD AND NORTH OF STONE ROAD, COMPRISING 5.85 ACRES MORE OR LESS, AND OWNED BY 3307 S CLARCONA LLC; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Notice is given that the City of Apopka Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the change of Future Land Use Designation and change of zoning requests at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Tuesday, July 21, 2020 beginning at 5:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

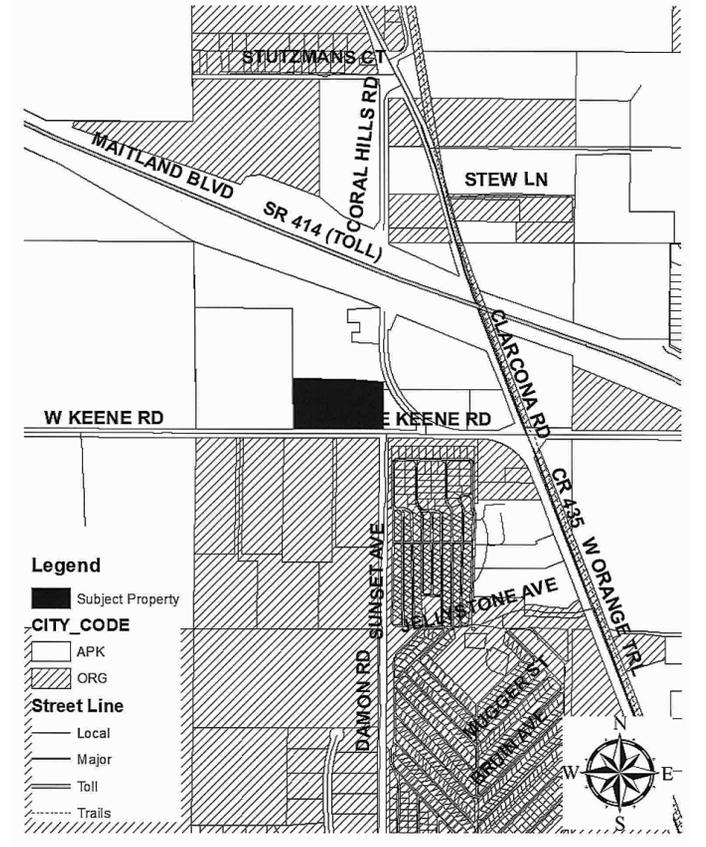
Further, notice is given that a public hearing for Ordinance No. 2771 and Ordinance No. 2772 will be held by the City of Apopka City Council at its regularly scheduled meetings in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, August 5, 2020, beginning at 1:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible AND on **Wednesday, August 19, 2020, beginning at 7:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Future Land Use and Zoning can be inspected at the Apopka Community Development Department located at Apopka City Hall on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. City Hall address shown below. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk's Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka FL 32703, Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE SMALL SCALE FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT AND CHANGE OF ZONING

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Secs. 163.3187 and 166.041(3)(c), Florida Statutes and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7(B), that **Tara Tedrow** has made an application, to the City of Apopka City Council, and Apopka Planning Commission for a **change in the Future Land Use Designation for approximately 4.94 +/- acres from "County" Rural to "City" Industrial and a change in Zoning from T (Transitional District) to I-L (Light Industrial District).** This application relates to the following described property located North of E. Keene Road and West of Clarcona Road.



Parcel I.D.: 22-21-28-0000-00-137
Contains: 4.94 +/- Acres

ORDINANCE NO. 2771
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE APOPKA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF APOPKA; CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION FROM "COUNTY" RURAL TO "CITY" INDUSTRIAL FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED NORTH OF E. KEENE ROAD AND WEST OF CLARCONA ROAD, COMPRISING 4.94 ACRES MORE OR LESS, AND OWNED BY AED DEWAR NURSERY 2019 TRUST; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 2772
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM T (TRANSITIONAL DISTRICT) TO I-L (LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT) FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED NORTH OF E. KEENE ROAD AND WEST OF CLARCONA ROAD, COMPRISING 4.94 ACRES MORE OR LESS, AND OWNED BY AED DEWAR NURSERY 2019 TRUST; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Notice is given that a public hearing for Ordinance No. 2771 and Ordinance No. 2772 will be held by the City of Apopka City Council at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, July 15, 2020, beginning at 7:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearing to speak. The proposed Future Land Use and Zoning can be inspected at the Apopka Community Development Department located at Apopka City Hall on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. City Hall address shown below. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk's Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka FL 32703, Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

Apopka City Council
Community Development Department

Budget: City has \$12M in reserves

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General Fund, which doles out dollars for police, fire, administration, community development, and other functions at City Hall.

The current General Fund budget is \$50.4 million for 2019-2020, meaning the \$1.1 million shortfall in state sales tax revenue would mean about 2-percent fewer dollars than expected. If it's up to \$3 million short of budget, it would mean a more serious 6-percent shortfall.

Nelson and Bass said there are three basic ways for the city to deal with the shortfall and keep the budget balanced as is required by state law. "We have to either raise taxes or dip into reserves," Nelson said. "Or make cuts," Bass said, finishing the mayor's statement.

The latest city audit, presented at the City Council meeting on Wednesday, July 1, showed that the city has an unrestricted General Fund reserve of \$12.4 million.

"It's a good number. It's almost 26 percent of General Fund expenditures. We're at a healthy level, but what we've got facing us," Bass said, his voice trailing off about what the city must deal with financially.

"Depending on how this finishes out, it may eat up some of that reserve. So, then, we have even less (reserves) in the next year," Bass said. "We are watching the capital (expenses) and are only doing what we have to do, so that we can see, when we get to the end of the fiscal year, where we are, and then we'll know how to budget."

The city, Bass said, has put on hold the replacement of roofs at various city-owned buildings, as well as lighting and irrigation improvements. There are also open positions for general employees that won't be filled for a while, he said, but no additional personnel cuts are planned at this time.

Budget workshops

The City Council has three budget workshops set for July 13-15 at 5 p.m. each day at City Hall and while the city commissioners and Mayor Nelson will get a look-see at what each city department wants to

spend during the 2020-2021 fiscal year that begins October 1, Bass said the revenue numbers won't be anywhere near complete thanks to COVID-19.

"We'll have some things put together, but until we have the state (revenue-sharing) numbers, I can't really say (what the city's revenue is)," Bass said. "I don't want to project that state number because this is a shot in the dark."

"We'll go over expenditures. We'll have some revenues, but we won't have all of them."

In addition, there are plenty of other funds that are up in the air, including the city's Recreation Department.

"With recreation now, we're going to have to figure out how we're going to project those because we don't have any programs. Will we have programs next year? That's the type of question we have to look at, too," Bass said.

State law requires that cities pass a tentative property tax rate in July before finalizing it in September and without better revenue projections, Bass said that will be a tougher job than it is in a normal year.

"We'll have to set the millage rate before the end of July. I was hoping we'd have some revenue numbers for next year. We don't have revenue numbers," he said.

"We have all the expenditures so the departments can go through all of their expenditures of the things that they need or the things they're asking for in the new budget, but we're not going to have all of the revenue numbers in time unless they get it to us before the work sessions. It's going to be one of those situations where we'll have something they can look at, but it won't be enough to make a decision yet."

"It's hard to make recommendations when you don't know what that number's going to be."

Because of the issues with getting the revenue projections, Bass said that additional budget workshops may have to be held in August so the final budget can be tweaked, if necessary.

The City Council must approve the final budget and property tax rate in September.

Clay: Pandemic changes methods

Continued from page 1A

ship, working with the community, working with parents, families, and staff to help make the best decisions for my students, so that's certainly what I've gotten in my experience in my other positions, and also working with students with various academic abilities, so I'm very good at supporting teachers and meeting the needs of those students," McDaid said. "I also believe in a team-effort approach, that we work with families because, together, families and school can help students be successful."

In the pandemic, McDaid said she sees the role as school administrator as "not necessarily changing, just expanding."

"Because there was no precedent experience like this before, we never really had a blueprint, so I think it's made administrators better because we're constantly coming up with new ways to support our students, staff and families," she said. "We are finding new and different ways to make

connections with our students, and also to support our staff as they make connections. We want to make sure we're meeting the needs of all of our students whether it's virtually or in person and, again, it's expanded to be socially, emotionally as well as academically."

Despite the circumstances, the school must keep connecting with families.

"It's crucial during this time for us to make sure that we continue to reach out and connect and engage with our families through Facebook Live, through social media, the (Clay Springs Elementary) website, popping into those virtual lessons," McDaid said. "As administrators, we did a lot of that during the last marking period popping into those meetings so we can still see our students and work with them and support them. I think we also are always working to make sure we have new strategies and new ideas in supporting teachers to come up with new and different ways to engage their students whether it's within a classroom, virtually or face to face."

Audit: Staffing is issue for finance

Continued from page 1A

She said her department is seeking to remedy the deficiencies shown by the audit that began before she started her employment with the city in June 2018, two months after the current administration took office.

Part of the issue in terms of catchup up, Roberson said, is staffing. Last year, she requested an additional position for her office, but that was not included in this year's budget. During her presentation, she said she will again be asking for the position to be included in the 2020-2021 budget but that due to revenue reductions because of COVID-19 she isn't expecting the position to be funded.

In response to a question from Commissioner Doug Bankson about staffing in the Finance Department, Roberson said that the city budget doesn't take a hit from overtime because most of the employees there are salaried personnel.

"We're all wearing various hats," Roberson said. "For many of the professional level positions, we won't see a huge increase in overtime for the Finance Department because the majority of my staff is exempt. Even though we're putting in additional hours beyond our 40-hour work week, you're not fiscally seeing it in the financial numbers."

The long hours, however, are taking a toll, Roberson said.

"I'm still working six to seven days a week, and it's been two years. There is a huge issue associated with the staffing levels within the Finance Department. I just don't know personally how long we can sustain what we're working on now. I know that I am struggling personally. I cannot continue this six or seven days a week. My family's suffering. My health could be suffering. It's not sustainable. It's been two years."

Normally, preparing the city budget for the up-

coming fiscal year is handled by the Finance Department, but that's not possible right now, Roberson said, because of all the other items that she and the employees there are having to handle.

Preparing the budget is falling to City Administrator Edward Bass, who served as the city's finance director for a decade.

"Edward is doing the budget, too. Finance is not even doing the budget. That is another issue in itself. Truly and honestly, the budget should be being done by the Finance Department so that Edward can focus on additional items that he can be managing as city administrator," Roberson said.

Despite the issues, Roberson said her department is seeking to continue to clean up the issues.

"Your Finance Department's commitment is to provide leadership and guidance, and the staff is always committed to continually improving the city's financial stability and well-being."

Land cleared for townhomes



Land was cleared this week for a 92-unit townhome development on 15-1/2 acres on the north side of Old Dixie Highway east of Apopka Elementary School. Hidden Lake Reserve will be built off the shores of a pond. The gated community will have 10 buildings with each townhome having a one-car garage. The minimum living area in the townhomes will be 1,350 sq. ft. There will be a community pool with a cabana.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE CHANGE OF ZONING CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given that **Poulos & Bennett, LLC** has made an application, in accordance with Florida Statutes 163.3187(c) and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7(B) to the City of Apopka Planning Commission, and City Council for a **REZONING OF PROPERTY AND MASTER PLAN**. This application relates to the following described property:

ORDINANCE NO. 2780

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM TRANSITIONAL (T) TO PLANNED DEVELOPMENT (PD), FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED WEST OF NORTH ORANGE BLOSSOM TRAIL AND NORTH OF HOGSHEAD ROAD, COMPRISING 349.37 ACRES MORE OR LESS, OWNED BY **AMERICAN SANFORD FOUR, LLC, STEVEN R. RUBRIGHT, JP HOLDINGS, INC., RUBRIGHT PROPERTIES, LLC, RUBRIGHT FAMILY LP, JAMES SCOTT PRIDGEN, DOUGLAS & LISA SURRETT & JAMES P. PURDY**; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



Parcel Identification Numbers:

Parcel ID	Property Owner	Acres
1 26-20-27-0000-00-027	American Sanford Four, LLC	0.72
2 26-20-27-0000-00-028	Steven R. Rubright	9.24
3 26-20-27-0000-00-042	Steven R. Rubright	1.65
4 26-20-27-0000-00-029	Steven R. Rubright	2.48
5 26-20-27-0000-00-032	Steven R. Rubright	1.49
6 26-20-27-0000-00-030	JP Holdings, Inc.	26.11
7 35-20-27-5220-00-060	Rubright Properties, LLC	226.35
8 34-20-27-0000-00-007	Rubright Family, LP	7.02
9 27-20-27-0000-00-053	JP Holdings, Inc. & James Scott Pridgen	29.76
10 34-20-27-0000-00-005	JP Holdings, Inc. & James Scott Pridgen	14.94
11 27-20-27-0000-00-052	Douglas and Lisa Surrett and James P. Purdy	29.61

Contains: 349.37 +/- Acres

Notice is given that the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing to consider Ordinance No. 2780 at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 East Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Tuesday, July 21, 2020 beginning at 5:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a public hearings for Ordinance No. 2780 will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meetings in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, August 5, 2020, beginning at 1:30 p.m.**, AND on **Wednesday, August 19, 2020, beginning at 7:00 p.m.** or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed zoning ordinance and Master Plan can be inspected at the Apopka Community Development Department located at Apopka City Hall on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. City Hall address shown below. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk's Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka FL 32703, Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development

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