

City Council will hold workshop Dec. 15 prior to regular meeting

The Apopka City Council will hold a workshop Wednesday, December 15, at 6 p.m., an hour before the group's regularly scheduled 7 p.m. meeting at City Hall.

City Administrator Edward Bass told the council members of the meeting at the Wednesday, December 1, council meeting, saying that he would be updating the city commissioners and the mayor on various financial items, including how the city plans to fund new police officers and fire department personnel.

Bass also said he would have updates on the city's portion of the American Rescue Plan Act that was passed in March by Congress and signed on March 11 by President

Biden.

"The presentation is going to be pretty straightforward," Bass said. "I'm going to be able to show you what we've received, what you've already earmarked or what you've already allocated, what the items are that we didn't receive and then some recommendations on how we plan to fund those items that we were not able to receive those (grant) dollars for."

Bass said that the City Council must decide how it wants to fund 10 new police officers and six new fire department personnel because two federal grants the city had applied for were denied.

The fire department grant was also going to be used to pay for ex-

haust systems for the city's five fire stations, as well as an educational trailer for fire personnel to use to teach the public about fire safety.

"We're going to show you how we plan to fund those items that, unfortunately, we were not able to receive through the grants," Bass said.

The city has already funded the equipment needed for the additional police and fire personnel, though none of it has been purchased yet as city officials were awaiting words on the grants.

Bass said that the city has received \$3.5 million of the \$7 million it was allowed through the Rescue Plan, but that even that amount is in question in terms of why Apopka received less than one-third of the \$24

million awarded to the city of Ocoee from the legislation.

The city administrator did tell the City Council that the U.S. Treasury Department has told local governments to expect changes to the ways they will be allowed to spend the Rescue Plan money.

The previous strings attached to the money were very restrictive, Bass said.

"They're making changes to it. They told us to 'hold up, be careful what you do because we still have to issue a final report,'" Bass said.

Apopka has budgeted \$1 million of the \$3.5 million it has received from the Rescue Plan in resurfacing of streets. The additional \$2.5 million is being held in a sepa-

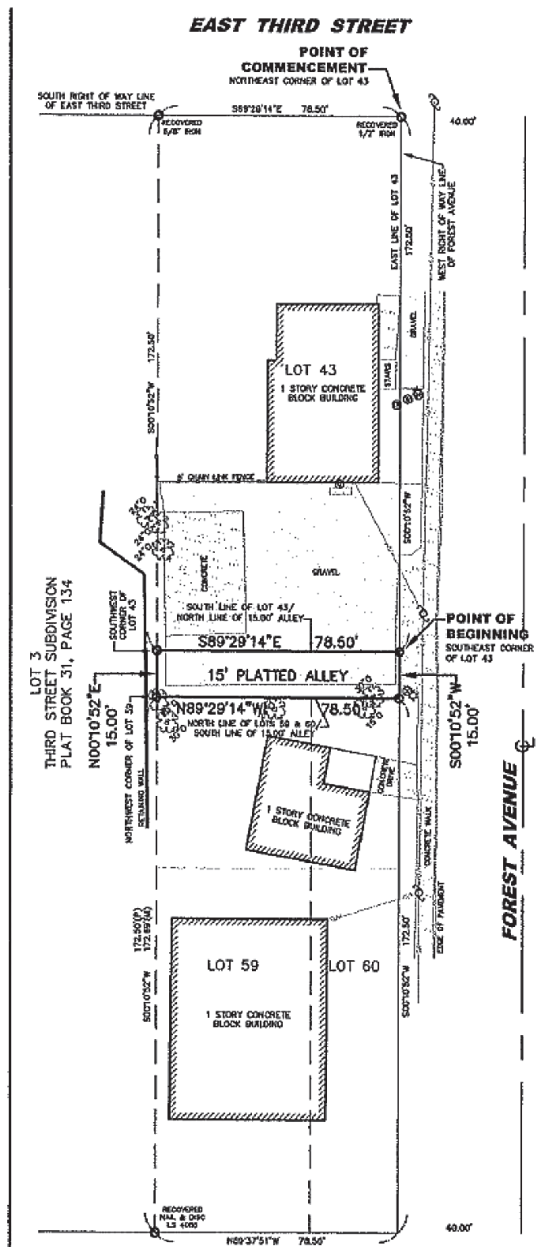
rate account, Bass said.

Bass said he also plans to update the City Council on funds the city received earlier this year from Duke Energy. The power company sent \$2.9 million to the city as part of a refund that Duke Energy agreed to pay for not charging the proper amount of utility tax on customers' bills for use of electricity.

The agreement between Duke and the city covers 2019 and 2020 for public services taxes paid by customers. Duke, however, had not charged its customers living in the city of Apopka the proper amount even though the City Council had, in December 2018, changed its ordinance to reflect a new public services tax.

CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION VACATING PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY
 NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Apopka City Council, in accordance with Florida Statutes Section 336.10, has adopted Resolution 2021-57, vacating the right-of-way, being more particularly described as follows:



(THIS IS FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT TO SCALE)

THAT PART OF THE 15.00 FOOT WIDE ALLEY, BLOCK C, CHAMPNEY'S PORTION OF APOPKA, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK A, PAGE 87, PUBLIC RECORDS OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCE AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 43, BLOCK C, OF SAID PLAT, ALSO BEING THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF EAST THIRD STREET AND THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF FOREST AVENUE; THENCE RUN S00°10'52''W ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID LOT 43 AND SAID WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF FOREST AVENUE, A DISTANCE OF 172.50 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 43 AND THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID 15.00 FOOT WIDE ALLEY FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE S00°10'52''W ALONG SAID WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 15.00 FEET TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 60, BLOCK C, OF SAID PLAT; THENCE RUN N89°29'14''W ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT 60 AND THE NORTH LINE OF LOT 59, BLOCK C OF SAID PLAT AND THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID 15.00 FOOT WIDE ALLEY, A DISTANCE OF 78.50 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 59; THENCE RUN N00°10'52''E, A DISTANCE OF 15 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 43; THENCE RUN S89°29'14''E ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT 43 AND THE NORTH LINE OF SAID 15.00 FOOT WIDE ALLEY, A DISTANCE OF 78.50 FEET FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

CONTAINS 1,178 SQUARE FEET OR 0.027 ACRES, MORE OR LESS.

Apopka City Council
 Community Development Department

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EVERYBODY HAS AN OPINION. WHY NOT SHARE YOURS?
 Send a letter to the Editor online www.TheApopkaChief.com

Moore: Clay Springs history given

Continued from page 2A

Wekiwa Springs was first known as Clay Springs after pioneer L.H. Clay. An 1847 U.S. Survey of the area refers to "Clay's improvements" and shows the location of Wekiwa Springs, according to the late University of Central Florida historian Jerrell H. Shofner in his 1982 book "History of Apopka and Northwest Orange County, Florida."

Wekiwa was a popular destination, not only for Orlando and area residents, but also for people from up and down the St. Johns River. Clay Springs was also the name of the community that had sprung up along the Wekiwa River. It had about 100 resi-

dents and was important as it served as a port and shipping point for the Apopka-Zellwood area. The community was scattered on the higher ground south of the springs and probably straddled what is now the Wekiwa Springs Road.

Barges brought in food and supplies to the warehouse and wharf at Clay Springs, and would then take oranges and lumber to the St. Johns River where steamboats carried the cargo to Jacksonville. The township had a sawmill, printing shop, and factory, where oranges were pressed into wine. Joel D. Smith was the town postmaster - appointed by President Grover Cleveland - and mail was brought upriver from Mellonville, the

original name for Sanford.

By 1870, the settlement sought to challenge Apopka for the political leadership of Northwest Orange County. That year, a road was built which connected the wharf at Clay Springs with routes to Orlando, Apopka, and the St. Johns River. Clay Springs Elementary School was designated by county commissioners as the polling station for the area in 1984.

In the early 1870s, developer and later citrus baron, Henry Sanford, opened a Clay Springs store that was a branch of his business in the city that bore his name. His goal was to trade with cotton farmers and citrus growers in the Clay Springs and Apopka areas.

Byrd: Arts important to be taught

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were so excited and the joy on their faces was priceless.

One of the things I mentioned on stage was how important the arts are to our education system and our children. Not only do the arts bring joy and creative outlet, they have many academic benefits as well.

Studies show that kids that participate in art programs do better academically and there are significant positive correlations that have been found with music and learning.

But more than that is the positive effect that being a part of an art group has on a student. Our teens want nothing more than belonging. Being part of a chorus, band, or theater gives that to kids.

When kids are a part of a larger group and feel like the part they play in that group is important, they have a purpose and that they matter. This is something we want all kids to feel.

This is why I encouraged our elementary parents to continue to encourage their young musicians

to stay connected to the arts as they enter middle and high school.

All of our OCPs schools have thriving arts programs and that is no accident. That is a very intentional choice that has been made by our district leadership. We recognize the importance of these programs and have made it a priority to protect them in our schools.

Yes, the holidays are upon us. I hope you take some time to enjoy the arts in our schools and community this holiday season!

Hayden: Tell them to call lawyer

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(Method of Operation) is sending you a letter giving you the reason and an opportunity to respond. I have been threatened with an IRS Swat Team "supposedly" showing up at my door to drag me to prison but my simple response is to ask them, "What time" so I can be dressed for the occasion. That usually ends up in a disconnect.

If, by chance, you get caught up in one of these schemes, try to remember as much about the call as you can and call your local law enforcement to file a

claim. Then, call the Federal Trade Commission to file a complaint. You can also go online and file a complaint but in either case, your chance of recovery is slim. The con men are very shrewd and getting sneakier every day and they know how to circumvent the pitfalls.

The best defense is having a friend, brother, sister, or a confidant to check with before you complete any transaction. If the people are on the level, they will be glad to give you that opportunity, but if not, you will never hear from them again.

One of my favorite lines is, "I want to run this by my lawyer, call back tomorrow." Then, I hang up.

We need to stand together to defeat these liars. They plan on me being too embarrassed to confide in someone else and they take every path they can to use that to their advantage. I am sick and tired of being taken by opportunistic liars and I allow my friends to see my willingness to depend on someone else's wisdom to guide me when I am not sure.

Remember, "A thief you might trust sometimes, but a liar, never."

ALL ABOUT APOPKA

The Apopka Chief

Established 1923
 (USPS 545-440)

The Apopka Chief is published every Friday and entered as Periodicals, postage paid at Apopka Post Office, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. The Apopka Chief newspaper is published by Foliage Enterprises, Inc., every Friday at 400 North Park Avenue, Apopka, Fla., 32712-3417. An annual subscription is \$25 in Orange County and \$30 outside Orange County. Phone 407-886-2777. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Apopka Chief, P.O. Box 880, Apopka, Fla., 32704-0880.

The Apopka Chief is a consistent award-winning community weekly newspaper and a member of the Florida Press Association. The newspaper won the group's award as its best newspaper in 1982, 1987, and 1988, the only three-time winner. Letters to the editor are welcome, but must be signed and include a daytime telephone number, address, or email address for verification. Management reserves the right to edit letters.

www.theapokkachief.com, news@theapokkachief.com



City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

City Hall	407-703-1700
Mayor's Office	407-703-1701
City Administrator	407-703-1649
City Clerk	407-703-1704
Community Devel.	407-703-1712
Code Enforcement	407-703-1738
Finance Dept.	407-703-1725
Fire (non-emerg.)	407-703-1756
Parks and Rec. Dept.	407-703-1741
Police Chief	407-703-1769
Police (non-emerg.)	407-703-1771
Job Line	407-703-1743
Solid Waste Collect.	407-703-1731
Street Maintenance	407-703-1731
Utility Billing	407-703-1727
Medical, fire emergency	911
The city of Apopka was chartered in 1882. It is located at 28°30 north latitude and is 150 feet above sea level. Its population is about 48,000 and its total area is more than 30 sq. mi. www.apopka.net	

Orange County Telephone Numbers

Animal Services	407-836-3111
Auto/Boat Tags	850-617-2000
Building Dept.	407-836-8550
County Mayor	407-836-7370
County Commission	407-836-7350
County Attorney	407-836-7320
Clerk of the Court	407-836-2065
Elections Supervisor	407-836-2070
Fire/Rescue	407-836-3111
Solid Waste	407-836-6601
Garbage Collection	407-703-1731
Health Dept.	407-836-2600
Hunting/Fishing Lic.	888-347-4356
Parks and Rec. Dept.	407-836-6200
Property Appraiser	407-836-5044
Sheriff Administrative	407-254-7000
Non-Emerg. Complaint	407-836-4357
Utilities	407-836-5515
All other departments	407-836-3111
Medical, fire emergency	911
www.orangecountyfl.net	

Other Area Numbers of Note

U.S. Senators	
Rick Scott (Rep.)	202-224-5274
Marco Rubio (Rep.)	407-254-2573
U.S. Representative	
Val Demings (Dist. 10)	321-388-9808
State Representatives	
	352-742-6275
Kamia Brown (Dist. 45)	850-717-5045
State Senators	
Randolph Bracy (Dist. 11)	407-297-2045
Orange County Commissioner	
Christine Moore	407-836-7350
Orange County Public Schools	
Pupil assignment	407-317-3233
Bus routes	407-317-3800
Superintendent	407-317-3200
School Board	407-317-3200
Miscellaneous	
The Apopka Chief	407-886-2777
Museum of the Apopkans	407-703-1707
Chamber of Commerce	407-886-1441