

Budget: More information needed to make informed decisions on growth

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Personnel still appeared at my home to “discover” that we had already had our backflow preventer replaced. How many homeowners had the same or similar experience?

1. If our current rates of pay are competitive, agree that longevity and performance should be recognized and awarded with an additional increase in pay. However, passing along additional cash to current staff does not equate to addressing additional staffing needs to better serve Apopka Citizens.

2. As hard as the Fi-

nance Department in particular and everyone that worked on the numbers, not one of you had what you needed to make informed decisions related to the proposed budget. The software debacle was an anchor in the entire workshop process. How any REAL decisions could be made with the whole band-aided numbers process is disturbing.

3. In over 40 years in business in preparation for the budget process in order to make informed decisions, you must have **in hand** current wage/benefit survey information and equipment/vehicle inven-

tory with date of purchase and projected lifespan.

4. With regard to equipment and vehicles, each Department should have a maintenance schedule. Depending on the item, daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually, etc. plans to ensure timely and appropriate maintenance is completed. You must staff accordingly to ensure our taxpayer dollars are timely and properly expended.

5. **When you look at our growth, drainage problems, streets, sidewalks, staffing and general infrastructure, did any of your Department Heads present what they**

really need or was it to fit within pre-established expectations? We must become more proactive and less reactive.

6. I fail to understand, especially given the software debacle, that you did not seek the maximum millage rate allowable until we get all the real numbers that you need to make an informed decision. Once you have the real numbers you can adjust the millage rate down accordingly. As you know, you can come down on the millage rate, but you cannot go up from what you submit.

7. When you look at Police Officer safety, our

35 square miles, the increase in criminal activity and increase in response times, we should be looking at 140-148 Police Officers for our community's safety and well-being.

8. Recommend you meet with each Department on their turf to see what their work environment is and what Staff may need. A personal visit will allow you to see firsthand the physical environment, how crowded they may be, who may be sharing computers, how far away the copier or restrooms are, adequate lighting, air conditioning and, perhaps most importantly, how happy the Staff

may be.

“God grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.”

The ability to immediately address our infrastructure needs and get out in front of our growth is in your hands. We must stop “getting by” and move toward “getting it done.”

Thank you for listening.

Stay safe and God's Speed.

Rod Olsen
Apopka

CITY OF APOPKA PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE AMENDMENTS TO APOPKA LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Apopka proposes to amend the Land Development Code of the City of Apopka, Florida in accordance with Florida Statutes 166.0413(3)(c) and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Chapter 18, and Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7(B), to revise sections of said Land Development Code as specified within the Ordinance title and within Ordinance Number 3021. The proposed amendments affect or may affect the use of property, the development of building and structures, and the development review process for land located within the jurisdiction of the City of Apopka, Florida.

ORDINANCE NO. 3021

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 18, BUILDING AND BUILDING REGULATIONS, SECTION 18-49, THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF APOPKA; BY AMENDING PART III - LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; ARTICLE 3 - ZONING DISTRICTS, SECTION 3.3 RESIDENTIAL BASE ZONING DISTRICTS, 3.3.7. RMF RESIDENTIAL MULTI-FAMILY DISTRICT; BY AMENDING PART III, ARTICLE 3 - ZONING DISTRICTS, SECTION 3.3. RESIDENTIAL BASE ZONING DISTRICT, 3.3.8. RESIDENTIAL MIXED-USE DISTRICT; BY AMENDING PART III, ARTICLE 3 - ZONING DISTRICTS, SECTION 3.6. SPECIAL PURPOSE ZONING DISTRICTS, 3.6.3. MIXED-USE DOWNTOWN DISTRICT; BY AMENDING PART III, ARTICLE 3 - ZONING DISTRICTS, SECTION 3.7. PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, 3.7.2. PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT; BY AMENDING PART III, ARTICLE 4 - USE REGULATIONS, SECTION 4.2 PRINCIPAL USES, TABLE 4.2.2.C. PRINCIPAL USE TABLE; BY AMENDING PART III, ARTICLE 4 - USE REGULATIONS, SECTION 4.3. ACCESSORY USES AND STRUCTURES, TABLE 4.3.2.B. ACCESSORY USES AND STRUCTURES TABLE; BY AMENDING PART III, ARTICLE 5 - DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS, SECTION 5.1. OFF-STREET PARKING, BICYCLE PARKING AND LOADING STANDARDS, 5.1.8. OFF-STREET PARKING ALTERNATIVES, H. ALTERNATIVE SURFACING MATERIALS FOR PARKING AREAS; BY AMENDING PART III, APPENDIX D - DEVELOPMENT DESIGN GUIDELINES, 3. RESIDENTIAL DESIGN GUIDELINES, 3.2.3. BALCONIES AND PORCHES; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Notice is given that the City of Apopka Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the amendments to the Apopka Land Development Code at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Tuesday, August 8, 2023 beginning at 5:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Number 3021 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, September 6, 2023 beginning at 1:30 P.M.** AND **Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.**

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Text Amendments 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

August 4, 2023

Publish: The Apopka Chief

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Everybody has an opinion. Why not share yours?

Send a letter to the Editor online www.theapokkachief.com

Moore: Main Street Program is a must

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nization is key to success. Developing a leadership team and strong organizational capacity is vital. Ensuring broad community engagement is critical as is forging partnerships across various social, business, and governmental sectors. Funding generally comes from local governments and small area businesses. Fund raising while critical, should not be the sole role of a Main Street Executive Director.

They must enjoy community support to work the plan with fidelity.

Marketing and promotion are key components of Main Street strategies. Communicating the unique features of a city through storytelling is vital. Also developing a buy-local experience is also critical for any successful Main Street.

Some tips for build-

ing good programs add that a Main Street should be about more than just economic vitality and preservation. It's about building the entire community at its core. Main Street Board of Directors should find ways to integrate economic vitality and preservation into broader community-focused initiatives.

Showing that preservation includes structure, form, and culture as a valued part in community planning and economic development. Finding people with this vision is key to building a strong Main Street organization.

Florida Main Street is part of a national program begun more than 40 years ago. The National Main Street Program is dedicated to helping communities across the country revitalize their historic downtowns and create vibrant, people-centered places

to live, work, and play. The agency believes Main Streets are the core of a community. They are gathering places, historic destinations, business centers, innovation labs, parks, art, and much more.

The National Main Street movement is a coast-to-coast network of more than 1,400 state, regional, and local programs linked through this preservation-based strategy for rebuilding the places and enterprises which make our cities sustainable, vibrant, and unique.

Don't you think it is time for Orange County, and the cities of Apopka and Ocoee to start and support a Main Street Program?

Please follow this series of articles on historic preservation and building character main streets. Let me know what you think at District2@ocfl.net.

Hayden: Your vote is necessary

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equity and they place it in the same boat as equality, but equity and equality are not the same!

Equality means everyone has the same opportunities to succeed and to have all the things aforementioned, whereas equity means we all deserve those things no matter what we have done or not done.

Common sense will dictate that the man or woman that seizes the opportunities available and makes a living for themselves and their families deserve what they have, PERIOD!

Emotion says the person who wasted his or her opportunities because of laziness, self-indulgences, or lack of desire to use common sense should have all the “things” because “it is not fair” for them to be without!

The administration in power now seems to think they can use their position as leaders of the free world to bring us into “globalization” and tear down the true walls of Democracy that have been promoted and protected by the greatest document ever devised by humans for the proliferation of freedom and liberty to everyone that is an American. That is the Constitution of the United States. I do not understand how we can afford to let people that have no connection to our national heritage, i.e. illegal aliens, claim rights that are given only to those who are born in this great nation, or have become naturalized citizens and love the United States of

America and its Constitution that, from its very conception, was for the protection of the people from an overbearing, tyrannical government.

Thomas Jefferson stated, “When the people fear the government, there is tyranny; when the government fears the people, there is liberty.” Our government is becoming larger by the second, growing far beyond what our founding fathers had in mind.

How did we graduate from throwing tea into the harbor to arming IRS agents? Now, are we going to be responsible for three hundred billion dollars for loans we never made, that should be paid from using what was learned to make a decent living to pay off those debts?

What responsibilities are being learned from this emotional train wreck? Before long, the “takers” will outnumber the “givers” and people will start to see the idiocy of working to support those who will not support themselves. We are starting to see a bit of this now.

We have a general election coming up in November 2024. If I hear you complaining about the outcome of that election, I will ask you, “Did you vote?” If the answer is “no,” I am going to tell you to keep quiet (shut up!) because it is none of your business.

If you are happy with tyranny, be afraid, be very afraid, but if you love freedom and liberty, vote. Make the government electorate realize they are there for you and me, and they better be afraid.

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 23, 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	
Maxwell Frost (Dist. 10).....	202-225-2176
State Representatives	
Doug Bankson.....	407-476-6787
Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45).....	unknown
State Senators	
Geraldine Thompson (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