

TOWN OF WELAKA

Waste Pro

September 8th – Garbage, Recycle, Yard Trash September 14th – Garbage, Recycle September 21st – Garbage, Recycle, Yard Trash September 28th – Garbage, Recycle Please call Waste Pro if you have any questions at 386-328-5445.

Public Meetings

September 8th, Tues – Zoning Board at 5:30 p.m.; Code Board 5:45 p.m., Town Council at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall. For more information call Town Hall at 386-467-9800.

September 10th, Thurs – Fire Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the Fire Station.

September Meter Readings

September meter readings will begin: Thursday, September 17th.

PLEASE HELP CONSERVE WATER!



Remember: Water bill payments can be made anytime of the day or night, even on weekends, by using the "Utility Payment" drop box at the top of the stairs at Town Hall.



Clip This

The Town of Welaka Utility Department is available for water and sewer problems 24 hours a day at 467-8677. TDD 800/955-8771

<u>Special Dates</u> Monday, September 7th Labor Day (Town Hall will be closed on Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day)



Budget Special Meetings: Saturday, September 5th Budget Meeting @ 8:30 a.m. Saturday, September 19th Budget Meeting @ 8:30 a.m. (Note: The budget may be discussed at the Council Meeting on Sept. 8, 2020 see agendas for regular Council Meetings) Town Hall Meetingo

SEPTEMBER 2020

"Time is passing. Yet, for the United States of America. there will be no forgetting September the 11th. We will remember every rescuer who died in honor. We will remember every family that lives in grief. We will remember the fire and ash, the last phone calls, the funerals of the children." -President George W. Bush





COVID-19 and HIPPA

Each day about 2 PM we receive a report of how many new cases of Covid-19 have been found in Putnam County. It gives us male or female, age, a rough location within the county, but releases nothing else. This is in compliance with HIPPA Medical Regulations. Thankfully, HIPPA has taken up the security of each and every one of our records. No longer our medical records public information anywhere in this country. This in many ways is an improvement. However, we have learned to watch the Palatka Daily News in a few days we can somewhat guess what certain people have passed away from. We are right, but it becomes scarier each and every month. Closer and closer creeps the dreaded plague. During the last month, we have had four extremely, extremely serious cases. All four could've gone either way. Fortunately, at this moment they're on the road to recovery. Talking to doctors that really know their pulmonary medicine or heart care. In most cases, lungs damaged beyond repair is left after one of these sessions of Covid-19. Certainly, it makes us all wonder how soon or what potential do I have. So coming to this, many of us seem to have a somewhat callous attitude as time progresses. I know I just don't like having to be so, but maybe some of it is for the good.

Used to be whenever I had a whim where I thought I might need something from Palatka immediately I would go to Town. Now we look at each item and say, do I really need to go? Should I wait to go. I'm kind of proud of the fact that we bunch the different stops. We try to go to Palatka on just mornings.

Hopefully limiting our exposure each week. We have to consider and do everything that helps ease your mind while still protecting yourself from others and your neglect. Just a little effort to help.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION FOR

SEPTEMBER



Harriet and her group have been getting an allocation every week. Still practicing safety with masks, distancing, putting food in the truck or leaving it where you can pick it up without having to be involved with the party. Sadly, one of the members in the group contracted Covid-19 and was one of the ones that had a most serious attack. Helping Hands is under a 14-day shut down. That's why we are not doing the weekly delivery. At the current time September 1st would be the next delivery. Keep an eye on it. We pray the party involved recovers quickly. It appears this moment that she is, but we still appreciate the efforts. We now realize exposure of this group of people is going through trying to practice kindness here at home. Covid-19 has crept right in our backyard.

LION'S MEETING

The first and third Tuesday of the month which is September 1st and 15th we will be at Shrimps- R-Us at noon. Covid-19 cut down what we used to accomplish. We are looking expanding towards and chartering this group here in town. We ask if you have the slightest interest, please make it lt's little known. а hard communicating and discussing openly with everyone, but make sure you get a hold of Mr. Carroll at 904-868-9683 or 386-467-2595.

BLOCK PARTIES

Hopefully, following the August Emergency Meeting, you realize what is happening throughout our general area as well as other points in this county. Thanks to social media news, these Block Parties are almost immediately disseminated amongst the young. In May, certain parties here in Town organized a party on Palmetto Street and on Shell Street early on. This last month and this month another party was organized. At that time we discovered that the location being used for the party did not belong to the principals at the party. When the true owners were discovered and advised of it, they made note to the tenants that this would not exist as a result.

Social media immediately acknowledges that there will be this party and everyone invited. Not a protest, it was a Block Party. The location would be noted at the very end. This is why we establish our emergency lockdown of all town property. The party was supposed to take place on the 8th, but was transferred to Saturday. At the very end it was announced it would be on Palmetto at Jefferson Smith Park. It was another madhouse. It took 4+ Deputy's until nearly 2:30 in the morning to quiet the situation down. It is a duty to protect this town by your counsel. Would you feel that maybe we are too strict on enforcing? How would you like a piece of town property in your neighborhood to be desecrated such as this area was?

It appears that these so-called Block Parties can be established very quickly. It was said that the 29th of August there would be a Block Party in Crescent city. Very little good could be accomplished in the middle of the night in the dark. You all are encouraged to come to a wild party in a small town according to posted media notices.

Your counsel authorized the Chief to work with as many emergency measures for our next meeting and further on our monthly meeting. lt was determined that we would move with forward citizens experimentally working on Palmetto Street. With input, it was realized that from 4th Ave. to 11th and 11th Ave. to 308B every resident had large adequate areas for off-street parking. They also have the right to a peaceful, tranquil life within the residence.

The request was regulations banning parking between 7 PM and 7 AM on Palmetto Street. At this time, we are working with an ordinance that will address situations and how to comply. If you have a gathering, we have no problems. Never have had a problem with how the Town Hall Pavilion gets used, but only after having re-checked with Town Hall and booking. This town has worked too hard over the last 25 years, establishing some of the finest recreation facilities anywhere in this area. We are very blessed. We have well over \$1 million worth of infrastructure to be used by the town. Not too long ago we were having some desecration done at the Downtown Park, 40 Acre, and in other areas. We started locking down at 7 o'clock. This is how that works, in the morning first thing locks come off. Cemetery and parks are locked at 7 o'clock at night. Whosoever is on duty that week after hours is in charge of locking these areas. This is over \$8000 expenditure in time and effort by the employees, but it has resolved some of the situations. We do not desire to become completely estranged to the use of everything, but we certainly have to have some regulations with one or two people stepping out of line and creating such a

situation as Block Parties. I have attempted to have conversations with many of you and we all seem to come away with a better understanding as to why this is necessary. Fortunately, nobody has been seriously hurt yet. We certainly don't want to have this happen. We have to establish regulations before situations become serious as a result. We will take input, but we will have some regulations that make life better. We owe too much, too soon to any of our previous members of the community that have worked so hard for these improvements. If you have any questions make sure and feel free to call me at Town Hall or call me on my cell. We absolutely will maintain some order for the protection of all.

LAST ZOOM MEETING



There were questions that arose as to why Chief Mike doesn't venture into the enclaves. The answer, very clearly, we do not have any authority outside the municipality. Our local agreement with the sheriff works very, very well. If no deputy is available and Mike is on duty the dispatcher will ask him if he can cover a call. It's such a rare, rare situation. Again, under town money state regulation must be spent in the

town. We realize sometimes that you scratch your head over this, but he serves the town. We would be remiss if we spent our money trying to handle the enclaves in the surrounding area. Furthermore, we have three major enclaves within our environs. Number one is Floridian Club Lane, that area that is beyond the sports club, we supply water only. That is our only business to be there, to supply water, not to take care of the streets or anything else. We inter-loopers are providing water to an area not within the municipality.

Secondly, Major went to Sportsman Harbor. The same thing exists there. We supply water and sewer for the entire area. We are not allowed to provide anything else. We have been instructed not to provide any services in that area. Again, we would be remiss. Spending money on county property. We do have an excellent inter-local with the Sheriff's department. That is the only in our inter-local that we have been able to establish in the last three years. The third area is at Beecher Point, beyond town limits. Again, not providing anything other than water distribution as well as some type of water within that area.

We are not here in Welaka to provide emergency services as a Municipality outside of Town. The fire department is under the jurisdiction of the county and services all areas. Station 12 has a very designated area that they serve as well as assistance throughout the county where needed. The town does not provide services outside of town. We do not take care of the streets outside of town. If you have questions, please advise. We would ask that if properly acknowledged and discussed that you wish to help us try and resolve some situations with the county. We would be most happy. Let's make sure we put our efforts in the right area. Do not believe anyone that tells you how we do provide services beyond town limits.

PINE TREES

Have you noticed we are constantly losing pine trees throughout town. It seems that there is no resolution at the current time. We continue talking to our County Forrester as well as the University of Florida. It appears, especially, an example is our Cemetery where as soon as we take one down within two or three months some other tree has died. Also, it has become a situation on private property. We would suggest that you consider the resolution. Certainly, we do not want them in our powerlines or falling on houses, or attached structures.



HURRICANE PREP

Florida Power and Light is contracted with ASPLUNDH to totally re-work powerlines within the Town of Welaka. Every weekday they have been trimming and almost finished preparing the powerline. This is improvement. certainly an Already ahead of where we were last 10 years of hurricane prep. We have been very fortunate that ASPLUNDH does such a fine job. We hope that you have noticed improvement to clean vour surroundings on the powerlines. FPL has a place to put some of the areas so that you don't lose your electricity. They have made many upgrades in the last 10 years, used to be you had to have a lineman come out and reset those jumpers. In many instances thev automatically trip and remain on, if the problem is only momentary. It makes us all feel Yet another area of better. preparation is being accomplished down here in Town Hall even under a pretty restrictive lockdown. We have to comply providing services. During the course of the day at least two hours are spent wiping down door fixtures in areas that might he contaminated. Somebody made a remark, "why I don't remember why we had not thought of it before, I know exposure that we have not said much about is the use of your golf cart". We suggest what you do here with the boys and their vehicles. If you do use your golf cart it needs to be wiped down. Caution which must be practiced by each and every one as we make our way through this pandemic.

We realize that we do put some quality restriction on without cause with the shutdown of Town Hall. Yet we want to make sure that you do receive the services so needed if you have questions ask. I am available give me a call, If you want to come down, I'll meet you at the front door, and will sit down with our masks on and discuss the allegations that arise. It can be held without prejudice. It is very enjoyable discussing when we are only discussing not arguing. In the end each of us really have better knowledge.

BACK TO SCHOOL

We are back at school. We have to be very actually cautious. Children are under more stress than they have ever been in their life. Everyone is nervous. Just make sure that you practice safety. Make sure you go far beyond what you would ordinarily think about with protecting yourself. Protect those around you. Learn to say no. I think many of us will ever believe a year ago in our lifetime, and even our young children are probably going to look back at 2020 as one year probably the most critical moment in my life. Try not to get cabin fever so bad it affects your mentality. Reach out. September will fly by.

NO NEW HIRES

No, we have not hired a new Town Attorney. Recently, however, new accusations have now been made by a Town Resident against our Town Attorney. These written accusations have been physically passed out amongst the Town, and by the complainant's social media page.

In order to respect proper legal procedure, and to have sufficient time to rebut such accusations, Mr. Scott associated has Attorney Patrick Kennedy, an experienced and credentialed Municipal Law Attorney, to handle the immediate legal affairs of the Town pending further development. Mr. Scott has fully disclosed these matters to Town leadership. But he states his belief that his personal recourse against the malicious defamatory attacks that have been made against him should not provide any distraction of the ongoing legitimate business.

IT ONLY TAKES ONE OR TWO

Recently, we have been very concerned about short-term rentals. We've had some complaints because we are becoming too stringent. Well, here's an example: it only takes one or two to screw up everything. Just the other day 12 people in a residence down here for fishing, 2 German Shepherd's, 12 people go fishing leave the 2 shepherds loose in the yard and one escaped and was aggressive to a neighbor. This is no way to be treated. We bring to your attention there a reason why we try to protect the citizens of Welaka. This incident is one more in the coffin. One or two people not doing what's right ruins it for all of us.



TOWN OF WELAKA ZONING BOARD MEETING TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020 @ 5:30 P.M. WELAKA TOWN HALL CONFERENCE CALL/ZOOM

1. The meeting was called to order by Kevin Finch at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call: Kevin Finch – present, Allen Rusek – present, Lenore Toole - present, Harriet Vanslyke present, Les Thomas - Present, Attorney Patrick Kennedy – present 3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of July 14, 2020. Finch asked if any deletions, corrections, or additions asked to correct motion of minutes from last month to be corrected. Rusek did not make motion to approve minutes this will be adjusted. Thomas motioned to approve Minutes of Meeting of July 14, 2020, second by Vanslyke. Motion carried 5-0.

4. <u>Request to Speak</u> – 1) <u>David</u> <u>Jeltes: 808 Front Street</u> – Approval to combine their property. Lots Three (3) and Six (6) with their homesteaded lots of One (1) and Seven (7). They want to turn it into a single parcel. They have included the survey which depicts where their house is on the lots. Toole motioned to accept approval. Rusek second the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

2) Tom Lowe: 110 Riverbend Road - Tom and Debbie sell fuel, bait, woodcarvings that they operate out of the bait shop at the marina 1007 Front Street. They are looking to continue to operate and serve the community by joining Sunset Landing. We would use the south dock and put in fuel and operate bait shop. Tom and Debbie are asking to rezone the area from medium density to C2. Mr. Dupree has worked with Board of Internal Improvement to sign off on the Riparian Rights. Finch asked if Mr. Lowe is an agent of the owner? Mr. Lowe has a letter from Louis Williams stating Mr. Lowe may speak and act on behalf of Sunset Landing. Attorney Patrick Kennedy stated before moving this forward to

Town Council the following needs to be provided: Official Agent Letter, Formal Application, Submerged Land Lease, and a Site 3) Louis Peronard: Ashton Plan. Circle/River Ridge - Peronard stated that the project started in 2005 and revisited in 2010. Both times the plans went belly up. It is an LLC what kind of money is behind it for development? You need to consider everything that goes into a site plan. Peronard stated that last time you guys looked at a site plan, one third of it was redacted on the land side. Plan was suggested and put forth to St. John's Water Management for the submerged land. Nothing was approved and signed 15 years ago. If we do not look at the developer itself, we again are going to look at another 15 years of PVC pipes sticking out. You must look at whether the LLC can carry out the plan. A site plan is supposed to be an all-encompassing detail of everything that is going to take place. "So, you can tell I'm not in favor of this thing, but I am willing to argue it again.", said Mr. Peronard.

5. Audience Participation – None 6. Adjourn – Rusek motioned to adjourn at 6:15 p.m. Second by Vanslyke. Motion carried 5-0.



TOWN OF WELAKA CODE ENFORCEMENT MEETING TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020 @ 6:15 P.M. WELAKA TOWN HALL CONFERENCE CALL/ZOOM

 The meeting was called to order by Kevin Finch at 6:15 p.m.
Roll Call: Kevin Finch – present, Allen Rusek – present, Lenore Toole – present, Harriet Vanslyke – present, Les Thomas – Present, Attorney Patrick Kennedy – present 3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of July 14, 2020. Finch asked if any deletions, corrections, or additions – asked to correct motion of minutes from last month to be corrected. Rusek did not make motion to approve minutes this will be adjusted. Thomas motioned to approve Minutes of Meeting of July 14, 2020, second by Vanslyke. Motion carried 5-0.

4. <u>Old Busines</u>: None

5. <u>New Business</u>: None

6. <u>Request to Speak – Louis</u> <u>Peronard – Ashton Circle/River</u> <u>Ridge</u> – Mr. Peronard is on record from the Zoning Board Meeting voicing his concerns.

7. <u>Audience Participation</u> – None 8. Adjourn – Rusek motioned to adjourn at 6:20 p.m. Second by Vanslyke. Motion carried 5-0.

TOWN OF WELAKA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020 @ 6:30 P.M. WELAKA TOWN HALL CONFERENCE CALL/ZOOM MEETING

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sands at 6:30 p.m.

Invocation was given by Finch.
Pledge of Allegiance led by Washington.

4. Roll Call: Mayor Gordon Sands present, Councilman Willie Washington - present, Councilman Jamie Watts - present, Councilwoman Jessica Finch present, Councilwoman Marianne Milledge - present, and Attorney, Patrick Kennedy - present.

5. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of July 14, 2020. Sands asked if any deletions, corrections, or additions there were none. Watts motioned to approve Minutes of Meeting of July 14, 2020, second by Finch. Motion carried 5-0.

6. Approval of Minutes of Special Emergency Meeting of August 8, 2020 Sands asked if any deletions, corrections, or additions - there were none. Watts motioned to approve Minutes of Meeting of August 08, 2020, second by Washington. Motion carried 5-0.

Electric Franchise Agreement 7. with Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.: Sands stated that it is coming up on the anniversary of the contract due to expire. Does council wish to enter a measure extending the contract with Clay Electric? If so, we will have Clay Electric present at the next Council meeting, a revised and updated potential agreement only for consideration. Motion for consideration on contract by Watts, bv Milledge. second Motion approved to consider new contract carried 5-0.

8. Request to Speak: Tom 1. Lowe: 110 Riverbend Road - Not Present: Mr. Lowe received direction from the Zoning Board Meeting as how to proceed and items needed to continue his application. 2. Louis Peronard: Ashton Circle/River Ridge - 517 First Avenue Welaka - Mr. Peronard is in the opinion that the Town Council made a mistake in approving the Submerged Land Lease. He feels the liability will fall on himself, with the Homeowner's Association and along with the Town of Welaka. Peronard stated that because of the site plans being approved Fifteen (15) years ago is a big mistake. 3. Pam Olson: Town Attorney and Conflict of Interest in River

Ridge Project; Transparency and Open Form of Government, per Laws of Florida - Pam Olson Address: 292 Maxwell Drive Welaka - Ms. Olson has some questions and concerns. Olson asked if Allen Scott still the Town of Welaka Attorney? Mayor Sands said Yes, most certainly. He is not at the meeting tonight because he recused but Attorney himself. Patrick Kennedy is here to assist us with questions and concerns. Ms. Olson is concerned along with others because Mr. Scott's name is on a lot of Town documents and she wants to make sure everything is done properly and with no conflict of interest along with a clear mind and no ulterior motives. Ms. Olson is concerned with the submersible land lease that was signed and submitted Johns River to St. Water Management. Mrs. Olson stated that there are many liabilities with the River Ridge properties and concerns of the leasee Five T's Wealth Management. Mr. Kennedy is not up to date on the documents for these properties. Mr. Kennedy has agreed to go over the contracts and other documents and let the Town Council know if it is correct or changes should be made.

9. <u>Code and Zoning</u> <u>Recommendations</u>: None

10. Utility Matters: None

11. Town Matters:

Mayor Sands Report: Sands stated that since the emergency meeting on August 8, 2020 he has received some very good reception from the citizens of Welaka concerning the block party that occurred. It was felt the owner of the property was the responsible party, but upon further research it was found that the responsible person is the renter of the property. The owners of the property have given the renter notice that if this were to happen again, he would be given a fifteen (15) day notice to vacate. Unfortunately, there was another block party on Palmetto, and it took until 2:00 a.m. to get the streets cleared. The residents are asking for no parking signs be put up stating "No Parking Between the Hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m." to try and stop the chaos from happening.

Mayor Sands agrees that he along with the Chief of Police Mike Porath would make a motion at the next Council meeting after looking into how other communities handle this situation. Mayor Sands would like to make a general motion to allow the Mayor and Chief of Police to work on a proposal along with input from any citizen that so desires to do so. So, we at least have moderate control.Watts makes a motion that we allow the Mayor and the Chief of Police move forward in preparing an Ordinance that we can use to control the state of Palmetto Street and any other place in Town that needs to be done. Including any safety protocols and procedures that can be put in place not limited to parking signs. They will bring to Town council at the September Meeting, Second by Washington. Motion carried 5-0.

<u>Councilwoman Milledge Report:</u> No Report

<u>Councilwoman Finch Report</u>: Finch stated that we are going to be taking in cats again on August 31, 2020. We have 10 spots reserved for cats. We will be setting traps a couple of days prior. We ask that no one disturb the traps. We are doing this for the good of the Town.

<u>Councilman Washington Report:</u> No Report, but would like to acknowledge the cleanliness of the Town and thank everyone who helps to make the Town clean and beautiful.

Councilman Watts Report: How are coming things along with emergency preparedness with our water and sewer plant? We are starting the peak of hurricane How season. are we with generators? Mayor Sands responded that we are probably better prepared than any other time. Twice a week we do a four (4) hour tour of everything and inspect and fix what is needed. We are still on the priority list with Sunbelt in the event that we need generators prior to any storms. We want to make sure we do not lose our water and sewer in the event there is another hurricane.

12. Audience Participation: none

13. Police Matters: None

14. Attorney Matters: None

15. Watts made a motion to adjourn at 7:23 p.m., second by Washington. Motion carried 5-0.

TAKE PRECAUTIONS TO AVOID MOSQUITO BITES



The Florida Department of Health reminds the public to remain diligent in their personal mosquito protection efforts. These include remembering to **"Drain and Cover"**.

<u>DRAIN</u> standing water to stop mosquitoes from multiplying

<u>Drain</u> water from garbage cans, house gutters, buckets, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots or any other containers where sprinkler or rain water has collected.

<u>Discard</u> old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that aren't being used.

Empty and clean birdbaths and pet's water bowls at least once or twice a week.

<u>Protect</u> boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water.

<u>Maintain</u> swimming pools in good condition and appropriately chlorinated. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

<u>COVER</u> skin with clothing or repellent

<u>CLOTHING</u> - Wear shoes, socks, and long pants and long-sleeves. This type of protection may be necessary for people who must work in areas where mosquitoes are present.

<u>REPELLENT</u> - Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing.

Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535 are effective.

Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months old. COVER doors and windows with screens to keep mosquitoes out of your house

Repair broken screening on windows, doors, porches, and patios.

Hurricane Checklist



Hurricane survival is contingent upon being prepared for the worst. A good Hurricane preparedness plan starts off with a hurricane checklist to ensure that you and your family have the necessary survival gear to get you through the worst that a hurricane has to throw at you. With that in mind, National-Hurricane-Center has brought to you this hurricane checklist from the American <u>Red Cross</u>.

Water: One gallon, per person, per day, for three days Non-perishable food: enough for three days Flashlight(s) Battery powered radio Extra batteries A first aid kit Extra medications A multipurpose tool (like a Swiss Army Knife) Sanitary or personal hygiene products Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates, insurance policies) Cell phone and chargers Family and emergency contact information Extra cash Emergency blanket Map of the area Baby supplies (bottles, formula, baby food, diapers, etc...) Pet supplies (leashes, collar with ID, food carrier, bowl, food) Tools and supplies for securing the home Extra set of car keys and house keys Extra clothing, hat, and sturdy shoes Insect repellant and sunscreen Camera for taking pictures of hurricane damage

In addition to marking off the items on this hurricane checklist, you should be sure that you are in a safe, and secure shelter that is not in an inundation zone. <u>NOAA</u> has provided these user friendly <u>storm surge interactive maps</u> to help you keep track of where you are and where you need to be when a hurricane is on its way.

You can look at the <u>FEMA State Offices and Agencies of Emergency Management</u> Page for a listing of local emergency management office websites and phone numbers, and for updates on where the storm is, check National-Hurricane-Center's <u>Hurricane Tracker</u>. And be prepared for other hurricane menaces like <u>hurricane spawned tornadoes</u> by taking a look at our other <u>hurricane awareness</u> pages.