



Minutes of Council Meeting June 21, 2010

Call to Order

On, June 21, 2010, the meeting of the Lehigh Acres Community Council was called to order at Living Waters Christian Fellowship Church, 500 N. Sunshine Blvd. Lehigh Acres, Florida 33971, at 6:31 PM by President Damon Shelor, presiding. , Larry Gutridge gave the invocation. Damon Shelor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

President Shelor announced that a quorum was present. Members present included Damon Shelor, Diane Champion, Linda Carter, Edd Weiner, George Szymanski, Mohamed Yasin, William Nottling, Jere Carrick, Tami Baker, Karen Makowski, Dendle Miller, Gary Warchol, Mike Bonacolta, Mike Anderson, Larry Gutridge, Ron Gogoi, Donald Poidevin, Debbie Derums, Carl Moore, Beth Love, Blair Stitt, and Ron Gogoi. Rick Anglickis joined the meeting in progress.

Members excused included Willard Baker, Ahmed El-Gendy, Orville Hall, Keith Freeman, Barb Kirby, Robert Saul, and.

Members absent were Michael Cook, Ralph Hemmingway, Jeff Spiro, Keith Butler, Rose Oliverio, Bill Martin, Alston Dias, Carlo Lane, Patrick Dawson, and Stanley Stine.

Guests included Frank Mann, Dist 5 County Commissioner and Basit Miller.

The proposed agenda was approved on a motion by Edd Weiner, seconded by Tami Baker. The motion passed.

Citizen Comments

President Shelor asked for any Citizen comments on the agenda items. There were none.

Guest Speaker

Tonight's scheduled speaker is, Joe Mazurkiewicz, who spoke about the pros and cons of Amendment 4. Joe recommends we vote No on Amendment 4. If Amendment 4 passes, it will be impossible for smart growth or Lehigh to have planned growth.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 17 meeting were reviewed. Gary Warchol made a motion to accept the minutes. Jere Carrick seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Makowski reviewed the April 30 report. Our account has a balance of \$1392.95 on 5/31/2010. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Tami Baker, seconded by William Nottling. The motion passed.

Each council member was asked to become a Friend of the Council and find 4 other 2010 Friends of the Council sponsors by next month. The Treasurer will keep track and a prize will be presented for the Council Member who raises the most in sponsorships.

Presidents Comments

President Shelor's comments included

- Willard Baker's condition continues to be critical. He is still at Tampa Hospital which specializes in pancreatic medicine. He is still in ICU and will be for some time. Prayers for the family were requested.
- **Council Membership:**
There is currently no representative from Lehigh Community Services on the Council, we have asked Jere Carrick to keep our group informed of events at LCS until we find a replacement for Pam Kaye.
- **Weed and Seed Project:**
 - The sub committees continue to meet and are involved in several activities in the community.
 - Damon attended the June steering committee meeting to stay abreast of activities.
 - The new Website is up and running. Information and newsletters are available for download. www.LehighAcresWeedandSeed.com
 - The Community Restoration committee met recently with Keep Lehigh Acres Beautiful members to plan three additional clean ups in several areas of Lehigh. More on these events will be forth coming. Clean ups are planned for September 25th, October 23rd and November 13th.
 - The CWC group (Community Watch Coordinators) is planning a "Block Party" event at Veterans Park in July 24th at the Pavilion. Food and Fun for families with a softball game against the LCSO.
- **Community Council Goals 2009:**
Council members are continuing to meet and work on 2010 goals.
- **Lehigh Acres Comprehensive Planning Corp.:**
The committee continues to meet monthly. They have reorganized into several committees to work on the language for building, architectural, landscape and numerous codes that will eventually become part of the land use plan that has been adopted by the Lee County.
- There is a Development Code Kick –Off meeting/ forum to discuss this effort with the public at the East Lee County Regional Library scheduled for 12-2 AM on July 24th. Mr.

Shelor urge all Council members to attend.

- Recently, he attended a Land Development Code Advisory Committee (LDCA) meeting where there was discussion on “Community Gardens” language being considered for an amendment to the residential land use codes. This concept and change to residential land use has past the second review and will go before the BOCC soon.
- **Lehigh Acres “Welcome Sign”:** Welcome signs have been installed at six main entrance locations around Lehigh Acres. There are four more locations approved for signs. If you know of any businesses that might be interested in sponsoring a “Welcome” sign have them contact the Chamber of Commerce office, 239 369-3322.
- At the Executive Board meeting, Politics in the Park was discussed. We are set for October 16 at Veteran’s Park (with shade over the patio and the community room). A possible event before the primary was discussed but venue is an issue as the park is busy with summer camp until August 13. A venue is being sought for August 7 or 14th. A motion was made by Rick Anglickis to hold this event at the Lehigh Senior High School, and seconded by Karen Makowski. This motion passed.

Committee Comments

Code Enforcement- Mike Anderson reported for the period 5/1-5/30/2010:

901 total cases opened

128 total cases opened in zone 9 Weed and Seed

109 total cases opened in Westminster

518 self initiated cases (57%)

506 cases closed

2452 total inspections

276 signs removed from the right of way

Graffiti - Total Cases year to date 13, Total in reporting period 3, Total Abated 11, Total Open 2

Roads and Transportation- No report per Ron Gogoi see report in packet.

Election and Bylaws- Beth Love reported no activity.

Publicity- Makowski requested funding of advertising for our pre-primary political showcase. TV coverage will be sought for the August 14 event as finalized. Since no information (bio) was provided no press release was done. Need info for Paul O’Connor and Kathy Ebaugh when they are scheduled at least 3 weeks before they speak. Please email bio’s to KRMakow@aol.com with the event announcement.

Unfinished Business

1. Committee assignments – committee chairs are getting their own members
2. Larry Gutridge reported that the new version of Weed and Seed will encompass all of Lehigh.

- a. May 17 through June 13. total incidents 131,
- b. Residential burglary 84,
- c. Conveyance burglary 33,
- d. Motor vehicle theft 9
- e. There are somewhere between 60 and 80 Neighborhood Watches in all of Lehigh Acres. I am now in the process of validating those watches. Depending upon my work load I may get that job done this month and I may not.
- f. Weed and Seed Program funding has been moved to HUD and expanded the funds available (almost double) from the Feds. With regard to the numbers for the new grant:
 - i. The grant has been applied for, it has not yet been granted. That means at present there is no more money than we had last year. If and when the grant is given we will receive \$175,920. The total of that money will go to the Sheriff's office. The Sheriff has said that his intent is to put the major portion of that money to work here in Lehigh Acres. The money will be disbursed in, as I understand it, overtime for deputies, deputies working special patrols, and in special units that may need to be called to Lehigh Acres. Again as I understand it, most of the money that is received in Lehigh Acres will be directed to the issues in what was the Weed and Seed area, but it is not limited to that. This money is to come from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance grant.

New Business

1. July 3rd Fireworks were discussed. Jere Carrick did raise the \$5000 to have fireworks in Lehigh on July 3. See him if you have candidates who could help sponsor this community service. American Legion, VFW, and Rotary are possible supporters.

Citizen Comments

A discussion took place regarding a citizen who was concerned about a zoning request located at the corner of Homestead and Delaware Roads from single family residential to commercial use for a vegetable market. There seemed to be some confusion regarding the project and the request, so the issue was tabled to the July meeting. The Community Development Committee will look into the request and report back to the Council specifics of the issue.

Board Comments

Linda Carter passed out Extreme Weather 2010 charts out that were received from NOAA.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Linda Carter, Secretary.