The Niceville City Council met in regular session at 7:00 PM, August 11, 2020 in the Council Chambers, 208 N Partin Drive. All Council members were present including Councilwoman Alley and Councilmen Nodjomian, Schaetzle, Donahoo, and Williams. Also present were City Manager, Lannie Corbin; City Clerk, Dan Doucet; Technology Department, Chad Morris; Police Department, Chief Popwell; Fire Department, Chief Mayville; Public Works, Johnathan Laird; Water & Sewer Manager, Ron Mathews; and Finance Director, Steven Rausch. There were 27 visitors in the audience and a member from the press.

Mayor Henkel called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, and led the prayer, and all present said the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Henkel had kind words for Mr. Gene Eller, including him in the prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Council Meeting, July 14, 2020
Special Council Meeting, July 21, 2020
Special Council Meeting, July 23, 2020
Special Council Meeting, August 4, 2020
Planning Commission Meeting – August 3, 2020
Local Planning Agency Meeting – No Meeting Held

Councilman Nodjomian moved approval of the minutes. Councilman Schaetzle seconded. Council Vote: Schaetzle-yes; Nodjomian-yes; Alley-yes; Donahoo-yes; Williams-yes. Motion passed.

City Clerk Dan Doucet asked Mayor Henkel if he could make one comment. Mr. Doucet said during the special election he had not asked for a motion to certify the results of the special election on August 4th, and return the election materials to his office. Mr. Doucet said in the draft of the minutes he has Councilman Schaetzle moving approval and Councilwoman Alley seconding that. If anyone wants to change that motion or second, I would need to have that amended to include that statement. I had forgotten to bring that up during the meeting of the canvassing board. No discussion followed. Councilman Schaetzle moved approval. Councilwoman Alley seconded. Council Vote: Henkel-yes; Schaetzle-yes; Boudreaux-yes; Nodjomian-yes; Alley-yes. Motion passed.
PUBLIC HEARINGS

PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Henkel asked Councilman Nodjomian if he had a Youth Council update. Councilman Nodjomian said unfortunately, the Youth Council was not able to meet, I have an announcement about the Youth Council. Our Youth Council continued its winning ways by being awarded by the League of Cities, the 2020 Youth Council Community Service Award, for a submission back in June. Every year the award program asks Youth Councils to put together something about their City. Our Youth Council participated in a very special event at the Pavilion, right at the height of the lockdown, specifically in the Senior arena. They took part in a very active drive-by parade with over 100 cars and several hundred people, sharing goodwill with the residents of that facility. They took photos and wrote a 500-word essay. They submitted it and were chosen as one of the top 5 in the State. We'll receive our fifth trophy in six years and our check from the League of Cities, and the Youth Council will decide what to do with the funds. In the past they have donated it to charitable causes.

Mayor Henkel said I want to thank you all, first of all the Youth Council, and also Mr. Nodjomian. They have done a tremendous job, from birth to where they are now, and they have won five awards in six years. That's just a tremendous thing! It shows the quality of people that we have in Niceville, and you all should be proud that we have a Youth Council that is doing the job that they're doing. Congratulations, and thank you!

Mayor Henkel said I was contacted by Ms. Maggie Halsey. She asked if the City of Niceville would join the Okaloosa County Commissioners in issuing a proclamation recognizing an Overdose Awareness day on August 31st. The City of Niceville would be more than happy to do that. Ms. Halsey are you here and will you come up here? We are proud to issue this proclamation on International Overdose Awareness Day.

Mayor Henkel read the proclamation as follows: Whereas Monday, August 31, 2020 is proclaimed as International Overdose Awareness Day, and whereas International Overdose Awareness Day remembers the thousands lost in our County, State, and Country, to substance abuse disorders and overdose deaths. Whereas many businesses and citizens in Okaloosa County, the State of Florida, and the entire country show their support on August 31 by lighting our country purple in recognition of those who have lost the battle with substance abuse disorder; whereas the CDC has reported over the past ten years, our nation has lost over 500,000 citizens to overdose deaths, and whereas in the same time period the State has lost 15.8 per 100,000 people to this disease; whereas the substance abuse, including the abuse of opioids increases in times of economic uncertainty, the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners, as well as the
Niceville City Council wish to extend their heartfelt sympathies to the families of the victims. Now, therefore, I, Daniel Henkel, on behalf of the Niceville City Council, do hereby proclaim and recognize August 31, 2020 as International Overdose Awareness Day. The proclamation was presented to Ms. Halsey and photographs were taken to commemorate the proclamation.

Ordinance 20-08-01 – An ordinance annexing into the City of Niceville, Florida, contiguous lands described as set forth herein; providing for proper advertisement pursuant to Section 171.044, Florida Statutes; providing that the property will be zoned R-1B with a future land use of LDR, Low Density Residential; providing for severability; providing for an effective date and providing for filing with the Clerk of Court, Okaloosa County and the Department of State. Property located on 11th Street. (Final Reading)

Mr. Doucet read Ordinance 20-08-01 by title. Councilman Nodjomian moved approval on final reading. Councilman Schaetzle seconded. No one spoke for or against. Council Vote: Schaetzle-yes; Nodjomian-yes; Alley-yes; Donahoo-yes; Williams-yes. Motion passed.

Ordinance 20-09-01 – An ordinance for the Rezoning of certain property in the City of Niceville, Florida; providing zoning for same and an effective date. From R-1A, Single Family Residential to R-1B, Single Family Residential, and have a future land use of MDR, Medium Density Residential. Property is located at 820 Cedar Avenue South. Requested by Audra Nagel and Billie Burnette. (First Reading)

Mr. Doucet read Ordinance 20-09-01 by title. Councilman Nodjomian moved approval on final reading. Councilman Williams seconded. No one spoke for or against. Council Vote: Schaetzle-yes; Nodjomian-yes; Alley-yes; Donahoo-yes; Williams-yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 20-08-01 – A resolution granting a special exception to the Land Development Code, Section 7.07.09(C). To allow for a 4’ setback from the side and rear property lines as opposed to the required 10’ setback and a 4’ setback from the side and rear property lines as opposed to the required 5’ setback at 102 Georgia Avenue, Niceville, Florida; and providing for an effective date. Metes and bounds description. Requested by Jason and Nicole Hurt.

Mr. Doucet read Resolution 20-08-01 by title. Councilman Schaetzle moved approval for the purpose of erecting an “RV” carport. Councilman Donahoo seconded. Mayor Henkel asked if anyone would like to come forward. Mr. and Mrs. Jason and Nicole Hurt came forward and spoke in favor of the motion. Mr. Corbin stated that he went to the location and commented the view of the water would be impacted by future construction on other
property but he could not see where this request, if approved, would impact the water view for other homeowners. Councilman Schachtzle amended his motion stipulation that if, in the future, this owner, or a future owner, wished to construct a more permanent structure, they would first need to come back before the City Planning Commission and the City Council for approval. Mayor Henkel asked Councilman Donahoo if he would like to also amend his second to include the language of the amended motion. Councilman Donahoo responded affirmatively. Mayor Henkel asked Mr. Powell if there was anything he would like to add? Mr. Powell said the motion clarified that if the owners ever wanted to build something they would need to have a building permit, so would have to go through that process. Council Vote: Schachtzle-yes; Nodjomian-yes; Alley-yes; Donahoo-yes; Williams-yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 20-08-02 - A resolution granting a special exception to the Land Development Code, Table 7-2, R-3 zoning to allow for a 5’ front setback on lots 1-8, Andi’s Way Subdivision, as opposed to the required 20’ front setback, Niceville, Florida; and providing for an effective date. Sycamore Property Ventures, LLC. Property is located at Andi’s Way, 8 lots on 23rd Street.

Mr. Doucet read Resolution 20-08-02 by title. Councilman Nodjomian moved approval. Councilman Williams seconded. Mayor Henkel asked if anyone would like to come forward to speak on this motion. Ms. Patricia Cominsky, of 604 Pine Avenue came forward and provided her name and address, speaking against approval of the request due to safety concerns. Councilman Nodjomian explained the request was for a 5’ setback from an easement that was 20’ wide, so the residential units would be well back from the road, like other homes. Ms. Cominsky thanked Councilman Nodjomian for explaining it. Ms. Cominsky asked about the parking. Mr. Grady Anderson, of 526 Garden Oaks Cove came forward and identified himself and his address. He explained he is managing the construction and each unit would have a driveway and garage, and added that there was a stop sign nearby so traffic should be slow through there. There was no further discussion. Council Vote: Schachtzle-yes; Nodjomian-yes; Alley-yes; Donahoo-yes; Williams-yes. Motion passed.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS/REQUESTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Mayor Henkel asked Mr. Corbin for his update. Mr. Corbin said, first of all, I appreciate you recognizing Mr. Gene Eller. He was a special person who was here for most of the meetings, and we are going to miss him.

At the Senior Center, we are in the process of building three more pickle-ball courts. As you know, the Mullet Festival committee put on the last Mullet Festival. So, we as the City, are done with that. The Mullet Festival Committee has about $120,000 that we are
going to donate to the Senior Center to finish their recreation area, the pickle-ball courts, and the landscaping. So, I thought I’d pass that on to you that they’re happy to do that, and hopefully we’ll finish all that real soon.

Mayor Henkel asked Mr. Corbin to please pass on our heartfelt congratulations and thanks to all of the Mullet Festival committee, for doing this and for all of their work. That’s an awesome thing to do.

**WATER AND SEWER:**

Public Works Director Johnathan Laird briefed the status on current projects:

**PARKS:**

We have had the new City park at 998 Rocky Bayou Drive surveyed; we will be looking into plans on what to install.

**Sidewalks:** There has been a delay in this project with Construction Services; we hope to get this resolved quickly. In the next few weeks we will begin working on the installation of new sidewalks around the City.

We’ve installed sidewalks on Davis Drive, from Highway 20 to the first speed bump and the crosswalk. We’ve installed 27th Street, from Bayshore Drive to Cedar Avenue and Cedar Avenue from 27th Street to Fink Road. We installed Valparaiso Boulevard from Bayshore Drive to Magnolia Shores. We’ve installed a new cul-de-sac at Dolphin Point, which is at the Dana Point subdivision. We’ve installed Bayshore Drive, between 11th and 7th Street. We’ve installed a new cul-de-sac on Juniper Avenue off of 20th. And, we’ve installed a new walk trail on Forest Road, from Rocky Bayou Drive to the Stables sub-division. Still, we would like the inmates to be working hard to maintain the City’s holding ponds. We have put together a City crew to try to maintain these holding ponds.

**STREETS:**

**Maintenance:** We have received a reimbursement from the State of $16,855, total of $33,710 for both squads. We have contacted the prison and they cannot give us a time line on when their crews will be back; we have put a City work plan together to maintain 60 of the ponds and have a contract with Landscape Workshop out of Valparaiso to maintain the other 20 that are in Swift Creek, the Plantation, the Preserve and Gracie Lane. Crews are continuing to cut Right of Ways (ROWS), spray for weeds; installed walls, poured concrete, and set pavers at the Senior Center; poured concrete at the City yard; mulch at the triangle; selected new plants for the library.
REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE AND ELECTRICAL:

Senior Center: working to complete the gazebos at the Senior Center; finish up new building; working on backflow room for the Water and Sewer.

STORMWATER:

Thomas Branch: We are moving forward. RBM Contracting Services is awaiting clay sampling from NOVA (vendor). Once the clay material is approved, RBM will begin laying the underdrain in the pond and completing construction of the pond system. We are 61% complete.

Boggy Bayou Headwaters (Update): Still awaiting the Army Corp of Engineers Permit approval.

Calls: 39 water calls and 23 sewer calls; made 4 water tap and 2 sewer taps and 186-line spots.

I have Michael Evans of Poly Engineering here tonight to give you an update on Well 11. If there are no further questions for me, I’ll turn it over to him.

Councilman Schaetzle said before we turn it over to Poly Engineering I wanted to give your team kudos, because multiple people have come to me and said thank you for the walkway along Rocky Bayou Drive. It is much smoother and they certainly appreciate it.

Mr. Corbin said I would like to let you know; I’m sure all of you have had some emails from Swift Creek. We’ve had about seven streets left. One of them is just a small remaining section of Bayshore Drive, Edgewater Drive, Rocky Shores, Evans Street, and Nathan Street, and then the streets in Swift Creek. We originally had $500,000 in that budget and we have about $194,000 left for sidewalks. To do the ones I just mentioned is $397,000. We have $1,000,000 into street resurfacing and we did not spend any of those funds. This virus came and we slowed down everything. We could transfer some of that money and finish all of these on that list. The folks at Swift Creek have a legitimate concern. But, some of the streets like Edgewater Drive have been there for years and never had a sidewalk. Evans Street and Nathan Street, we should do those first, but that’s not leaving out Swift Creek. They would also be on this list. If we do that transfer, I can do that and stay within the budget. I think we can do all of it.

Mayor Henkel asked, so how much would you be transferring if we did this? It would be about $200,000 that we would be transferring from Streets. That would leave us $800,000.
in the Streets budget for resurfacing. Okay; said Mayor Henkel. Do we need to make a motion to transfer this money? Mr. Corbin said, not as long as we stay within the budget within the Streets department and we are well-within the budget now.

Councilman Schaetzle asked if there was anyone representing the Swift Creek Homeowners’ Association? A gentleman in the audience said, I guess that falls on me. Councilman Schaetzle asked do you have a director of sidewalks? Have you done engineering work on the sidewalk? And if there has, would they be willing to share it with the City to reduce the City’s engineering costs? There is a resident-led, not homeowners association-led committee on this specific topic. There is a civil engineer who lives in the community who has done some strategy work, but not true engineering work. Does the Homeowner’s Association have a budget for sidewalks? There is a budget for sidewalks in the common areas only, but not for areas like this which are not in the common areas. More discussion followed about easements along the roads for the construction of sidewalks. Mr. Laird, said the City does maintain the roadways and sidewalks in Swift Creek. Of the $396,000, it’s going to cost the City $156,937 to add the sidewalks at Swift Creek.

Mayor Henkel said, before we let our next guest speak, let me just say, I’m real proud of the staff that we have and the workers in the City, but I’m real proud of the folks in this City and they never cease to amaze me. I’d like to read this letter just to give you an idea of citizens, how valuable we treat one another. The letter is from Michael Roberts who said Mayor, we express our deepest thanks to the City of Niceville for providing a forklift and driver on June 26th to assist in unloading of 35,000 pounds on 23 pallets of non-perishable food from a semi-trailer sent by the Latter-Day Saints Charities arm of the Church. The effort was coordinated with the Niceville City Manager, Mr. Corbin, and his willingness to assist was paramount to our success with this service opportunity. The forklift driver was Ken Filson from the City of Niceville’s Public Works Department. His assistance was invaluable to our effort as he unloaded 23 pallets and organized them by type of food. His skills allowed our volunteers to quickly divide our food into ten donation groups. Two of the food donation groups was delivered to people within the City of Niceville. Food donations were made to Sharing and Caring and to the Twin Cities Pavilion. Approximately 3,500 pounds each. The remaining food was donated to other charities throughout Okaloosa and Walton Counties and delivered by members of our Church. We hope the service projects will continue within the City in which we live in. That speaks highly of your team, as well as the citizens of this City. Thank you.

Well 11: Johnathan Laird asked Michael Evans of Poly engineering to update the City Council on the progress with Well 11.
Michael Evans, Poly, Inc. introduced himself and said Mayor, Council, I appreciate you letting me speak. I won’t bore you with the history of the well. I feel like we’ve probably gone over that over the past few months, but if you have questions about what the City has done in the past, I’ll be happy to help answer those with Johnathan and Ronald. In July this year, we went back for a second time to Water Systems Engineering and asked them to take a look at a couple of samples from the well. We were having trouble getting the bacteria to clear. They recommended a sampling procedure and then prepared a full detailed report. There were a couple of bacteria strains, none of which were super-problematic or dangerous, just naturally occurring bacteria. But since the initial sample that they took in February, the recent cleaning efforts have dramatically improved the overall well health, so I was glad to hear that. The problem is there is still a problematic bacteria population in the well. They’ve come up with some recommendations. One of them is a thorough cleaning. We did an easy cleaning that had worked in the past. That didn’t work. So, we did a little more thorough cleaning. That didn’t work. So then we did a very thorough cleaning. That appeared to work at first, but we started getting some failures even with that. So, with this report, they’ve gone through a much more detailed analysis of the water bacteria, the water constituents, and analyzed a very long list and I’m sure they have done a good job. I have a copy of that report if you want to study it for the things that they sampled and checked.

The basic suggestion from them is to go back and pull the well motor and well pump again and do a more thorough cleaning with some additives, some dispersants, and different disinfection chemicals to hopefully get this thing cleared up. There certainly are no guarantees, but the good thing is that when we failed these tests, the lab here in town are looking for total chloroforms. They haven’t been able to find these total chloroforms, so it’s really hit or miss. So, the lab will test 5 or 6 samples and they’ll all pass, and then all of sudden they’ll get a failure. And, the 4 samples that Water Systems Engineering has pulled, they haven’t identified any total chloroforms, so that gives me hope that it’s not a huge problem, but just a few sporadic hits that they’re identifying. And, what they’re basically saying is that the bacteria that are in there are the bacteria that produce biofilm, or slime, basically. That biofilm can encapsulate some of the bad bacteria and protect it from your chlorine that you’re trying to disinfect with.

So, what they’re proposing is that we pull the well pump, do a thorough cleaning with a pressure washing. Last time we did a scrubbing. It was almost like a bottle-brush down the full 800 feet of the well, but now they’re proposing more of a pressure-washing with some additives, with chlorine, to go in there and disrupt that biofilm to give us access to the bacteria. Another interesting characteristic we found in this test study is the City will sample in the morning and a lot of times, that sample will fail. We’ll leave the well on, all day long, and take another sample at the end of the day, and a lot of times that sample will fail, which tells us and tells the lab, that maybe the bacteria in there is migrating out
a little bit away from the hole, and it’s taking a while for it to pull in. So, what they’re proposing in addition to that pressure washer, is to put the disinfectant into the well and put a tremendous amount of water on top of that disinfectant, to push it out into the formation, and hopefully attack those colonies that may be hiding in the formation in that biofilm.

A couple of other things they recommended that are different from the last time, was they recommended we lower the pump a little bit. I don’t quite comprehend how that will help us, but I just got this report late Friday, so I haven’t had a lot of time to analyze it. The pump is about 200 feet below the ground surface, and they’re recommending taking it down to about 400 feet, but we still need to have some discussions with them on that to understand the benefit to that, to see if that’s worth the effort and the financial impact. And, they also recommended disassembling the pump. Last time, they pulled the pump. They cleaned it and disinfected it, but they didn’t completely disassemble it. So, they recommended to do that, get in there and clean the impellers and make sure a little biofilm isn’t stuck in there, that could be part of the problem.

Overall, the water quality was really good. I was impressed. The water was very clear. There were really no harmful constituents in there. It was good clean water but it just had a bacteria problem. So, after the mechanical agitation of the well and the treatment with that dispersant, they’re proposing that it be re-chlorinated, disinfected and let that sit a couple of hours. They want to monitor the chlorine in the hole as it works overnight, and periodically add some to it, if it is getting consumed. So, that would be the disinfectant phase. The next step would be to pump out the well and get all of the chlorine out. Then, resample, and I know a lot of you would be crossing his/her fingers that they will be successful this time because they have been working very hard on this well for many months now.

One thing that we need to look into a little bit deeper is Microscopic plant material. They did find some very low levels of microscopic plant material. You wouldn’t expect to find that in the well because it’s totally sealed. There’s a 340-foot layer of clay between the aquifer where we might water our lawns from, and the drinking water aquifer, and it’s almost impermeable. So, you don’t tend to have any water from those upper aquifers migrating down through there. But, to find some type of plant material down there, it seems to indicate either a contamination of the sample, someone was filling their sample bottle and someone was mowing their grass nearby. It could indicate a deep well from a nearby vicinity that could be leaching some surficial water down into the lower aquifer. I scoured the database of the NWF Water Management District and I couldn’t find any wells anywhere near it that would impact it that were deep wells. The closest one I found was to the south about 4000 feet, but you wouldn’t think that would impact this well because water migrates normally from north to south. We do need to look into that a little
more. The first stage of that would be to get a real clear video inspection of the casing of that well, and just make sure there are no microscopic holes in it. That’s unlikely, but it’s certainly something that we need to explore since they did find that plant material that would be expected.

That’s really it. I know the last time we went to several contractors and got some pricing to do the steps that are outlined in this report. I think the staff will want to do that again and then come back to you at a later time with those prices and see if you want to proceed with all of that. It is a very thorough cleaning procedure, but then I thought the last one was very thorough too and it was unsuccessful, said Mr. Evans.

Councilman Schaetzle said, you talked about pulling the pump, and doing a thorough cleaning of the pipe and also the motor, and maybe taking it apart. Is it worth considering, if we go out for a bid, to have a replacement of the pipe, and a replacement of the pump motor just to use those new parts to go back into the well as opposed to those parts you would maybe disinfect asked Councilman Schaetzle? We did a quick inspection of the pump, when they pulled it out last time and the column pipe. Obviously, there’s a shaft that connects it to the motor. The pump and motor are above grade. We did a thorough inspection of the pipe last time. Basically, they recommended the pulling of the pump, the column pipe, and the shaft, disassembling it, cleaning it, checking it for wear to make sure it has some life to it. It is a big expense to pull it, and you don’t want to put something back in there that may only have a few years left, so that would be part of the process, to examine it all and make recommendations as to the remaining life of the pump or its parts. Discussion followed.

Councilwoman Alley asked Mr. Corbin how much we have spent on this well trying to get the water quality to pass? Mr. Corbin said I think we have spent $68,000 so far. It might be more than that with all of this chlorination that we have done since then. Mr. Evans confirmed, the last thorough cleaning was right around $68,000 and some change. The City has attempted on at least two occasions to do some cleaning of it themselves with some chemicals and that’s a few hundred dollars each time. We did pay a drilling contractor early on about $3,000 to basically do what the City tried and it didn’t work, without pulling the pump, which is the most common way to disinfect it. So, take that $68,000 and add a few thousand to it for the City’s work and efforts, said Mr. Evans.

So, we’re looking at a substantial cost to do these next steps that they’re recommending, correct, asked Councilwoman Alley? Yes, ma’am. I would assume it would be more than that $68,000, because it’s very similar to that process, but it requires a few more chemical additives. I don’t know what those cost, but I wouldn’t be surprised if it came in a little higher, said Mr. Evans. Mr. Corbin said, if you replace that well, you’re talking about several hundred thousand dollars. I would think the well itself is about $700,000 to
$800,000; and, you obviously would be putting it in a place where you would need to be adding it back to our system which would mean probably a million dollars to abandon that well and replace it, said Mr. Corbin. We just did a similar well in a neighboring county. It was probably in the $1.2 million-dollar range.

What I’ll do is whenever he gets back to me with those numbers, I’ll get back with the Council and let you know what those numbers are, said Mr. Corbin. Thank you said Mayor Henkel.

**Police Department – Update**

Chief Popwell greeted the Mayor, Councilmembers and Mr. Corbin and stated that during the month of July 2020, the Niceville Police Department responded to 3,526 calls for police assistance. There was a total of 24 traffic crash reports written involving 44 vehicles. The estimated amount of damage to these vehicles and related property was $106,352. A total of 147 traffic citations and 208 traffic warnings were issued, 20 misdemeanors, 22 felonies and no DUls. Some of the interesting calls we had; we have been dealing with a few challenging issues. For example, we responded residents on St. Charles, six times to a family disturbance. One time it involved a brick, one time a knife, and the other times, it was just tearing the house apart. So, we had to deal with that. We responded to another one on Paradise Road, the person living there thinks somebody stole a bullet from her house, and someone is stealing zip ties and bread ties. On Palm Boulevard there was a gentleman walking down the street with two knives and was agitated about strange men approaching him, and he doesn’t like it because he was in prison for twenty years, so he gets agitated when people come around him, so we had to deal with that issue. We had another one where an underage son keeps taking his Mom’s car. He has no driver’s license and he doesn’t have permission, so we advised him of what would happen if we caught him driving, and if his parents reported their car stolen, what would happen with that. We haven’t had any more contact recently. We also did a speed survey that the City Manager requested on Baysbore due to complaints about speeding. The speed limit is 25 miles per hour (mph) on that street. We had 9,148 vehicles. Of that there were 6,198 that were in the 26 to 35 mph range. We have that full report if anybody would like to see it. We did that survey for 4 days and 4 nights non-stop. So, we addressed that issue, determining that cars really aren’t speeding in that area. Where did you set that up, asked a citizen? Right in front of Grand Oaks, said Chief Popwell. Was that in both directions? Yes sir; in both directions.

The fourth of July went off without a hitch. Everybody had a good time, and we are pressing forward, said Chief Popwell.
Fire Department – Update

Chief Mayville stated that during the month of July 2020, the Fire Department had 127 calls with 120 of those being located within the City. There were seven mutual-aid or automatic aid calls, one brush fire, 67 medicals with EMS transport to the hospital, eight vehicle accidents with injury and transport to the hospital, 1 lock-ins, 1 gas spill, 3 natural gas inside structures that had to be ventilated by my department, and 3 power lines down. We had three arcing and shorting in a business, 1 illegal burn, 6 service calls, 28 good-intent calls, 1 smoke scare, 3 business alarm activations.

We’d like to thank the citizens of Niceville for their concerns. For about 3 days, our phones rung off the hook from citizens wanting to check on our firefighters. We had 12 members of our fire department at the house, and the City took very good care of them. We ended up with 8 positive (COVID-19) cases, which were mild. We had 3 that were treated with flu-like symptoms and 1 firefighter who lost his sense of taste and smell. We knew we would get something, but just didn’t know when. We have been responding to this since January, and we are happy to report that the flat spot, we were waiting for with the virus... we’re there. We did 2 consecutive days of the flat spot, so we’re happy about that. If everybody would just maintain what you are doing, I think we’re going to be okay. Hospital bed usage is on the decline. We’re seeing that statewide, so we’re pretty excited about that. Hopefully we will maintain those safety and precautionary measures that we have and everything will be good.

We had our firefighters out doing our inspections for emergency contacts ahead of that storm. The Emerald Coast Powerboat Association will be running high-speed boats this weekend, so we encourage everyone to stay out of that middle part of the bay. Our Bayous, and the other bayous around here are where they’ll be running from the Mid-bay Bridge near Destin, all the way down to Navarre. Some of those boats can hit speeds of 160 to 180 mph and they really open it up in the mid-bay out here. We’ll have our firefighters on the water just in case any incidents take place. Discussion followed.

Is everybody out of quarantine, asked Councilwoman Alley? Everyone is back at work, thank goodness, said Chief Mayville. Mayor Henkel thanked Chief Mayville.

Other Business:

Mr. Corbin said the Senior Center is still closed, and we have an exercise program using Zoom, and we have a lot of people, believe it or not, participating in that. I’ve had a lot of
calls about the Kids Park. We closed the Kids Park because kids get really close together. They leave, and they go back home, and they could transmit the virus to their grandparents. So, we are still concerned about the virus as it relates to the Kids Park. Hopefully we can open both of those soon.

We’ve talked to the County about the reclaimed water line that they had approved to service Niceville. I’m meeting with the County Thursday and I’ll have more information on when that can start. If you go down the service road from Palm Boulevard to that shopping area, you pass Jim-n-Nicks, and Wendy’s. In the area between that area and the subdivision is where they are going to build 55 new homes. So, that’s going to be coming at the next Council meeting. If you are at the Niceville High School practice area, on the east side, all the way to Juniper, it’s that area through there. So, in Niceville, not only with Ruckel Properties, and Deer Moss, a lot of growth is happening and it looks good for the future, said Mr. Corbin.

Councilwoman Alley said can I ask you a question? Concerning the Children’s Park, daycares are open, preschools are open, any ideas of when we would open the Children’s Park? There are a lot of people asking about the Children’s Park. Mr. Corbin said, I’m meeting with Sheila Bishop tomorrow, and we’ll have an answer for you after that, but I agree with you that we should open as soon as we can because I see a lot of people go to that gate and see it locked, and I think we’re doing the right thing, and have done the right thing, and will open as soon as we can.

Planning Commission Appointments:

Mr Doucet stated that our City election created two vacancies on the Planning Commission, so we have several changes and I provided a list to the Council. Councilman Schaetzle is recommending appointment of Mr. Jared Bradley on Rosecommon Boulevard to replace Mr. Donahoo who is now a Councilman. Mayor Henkel wants to recommend Sueann Wilson for appointment, replacing Mr. Abner Williams. Councilman Donahoo would like to recommend Mr. Wade Fludd to replace Suzanne Wilson. Councilman Nodjomian is recommending Mr. Ed Espinoza to replace Mr. John Collins. Councilwoman Alley is recommending Mr. Doug Tolbert of Mullet Creek Run to replace Rachelle Waltz. Judy Byrne Riley’s term doesn’t end until 2021 and Tracy Jennette is not affected. Her term ends in 2021. Those are recommended appointments if the Council wants to vote on that. Councilman Nodjomian moved approval and Councilman Donahoo seconded. Council Vote: Schaetzle-yes; Nodjomian-yes; Alley-yes; Donahoo-yes; Williams-yes. Motion passed
Mayor Henkel said the next item on the agenda was a vote on his appointment to serve on the Okaloosa Gas District Board of Directors. Councilman Nodjomian moved approval. Councilwoman Alley seconded. Council Vote: Schaetzle-yes; Nodjomian-yes; Alley-yes; Donahoo-yes; Williams-yes. Motion passed

Bills Payable

Councilman Nodjomian motioned to approve payment of the bills. Councilwoman Alley seconded. Council Vote: Schaetzle-yes; Nodjomian-yes; Alley-yes; Donahoo-yes; Williams-yes. Motion passed

Councilman Schaetzle - More for the Council, but also for the audience, there is an organization called the Florida League of Cities, and obviously we would be meeting in person if we were able to do that. Their main business meeting is this month and it is going to be virtual. They are going to recognize some Cities with awards at that meeting. I am not at liberty to say who will win the awards yet. Next month, I’ll give you the awards. I would like to let you know that at this meeting they will certify who is going to be the next President and the second Vice-President and the first Vice-President of the organization. They did announce some awards. The City Spirit Award is going to the City of Sunny Isle. I’m glad to see that Mr. Corbin is looking at some of our funds from the Mullet Festival for our Senior Center, because if we get that Senior Center complete, hopefully we will get the Senior Center submitted for the City Spirit Award next year. They also awarded the City Citizenship award to the City of Palatka, and the City Environmental Stewardship Award is going to the City of Bonita Springs. Discussion followed.

Mayor Henkel asked each council member if they had anything to share?

Councilwoman Alley – I’d like to remind everybody to please go vote. Early voting is happening right now. Early voting ends at 6 pm on Saturday. Then the actual primary election is Tuesday, 7 am to 7 pm. Please go vote.

Councilman Nodjomian – I also echo Councilwoman Alley’s comments. I think we had very nice attendance at tonight’s council meeting. I’d also like to officially welcome Councilman Donahoo. It's great to have you up here on the Council, said Councilman Nodjomian. It is an honor, replied Councilman Donahoo.
Councilman Donahoo – I would like to thank my family and friends for being here, especially my grandchildren. It means the world to me, so thank you for being here.

Councilman Williams – I just want to say I’m grateful to be working with Councilman Donahoo again, and Councilwoman Alley, I appreciate all of the hard work within the departments. I really appreciate it.

Councilwoman Alley said, I have a question for Councilman Williams and Mr. Corbin about the Christmas Parade. Will it be on or off? Councilman Williams said I hadn’t heard anything otherwise, so I’m pretty sure that it’s on. Mr. Corbin said the Big 10 cancelled all of their football games, but I hope we do have a Christmas parade, and I think the numbers (of COVID-19 positive tests) have gone down since the weekend. I think it’s looking good for us to open back up. Yes, said Mr. Corbin. I had somebody ask me today, and I just said I don’t know, said Councilwoman Alley. Councilman Williams said, I think this community needs it, and it would bring up community spirit, and there are a lot more things more dangerous than the virus. It would just bring the spirits up, so absolutely, said Councilman Williams.

Mayor Henkel said I would like to just echo what Councilman Nodjomian said. I’d like to welcome Councilman Williams. This is officially your second meeting. Councilman Donahoo welcome to the Council and we are just glad to have both of you. You guys have been tremendous contributors prior to this and you continue to do so. Thank you, said Mayor Henkel.

Mayor Henkel asked if anyone else would like to come up and say anything?

Tim McCool, 2181 Chase Point Drive, Niceville, Florida – Mr. McCool introduced himself and spoke about County Ordinance 20-10, and spoke in favor of the City Council changing its City Ordinance to allow the sale of alcohol on Sunday after 7 am as the County now does. Councilman Nodjomian asked Mr. Corbin what would the procedure be if the City decided to pass an ordinance to allow Sunday alcohol sales. Mr. Corbin said a meeting would need to be advertised and it would require two votes in September and in October if it passed in September.
There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

ATTEST:

MAYOR

CITY CLERK

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