

Cape Clips



Updates from Council Meetings

In case you missed the meeting, the following are highlights from July 28, 2021, Cape Coral City Council meeting.

Concerns About Proposed U.S. Army Corps Lake O System Operating Manual

Lee County Board of Commissioners Chairman Kevin Ruane spoke during the City Council meeting about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' proposed Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM). Commissioner Ruane, Cape Coral Mayor John Gunter, and other Lee County leaders are concerned about the proposed plan (Plan CC). The plan limits Lake O releases to the St. Lucie River while increasing releases to the Caloosahatchee River during the wet season. Commission Ruane warned that the plan could be a disaster for Southwest Florida unless major modifications are made to the proposed plan.

Guardian Angels Organization Donates Bus to Special Populations Program

Council accepted a donation of a 12-passenger bus from the Guardian Angels for Special Populations not-for-profit group for the Special Populations Program.

Grant Awarded to Police Department for Pedestrian/Bicycle Initiative

An agreement between the City and the University of North Florida Training and Services Institute to provide high visibility education and police enforcement was approved. The grant funding (about \$12,000) will be used to conduct pedestrian/bicycle operations on an overtime basis and no matching funds are required.

Preliminary Lot Mowing Assessments

Council discussed the preliminary lot mowing assessment for Fiscal Year 2022 and increasing the number of vacant property mows from 10 per year to 12 per year. Lot mowing assessments are paid by vacant lot property owners who receive the mowing services. The maximum estimated costs FY 2022 are District 1: \$120, District 2: \$83.64, District 3: \$85.40, and District 4: \$81.04.

Preliminary Solid Waste Assessments

The City's solid waste assessment funds solid waste collection and disposal services, facilities, and programs. Council set the Fiscal Year 2022 preliminary assessment at \$229.71 for each dwelling unit. The Fiscal Year 2021 adopted assessment is \$210.19 per dwelling unit.

Preliminary Fire Services Assessment

The Fire Services Assessment funds fire protection services, facilities, and programs. Council set the Fiscal Year 2022 preliminary assessment at 62 percent recovery.

Preliminary Stormwater Fee

Each year a stormwater fee is set for properties that utilize the City's stormwater system. The preliminary Fiscal Year 2022 stormwater fee was set at \$130 per equivalent residential unit (ERU). This is a proposed increase of \$5 from Fiscal Year 2021.

Proposed/Not-To-Exceed Millage Rate

The proposed/not-to-exceed 2021 tax year millage rate was set at 6.3750, which is the current millage rate. The final millage rate will be set at public hearings in September (September 9 at 5:05 p.m. and September 23 at 5:05 p.m.).

Upcoming Public Meetings

- A Regular Meeting of the Cape Coral City Council is scheduled for Wednesday, August 4, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers