

Minutes
CITY OF FOLKSTON
WORK SESSION
July 12, 2021

The Mayor and Council of the City of Folkston met in a work session on July 12, 2021 at City Hall.

Members Present: Lee Gowen, Mayor
Ruby Baker
Jim Gowen
Rob Roberson
Bruce Young

Members Absent: Marion Davis Jr.

Also Present: Leonard H. Lloyd, City Manager
Hali Coffey, Deputy Clerk
Patrick Brooks, City Attorney

Visitors: Dana O'Quinn, Okefenokee Chamber; Kim Bednarek, Executive Director of Okefenokee Swamp Park; Susan Heisey and Michael Lusk, Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.

DANA O'QUINN / OKEFENOKEE CHAMBER:

Dana O'Quinn gave an update on upcoming events for the community. She informed the council that Food Truck Friday will be held on July 16th from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The next farmer's market will be held on July 24, 2021. The farmer's market is scheduled for every fourth Saturday of the month. She further stated July 31, 2021 will be the Backpack event from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

MICHAEL LUSK AND SUSAN HEISEY / OKEFENOKEE REFUGE:

Michael Lusk and Susan Heisey presented information concerning the partnership of three entities that manage the visitor entrances to the Okefenokee Swamp along with Folkston Okefenokee Chamber of Commerce, Waycross Convention and Visitors Bureau, City of Fargo and Homerville Main Street. The goal is to promote and market ecotourism for the Okefenokee Swamp.

Kim Bednarek, the Executive Director of the Okefenokee Swamp Park informed the council of the new web site, VisitTheSwamp.com. The website has been created to feature all of the Okefenokee Swamp visitor entrances and recreational opportunities.


GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Lloyd informed the council that the garbage truck is having issues with the engine and is currently out of commission. He stated that he was able to locate a new garbage truck in Ohio. This is the only truck available for immediate purchase, with the correct equipment. The type of trash cans the city uses requires a certain type of equipment to allow the truck to empty the cans. The company is sending a price quote.

Mr. Lloyd further stated he is working on the budget and requested the council to submit any recommendations they might have.

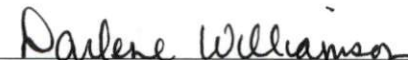
Mr. Lloyd also informed the council that a state contractor mowing the right-of-way has torn off six manhole covers on Highway 252. The company will be billed for the repairs.

The work session ended at 5:49 pm.



Lee Gowen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Darlene Williamson, City Clerk

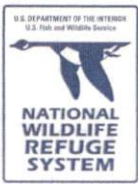
City of Folkston Work Session

July 12, 2021

Please Sign In

Please Print

Kim Bednark, Okefenokee Authority
Susie Healey, Okefenokee NWR
Michael Lusk, "
Dana Quinn, Oke Chamber



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Okefenokee Partnership

Mission: The Okefenokee Partnership enhances appreciation for the Okefenokee Swamp through education and marketing, increasing visitation, and growing the economic impact in South Georgia through ecotourism.

The Okefenokee Partnership is comprised of the three entities that manage the visitor entrances to the Okefenokee Swamp, and the neighboring gateway communities.

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge)
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources – State Parks and Historic Sites (Stephen C. Foster State Park)
- Okefenokee Swamp Park, Inc (Okefenokee Swamp Park and Adventures)
- Okefenokee Chamber of Commerce (Folkston, GA)
- Waycross Convention and Visitors Bureau (Waycross, GA)
- City of Fargo and Homerville Main Street

Working collaboratively to promote and market the valuable ecotourism opportunities in the Okefenokee Swamp will allow the Okefenokee Swamp to serve as a major economic driver in these communities by bringing in additional visitors that stay, play, and eat in the Okefenokee region.

Accomplishments:

Port Wentworth Visitor Information Center Exhibit – Four million visitors annually will now get to experience this interactive and informative exhibit about the Okefenokee Swamp and our most popular resident, the American Alligator! This exhibit was recently awarded the TravelBlazers Award by the Georgia Chamber and Visitors Bureau.

Visit the Swamp Website – A beautifully designed website has been created featuring all of the Okefenokee Swamp visitor entrances and the wide variety of recreational opportunities. **VisitTheSwamp.com**

