



CITY OF GROVELAND
156 S. LAKE AVENUE
GROVELAND, FL 34736

PHONE 352-429-2141
FAX 352-429-3852

"The City with a future, watch us grow!"

Groveland City Council
City Manager Report
May 15, 2014

Pending Action Items:

- The Action Item regarding the Staff Work Plan is in progress; we are very close to a final draft. Our goal is to make a hard copy available at our next city Council meeting and a digital version available via the city web-site.

Report from the Desk of the City Manager:

- My "First 100 day Organizational Review and Evaluation" continues... as I have completed employee interviews, and have begun interview local businesses. My goal is to have a written draft late May or early June.
- We have visited with representatives from Cardno regarding the brown field grant that was submitted on the city's behalf. At this time we are being told that a decision / Announcement could be made soon, and that the EPA has expressed a desire to support more smaller communities this application period. However, there have no commitments or promises made that our application will be awarded. We expect to hear a final disposition in the next two months.
- The City Manager has conducted telephone Interviews for the Position of Community Development Director. This position will be a replacement for the vacated City Planner position. At this time there are two candidates that are extremely promising; I expect to have an offer presented next week with an anticipated start date mid-June.
- The former CRA Manager Position which has currently been filled by the City Manager (or his designee) as directed by the CRA board; will be replaced with a new position titled Economic Development Manager. The Economic Development Manager will manage CRA area and manage the economic development strategy for the City of Groveland. Currently the City is accepting applications and is expected to close the application process next week.
- The letter to the Turnpike Authority has been complete (please attachment). The letter is just the beginning of larger process that is outlined in the 2013 Interchange Access Request User's Guide, which also attachment to this report.

- The City Manager’s Office continues to aggressively move forward with its “Premier City Campaign”. The Groveland citizenry have been challenged to review the following “Most Livable Cities” for at least one program, policy, event, or initiative that they will advocate in their prospective department and/or recommend to the City Manager’s Office.

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|--|----------------|
| 1. Sharon, Massachusetts – | (781) 784-1500 |
| 2. Louisville, Colorado – | (303) 666-6565 |
| 3. Vienna, Virginia – | (703) 255-6300 |
| 4. Chanhassen, Minnesota – | (952) 227-1100 |
| 5. Sherwood, Oregon – | (503) 625-5522 |
| 6. Berkeley Heights, New Jersey – | (908) 464-8150 |
| 7. Mason, Ohio – | (513) 229-8500 |
| 8. Papillion, Nebraska – | (402) 597-2000 |
| 9. Apex, North Carolina – | (919) 249-3400 |
| 10. West Goshen Township, Pennsylvania – | (610) 696-0900 |

Citizens and City Council are asked to bring their items to the City Manager Office via e-mail, phone call, or visit with the city manager. This benchmark process will compare our services against 10 of the Top Small Communities in the Country. These communities are not only thriving economically, they maximize family friendly amenities, well ran government, and strong community involvement. Invitations to citizens will be going out with the water bill under the title “DARE TO BE GREAT”, in May.

Follow up / Reminder Items:

- None

Events:

- First Council Budget Meeting June -7 @ 10:00 am
- Town Hall Meeting locations have been identified for the following neighborhoods
 1. Puryear Building – June 26 @ 6:00 pm
 2. Trilogy – July 17 @ 6:00 pm (tentative)
 3. Waterside Pointe – July 10 @ 6:00 pm (tentative)

Currently working to secure meeting space at both Trilogy and Waterside Pointe.

Redmond Jones
City Manager



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May 14, 2014

Barbara Davis
State of Florida Department of Transportation
Systems Planning Office
605 Suwannee Street, Mail Station 19
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

RE: Turnpike Interchange Modification Request

Dear Ms. Davis:

I have been tasked by the City Council of the City of Groveland to formally pursue an interchange modification that would provide for North Bound traffic at the Turnpike interchange located at the intersection of Hwy 19 and Hwy 27.

We believe with the rate of growth anticipated in the Hwy 27 and Hwy 19 corridor certainly rises to the level that deserves consideration along safety and environmental concerns. We also believe that engineering and financial considerations also favor a formal review of this site, due to natural attributes that could contribute lower construction costs. With regard to the operational consideration of a potential review, we would offer that an automatic or non-staffed pay station be considered. This would add efficiencies, expand service, and cut cost. If appropriate, the City of Groveland would like to participate in the meetings of the District Interchange Review Committee (DIRC). If so, please forward the contact information for the staff/community liaison with the DIRC.

The City of Groveland is currently in the early stages of a Development Regional Impact Review that promises to bring 5,564 dwelling units in the same Hwy 27 and Hwy 19 corridor. Again, a north bound traffic interchange modification would meet the transportation needs that future growth will demand; as well as meet the environmental, engineering, operational and financial concerns that are typically reviewed when considering an interchange modification.

Should you have additional questions, comments, and/or concerns; please do not hesitate to contact me via phone or e-mail. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Redmond Jones II
City Manager
City of Groveland