

## **Mayor's Report for 27Feb2024 Commission Meeting**

The first two months of this year have just flown by. The Town is exceptionally busy as we work on numerous major projects. The Hall Road Culvert was finally replaced last week, surveys were completed on the three town properties to help with septic replacement for which the permit process has started. Dayton sidewalk repairs are ongoing, and the restoration of the HWCH exterior will begin in the next few weeks. Refurbishment of our street signs has started with the first batch of signs sent off, and temporary signs installed in the interim. Be aware, street signs, stop signs and posts may change slightly to comply with FDOT requirements and make the signs more visible.

I encourage you to visit the Print Shop Crossing Bridge to see how the County is cleaning out the Lateral 5 canal from Live Oak to where it enters the M1. My guidance to the County was to clear all vegetation including trees from both sides of the canal. It has been decades since this was done. They will remediate the banks when finished. Next goal is to have the Northern L5 canal cleaned as well.

Several joint workshops with the Commission and Charter Review committee have already been held to finalize an updated Town Charter. Additional workshops will be scheduled this spring so residents can provide input and ensure understanding. The Charter is the Town's most important document and final adoption requires an affirmative vote of a majority of electors in the November election. Spread the word – we need and want everyone's participation.

I want to commend our Town Clerk-Treasurer, Heather Roberts for her hard work on the Town's audit over the past few months while also juggling day-to-day operations. The auditors, Moran & Smith will present the final draft of the FY2-23 Audit tonight. This is the earliest the Audit and Financial Statement has been completed in several decades. Thanks to Heather, for the first time in many years, we have a clean audit with no adverse findings.

I am hopeful that tonight we will once again have a full, 7-member Commission with the balanced addition of a youthful perspective and long-term experience of Town history. Serving on the Commission is a labor of love, and I appreciate the time and dedication of these volunteers.

Please spread the word that the next Mayor's Town Hall is 10AM Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup>. These meetings allow residents to share concerns and ask questions in an informal setting.

Preparation has also started for Founders' Day Weekend on April 27-28<sup>th</sup>. Mark those calendars!

Let's keep the conversation going!

Sue Ditty, Mayor