

## Mayor's Report, 24 September 2024

This is one of my shorter Mayor's reports as we have the October edition of The Cardinal coming out soon which will contain more updates and details on Town happenings.

Another summer month, and all you need to do is look at the TV for a reminder that we are in the midst of Hurricane season. With Helene expected to impact the Big Bend or West coast of Florida later this week, we are preparing for a mostly rain event. Sandbags are available in the Town Office (10 bags/resident) and the sandpile is at the PW's garage. Keep an eye on the storm track and prepare your home and yard appropriately.

Last night was the Final FY 24/25 Budget Hearing where the Commission approved our \$1.2 million dollar budget and millage rate of 6.85. I want to thank the Finance Cmte, Town Clerk and the Commissioners for their time and diligence during this budget season.

Other good news is that we received confirmation that the Dept of Environmental Protection reclassified the Dayton Bridge Culvert project grant to Stormwater Improvements. This \$250K will allow us to replace the many failed or failing Town culverts. However, I won't breathe easy until the money is actually in our bank.

There are several Town Activities to look forward to. Check the upcoming Cardinal for more details on these and other happenings.

- Oct 21-27, is Florida City Government week. The Town will host an open house on Thursday October 24<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00 pm with light refreshments. Don't come expecting lunch - but please DO stop by to meet and say hello to the staff.
- Decorate your golf cart or vehicle and join us for our annual Trunk-n-Treat event in the AHF parking lot on Thursday, Oct 31<sup>st</sup>. Music, dancing, great costumes and of course, lots of candy and lots of fun!
- Election Day, November 5<sup>th</sup>. This is an important national election, but your ballot also includes a referendum question to approve our New Town Charter. A lot of work by a lot of residents has been done over the past 3 years to prepare this important document. I am hopeful we will have a great response.
- And last but not least, Veteran's Recognition will be held on Monday Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> at the AHF Hall, where we honor those who served to preserve our freedoms and our Country.

Thank you and let's keep the conversation going!

Sue Ditty, Mayor