

Joe Catigano

Oak Hill City Commissioner Seat #3



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– The Right Leader Now –

October 26, 2024

Hi Everyone,

How are you all doing with the cleanup after the storm? I hope everyone is getting back to normal. Lots of bumps, bruises, and sore backs I bet. Don't forget to defuel those generators so they're ready for next time. Maybe think about gathering up all your hurricane supplies and canned goods that are set to expire in the next six months and donating them to the [Recovery Church](#). It's located at 150 Oak Street, Oak Hill FL 32759. For more information on how to donate call (386) 402-3109, or email oakhill@recovery.church.

Your turnout at our commission meetings has been amazing, let's keep it up! Thank you all for supporting your community. Participation is essential to the health and well-being of our city and you are having an impact.

Election Day

Just had a McGee flyer show up in the mail box today. In it, he states that he's "ready to defend his home" I guess that's all well and good, but who's going to defend your home? Based on his voting record over the past 4 years, it's not going to be him. He's all in with the big developers. [Click here](#) to view how he voted to grant zoning changes and approve four RPUD developments since



he's been representing you. Notice that he votes in lock step with Mayor Gibson and Vice Mayor Lindlau. Three amigos. I couldn't help but notice that his flyer was paid for by "Realtors Political

Advocacy Committee," 7025 Augusta National Drive, Orlando FL 32822. The first line on the back says "Steve is one of us." Nuff said right? Steve's flyer also says that he's for "Smart Growth." Not sure what he means by "smart." A good city commissioner would pride himself on how well he has done representing the citizens of Oak Hill. I'm not sure that how long you've lived in Oak Hill is a criterion for effective representation. I guess it's up to you to decide that when you vote.

A couple of weeks ago Doug Gibson put out a mailer too. In his, he claims to have written the flyer's narrative to "confront the misinformation that is being spread in our city." I thought I'd go ahead and give him a hand combating some of this misinformation.

He says he voted to add \$20,000 per year to our budget's emergency/reserve fund. That was during a budget workshop with our city accountant. After the accountant informed us that our city reserves were low, I believe he said we have \$320,000 in reserves, he said that would fund our city for two to three months in the event that revenues stopped coming in. The accountant mentioned that most fiscally responsible municipalities like to maintain reserves that would allow for five to six months of operation without an inflow of revenues. During that meeting, I asked the commission if they would be willing to make **a good will pledge** to the citizens of Oak Hill that they would budget \$20,000 toward the emergency fund for the next fiscal year. They all agreed. I called it a good will pledge because at the rate of \$20,000 per year, assuming that they don't use any of the emergency/reserve funds like they did to balance previous budgets, it would take (32) thirty-two years to reach the goal described by our city accountant. What the Mayor forgot to mention was that he voted just a month or so ago to approve our city's budget with zero money budgeted for emergency/reserve funds. Big spender, right?

Our city had two employees working in the office for years. It wasn't until about five or six years ago (give or take) that the city hired a third office

employee. Today, our city's office is fully staffed with three employees. So, the notion that our city staff need (45) forty-five days to fulfill a public records request is nonsense. Only the most complex records requests would qualify to be fulfilled



in that timeframe. Proper records management is what's essential to fulfill a request in a timely fashion, not some arbitrary number. Public records are just that, public records, and are required by law to be made available to the public. In a well-run office, asking for a billing record should be as simple as opening a file and presenting to the citizens asking for it. Asking for 20 years of our city's financial records is more complex and would most likely require more time. Reasonable citizens understand this. No excuses necessary.

Some more supposed misinformation, that the mayor calls "a complete lie," is that the Indian Mound Fish Camp was wrongfully omitted from the Indian Harbor Estates septic to sewer project. He claims that he had nothing to do with the "engineering" of that project." While he grasps that thin thread, he fails to mention that the Indian Mound Fish Camp had specifically asked to be included in the project and was told they would be. During that meeting, the mayor tells fish camp owner Tom Pentz that he "heard a rumor" that the fish camp did not want to hook up to the sewer project. [Click Here](#) to view part of the 4-10-2023 commission meeting where the mayor is confronted with a reality check from Mr. Pentz.



A one-year moratorium on RPUD developments in our city was suggested a couple of meetings ago by City Attorney Scott Simpson. He suggested the moratorium to alleviate some of the anxiety that was being expressed at that meeting by citizens in attendance. I believe the

suggestion was made while commission was hearing the details of an application for zoning change up in Light House Cove. The idea that Doug Gibson has ever done anything to “limit development” in our city is simply not supported by the facts. Anyone who attended the 10-14-2024 commission meeting, can attest to the fervor with which he, the city attorney, Steve McGee and Vice Mayor Lindlau pushed three major subdivisions through. It was stunning to watch the disdain they had for the rules and for the public. It’s important to note that the agenda and its supporting documents for the meeting were not made available until 11:40 AM on Friday October 11, 2024. Did I mention it was the day after a major hurricane struck our area causing power outages, flooding, and property damage? So, I guess the logic employed by the mayor was, hey don’t worry about the welfare of your family or your property because dragging these subdivisions across the finish line before I get elected out of office is my priority, not your problems. Oh, did I mention that none of the applicable plans were made available to the public or the commissioners at any time prior to the meeting or even at the meeting. That means that the commission voted on projects that they never saw the plans for. That meeting was so rife with misinformation that I would expect some pushback from the public. So, the mayor, vice mayor and commissioner McGee vote (without seeing the plans) to more than double the size of our city and fundamentally change its character while the citizens are down and out after being hit with a powerful hurricane. Now they want to take a victory lap and tell you that they are here to help you.



I hope this clears up a little of the misinformation the mayor cites in his political flyer. Please keep this in mind when you vote on November 5th. *Election day is when you have your say!* **Vote Ricky Taylor for Mayor and Mark Drollinger as city commissioner seat #4.** That’s what it’s going to take to save our city from the current agenda driven leadership that has put our city into the ditch it’s currently stuck in. Probably one the mayor wants to take credit for cleaning out.

BTW: I know everyone is excited to have Carrie Werning join the commission. She is replacing Vice Mayor Lindlau. Thank Goodness...

Our regularly scheduled City Commissioner's meeting is **Monday, October 28, 2024** at city hall. The time is **6:00 PM**. [Click here](#) for the agenda pack.

Please come and let your voice be heard. Your presence and participation are how we hold our commission to account.

As always, it's my pleasure to serve you, I appreciate your support. Please let me know what I can do to help. I'm here to represent you...

Thanks again,

Joe Catigano

Oak Hill City Commissioner

Seat 3

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October 28

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