

Landfill: School board member said two elementary schools are near landfill

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said. The City Council's approval came after nearly 2-3/4 hours of public and council comment, as well as a presentation from David Green,

a senior manager from Waste Management's Acworth, Ga., office.

Most of those who spoke were against the change to a Class I landfill.

Other than Green, the only speakers in favor of Waste Management's request were two residents of McQueen Road, which borders the landfill. As a group, the homeowners along that road are in negotiations with Waste Management to sell their land in total, about 40 acres.

First to speak was Henry Pearson who said his family has lived on McQueen Road for more than 50 years and his home was surrounded by citrus groves for much of that time. He said he was among those who are talking with Waste Management to purchase their property. Over the past few years, Pearson said, the company has paid for residents along McQueen Road to hook up to city water and a small park, among other items. "Suffice it to say they have done everything they said they would do," Pearson said.

He said he is in favor of the change to a Class I landfill so the homeowners along McQueen Road can sell their prop-

erty and leave. "We who are directly impacted, we would like to get off this residential island," he said.

But, after Pearson's initial talk, the tide swung toward those who are against the change in the landfill, as 18 people spoke against it and two or three others wanted more discussion on the subject. Many talked about birds and odors from the landfill.

Among those who spoke against the change in landfill status was Christine Moore, Orange County School Board member from Apopka.

She said that two elementary schools, Clarcona and Phyllis Wheatley, are within .7 miles and 1.4 miles, respectively, of the landfill.

"I really had to come tonight and speak on behalf of the children at Clarcona and Wheatley elementary schools," Moore said. She also said Wheatley is a "fragile school in a fragile community." The landfill is too close to that school, Moore said. "I don't believe this school can withstand any more problems."

John Edwards, North Area superintendent and a former Apopka High School principal, said he was speaking for Orange County Public Schools.

"When I see a dump, I think of birds, of rats, of disease," he said. "Take off your commission hat and think like a parent. I don't think you would let your kids play near this dump. Would you want a dump seven-tenths of a mile from your school?"

Sylvester Smith grew up in Apopka and after serving in the U.S. Air Force has returned to live in Apopka and now serves as the information technology manager for the city of Maitland. He said he doubted the environmental protections as promised by Waste Management.

"I don't care what they do, it's going to be there," Smith said about seepage from the landfill. "It will seep into the water, the wells and the aquifer."

I'm really sad to say I'm associated with Apopka. That million dollars (from Waste Management) is nothing."

Jerry Girley of Ocoee said there is not a need for a Class I landfill in Apopka. "What is going to be the benefit to the citizens? We have presently in Orange County a Class I landfill. What is the need? That's what should drive the decision-making process."

Jeannie Economos, environmental officer for the Apopka-based Farmworker Association of Florida, said there is already concern with the current landfill and a medical waste incinerator in that area. "There is a great injustice with what is there now, much less bringing in other contamination," she said.

Barry Reiter, who lives on McCormick Road, said he had built and operated landfills and had also served as a consultant to Waste Management in the past. He said the "unintended consequences" of birds and odor from the landfill would cause the spread of disease when birds vomit and defecate. "I ask you to think about those 30 pieces of silver you are about to take," he said as he ended his talk.

After hearing from the public, the City Council again heard from David Green of Waste Management, who addressed traffic issues about trucks that will be hauling waste to the landfill. He said issues about birds and odor control will be addressed in the permitting process.

Bill Arrowsmith was the first city commissioner to speak following the public's input.

"Many, many valid points have been brought up tonight and I would expect a lot more questions to come up. Nobody up here is an expert when it comes to that. We want to make sure we have the right information given to us."

Commissioner Billie Dean said he wanted Waste Management to build a community center, but he heard shouts of

"No" from the audience when he said that.

Commissioner Kathy Till spoke for several minutes just prior to the vote.

She said she visited Waste Management's Class I landfill facility in Marianna, which is west of Tallahassee. Till visited with Richard Anderson, the city's chief administrative officer. That facility is a 225-acre site that is expected to be similar to the Apopka site, if it is approved.

"Don't think we are approving a Class I landfill tonight, because we are not," she said. "Don't walk out of here thinking this is done."

During her visit to the Marianna site, Till said she didn't see flocks of birds on the site and didn't detect an odor coming from the landfill until she was about 50 yards from the active area of the landfill.

She also spoke of the possibility of Waste Management using the landfill to convert the garbage into energy.

"This isn't a short-term vision and this isn't a short-term gain we are talking about," Till said. "It will have very long and very far-reaching positive economic impacts on this community."

As part of the financial agreement, Apopka will also be entitled to any better agreement that Waste Management signs with any other Florida governmental entity.

In other action, the council:

* Tabled a third reading of the proposed sign ordinance due to Arrowsmith's questions about portions of the new code. "I'm not prepared to vote on it tonight. I have some heartburn on a couple of different issues," he said. There will be at least two more readings on the proposed ordinance, the first at the November 2 meeting.

* For the second meeting in a row, heard from Apopka-area resident Bob Webster, a former judge in the area, complain about the city's red-light cameras.

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NOTICE OF MEETING
NOTICE is given that the West Orange Airport Authority Board will meet Wednesday, October 26, 2011 at 10:00a.m., in the Winter Garden City Hall, Winter Garden, Florida.

The Board will discuss the business of the establishment of a General Aviation Airport in West Orange County.
R. Patrick Phillips, Board Member
200 N. Thornton Avenue
Orlando, Florida 32801
Telephone: 407/425-7676
Fax: 407/425-7679
October 21, 2011 132630

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(PG13) 1:30; 4:10; 7:10; 10:20
DOLPHIN TALE
(PG) 3:50; 9:30
DREAM HOUSE
(PG13) 1:45; 4:20; 7:45; 10:00
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Soft Touch in Family Dental Care, State Farm, *Wekiva Springs Life* magazine, Apopka Family Learning Center, Carter Water, Florida Hospital, All Seasons Pest Control, Royal Oak Homes, FastSigns, Kon Studio of Photography, Nationwide Cobblestone Financial Group, The Printers, Trustco Bank, St. Germain Chiropractic, Waste Management, ADT, and AAA Auto Club South.

"This is a beautiful lakefront location for this event," Seago said. "We moved the event here last year because of inclement weather, and it worked out so well that we decided to have it there this year no matter what. CenturyLink is a

great community partner and we are excited to have our biggest event at their building."

Seago said the ticket sponsor is Orlando Health. The media sponsor is *The Apopka Chief* and *The Planter*. Supporting sponsors are The Printers and Waste Management, Inc.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 day of the event with multi-ticket packages available at a reduced price.

Chamber members will receive a promotion in the mail for one free ticket to the event, Seago said.

To purchase tickets or for more information, contact the Apopka Area Chamber of Commerce at 407-886-1441.

Best: Some businesses were multiple winners

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said. "It is 'Give for the sake of giving, love for the sake of loving, and serve for the sake of serving.'"

St. Germain credits his success to his office team.

"I'm surrounded by a wonderful team who, for the last 22 years, have always given back to the community," he said. "Our team goes above and beyond the eight-to-five job. They don't view what they do in our office as a job - they

view it as a mission. I am glad to be a part of the community - and I don't just work in Apopka - I also live in Apopka."

Other multiple winners include Chili's, The Catfish Place, Mosquito Creek Outfitters, State Farm-Shren Yeager, Publix, Optical Eyeland, J. Sterling, and Reliance Media/Apopka Printing.

"It's a great event for the business community," said Chamber Chairman Wayne Levesque. "This is what the Chamber is all about - bringing businesses together to network and to grow. I am looking forward to next year."

All About Apopka

The Apopka Chief

Established 1923 (USPS 545-440)

The Apopka Chief is published every Friday and entered as Periodicals, postage paid at Apopka Post Office, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. The Apopka Chief newspaper is published by Foliage Enterprises, Inc., every Friday at 439 W. Orange Blossom Trail, Apopka, Fla., 32712-3417. An annual subscription is \$18 in Orange County and \$23 outside Orange County. Phone 407-886-2777. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Apopka Chief, P.O. Box 880, Apopka, Fla., 32704-0880.

The Apopka Chief is a consistent award-winning community weekly newspaper and a member of the Florida Press Association. The newspaper won the group's award as its best newspaper in 1982, 1987, and 1988, the only three-time winner. Letters to the editor are welcome, but must be signed and include a daytime telephone number, address, or email address for verification. Management reserves the right to edit letters.

www.theapopkachief.com, news@theapopkachief.com

City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

City Hall407-703-1700
Mayor's Office407-703-1703
City Clerk407-703-1704
Community Devel.407-703-1712
Code Enforcement407-703-1738
Finance Dept.407-703-1725
Fire Chief407-703-1750
Fire (non-emerg.)407-703-1756
Parks and Rec. Dept.407-703-1741
Police Chief407-703-1789
Police (non-emerg.)407-703-1771
Job Line407-703-1721
Solid Waste Collect.407-703-1731
Street Maintenance407-703-1731
Utility Billing407-703-1727
Medical, fire emergency911
The city of Apopka was chartered in 1882. It is located at 28°30 north latitude and is 150 feet above sea level. Its population is nearly 40,000 and its total area is more than 30 sq. mi.

www.apopka.net

Orange County Telephone Numbers

Animal Services407-254-9140
Auto/Boat Tags407-836-4145
Building Dept.407-836-5760
County Chairman407-836-7370
County Commission407-836-7350
County Attorney407-836-7320
Clerk of the Court407-836-2065
Elections Supervisor407-836-2070
Fire/Rescue407-836-9111
Garbage Collecting407-836-6601
Health Dept.407-836-2600
Hunting/Fishing Lic.407-836-4143
Parks and Rec. Dept.407-836-6080
Property Appraiser407-836-5200
Sheriff Administrative407-254-7000
Non-Emerg. Complaint407-836-4357
Utilities407-836-5515
All other departments407-836-3111
Medical, fire emergency 911

www.orangecountyfl.net

Other Area Numbers of Note

U.S. Senators
Bill Nelson (Dem.)407-872-7161
Marco Rubio (Rep.)1-202-224-3041

U.S. Representatives
Corrine Brown (Dist. 3)407-872-0656
Daniel Webster (Dist. 8)407-654-5705
Sandy Adams (Dist. 24)1-386-756-9798

State Representatives
Bryan Nelson (Dist. 38)407-884-2023
Scott Plakon (Dist. 37)407-262-7520

State Senators
Andy Gardiner (Dist. 9)407-428-5800
Gary Siplin (Dist. 19)407-297-2071

Orange County Public Schools
Pupil assignment407-317-3233
Bus routes407-317-3800
Superintendent407-317-3202
School Board407-317-3236

Miscellaneous
The Apopka Chief407-886-2777
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Museum of Apopkans407-703-1707