

Rolson Resigns

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had already built an impressive coaching resume. His early coaching journey took him through various roles in Illinois and Missouri during the late ‘90s. He was a part of the coaching staff for Apopka’s 2001 state championship team and a defensive coordinator for the 2003 Valdosta, Georgia, squad that made a run to the state finals.

After that, Rolson began to find chances to be a head coach. He was Osceola High School’s head coach from 2006 to 2009, guiding the team to a Class 5A state runner-up finish in 2007. After that, he spent two seasons (2010–2011) as head coach at Panama City Rutherford High School before joining Rick Darlington’s Apopka coaching staff as a defensive coordinator, before Darlington left in 2019.

Rolson told the Chief the biggest reason he stepped down last week was that he didn’t see himself being able to help the program be successful in this new era of high school football. He said that he is old school in his coaching approach, and in the age of the transfer portal and programs pandering to players, he doesn’t fit.

Rolson said his mission is to teach his players and the members of his program how to be men. Through toughness, discipline and accountability, he said he tried to mold young boys into responsible men, better husbands and better fathers who can face real challenges in life.

“I want them to be mentally tough enough to deal with that adversity and do it the right way,” Rolson said. “What we do now is, ‘Hey,



Photo by John Peery

Apopka’s former head coach, Jeff Rolson, talks with the Apopka football team’s defense about adjustments in December of 2001.

I don’t like what I’m doing,’ or ‘I don’t like what they said,’ or ‘I don’t like how hard I gotta work,’ or ‘I don’t like this, that or the other. I guess I’ll just go over here.’ And that’s teaching people nothing.”

Rolson said his situation became untenable.

“I can’t go out there and coach right now,” he said. “That’s not a good situation for me or the kids. They need a fresh start.”

Rolson said he is his most prominent critic, and anyone who knows him knows that’s true.

“Nobody wants to win more than I do,” Rolson said. “Nobody wants to have a great program more than I do. Nobody wants to see Apopka flourish and have great success and produce men of character like I do. I want that as much or more than anybody

else out there. But I’m just not the guy to do that for them right now. And that just became apparent when we got 20 kids leaving. That’s not something you can survive. And obviously, whether they would say that or not, I feel like it reflects on me.”

Rolson said this spring has been about rebuilding and refitting the team. He knew it would be tough, but he was up to the challenge — until the spring game happened.

Apopka fell 31–14 to the Jones Tigers on Friday, May 23. The score tells a different story than the reality of the game, where Apopka showed obvious growth and competed against a very strong program. The Blue Darters moved the football offensively, but that didn’t matter to many players.

Rolson said while other schools and programs can poach



Photo by John Peery

Jeff Rolson gets drenched by the Apopka football team after a huge post season win at home in December 2019.

Apopka players with promises of scholarships, offers, and state championships, he can’t recruit at all because Apopka can’t enroll new students.

“We’re at capacity, so all we do is lose kids,” he said. “I don’t want to recruit kids anyway. I would want to play and win with Apopka kids. And we just can’t do that anymore right now.”

Rolson said he has a problem with promises of grandeur from other schools and wouldn’t operate his program like that even if he could.

“I’m not gonna lie to kids,” Rolson said. “I’m not gonna tell them they’re gonna get scholarships. I’m not gonna do those things where I make empty promises that I don’t know I can keep.”

Rolson says the recruiting bothers him because it shouldn’t be that way, but he

does not blame the student athletes for trying to control their own destiny.

“I don’t look at the kids and say, it’s a kid problem, it’s a societal and cultural problem,” Rolson said. “I just don’t like the fact that we lose a bunch of kids and to programs that have never, and probably will never, have the kind of success that we’ve had and very mistakenly listen to the promises of scholarships and offers.”

He said the grass is not always greener on the other side, but it is always greener where you water it. No matter where you go, you won’t be successful unless you want to be. You have to work at it every day, and it’s not easy. He said a lot of student athletes now just want to be guaranteed to win without the required effort.

“I think I’m from a time

of responsibility and commitment,” Rolson said. “That’s not where we’re at right now. So that’s not what I want to be a part of.”

Rolson said he has no plans to continue coaching elsewhere and will enjoy his off time with fewer responsibilities. He also said that he is not retiring and will continue to work at Apopka High School if there is a place for him in the fall.

Rolson said he is blessed to have been a part of such an important program when he looks back on his time at Apopka, and he relishes the relationships he built.

“I wouldn’t have traded it for the world,” Rolson said. “I wish I could have been better. I wish I could have done more. I have no regrets; I’ll always treasure it and wish them the best of luck.”

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

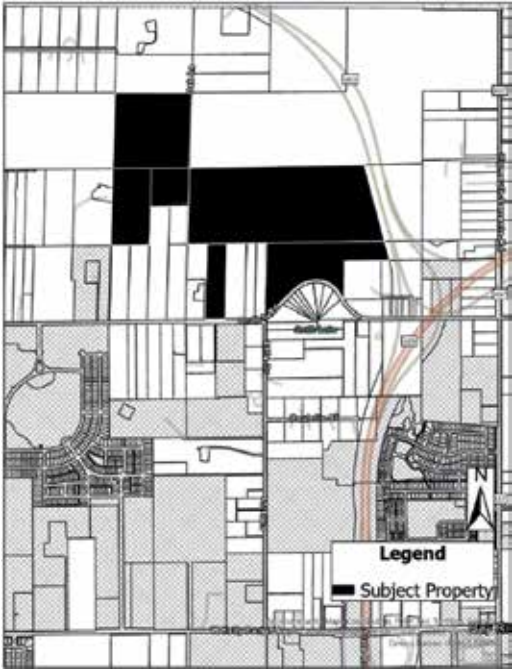
ANNEXATION

CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Florida Statutes 171.044, the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.5.1.A, that **PULTE HOMES COMPANY, LLC C/O AARON STRUCKMEYER, P.E.**, has made an application to the City of Apopka City Council for an **ANNEXATION** of a property located on the southwest corner of the northwest corner of Ondich Road and SR 453/SR 429. This application relates to the following described property:

ORDINANCE NO. 3107

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, TO EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL AND MUNICIPAL LIMITS TO ANNEX PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 171.044 THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LANDS SITUATED AND BEING IN ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, OWNED BY PM S-1 REO, LLC; HMF, LLC; CHARLES P. STALLINGS; KIM L. STALLINGS; EUELL E. STALLINGS, JR.; AND CRYSTAL DENISE STALLINGS; LOCATED ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF ONDICH ROAD AND SR 453/SR 429; COMPRISING 196.83 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**



**Parcel Identification Number(s): 01-20-27-0000-00-007, 01-20-27-0000-00- 034, 01-20-27-0000-00-053, 02-20-27-0000-00-010, 02-20-27-0000-00-011, 02- 20-27-0000-00-020 (portion of) Contains: 196.83 +/- acres**

NOTICE is given that public hearings for Ordinance No. 3107 will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meetings in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, June 18, 2025 beginning at 7:00 P.M. and Wednesday, July 2, 2025 beginning at 1:30 P.M.** or as soon thereafter as possible.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Annexation can be inspected at the Apopka Community Development Department located at Apopka City Hall on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. City Hall address shown below. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk’s Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka FL 32703, Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

**Apopka City Council**  
**Apopka Planning Commission**  
**Community Development Department**  
**June 6, 2025**

CITY OF APOPKA

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

SMALL-SCALE FUTURE LAND USE AMENDMENT

AND CHANGE OF ZONING

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Secs. 163.3184 and 166.041(3)(a), Florida Statutes and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.4.7.B, that **Bill Maki** has made application relating to the following described property.

ORDINANCE NO. 3110

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT OF THE APOPKA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF APOPKA; CHANGING THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION FROM MIXED-USE TO RESIDENTIAL VERY LOW SUBURBAN FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY ROSEVILLE FARMS, LLC; GENERALLY LOCATED NORTH OF PONKAN ROAD, WEST OF PONKAN PINES ROAD AND JASON DWELLEY PARKWAY; COMPRISING 21.43 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

and

ORDINANCE NO. 3111

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, CHANGING THE ZONING FROM MU-ES-GT (MIXED-USE — GATEWAY — EAST SHORE) TO RSF-1B (RESIDENTIAL SINGLE-FAMILY — LARGE LOT) FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY ROSEVILLE FARMS, LLC; GENERALLY LOCATED NORTH OF PONKAN ROAD, WEST OF PONKAN PINES ROAD AND JASON DWELLEY PARKWAY; COMPRISING 21.43 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**



**Parcel Identification Number(s): 19-20-28-0000-00-010 Contains: 21.43 +/- Acres**

NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Numbers 3083 and 3084 will be held by the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Tuesday, June 10, 2025 beginning at 5:30 P.M.**

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a public hearing for Ordinance Numbers 3083 and 3084 will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, July 2, 2025 at 1:30 P.M.**

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Future Land Use and Rezoning Applications can be inspected at the Apopka Community Development Department located at Apopka City Hall on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. City Hall address shown below. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk’s Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka FL 32703, Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

**Apopka City Council**  
**Apopka Planning Commission**  
**Community Development Department**  
**June 6, 2025**