

**LONGWOOD CITY COMMISSION**  
**Longwood City Commission Chambers**  
**175 West Warren Avenue**  
**Longwood, Florida**

**MINUTES**  
**February 2, 2026**  
**6:00 PM**

**Present:**

Mayor Brian D. Sackett	Liane Cartagena, City Clerk
Commissioner Tony Boni	David Dowda, Police Chief
Commissioner Matthew McMillan	Chris Kintner, Community Development Director
Commissioner Matt Morgan	Shad Smith, Public Works Director
Dan Langley, City Attorney	Dustin Woolbright, Financial Services Director
William Watts, City Manager	Nerys Hernandez, Records Coordinator

**Absent:**

Deputy Mayor Abby Shoemaker

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Sackett called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
2. **OPENING INVOCATION.** Reverend Jonathan Tarman from Sanlando United Methodist Church gave the invocation.
3. **THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Commissioner Boni led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Ms. Cartagena read the following announcements.
  - A. The Mid-Florida Mustang Club’s 38th Annual Mustang and Ford Roundup will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Historic District of Longwood.
  - B. The “Downtown Longwood Cruise-In” Car Show will be held on Saturday, February 14, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in the Historic District of Longwood.
5. **PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS**
  - A. Recognition Presentation of the 46th Annual JOY (Juvenile of the Year) Awards.

Ymarieliz Valentin	Altamonte Elementary School
Calliope (Callie) Perkins	Greenwood Lakes Middle School
Walter (Jonah) Smith	Highlands Elementary School
Valeria Hernandez Reyes	Lake Mary High School
Eliza Gibeau	Longwood Elementary School
Genesis Tirado Pagan	Lyman High School
Maxim (Max) Zambri	Milwee Middle School

Michael Reyes Johnson  
David Brunat  
Nicholas Jackson  
Delilah Yareakh

Rock Lake Middle School  
Winter Springs Elementary School  
Winter Springs High School  
Woodlands Elementary School

Mayor Sackett read the history of the JOY Awards. Each student was announced and presented with a framed certificate. Photographs were taken.

The Commission recessed at 6:32 p.m. and reconvened at 6:44 p.m.

6. **BOARD APPOINTMENTS.** None.

7. **PUBLIC INPUT**

A. **Public Participation.**

JoAnne Rebello, 301 Loch Lomond Avenue, addressed Item 12F, expressing concern about potential fiscal impacts and advocating for strict spending controls. She referenced a past City financial crisis in the 1980s, urged transparency and citizen involvement, and objected to any Charter language that would allow the Commission to waive a referendum with a five-member vote. She emphasized the City should not extend themselves to the point of another financial disaster. She requested reconsideration of the Item language with clearer safeguards.

8. **MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORT**

**District #3.** Commissioner McMillan traveled to Tallahassee for the Florida League of Cities Legislative Action Days, meeting with State Representative Rachel Plakon and State Senator Jason Brodeur's staff. He raised the City's fire station needs, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) grant issue, the burdensome language in Senate Bill 180, and sovereign immunity impacts, noting optimism for progress in the next legislative session on fire station or water plant funding. He attended a 2026 Florida Chapters Conference in Orlando by the Federalist Society hearing comments from the Governor of Florida but heard no mention of property tax reforms. He acknowledged earlier concerns regarding Item 12F during Public Participation and noted any Charter ballot item would require three public hearings so the public would be involved. Noting he was chairman of the City's Charter Advisory Committee in 2019, he requested staff to revisit a proposed initiative regarding the election of the Mayor, allowing him the opportunity to present a prior proposal.

**District #4.** Commissioner Morgan supported examining a change in the method of electing the Mayor, thanked Mr. Watts for coordinating a meeting related to the new fire station site and its demolition, discussed State Road 434/Ronald Reagan Boulevard improvements with County Commissioner Bob Dallari, and attended the Bambino Buddy Ball fundraiser recognizing Mayor Sackett's contributions to the special needs league. He acknowledged Item 12F raised during Public Participation mentioning he spoke with Ms. Rebello and several residents on the same subject. He planned to speak extensively on Item 12F when addressed on the agenda. He reported scheduling meetings with State Senator Brodeur and State Representative Plakon on fire station funding and charter school options for neurodiverse students. He planned to attend Autism Day in

Tallahassee on February 11 to discuss classroom cameras and support for special needs students, specifically a potential charter school in Seminole County.

**District #5.** Mayor Sackett reported his appointment as the lead Mayor at the Mayors and Managers Meeting, acknowledged success of the Bambino Buddy Ball fundraiser mentioning his involvement with baseball leagues totaled forty-one years, and noted upcoming discussion on Item 12F.

**District #1.** Absent.

**District #2.** Commissioner Boni congratulated JOY Award recipients commenting on the improved program format, attended the Longwood Senior Matinee, indicated interest in Item 12F, and encouraged resident participation at City Commission meetings.

## 9. COMMISSION AND STAFF ADDITIONS OR CHANGES

### A. ADDITIONAL ITEMS RAISED DURING MAYOR'S AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Commissioner McMillan requested staff to review the Charter Advisory Committee minutes and proposed charter amendments in 2019 regarding election of the Mayor, and allow him to work with them to do a presentation on the proposal.

Discussion clarified that the request pertains to the method of electing the Mayor and does not alter the Council-Manager form of government.

Commissioner McMillan moved to direct staff to review the 2019 Charter Advisory Committee notes and proposed Charter amendments and to work with him to prepare a presentation regarding potential changes to the method of electing the Mayor. Seconded by Mayor Sackett and carried by a unanimous voice vote with Deputy Mayor Shoemaker absent.

### B. ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA. None.

## 10. CONSENT AGENDA

### A. Approval of the January 19, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.

### B. Approve the Monthly Expenditures for January 2026.

Commissioner Boni moved to approve Items 10A and 10B as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Morgan and carried by a unanimous roll call vote with Deputy Mayor Shoemaker absent.

## 11. PUBLIC HEARINGS

### A. Request for continuance of the second public hearing for Ordinance No. 25-2276, which amends the Longwood Comprehensive Plan to reflect the adoption of the City's Mobility Fee and Bicycle-Pedestrian Master Plan.

Mr. Kintner requested continuance on the second public hearing to allow time for potential legislative changes under consideration in Tallahassee. He reported that State comments applied Senate Bill 180's restrictive provisions to the City's proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments related to the City's mobility fee and Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan and recommended moving the public hearing to May 4, 2026, given that the State Legislature is considering changes to Senate Bill 180, Section 28.

Commissioner McMillan moved to continue the second public hearing of Ordinance 25-2276 to the May 4, 2026, meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Morgan and carried by a unanimous voice vote with Deputy Mayor Shoemaker absent.

## 12. REGULAR BUSINESS

### A. Discussion of allowable uses in the Industrial Core zoning category related to a request by One School of the Arts.

Mr. Kintner presented the item regarding a request from the January 19<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting with the One School of the Arts and Sciences, making a request to rezone property at 474 Commerce Way. Rezoning was requested because the Industrial Core does not allow schools as an allowable use. He stated schools and religious institutions were removed from Industrial Core allowable uses in 2011 to protect the City's industrial tax base and employment. Staff currently advised against rezoning to avoid "spot zoning", and proposed a narrowly tailored City Code Amendment to allow "specialty schools" within the Industrial Core under defined criteria, including location/radius limits. The proposal would undergo three public hearings – one before the Land Planning Agency and two before the City Commission.

Discussion ensued on the following: the tax base for the designated property is over \$12,000 per year, approving this request would result in the first dyslexic school in Seminole County, a restriction should be added so that other school's cannot be allotted within a one-mile radius, having the amendment not change the zoning of the property so if the school closes, the property remains industrial, losing the property tax base with a school location, finding another area for the school, and the designated property in question being a donation versus a lease or rent for the school.

Commissioner McMillan moved to direct staff to bring forward an Ordinance to amend the Development Code to allow a limited "specialty school" use in the Industrial Core with defined standards and locational limits. Seconded by Commissioner Morgan and carried by a three to one (3-1) roll call vote with Mayor Sackett voting nay and Deputy Mayor Shoemaker absent.

Mr. Kintner explained the proposed Ordinance would go through a State mandated process with the next step going before the Land Planning Agency, scheduled to meet the second Wednesday in March. The proposed Ordinance then would go before two City Commission Meetings with time allotted for advertising.

### B. Read by title only and adopt Resolution No. 26-1712, which amends the fiscal year 2024/2025 budget.

Mr. Langley read Resolution No. 26-1712 by title only.

Mr. Woolbright presented the Item.

Commissioner McMillan moved to adopt Resolution No. 26-1712 as presented Item 12B. Seconded by Commissioner Boni and carried by a unanimous roll call vote with Deputy Mayor Shoemaker absent.

**C. Read by title only and adopt Resolution No. 26-1713, executing of the locally funded agreement with State of Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for State Road 434 improvements (Financial Project No.: 443838-1-52-02).**

Mr. Langley read Resolution No. 26-1713 by title only.

Mr. Smith presented the Item.

Commissioner Boni moved to adopt Resolution No. 26-1713 as presented Item 12C. Seconded by Commissioner McMillan and carried by a unanimous roll call vote with Deputy Mayor Shoemaker absent.

**D. Appointment of Special Magistrate for Trespass Warning Appeals Issued Pursuant to Ordinance No. 25-2266, Codified as Section 2-2, City of Longwood Code of Ordinances.**

Mr. Langley presented the Item.

Commissioner Boni moved to approve the appointment of Holli New, Esq., as the City of Longwood's Special Magistrate to hear appeals of trespass warnings issued pursuant to Ordinance No. 25-2266. Seconded by Commissioner McMillan and carried by a unanimous roll call vote with Deputy Mayor Shoemaker absent.

**E. Initiation of a Citywide Strategic Planning Process and Scheduling of a City Commission Workshop.**

Mr. Watts presented the Item.

The Commission reached consensus to schedule a strategic planning workshop on March 3, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**F. Discussion of Proposed Charter Amendment to Modify Debt Restriction Thresholds.**

Mr. Watts presented the Item.

The Commission reviewed anticipated capital needs over the next five to ten years, including a new Fire Station 15, Fire Station 17 replacement/improvements, a police facility, and a water treatment plant identified as a critical priority with significant costs.

Mr. Langley provided legal context on the issuance of debt in Florida Law and the Charter. He advised an Ordinance could be sought to do certain projects in the future, and the City can take that Ordinance forward into future years and borrow off of that authorization.

Commissioner Morgan expressed concern regarding no debt limit or ceiling specified in the proposed amendment. He recommended the City have project-level caps and an overall debt ceiling to be held fiscally responsible. He reviewed current outstanding City debt (~\$16 million total: ~\$14 million in SRF loans for septic-to-sewer; ~\$0.5 million for IT maturing in 2028; ~\$2.4 million for Reiter Park maturing in 2032).

Mr. Watts advised staff would review the potential cost of future projects and determine a debt ceiling that the Commission can discuss at their next meeting.

Commission authorized staff to return to the next regular meeting with debt ceiling options for public safety projects, a project prioritization, and voter authorization structures.

**13. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Watts reported on preparedness and response to a recent freeze event, noting minimal impacts to commercial properties and negligible impacts to City facilities and infrastructure. Public Works, Fire, Police, and other staff were commended for effective preparation and response. He announced that a future Commission meeting will include a utility rate study presentation by Raftelis addressing potential water treatment plant costs and associated water rate impacts.

**14. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT.** None.


**15. CITY CLERK'S REPORT**

Ms. Cartagena reported a table was purchased for the Annual State of the County Luncheon on Friday, February 13, and the upcoming Seminole County Prayer Breakfast on Monday, February 16, both held at the Orlando Marriot Lake Mary. She reminded the Commission of the District #1 nomination for the Business Person of the Month.


**16. ADJOURN.** Mayor Sackett adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Minutes approved by City Commission: 02-16-2026.



  
Brian D. Sackett, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Liane Cartagena, City Clerk