

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

MINUTES
November 4, 2019
6:00 P.M.

Present: **Mayor Matt Morgan**
 Deputy Mayor Brian D. Sackett
 Commissioner Abby Shoemaker
 Commissioner Richard Drummond
 Commissioner Ben Paris
 Dan Langley, City Attorney
 J.D. Cox, City Manager
 Michelle Longo, City Clerk
 David P. Dowda, Police Chief
 Chris Kintner, Community Development Director

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
2. **MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION**
3. **THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
4. **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Ms. Longo read the following announcements.
 - A. **The City of Longwood will host the seventh annual “Chili Cook-Off” in conjunction with the monthly car show on Saturday, November 9, 2019, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Historic District of Longwood located off of Church Avenue. A taster’s kit can be purchased in advance for \$5.00 or on the day of the show for \$7.00.**
 - B. **The “Downtown Longwood Cruise-In” Car Show will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2019, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in the Historic District of Longwood.**
 - C. **A Heroes Strong Event will be held on Sunday, November 10, 2019, from 2:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. in Reiter Park, 311 West Warren Avenue. This is a free event honoring local heroes.**

- D. **The “Downtown Longwood Food Trucks” will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2019, from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at Reiter Park, 311 West Warren Avenue.**
- E. **Longwood Movie in the Park will be held on Friday, November 15, 2019, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Reiter Park, 311 West Warren Avenue. This is a free event and the movie will be *Angry Birds 2*.**

5. PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS

- A. **District #4 Presentation of the Business Person of the Month Award for November 2019 to Country Kitchen, 260 West State Road 434.**

Mayor Morgan read a brief biography on Mr. Rajinder Dua and then presented him with the Business person of the Month Award for November 2019. Photographs were taken.

6. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

- A. **District #2 Nomination to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.**

Commissioner Drummond nominated Ms. Teresa Rey for appointment to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Nomination carried by a unanimous voice vote.

- B. **District #3 Nomination to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.**

Commissioner Paris deferred the nomination until the next meeting.

7. PUBLIC INPUT

- A. **Public Participation.**

Susan Geris, 502 Orange Avenue, Longwood. She said the City has let Maronda Homes build their houses five feet higher than mine. All the people around me are starting to do the same and now the streets and sidewalks are higher than my property, so when it rains, I get flooded. I have been trying to get help from Commissioner Paris when he was Mayor, and I never got it. They just took my pictures, and I believe they threw them out. They never tried to help me, and I have been trying to get help for many years. My home is being robbed. I have an alarm and stick-up Cams. I have sent certified letters to the people that are

robbing my home. They have also cut all the trees off of their property except for two, one of which already fell on my home. I need help to pay the \$9,000 because I do not have insurance. I cannot afford it. I am disabled. I got hit by a car and have metal from my knee all the way to my hip. The City put drains on my property, and they do not collect one ounce of water. All the water comes down and into my home. Eminent Domain is what they are doing to me. If they want me out so bad, they can pay me for my home, and I will be more than happy to move out. If not, I am going to have to hire an attorney and go after the City. I do not want to do this, believe me. I do not want to make problems for anybody, but they are sure making problems for me. All I want is to be left in peace. The Raganoonan Family and the family that lives across the street from me listen to all my phone conversations and have harassed me for so many years. They go through my internet, disarm my alarm, and they go through my house every chance I leave my home. I have many police reports, a stack of police cards, and now I have to go to court again because the Police Department is not doing their job. That is a different story. I am just asking you to please help me. If there is no way you can fix the problem, then the City can buy my home and build two new homes there because of Eminent Domain. I am in a swimming pool, and I have pictures to prove it.

8. MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

District #3. No report.

District #4. Mayor Morgan gave a presentation on how to use the City of Longwood Request Tracker App for those who would like to make a Code Compliance complaint. After finishing the presentation he gave his report and said he attended a Meet the Mayors event for the Seminole County Regional Chamber of Commerce. He said it was a great time to brag about the City of Longwood and all the improvements we have made. That same day, I had a productive meeting with Ms. Cheryl Bryant, a business owner here in Longwood. She is very happy about the parking spaces we brought in on Ronald Reagan Boulevard. I was honored to be asked by our Longwood Historic Society to do the countdown for the Monster Dash 5K Run which was very successful. Our Longwood Historic Society continues to do a lot of great work for the City. They are sacrificing time away from their families on weekends to help our community. He said he had a meeting on the 27th with Seminole County Chairwoman, Brenda Carey, on how we could get the Department of Transportation (DOT) to speed up our center islands on Ronald Reagan Boulevard. We are trying to get new sod put in, and she

said she would be of assistance. On the 30th, we took part in Winn Dixie's ribbon-cutting for their Grand Re-opening.

District #5. Deputy Mayor Sackett said Duke Energy finally stepped in after a year and a half later and lit up Rangeline Road. The kids have actually called me about finally putting the lights up on Rosedale Avenue and thanked me. He said Duke Energy has fixed the light situation but have not fixed the dead shrubs they killed along Rangeline Road approximately six months ago. He said he did go to the Church Avenue house discussed at the last meeting. That house is deplorable, and I feel for the people who live in it. I would be afraid of it falling to the ground and hurting someone. I did talk to the renters and they are being positive and are happy that I was there. I was the one that was going to take them to the Christian Sharing Center or any other organizations to help them out. They really do not want that yet. They have a "hook" on a place to move to, but it is still in a communication line with the owners. Hopefully, something moves forward for them. I am trying to be optimistic, but I do not know. I could not even go into the building because it was so dangerous looking and so awful. Luna's Pizzeria was closed for a while. The owner had a major heart condition and he is recovered and back at work. They have been a nice sponsor within our City, so it is nice to see they are open again. He asked the Police Department if we could get rid of the tractor-trailers that are parking at Pic N Save. It is a nuisance. Also, Pic N Save has never planted its islands. Per City Code, you have to maintain standards of what it used to look like, and it is pretty bad. There are shrubs growing in there that are not being maintained and it is not inviting as a corner of our City at all. The Winn Dixie ribbon cutting was phenomenal. He took his grandson. We went back Saturday and there were fire trucks, Police Departments, and a live band inside. They were giving food away. Every half hour, they were giving \$100 away, so it was a big event, and it is nice to see the \$6 million improvements to that store. He went to the SMASH Beer Festival event at Reiter Park and the Beer, Bacon & BBQ Festival in Altamonte Springs and Longwood's was a better event with more beer selections. He donated four-foot Buddy Benches to Longwood Elementary and to Woodlands Elementary. The purpose of those benches is to help kids understand bullying and things like that. Basically, a kid will sit on the bench advertising I need a friend or I want somebody to play with for this recess. Another child or two will come along and pull the kid off the bench and say come play with us. When the Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall was in Longwood, people left behind many mementos, and we made a commitment that we were going to save that memorabilia for later whenever we had a little museum or place to store these things and feature them. It is all missing. I hope it did not get thrown away or perhaps it got packed up and stored at Public Works. He stated we need

to locate these items. Mr. Fowler contacted me and he would like to start a Frisbee Disc Ball Tournament at one of our parks. Regarding nominations, when we nominate businesses and people to our Boards he would like to get more information on these people for next year. He wants to see some enthusiasm and why the person might be interested. He announced he will be going into the hospital for Thanksgiving week for a couple of days and he will be fine.

District #1. Commissioner Shoemaker thanked Mayor Morgan for his help with the Monster Dash. We had a great race, and I did the costume contest. The best costumes went to the three Longwood Witches and the Crazy Clown. I only had four prizes I could award. Winn Dixie was awesome. It is awesome to have businesses that have survived and have been dedicated to our City. Also, there are a lot of employees that have been there since the beginning of time. Our own Commissioner Paris worked there when he was 15 years old. It was really nice to see his name tag. It is nice to have businesses you can relate to and your kids worked there, like the schools you go to. Mr. Fowler also reached out to me about Frisbee Disc Golf, and I said I will send this on to our City Manager and have him check with Recreation. It looks like fun.

District #2. Commissioner Drummond said Winn Dixie has a fresh, new look and it is amazing. Their indoor and outdoor remodeling is really impressive. It is impressive to see a big chain come in and invest that kind of money back into an existing business. They had District Managers, their store Manager, and their whole team there for the ribbon-cutting. Northland Church had Trunk or Treat the Saturday before Halloween and had thousands of kids there. It was organized chaos. I was very impressed to see how many families and kids showed up to partake in an event at a Church. Columbus Harbor does not do anything with the Home Owners Association (HOA), but it is a drawing place for a lot of people in this area for trick or treating. I am sure there were at least 1,000 kids there. He also responded to the guy for Disc Golf, so he got lots of attention, and he thinks we should look into that. His only concern is having that at our major park and having people dodging frisbees.

Mayor Morgan said he forgot to point out that Skylark Subdivision did a really good job on Halloween as well. They had a haunted house there which was really cool.

9. ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA. None.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. **Approve Minutes of August 5, 2019, Work Session and the August 30, 2019 Emergency Meeting.**
- B. **Approve the Monthly Expenditures for October 2019.**

Deputy Mayor Sackett moved to approve Items 10A and 10B as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Paris and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

11. PUBLIC HEARINGS. None.

12. REGULAR BUSINESS

- A. **Read by title only, set November 18, 2019, as the public hearing date, and approve the Annexation Agreement and first reading of Ordinance No. 19-2168, a voluntary annexation of 750 North U.S. Highway 17-92.**

Mr. Langley read Ordinance No. 19-2168 by title only.

Mr. Kintner presented the Item.

Deputy Mayor Sackett moved to approve the Annexation Agreement and first reading of Ordinance No. 19-2168, and set November 18, 2019, as the public hearing date. Seconded by Commissioner Drummond and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

- C. **City Commission to consider and approve a Historic District Grant Application (HG 01-19) from the Longwood Historic Society for the Longwood Historic Civic Center property at 135 West Church Avenue.**

Mr. Kintner presented the Item.

Commissioner Paris moved to approve the Historic District Grant Application (HG 01-19) as presented Item 12B. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Sackett and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

13. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Cox said we will follow up on the Public Participation item and a few other items brought up tonight as well. He thanked the Mayor for bringing attention to the App. I think that is great, and he encouraged folks to utilize that. It is a great tool and expedites the process. He asked everyone for their prayers and thanked them for being on this journey. I

have had cardiac issues for some time, and we have been treating the symptoms up until now. A recent visit to the doctor ended up with me being in the hospital for a little while. He shared he has been placed on the heart transplant list for the State of Florida. Chief Dowda, as the Commission approved at the last meeting, will fill in at those times I am absent. So whether on an intermittent basis or when I am actually doing the procedure and I am out for a week or two, he will have full authority to act in my place.

Mr. Cox said he handed out a flyer and has two things on County Road 427 to share. SunRail has been installing escape lanes along Ronald Reagan Boulevard. These are emergency escape lanes. If someone ends up getting stuck too close to the tracks, they can pull over into these emergency lanes. They are not to be used for parking or checking brakes. On County Road 427, the islands will all be ripped up and we will begin construction of a new hardscape plan. That plan will be approved by the Commission and at the next meeting, we will have the first presentation on ideas and concepts for that. There is a request to upgrade that grass so it is not brown while waiting for the construction to be done. Also, we will have irrigation in all the islands on Ronald Reagan Boulevard. Public Risk Management (PRM) has addressed our concerns of being on their agenda which will be in April. We were too late to make the agenda for this meeting. I expect Ms. Ricci and I will attend, but if anyone else would like to attend, let me know. Also, regarding emergency preparedness, we are working on a new program called Code Red. It is further assistance in communicating with citizens. It acts as a reverse 911 system, however, it does have enough functionality that we can broaden it and use it in other ways. Such examples might be if we have a major water leak in a neighborhood and we have to close down streets temporarily. We can shoot out a blast to everyone that has signed up on the phones to receive an immediate text. The real power of this is dealing with storms and giving the latest information. The Pickleball court is now operational as of Friday. Our estimated cost for a new Fire Station is \$3.5 million. I have met with Senator David Simmons and his office has agreed to carry the ball for us. This past week, we filed an Appropriations Application for the recommended amount that was one half the estimated cost. I talked with our liaison with Senator Simmons' office, and she is going to follow up with him to see if there might be a little more wiggle room.

14. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Langley said about two weeks ago I sent out an email about the opioid multi-state litigation. They have certified a negotiating class that includes all cities and counties that are not already parties in the litigation against the opioid manufacturers and distributors. There is a cut-off date to get out of the class on November 22nd. His recommendation would be

to not opt-out, and to just stay in. I wanted to make sure the Commission did not think they needed to opt-out. The problem with opting out is we would have to find a lawyer and file a lawsuit. We do not have to do anything to stay in. We just have to vote to opt-out.

15. CITY CLERK'S REPORT

A. Consider canceling January 6, 2020, Regular City Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Paris moved to cancel January 6, 2020, City Commission Regular Meeting. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Sackett and carried by a four-to-one (4-1) roll call vote with Mayor Morgan voting nay.

Ms. Longo also noted there will not be a Mayors and Managers meeting for November or December. The next Charter Advisory Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 14th due to the Thanksgiving Holiday and the December meeting was canceled by the Committee. She said the Deputy Mayor's annual rotation normally takes place at the second meeting in November. She reminded the Commission when Mayor Morgan was elected in May, he was currently serving as the Deputy Mayor and this was moved to the next District Commissioner which was District #5. Since Deputy Mayor Sackett would be serving out the remainder of the current term, the Commission agreed to allow Deputy Mayor Sackett to serve his full term which would start November 2019. Ms. Longo also noted work has started on the upgrade to the Chambers audio system.

16. ADJOURN. Mayor Morgan adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Minutes approved by City Commission: 01-20-2020

/S/
Matt Morgan, Mayor

ATTEST:

/S/
Michelle Longo, CMC, FCRM
City Clerk

The Official signed minutes are on file in the City Clerk's Office.