

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

MINUTES
November 2, 2020
6:00 P.M.

Present: **Mayor Richard Drummond**
 Deputy Mayor Brian D. Sackett
 Commissioner Abby Shoemaker
 Commissioner Matt Morgan
 Commissioner Ben Paris
 Dan Langley, City Attorney
 Clint Gioielli, Acting City Manager
 Michelle Longo, City Clerk
 David P. Dowda, Police Chief
 Chris Kintner, Community Development Director
 Shad Smith, Public Works Director
 Craig Dunn, Information Technology Director
 Chris Capizzi, Leisure Services Director

- 1. CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Drummond called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
- 2. MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION**
- 3. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Commissioner Paris led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Ms. Longo read the following announcements.
 - A. The “Downtown Longwood Food Trucks” will be held on Thursday, November 12, 2020, from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at Reiter Park, 311 West Warren Avenue.**
 - B. The “Downtown Longwood Cruise-In” Car Show will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2020, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in the Historic District of Longwood.**

- C. **The City of Longwood will host “Ceilidh in the Park” a Scottish Celebration Event sponsored by St. Andrew Society of Central Florida. The event will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2020, from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Reiter Park, 311 West Warren Avenue. There will be live entertainment, food trucks, bagpipes, and much more. This is a free event.**

5. PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS

- A. **Recognizing Ben Paris for his service to the City as a City Commissioner from November 2014 to November 2020.**

Mayor Drummond recognized Commissioner Paris for his service to the City as Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Commissioner and presented him with an award. Photographs were then taken.

- B. **District #4 Presentation of the Business Person of the Month Award for November 2020 to Max & Meme Cafe, 1050 West State Road 434.**

Commissioner Morgan gave a brief statement as to why he nominated Max & Meme Cafe and presented Mrs. Vitaly Avram with the Business Person of the Month Award for November 2020. Photographs were then taken.

6. BOARD APPOINTMENTS. None.

7. PUBLIC INPUT

- A. **Public Participation. None.**

8. MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS’ REPORT

District #3. Commissioner Paris said you think a lot about what you want to say at your last Commission report. I am not going to ask for any follow-ups for the next meeting because that is not going to be possible. I thought I would go ahead and throw a little curveball and use my Commissioner leeway. I am going to call for a vote. As many of you know, working for the City my main career goal in life was to become Mayor for the City one day. I worked years in the City and talked about it often. I wanted to swing that gavel at a City Commission meeting and I had the distinct honor and pleasure of doing it for two terms here in the City of Longwood. I want that gavel. I know I cannot just take it so I purchased a brand new gavel for the City of Longwood.

Commissioner Paris moved to exchange the current City gavel, for a new brass encrusted gavel he purchased, and

keep the current gavel for himself. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Sackett and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

District #4. Commissioner Morgan said the Longwood's Historic Society Monster Dash 5k Run was a huge success. It set records for money raised and attendance. It was amazing. The coolest thing they did with the race was setting staggered starts with eight different groups where one minute would elapse before the next group would start. It was packed. I am happy with the success of that event. It is the Longwood Historic Society's role to continue to maintain and preserve our City's history and the three historical buildings, Bradlee-McIntyre House, Historic Civic Center, and the Inside-Outside House. I want to remind the many residents that are concerned and passionate about our Historic District, that when these events go on every penny towards that comes right back to our district. The Monster Dash is one of the main draws for Longwood's Historic Society. Each year they depend on it to upkeep those three buildings. There were tons of business owners in the City that stepped up. He thanked Waste Pro for being the main sponsor of the event again, Boynton Lawn Care, and the local businesses that helped out a great deal. On Wednesday, October 21, I went to Parkside Church next to our Fire Station #17 and they celebrated a Recovery Group with recovering addicts. It was a very powerful night. I was honored to be able to go and speak to them. Good things are happening there with incorporating Christ in the middle of their sobriety. You guys saw the concert that we just had. That was good and it is going to continue to grow with each concert. I am looking forward to this upcoming Scottish event. It is going to be packed and incredibly successful. He thanked Commissioner-Elect McMillan for his work on that. He stated Reiter Park separates us from other cities.

District #5. Deputy Mayor Sackett said Halloween was different this year with the full moon, COVID, and a few trick-or-treaters. There were no problems or concerns with our City and Police Department. It all worked out for safety reasons. The blues music in the park was wonderful. I did not know many of the songs. I have been working to bring the little section of town with about 4,000 residents called the Woodlands into our City. We have had a couple of meetings so far and are going to meet with Woodland's Civic representatives soon to see if they are interested in revitalizing something that we started about 13 years ago. They have generated a positive list of what is available through the City and benefits them as well. We will keep you posted on that. That is a big number of residents and they all think they live in Longwood but do not. The lead was from members of their community. It was a good step in a different direction. I did not go to the 5k. My grandson was pitching one of his first ball games. That was kind of amazing. I went over to the pump track and

skate park and I am kind of disappointed that it was closing today through November 26. That pump track is not working to hold the grass where it needs to be. I have a meeting set up with Longwood Babe Ruth next Tuesday, and I think what we can start doing is find out what can be done so it holds up to the conditions that it is put under. Also, the yellow things along the gates need to be pressure washed. The park needs some work. We are going to be talking to Longwood Babe Ruth next week so I hope the conditions over there look a little brighter, cleaner, and ready to go. I am mostly frustrated with the pump track. It has lost grass once before.

District #1. Commissioner Shoemaker said I missed the 5k but I saw all of the videos. I have been to every other one and many other functions with the Historic Society. I received a phone call from Pam at the Cottage Gift Shop about a quarter to noon that the road was still blocked. I made a phone call and that got taken care of. We do the best we can. I guess somebody did not get the memo that it ended at 9:00 a.m. I attended the State of the City with our Mayor, the Vice President of the Chamber Commissioner Paris who did an awesome job, and all of our staff. That was enjoyable. I had no trick-or-treaters before I set up. My neighbor posted on Facebook that her pumpkin had been stolen. I am pretty sure who my son witnessed were the pumpkin thieves. It was an uneventful Halloween and I wished it was better. I am going to miss Commissioner Paris.

District #2. Mayor Drummond said last week the Seminole Chamber of Commerce and Commissioner Paris had the Longwood City Spotlight at the Community Building. What a great event. There were a lot of different business people and stakeholders from Seminole County. He thanked the staff that gave the presentation. Mr. Krueger, Economic Development Manager, talked about all of the success the City has had over the last year with new development and all of the money that has been brought into Longwood. Mr. Kintner, Director of Community Development, gave a great presentation of how the City has streamlined their process so that developers want to come to Longwood and build. They get the whole team together, have a sit-down meeting with the developers, and try to make it as streamlined and painless as possible. I have heard some nasty nicknames for some of the communities around us and their Building departments for how difficult it is to try to go in there and do business. I am happy to say Longwood is completely the opposite. We also had a presentation from Mr. Capizzi, Director of Leisure Services, and he did a great job. Everybody did such a great job. I am so proud of everybody that is on the administration down to the employees of the City of Longwood.

9. ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Deputy Mayor Sackett request that Items 10B and 10C be pulled for a separate discussion.

It was the consensus from the Commission to pull Items 10B and 10C for a separate discussion.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Minutes of the October 19, 2020, Regular Meeting.**
- B. Approve the Monthly Expenditures for October 2020.**
- C. Approve an agreement with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. and purchase order in the amount of \$343,468 for the West Warren Avenue Complete Street Project.**

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

Discussion ensued on Item 10B.

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

Discussion ensued on Item 10C.

Deputy Mayor Sackett moved to approve Item 10C as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Morgan and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

11. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Read by title only and adopt Ordinance No. 20-2195, creating a new Chapter 60 of the Longwood City Code providing for Impact Fees related to new development.**

Mr. Langley read Ordinance No. 20-2195 by title only.

Mr. Kintner presented the Item and said we followed the Commission's request to look into what the Impact Fees would do to the overall permit cost when you factor in utilities and those things. We did two examples, one for a single-family home and the other for a 4,500 square foot restaurant with a drive-thru. On

the residential permit, even with the increase from the impact fee, we would still be the second cheapest in Seminole County. The commercial permit puts us right in the middle. We do not see that as something that is going to throw us completely out of the line and there are benefits to bringing Impact Fees to the City.

Discussion was held on the fees and the benefits, along with staff being thanked for providing additional information.

Mayor Drummond opened the public hearing. No one spoke in favor or opposition to Ordinance No. 20-2195.

Commissioner Paris moved to close the public hearing. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Sackett and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Commissioner Paris moved to adopt Ordinance No. 20-2195 as presented Item 11A. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Sackett and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

12. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. City Commission approval to host a Community Chanukah Celebration Event on Thursday, December 10, 2020, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Reiter Park.

Mr. Capizzi presented the Item and said just like last year the City was approached by Rabbi Majesky from Chabad-Lubavitch of Orlando. He would like to partner with the City to put on a COVID safe community Chanukah celebration at the park. Like many events this time of year, it is going to be watered down, keeping in mind safety guidelines. There will be a public menorah lighting with music and COVID safe entertainment. The attendance is going to be around 300 to 500 so it is not going to be a very large crowd. Last year we had everything ready but got rained on. It was a good event. Rabbi Majesky will be covering the cost of all activities. The only thing he has requested was for the City to cover staff cost which would total \$78.67 for two staff members for three hours.

Commissioner Paris moved to approve Item 12A as presented. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Sackett and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

B. City Commission approval to erect a 12' X 36' hip roof shade structure in the Palm Tree picnic area at Reiter Park.

Mr. Capizzi presented the Item and said the City Staff and Ms. Lori Rice, Board Member on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, have been working to obtain credentials to apply for an AAD Shade Structure Grant. In the last couple of years, we have had to show that we are shade structure friendly, meaning we promote sunscreen, we have sunscreen dispensers at Reiter Park and teach sunscreen awareness at our Summer Camp program. These things had to be in place for a couple of years to apply for this grant. Now that we have filled those credentials and requirements, the staff is going to apply for this AAD Sunshade Structure Grant for \$8,000. The idea is to put a hip roof shade structure that is 12' x 36' in between a row of palm trees in Reiter Park. One of the critiques we hear is the park does not have enough shade. This is a great opportunity for us to put something aesthetically pleasing, which will be heavily utilized by multiple people, where we currently have picnic tables. This is close to the Splash Pad, Amphitheater, and not too far from the playground. We feel that would be a great place to put this. The shade structure can withstand gusts up to 120 MPH and can block up to 98.8% of the UV rays. We are looking to get this the same color as the pavilions that are silver and white. The shade structure will cost up to approximately \$15,000. We are going out for the \$8,000 grant and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board has graciously approved to provide the additional \$7,000 in funding that is needed to make the \$15,000.

Commissioner Paris moved to approve Item 12B as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Morgan and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

C. City Commission approval of a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Teamsters Union Local 385 (Police) and the City of Longwood for the period of October 1, 2020, to September 30, 2023.

Chief Dowda presented the Item and said the current Collective Bargaining Agreement with Teamsters expired on September 30, 2020. Before expiration, staff including myself, Mr. Gioielli, and Ms. Ricci worked with the Bargain Unit members. During the negotiation, several articles were discussed and revised. Many of them are minor and probably not very significant but there were two notable areas where revisions were completed. For Article 11, Sick Leave, we established a sick leave buy bank program to incentivize a reduction in sick time usage. This agreement would

also establish a process for the Chief of Police to authorize members, within limitations, to transfer sick time to another employee who exhausted their accrued time. In Article 28, Wages, two big plans were developed. One is to address current employees and a second to address any employees that are hired in the future. The members of the Police Teamsters Union Local 385 held a formal vote on the acceptance of this contract over two days this month and the agreement was formally accepted by the collective membership.

Discussion was held regarding the sick leave buyback program, how it is a great idea, and why Section 5.7 mentions Chief Dowda's name instead of Chief of Police. It was noted that request came from the Teamsters Union to list his name.

Commissioner Paris moved to approve Item 12C as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Morgan and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

13. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Gioielli said there has been an increase in active COVID cases in Seminole County. Currently, there are 642 cases and 20 active cases in the City of Longwood. Hospitalizations have fluctuated and the positive testing rate over the last week has been 5.1%. He said the Information Technology (IT) department, and Ms. Longo are working diligently on correcting the audio system issues in the Chambers that were experienced during our Special Meeting. We have learned from our vendor that there is an issue with the frequency the equipment is using. There was a change by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). That issue is going to require upgraded equipment but we made this a priority and will make sure it gets corrected soon. He reminded everybody that the next Police Community Forum is November 13 in the Commission Chambers. I am proud to report that the Police Department completed its accreditation assessment. Three assessors reviewed 239 professional standards established by the State. They were able to verify that the Police Department was 100% in compliance. This compliance includes important topics, especially now with the things that we are seeing in the media and around the country, such as evidence handling, training, hiring, promotional processes, and discipline processes. We are very proud of that and I know the Chief will be excited to go to the next annual meeting to receive the award on behalf of the City and the Police Department. Additionally, Human Resources is working together to set up a staff holiday that we are planning on doing at the Community Building using safety protocols on December 3 at 11:30 a.m. We encourage all of our staff and the Commission to consider joining us in

celebration. Human Resources is also coordinating the City Awards Committee and we are anticipating having an event in March 2021, like we did this year, where there is going to be employee recognition and appreciation. It will probably be at the park but if not it will be set up by the Committee. This allows us to come together and share all the great things our staff has done.

Mr. Gioielli said since our Special Meeting, staff has initiated contact with the Taurus Group. We are attempting to bring back some type of proposal for the Commission to review based on the parameters that we established at the last Special Meeting. To this point, the developer is asking staff to make a proposal to him based on the parameters that were established at the Special Meeting. We asked the developer to take into account the Commission's wishes, and see if there was a proposal they would be interested in moving forward with. His only response has been what is our counteroffer. He said we are not in a position to do that because we do not know, under the parameters established by this Commission, what is viable for the developer. We are in a preliminary communication stage based on the most recent parameters set. He ended his report expressing his appreciation to Commissioner Paris and his leadership and how much we are going to miss him.

Commissioner Morgan asked for an update on the Noise Ordinance between our City and the County.

Mr. Gioielli said there has been no update on that but we have it on our list.

14. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Langley said it has been a pleasure working with Commissioner Paris. I wish you the best of luck on all of your future endeavors, keep in contact, and I will see you around.

15. CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Ms. Longo said tomorrow is the 2020 General Election and the polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. The Longwood Community Building will be used as a polling location for Longwood. The Longwood Community Building parking lot and street parking on Wilma will be reserved for voters and customers. An email has been sent out advising staff to utilize the City Hall Complex employee parking lot, the grass parking lot at the Police Department, or the City parking lot in front of the Longwood Village Inn. She said the annual rotation of the Deputy Mayor will be on the next agenda and it will go from District #5, Commissioner Sackett to District #1, Commissioner Shoemaker. The next meeting will also be the first meeting for Commissioner-Elect McMillan.

Ms. Longo thanked Commissioner Paris for all he has done for Longwood. She said it has been an honor, privilege, and pleasure working with you “From Parks to Elected Official” and I wish you much success and the best of luck on your future endeavors.

A. Consider canceling January 4, 2021, Regular City Commission Meeting.

Deputy Mayor Sackett moved to cancel the January 4, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Morgan and carried by a four-to-one (4-1) roll call vote with Commissioner Paris voting nay.

16. ADJOURN. Mayor Drummond adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Minutes approved by City Commission: 11-16-2020

Richard Drummond, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michelle Longo, CMC, FCRM
City Clerk