

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

MINUTES
December 20, 2021
6:00 P.M.

Present: **Deputy Mayor Toni Boni**
 Commissioner Abby Shoemaker
 Commissioner Matt McMillan
 Commissioner Matt Morgan
 Dan Langley, City Attorney
 Clint Gioielli, Acting City Manager
 Michelle Longo, City Clerk
 David Dowda, Police Chief
 Judith Rosado, Financial Services Director
 Chris Kintner, Community Development Director
 Shad Smith, Public Works Director

Absent: **Mayor Brian D. Sackett (Excused)**

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Deputy Mayor Boni called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **OPENING INVOCATION.** Pastor Stephanie Salinas with Longwood Congregational Church gave the invocation.
3. **THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Commissioner Shoemaker led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Ms. Longo read the following announcements.
 - A. **The “Downtown Longwood Cruise-In” Car Show will be held on Saturday, January 8, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in the Historic District of Longwood located off Church Avenue.**
 - B. **The Senior Matinee will be held on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Longwood Community Building, 200 West Warren Avenue. This month’s feature is TBD.**

5. PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS

A. District #1 Nomination of Business Person of the Month Award for January 2022 (Presentation scheduled for January 17, 2022).

Commissioner Shoemaker nominated Comprehensive Energy Services (CES) for the Business Person of the Month for January 2022. Nomination carried by a unanimous voice vote with Mayor Sackett absent.

B. The nomination of the Beautification Award (Presentation scheduled for January 17, 2022).

Commissioner McMillan nominated Simon Parrilla Bar and Grill, 295 South Ronald Reagan Boulevard, for the Beautification Award. Nomination carried by a unanimous voice vote with Mayor Sackett absent.

C. Nomination and selection of the recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Good Citizenship Award (Presentation scheduled for January 17, 2022).

Commissioner Morgan nominated Lori Rice for the Martin Luther King Jr. Good Citizenship Award.

Commissioner McMillan nominated David Young for the Martin Luther King Jr. Good Citizenship Award.

Deputy Mayor Boni nominated Elsie Richardson for the Martin Luther King Jr. Good Citizenship Award.

All nominations were carried by a unanimous voice vote with Mayor Sackett absent.

6. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

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

Deputy Mayor Boni nominated Teresa Ray for reappointment to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Nomination carried by a unanimous voice vote with Mayor Sackett absent.

7. PUBLIC INPUT

A. Public Participation.

Jose Hernandez spoke in reference to the property located at 717 Longdale Avenue. He spoke at the previous meeting and requested the code enforcement lien attached to this property to be waived. He said he is an investor and has spent a lot of money on the property. He asked the Commission to waive the lien on this property.

8. MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

District #1. Commissioner Shoemaker said she along with Mayor Sackett, Deputy Mayor Boni, Commissioner McMillan, Commissioner Morgan, Acting City Manager Mr. Gioielli, City Clerk Ms. Longo, and other staff attended a ribbon-cutting for North Orlando Comprehensive Treatment Center (CTC). She noted they are an opioid recovery organization. On December 17 she attended the City holiday luncheon. It was a wonderful event and Pat Smith was recognized for his upcoming retirement. She said she saw Santa come through her neighborhood on Sunday and spoke about Santa Visits Longwood when she was involved being an elf and Mrs. Claus. She expressed the joy you would feel when you saw the children and people enjoying it. She did mention they could go a little slower in the future.

District #2. Deputy Mayor Boni said this is the last meeting of the year and wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. He said there have been a lot of events in the two weeks. Celebrate the Season was phenomenal, the lighting of the tree, ice-skating, the train, food trucks, Santa and Mrs. Claus, it was all great with good attendance. He had the same comments regarding the ribbon-cutting for North Orlando Comprehensive Treatment Center (CTC). One of his favorite events he attended was the Longwood Babe Ruth event. This was put on by David Rubin, who is the new president. He noted Mr. Rubin has excitement, drive, conviction, and vision on bringing back Longwood Babe Ruth. There were a lot of people who came out in support. He invited people to get involved and sign up their children.

Deputy Mayor Boni said he attended the Elevation Advisory Partners ribbon-cutting, they are good people and glad to be a part of Longwood. The employee luncheon was a great event put on by staff. He noted the gingerbread house construction was a lot of fun. He attended the Seven Foot Santa event at the Bradlee-McIntyre House and the Breakfast with Santa the following day. He also attended The Movie in the Park, which featured Elf. He commended CERT for being there and serving all the attendees. This was a great event. He said he did get stopped by a resident who expressed seeing a lot of rats. She is located in the

neighborhood off of West Warren Avenue behind the park. He said he would provide the Acting City Manager with her contact information.

District #3. Commissioner McMillan had the same comments regarding the events. He said he enjoyed Celebrate the Season and there were a lot of people in attendance. His benchmark for the events is how full is the playground, and it was full. He said there were long lines at the Food Trucks which is good for the vendors. He noted the CERT Truck did have more affordable options which are good for the families bringing children. The cotton candy machine was very popular. He also attended the two ribbon-cuttings. The building where North Orlando Comprehensive Treatment Center (CTC) is located is finally occupied which is good for economic development. Elevation Advisory Partners is located in the Historic District on West Bay Avenue, and they purchased the building. He said the employee luncheon was a pleasure. He stated he appreciates all the work staff does year-round and the recognitions which were presented at the lunch. He enjoyed being a judge in the gingerbread house competition.

Commissioner McMillan reported on the true, good and beautiful. For the “true”, he said comes from the field of economics called Engles law. It observes as incomes increase the proportion of income spent on food decreases. He noted to remember at this time of the year as people are struggling, and the price of food going up it pinches them a lot harder. He said to keep this in mind also for those in the service industry and be sure to tip your bartender, waiters, and waitresses. For the “good” he said was sportsmanship. He said this is related to the efforts by David Rubin and Larissa Morgan for baseball and softball at Longwood Babe Ruth. For the “beautiful” he complimented Leisure Services for the holiday decorations at the parks. He mentioned one of the photographs that were taken of a pavilion lined with lights with stars above it, was beautiful. He also said to follow the official city Facebook Leisure Services and City pages for all the events. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

District #4. Commissioner Morgan said on December 8 he spoke at a place in Winter Springs called The Grove. This is a facility that treats teenagers struggling with addiction. On December 10 was the Celebrate the Season event. He said this was a successful event and thanked all those who were involved. He mentioned doing the laser show earlier. He said many families with children were leaving before the laser show started. Earlier that same day he spoke to a freshman class at Lake Brantley High School about fighting and bullying. After this, he went to Teen Challenge in Sanford, where he is part of their Board. They needed a new roof and Don Menzel of Menzel Roofing Services took care of the

roof for them. On December 11 the Central Florida Boys and Girls Club had their *Shop with a Cop Day*. This is a day where the children will shop at the Super Target in Sanford with a Sanford Police Officer. This was a successful event and the children enjoyed themselves. Later that same day he went to the VFW in Longwood where they had a Pig Roast. In the evening he went to the Columbus Harbour Subdivision where they had their annual Neighborhood Christmas Party. On December 12 he went to Freedom Ride with a family he supports during the school year with their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Freedom Ride is located on Lee Road and provides therapeutic horseback riding to children and adults with disabilities. On December 13 he attended the ribbon-cutting for CRC Health Care Clinic which is located at 651 West Warren Avenue. He also mentioned what they do at this clinic. Later this same day he attended the Longwood Babe Ruth Open House. He said he and his wife Larissa have been appointed to their Board. December 14 was the first night of Seven Foot Santa, which is a Longwood Historic Society event. He said this is not only a fundraiser for the Society but also an affordable opportunity for families to see Santa. He thanked Cara Dezso, with CLD Photography, who donated her services for free for both evenings of the event. He thanked the staff for the employee luncheon and selecting Luna's, a local business, to cater the event. On December 19 Longwood Plantation held a luminary event and it was beautiful.

Commissioner Morgan said he did a podcast for a sports show and they donated \$300 to the Longwood Historic Society. He also showed videos from Candyland Park which depicted the vandalism and graffiti that was found out there.

Commissioner Morgan made a motion to have the Acting City Manager look into the cost for cameras to be placed at the concession stand equipped with night vision along with signs placed to advise there are cameras in the Park. Seconded by Commissioner Shoemaker and carried by a unanimous voice vote with Mayor Sackett absent.

District #5. No report.

9. **ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA.** None.
10. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. **Approve Minutes of the November 30, 2021, Work Session.**
 - B. **Approve the Monthly Expenditures for December 2021.**
 - C. **Approve the Monthly Financial Report for November 2021.**

- D. **Approve a purchase order in the amount of \$135,625.26 to DataSource Mobility LLC for fifty (50) GETAC laptop computers for use by Longwood Police Officers in field operations and utilize ARPA funds to complete the purchase.**
- E. **Approve a purchase order in the amount of \$1,074,633 to Ten-8 Fire Equipment, Inc. for the purchase of a new Pierce Ascendant Ladder Truck and necessary dealer-provided equipment.**
- F. **Approve a purchase order in the amount of \$61,119.08 to Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) for professional engineering services associated with the design and permitting related to Milwee Street Sidewalk Improvements Project.**

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

11. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. **Read by title only and adopt Resolution No. 21-1588, establishing the City's Notice of Intent to use the Uniform Method for collecting Non-Ad Valorem Assessments in 2022.**

Mr. Langley read Resolution No. 21-1588 by title only.

Deputy Mayor Boni opened the public hearing. No one spoke in favor or opposition to Resolution No. 21-1588.

Commissioner Morgan moved to close the public hearing. Seconded by Commissioner McMillan and carried by a unanimous voice vote with Mayor Sackett absent.

Commissioner Morgan moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-1588 as presented Item 11A. Seconded by Commissioner Shoemaker and carried by a unanimous roll call vote with Mayor Sackett absent.

12. REGULAR BUSINESS

- A. **Read by title only and adopt Resolution No. 21-1589, Interfund Transfer to Capital Projects Fund to set appropriations for the purchase of capital equipment.**

Mr. Langley read Resolution No. 21-1589 by title only.

Commissioner Morgan moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-1589 as presented Item 12A. Seconded by Commissioner McMillan and carried by a unanimous roll call vote with Mayor Sackett absent.

B. Read by title only and adopt Resolution No. 21-1590, amending the fiscal year 2021/2022 budget appropriations in the amount of \$372,265 in the ARPA Fund.

Mr. Langley read Resolution No. 21-1590 by title only.

Commissioner Morgan moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-1590 as presented Item 12B. Seconded by Commissioner Shoemaker and carried by a unanimous roll call vote with Mayor Sackett absent.

C. City Commission to consider a lien reduction request for the property located at 717 Longdale Avenue.

Mr. Gioielli presented the Item and noted this is the item Mr. Hernandez spoke about during public participation. He answered questions.

Mr. Langley stated there was a mortgage foreclosure that occurred on this property and the mortgage company did not name the city of Longwood as a defendant. The City has four (4) different code liens on this property, two (2) of the liens were recorded before the lawsuit was filed, and two (2) were recorded after the lawsuit was filed. He said the mortgage company missed the two (2) liens that were filed before the foreclosure and should have named the City as a defendant in an attempt to wipe out the lien. Under state law, because the City has liens, if there are any surplus funds left after the sale of a property in foreclosure, any lienholder may seek those funds to apply towards any amounts owed by the property owner. There is approximately \$38,000 left after the mortgage was fully paid and all the attorney fees paid after the sale of the property. He said we learned about that recently and filed a motion and are attempting to get that money. He is not sure if the property owner will dispute our claim but at this time we are the only lienholder that has submitted a claim for the surplus funds. If no one else submits a claim we have a good chance of getting that money but there is no guarantee. He stated the owner may dispute the claim. He noted this is not Mr. Hernandez, he is the new owner of the property, the dispute would be by the prior owner of the property. He explained the

two (2) liens that were recorded before the foreclosure lawsuit do transfer to the new owner, this is because the mortgage company did not name the City and if they did this correctly they would have wiped out the liens. He also noted had a title search been done the liens would have been found and the foreclosure did not properly name the City. He stated Mr. Hernandez is asking the Commission for a full waiver of the lien and it is the decision of them to agree to it or negotiate for a reduced amount. He will continue to proceed with attempting to collect the \$38,000.

Discussion ensued on the lien process, what was done, and what would have happened had it been done correctly.

Mr. Hernandez spoke and stated he contacted the City to let them know the money was there to help them collect it. He will continue to help the City on this case and continue being an investor in Longwood. He asked for the Commission to waive this lien.

Mr. Gioielli was asked to provide his advice. He said he would reduce it and that Mr. Kintner suggested reducing it to \$1,000, also recommended another \$500 fee to offset administrative costs. He noted if it was him, he would set it at \$5,000.

Discuss ensued on the number of liens, what would have been waived if the mortgage company did it correctly, and the recommendations from staff.

Mr. Langley did confirm all liens would have been waived at the foreclosure if done correctly, and we would still have the claim on the \$38,000. He said he would like to preserve, in any lien waivers, if the Commission approves those, to include the City reserves the right to seek the surplus funds. Mr. Hernandez did not have an issue with this.

Commissioner McMillan moved to grant lien relief in exchange for \$1,000 plus \$500 in staff time, and preserve the City's right to pursue the surplus funds with the court. Seconded by Commissioner Morgan and carried by a unanimous roll call vote with Mayor Sackett absent.

13. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Gioielli said staff is seeking input from the Commission on a date for the workshop to review the retail study from the Gibbs group. He provided January 10 as an option.

It was the consensus of the Commission to set the workshop on Monday, January 10 at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Gioielli passed out a binder with the Comprehensive Plan and sample strategic plans prepared by Mr. Kintner for the Commissioners review. He said staff is working on switching out the emblems on the Interstate-4 (I4) overpass from Seminole County to the City of Longwood. He noted the other cities do have their logos. A couple of Commissioners after the last meeting discussed with Mr. Gioielli thoughts on the length of the Commission meetings and what staff could do to better organize. He said moving forward he plans on making sure the presentations are spaced out better so there are not too many on the same meeting, and try to keep the presenter at ten (10) minutes or less. Additionally, on the agenda, the time allotted for the presentation will be listed so the Commission can anticipate how much time it will take. If a presenter goes over the allotted time the Mayor could stop the presentation.

Mr. Gioielli showed a picture of the announcement placed on Social Media and the City Website of the purchase of the 451-455 West Warren Avenue property. He said they did move forward and hire Quest Property Management. They will oversee the property on behalf of the City. He said staff has moved forward with the education process for the Temporary Use Permits, the waiver ends on December 31, and starting January 1, the restrictions are back in effect. The month of January will be for education, not enforcement month. The same has been done for the upcoming proactive residential code enforcement.

Mr. Gioielli said the process to update the utility bills has been completed. The next one that goes out will include a flyer notifying all the residents that Waste Pro has increased their trash rate and in response, the Commission has utilized ARPA Funding to offset that cost to support the community. In addition, the bill will have a summary narrative on the page that will continue throughout the rest of the year to explain the increase, how the ARPA money is used, and the billing portion will show the increase to include a notation showing the reduction as a result of the use of ARPA dollars. This information is being shared this week on social media platforms.

Mr. Gioielli said regarding the greyhound statues, he has been in contact with Mr. Carter who is interested in the concepts/ideas that are being recommended for their use, before he makes any decisions. He is interested in making sure they are not forgotten, maintained, and protected. Mr. Carter has suggested a sit-down meeting to hear the

proposals. Mr. Gioielli suggested he could work directly with the Longwood Historic Society and will coordinate that.

Mr. Gioielli said staff is aware of the vandalism that took place at Candyland Park and has a meeting with a camera installer on Wednesday to get pricing. He said a police report was created, an investigation is ongoing, and area patrols have been set up. He did note this is not something new, it has been dealt with in the past, and not accepted or liked. It has been a few years since it has been this bad and it's disappointing especially with all the upgrades that have been done. He also stated the Leisure Services staff has spent the day painting and cleaning it up.

14. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT.

Mr. Langley wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

15. CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Ms. Longo reminded the Commission that the City offices will be closed Thursday, December 23 and Friday, December 24 this week, and Thursday, December 30, and Friday, December 31 of next week, for the Christmas and New Year's Holidays. The offices will also be closed on January 3 the Commission-approved extra city holiday. She said the regular January 3 meeting was canceled and the next regular meeting will be on January 17, 2022. She said the Clerk's office has begun the work for the 42nd Annual JOY "Juvenile of the Year" Awards. The award presentation will be at the February 7, 2022, Commission Meeting, and the eleven (11) schools serving Longwood have been sent their invitation and nomination form. It is planned to be in person this year, unlike last year where the students and their families attend via Zoom. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy New Year full of health, wealth, and happiness.

16. ADJOURN. Deputy Mayor Boni adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Minutes approved by City Commission: 01-17-2022

Brian D. Sackett, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michelle Longo, CMC, FCRM
City Clerk