

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

MINUTES
January 15, 2024
6:00 P.M.

Present: **Mayor Tony Boni**
 Deputy Mayor Matt Morgan
 Commissioner Abby Shoemaker
 Commissioner Matthew McMillan
 Commissioner Brian D. Sackett
 Dan Langle, City Attorney
 Clint Gioielli, City Manager
 Michelle Longo, City Clerk
 David Dowda, Police Chief
 Chris Kintner, Community Development Director
 Shad Smith, Public Works Director

- 1. CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Boni called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
- 2. OPENING INVOCATION.** There was no volunteer invocation speaker present at the meeting, therefore a moment of silent meditation was observed.
- 3. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Deputy Mayor Morgan led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Ms. Longo read the following announcements.
 - A. The Senior Matinee will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Longwood Community Building, 200 West Warren Avenue. This month's feature is *The Retirement Plan*.**
 - B. Longwood Movie in the Park will be held on Friday, January 19, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Reiter Park, 311 West Warren Avenue. This is a free event and the movie will be *Minions, the Rise of Gru*.**

- C. **The Mid-Florida Mustang Club's 37th Annual Mustang and Ford Roundup will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Historic District of Longwood.**

5. PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS

- A. **Proclaiming January 20, 2024, as Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Day in the City of Longwood.**

Deputy Mayor Morgan read the Proclamation and then presented it to Ms. Jan Edwards, Founder & President, Paving the Way Foundation. Photographs were then taken.

- B. **Recognition of the 2023 sponsors for the Annual Celebrate the Season and Breakfast with Santa events.**

Mr. Capizzi and Mrs. Judi Coad, Parks and Recreation Board Member, recognized the business sponsors of the 2023 Annual Celebrate the Season and Breakfast with Santa events and presented them with a certificate. Photographs were then taken.

- C. **Recognition of the 2023 Longwood Christmas Parade winners.**

Mr. Capizzi and Mrs. Judi Coad, Parks and Recreation Board Member, recognized the winners of the Longwood Christmas Parade and presented them with an award. Photographs were then taken.

- D. **District #3 Presentation of the Business Person of the Month Award for January 2024 to Nas Rajabi, Owner of Shiraz Market, 188 South U.S. Highway 17-92, Longwood.**

Commissioner McMillan read a brief biography on Mr. Nas Rajabi and will be presenting him with his Business Person of the Month Award for January at his place of business.

- E. **Presentation of the Beautification Award to Plaza Del Sol, 1155 West State Road 434, Longwood.**

Commissioner McMillan presented Sunil Khiyani, plaza owner with the Beautification Award Certificate and photographs were then taken.

- F. **Presentation of the recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Good Citizenship Award to Sergio Urena.**

Mayor Boni read a Proclamation recognizing Sergio Urea and presented him with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Good Citizenship Award. Photographs were then taken.

G. Presentation of the recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Good Citizenship Award to Johnnie Richardson Sr.

Deputy Mayor Morgan read a Proclamation recognizing Johnnie Richardson Sr. and presented him with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Good Citizenship Award. Photographs were then taken.

H. Presentation of the recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Good Citizenship Award to Jason Byrne.

Commissioner Sackett read a Proclamation recognizing Jason Byrne and presented him with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Good Citizenship Award. Photographs were then taken.

6. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

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

Mayor Boni nominated Erin Keefe for appointment to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Nomination carried by a unanimous voice vote.

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

Commissioner McMillan nominated Larissa Morgan for reappointment to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Nomination carried by a unanimous voice vote.

7. PUBLIC INPUT

A. Public Participation.

Damone Downs, 1362 Dunhill Drive, Longwood. He is a member of the Home Owners Association Board for the Coventry Westlake Manor Homeowners Association (HOA) and addressed Ordinance 23-2247, which removed the requirement for HOA Architectural Review form be submitted to issue a building permit. He asked the following questions of the Commission. With the removal of Ordinance 01-1598, has the City seen any significant cost savings? Have those resources been reallocated? Is the City serving its citizens? He said if a homeowner puts on a \$10,000 roof with shingles that the HOA did not approve, they have

to pursue that homeowner, and fees will increase. He asked if the City had seen average approvals per month, which was such a constraint that brought about the ordinance.

Pat Rance, 1366 Dunhill Drive, Longwood. He is a member of the Home Owners Association Board for the Coventry Westlake Manor and works as an engineer for Delta Fire Sprinklers. He noted that he was intimately aware of the permitting process. He felt that eliminating the one form that required the homeowner to submit as part of the permitting process was a small step and took little time to keep within the recommendations. He asked to return the form to the required documents for the City. He added that if it costs the City an excess amount of time to process that form, he suggested the City add a small fee like \$5.00 for specific neighborhoods with deed-restricted requirements. He was only aware of three (3) or four (4) neighborhoods that are deed-restricted communities, and Coventry is one of them. He volunteered to help the City streamline the permitting process since he is involved with permitting all over the State for his job.

8. MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Districts #1. Commissioner Shoemaker wished everyone a Happy New Year, and congratulated those who received awards that evening. She expressed gratitude for the talent, love, and service of the great community of volunteers.

District #2. Mayor Boni wished everyone a Happy New Year and responded to comments made during Public Participation. He stated that the City put that ordinance in place for many reasons:

- The City of Longwood was the only City with this permitting process in place, which put it in the middle between the HOA and the residents.
- The HOA holding up the permit process is putting the City at liability.
- Some HOAs do not follow the rules, and the resident's perception is that the City is not approving the permit. In reality, some HOAs were not giving the form to allow the City to approve the permit, further demonstrating the need for change.

Mayor Boni explained that the change does not impact the HOA authority given to them by the State of Florida. They still have the enforcing powers, but the City cannot be that middle person saying no to a permit because the HOA needs to provide a form.

Deputy Mayor Morgan asked if any other City had this particular permitting process.

Mr. Gioielli responded that according to staff research, this is the only City with this permitting process in place. He noted that the City has twenty-one (21) registered HOAs. He said that sometimes a permit was not even a denial but a lack of response from the HOA. In addition, some HOAs claimed to be HOAs, and some expired with the State. He stated that these issues do not reflect upon the Coventry HOA or the majority of the HOAs in the City. The HOAs and the City share the same interest in keeping the City and its neighborhoods beautiful.

Mayor Boni stated it was his mission to create some form of a senior activity center in Longwood. His foundation partnered with Mercy Road and Senior Resource Alliance, and they put together 100 cold weather kits, including donated items like a space heater, jacket, blanket, and gloves. The line started at 1:30 p.m. for the four o'clock event. They ran out of kits by 4:30 p.m. with the arrival of 175 seniors. Names and phone numbers were taken down in hopes of building more kits for those who did not receive one. Regarding the Rotary Club of Longwood, he was proud to have Johnnie Richardson Sr., recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Good Citizenship Award, as a member of the civic organization. He noted that the new Rotary Club of Longwood currently has thirty-one (31) members, and they plan to work with Longwood Elementary School in 2024. They will implement a Rotary Reading Rodeo Program at the school by giving books about horses to first graders, reading with them, and bringing them on a field trip to meet a horse for the first time for most of them. He commented that many of the commissioners and people in the audience are members of the Rotary Club of Longwood and are impacting the community.

District #3. Commissioner McMillan wished everyone a Happy New Year and agreed with Mayor Boni's comments regarding the HOA issue. He mentioned he has a HOA in his neighborhood, which took five (5) years to be reinstated after a partial lapse, and it was a complicated procedure. Historically, HOAs were put together by builders and then handed over to the neighborhood. Some HOAs are not the greatest in shape or organization, but the City has no control. He said that is no reflection upon the Coventry HOA, which is well-run.

Commissioner McMillan said he got a text alert in December stating his water meter at his home had been running twenty-four (24) hours, so that system works. When he got home, he checked and found a hose running due to having his house pressure washed. He encouraged everyone to sign up for those alerts with the City's utilities. He

commented that on Christmas night, he noticed water flowing out of a homeowner's garage and flooding the front yard. The homeowner was not there, but he contacted them later, and the City was able to come out that night to turn off the water. He mentioned that the traffic lights at Rangeline Road and Longwood Hills Road were not functioning properly. He explained what he encountered at the light and mentioned that he had noticed this situation a couple of times since he lived in that area.

Commissioner McMillan spoke about the upcoming legislative session and a couple of bills, including the sovereign immunity issue, that are proposed. These bills, if passed, would go on the November ballot, which would mean an increase for homestead exemption. He explained that this issue is of particular interest when the City makes economic development decisions regarding commercial and industrial projects. Another bill version would adjust homestead exemptions based on the consumer price index (CPI), which would change exemptions every year.

Commissioner McMillan reported on the true, good, and beautiful. For the "true," he referred to inflation and mentioned CPI, which had improved the past couple of years but went up in December from 3.1 to 3.4. The federal government's goal is to get it down to two (2). For the "good," he quoted Martin Luther King Jr. in observance of his birthday, "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education." For the "beautiful," he saw the SpaceX Falcon Heavy launch in the night sky like fireworks on December 29.

District #4. Deputy Mayor Morgan mentioned he sits on sixteen (16) different advisory boards or committees and would focus his report on Longwood. He thanked Police Lieutenant Bradley Tollas for his twenty (20) years of service to the community. He mentioned that the Red Sand Project was scheduled for January 20 at 10:00 a.m. at the Seminole County Sheriff's Office, 100 Eslinger Way, Sanford. The event was to raise awareness of human trafficking. He thanked Mr. Gioielli for taking care of a situation on a holiday involving a resident who had had multiple complaints about wanting a speed trap and street sign repairs.

Deputy Mayor Morgan dressed as 7-foot Santa and visited staff at different departments, thanking them for their service to the community on December 22. He reported meeting with Seminole County Commissioners Bob Dallari and Lee Constantine about Longwood's infrastructure, particularly the intersection of State Road 434 and Ronald Reagan Boulevard. He stated that high traffic in that area slowed down people getting to work and taking kids to school. He thanked

Commissioners Dallari and Constantine for their work on an upcoming project to alleviate the traffic on roads belonging to the state and county, not the City. He will provide more details as the project comes to fruition. In partnership with the Longwood Elementary School Vice Principal Amy Sink, Deputy Mayor Morgan announced that there was a major project to get a shade structure for the school playground. He attended a school board meeting and told them about a renowned playground maker in Longwood. The business is called PlayNation Orlando, and they were willing to do the project for half the price. After discussions with school officials, he got PlayNation approved for the job. He reported that Longwood Elementary will also hold a Fun Run in February to raise money for the shade.

Deputy Mayor Morgan attended a Heroes Strong Board meeting on January 10 and commended President David Rubin for creating a museum for all the heroes who have served the community. Items included a police officer's or veteran's uniform on display, and he thanked Johnnie Richardson Sr. for donating his colonel's uniform. He is a Sertoma Club member and helped fill sixty-four (64) bags for their golf fundraiser. He attended the Food Truck Battle, Concert in the Park, and Car Show held in downtown Longwood.

District #5. Commissioner Sackett mentioned he has a PlayNation playground and was glad something would be done for the children at Longwood Elementary School. He attended a Council of Local Governments in Seminole County (CALNO) in Altamonte Springs. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will present an upcoming presentation on artificial intelligence (AI) and street lights. He felt Longwood should be able to AI all of their street lights and will keep everyone posted. He attended the Food Truck Battle and Concert in the Park. He thought the food trucks were still too expensive, especially for families, quoting the price for loaded fries as \$17 and a small cup of coffee as \$6. He reiterated the idea of a \$5 menu for kids and wanted food trucks to be family-friendly at local events.

Commissioner Sackett commented that this is the last week to sign up for Longwood Babe Ruth Baseball, and skill assessments will start soon. He had asked about Code Enforcement and reported thirty-six (36) properties in the City with 1.3 million dollars in liens. He requested an update on whether these property owners are making any progress or just sitting on the property waiting for it to sell. He thought the money from the liens could be used for many projects in the City, such as a pool for Lyman High School. He planned to go to Minnesota in June but will fly back for commission meetings.

Mayor Boni stated he would be out of town on February 5 and unable to attend the commission meeting. He submitted a request to the city clerk.

9. ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA.

Commissioner Shoemaker requested that Item 10D be pulled for a separate discussion.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve the Minutes of the December 4, 2023, and December 18, 2023, Regular Meeting.**
- B. Approve the Monthly Expenditures for December 2023.**
- C. Approve the Monthly Financial Report for November 2023.**
- D. Approve a purchase order in the amount of \$99,785.05 to Wright-Pierce, Inc. to provide professional engineering services in support of the Landings and Coventry Water Service Line Replacement Project and authorize the City Manager to execute any associated documents.**

Commissioner Shoemaker moved to approve Items 10A through 10C as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Sackett and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Discussion ensued on Item 10D. Mr. Smith presented the Item and explained the two subdivisions have older water connections and need constant repairs.

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

11. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. City Commission to hear a public request for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP 02-23) at 141 East Pine Avenue for an Accessory Dwelling Unit.**

Mr. Langley stated this was a quasi-judicial matter, and anyone wishing to speak on behalf or in opposition to this Conditional Use Permit (CUP 02-23) was requested to stand and be sworn in. He then swore in those wishing to speak.

Mr. Kintner presented the Item, and noted that staff is comfortable with the accessory structure being on the property and adding a kitchen. He then answered questions.

Brett Hiltbrand, 3711 Trails End, Longwood, 32779. He noted their intent is as Mr. Kintner has presented. He also stated they were at a meeting when the Commission passed the Tiny Home Ordinance. He explained their biggest problem has been to find properties large enough to do it within the City. His company is Cornerstone Tiny Homes.

Mayor Boni opened the public hearing. No one spoke in favor or opposition to the Conditional Use Permit.

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

Commissioner Sackett moved to approve the Conditional Use Permit as presented Item 11A. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Morgan and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

12. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Read by title only and adopt Resolution No. 23-1650, which amends the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget and authorizes funding for the purchase of a Bypass Portable Pump.

Mr. Langley read Resolution No. 23-1650 by title only.

Mr. Smith presented the Item.

Deputy Mayor Morgan moved to adopt Resolution No. 23-1650 as presented Item 12A. Seconded by Commissioner Sackett and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

B. Approve a purchase order in the amount of \$49,048.94 to Hydra Service, Inc. for the purchase of a Bypass Portable Pump.

Mr. Smith presented the Item.

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

- C. Read by title only and adopt Resolution No. 24-1654, which amends the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget and authorizes funding for the East Longwood Phase 2 Septic Tank Abatement Project ITB #23-PW-ITB-008.**

Mr. Langley read Resolution No. 24-1654 by title only.

Mr. Smith presented the Item.

Deputy Mayor Morgan moved to adopt Resolution No. 24-1654 as presented Item 12C. Seconded by Commissioner Sackett and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

- D. Read by title only and adopt Resolution No. 24-1655, authorizing to execute three (3) Local Agency Program Agreements between the State of Florida Department of Transportation and the City of Longwood concerning the Longwood South Pedestrian Corridor Sidewalk Project.**

Mr. Langley read Resolution No. 24-1655 by title only.

Mr. Smith presented the Item and Mr. Gioielli passed out a map for the commissioner's reference.

Commissioner Sackett asked when the project was anticipated to be completed.

Mr. Smith replied by October.

Deputy Mayor Morgan moved to adopt Resolution No. 24-1655 as presented Item 12D. Seconded by Commissioner Shoemaker and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

- E. Approve a cure plan for 126 North Ronald Reagan Boulevard for Taco Bell.**

Mr. Kintner presented the Item.

Deputy Mayor Morgan moved to approve Item 12E as presented. Seconded by Commissioner McMillan and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

- F. Approve a Memorandum of Understanding Agreement between Seminole County and the City of Longwood regarding the Skylark Subdivision Drainage System Rehabilitation at 800 and 804**

Raven Avenue and approval of a purchase order to Pegasus Engineering in the amount of \$99,000.

Mr. Smith presented the Item.

Deputy Mayor Morgan moved to approve Item 12F as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Shoemaker and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

13. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Gioielli reported the new fire station was undergoing a peer review phase which is a requirement of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Staff plans to submit a Grant application to FEMA, in hopes to get a grant of over a million dollars. He stated there has been specialized training for all of the firefighters and equipment installation is being finalized for the new Fire Department ladder truck. He anticipates the vehicle to go into service next month, and there will be a ceremony involving firefighters and commissioners. He reported the fence at the City cemetery that was knocked down due to a car crash has been repaired. Mr. Gioielli commented Ms. Rosado was prepping for the audit which starts the first week in February.

14. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT. No report.

15. CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Ms. Longo reported the 44th Annual JOY "Juvenile of the Year" Awards will be presented at the next meeting on February 5, 2024. There will be a Tri-County League of Cities Meeting held in Orlando on Thursday and they will be swearing in the new officers for 2024.

16. ADJOURN. Mayor Boni adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Minutes approved by City Commission: 02-05-2024.

Tony Boni, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michelle Longo, MMC, FCRM
City Clerk

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