

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

MINUTES
May 6, 2024
6:00 P.M.

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

- 1. CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Boni called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- 2. OPENING INVOCATION.** Father Daniel Hickman with St. Stephen's Orthodox Christian Church gave the invocation.
- 3. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
 - A. Election of Mayor.**

Mayor Boni turned the meeting over to the City Attorney to conduct the Election of the Mayor.

Mr. Langley stated the election of the Mayor occurs at the first meeting in May of every year and is elected amongst the Members of the Commission. He opened the floor for nominations.

Mayor Boni nominated Commissioner McMillan as Mayor.

Deputy Mayor Morgan seconded the nomination.

Commissioner McMillan stated he accepted the nomination.

Mr. Langley closed the floor for nominations.

Nomination carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

4. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS. Ms. Longo read the following announcements.

- A. The City of Longwood will host a “Mother & Son” Dance on Thursday, May 9, 2024, from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Longwood Community Building. Tickets have sold out for this dance.**
- B. The “Downtown Longwood Cruise-In” Car Show will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in the Historic District of Longwood.**

5. PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS

- A. District #5 Presentation of the Business Person of the Month Award for May 2024 to Dennis Stelling, Von Stelling, Inc., located at 710 Breezeway Loop, #212, Lake Mary.**

Commissioner Sackett read a brief biography on Mr. Dennis Stelling, the owner, then presented him with the Business Person of the Month Award for May 2024. Photographs were then taken.

- B. Proclaiming May 10, 2024, as Provider Appreciation Day.**

Commissioner Sackett read the Proclamation and then presented it to Jeannette Friend, owner of Friends Preschool Academy. Photographs were then taken.

6. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

- A. City Commission nomination of a resident to the Board of Trustees for the City of Longwood Police Officers’ and Firefighters’ Pension Trust Fund.**

Nomination was unanimously deferred to the next meeting.

7. PUBLIC INPUT

- A. Public Participation.**

Jeffrey Sellers, submitted a request to speak but was not present at the meeting.

James Howard, 1065 Ridge Street, Winter Springs. He spoke about his concern with vagrants and drug paraphilia at a vacant lot behind 5th Third Bank. He did commend the Police Department for their follow-up after a previous concern he had made. He was asking for the City’s help

to get the property owner of the vacant lot to maintain it. He also voiced concerns from his neighbors, who are long-time residents considering selling their property because they do not feel safe. He feels the property owner should be made to maintain the property to help address vagrants in that area and keep the property clean.

The following individuals spoke about the City's plan to install sidewalks on West Magnolia Avenue, West Palmetto Avenue, and the surrounding area.

Mark Schneider, 264 West Magnolia Avenue, Longwood.

David Wolfrum, 263 West Palmetto Avenue, Longwood.

Terri Mullen, 243 West Palmetto Avenue, Longwood.

Mark Vipperman, 233 West Palmetto Avenue, Longwood.

Forrest Willard, 450 North Milwee Street, Longwood.

The topics addressed were the residents' opposition to the sidewalks, the need for revisions to the plan to ensure safe parking along West Magnolia Avenue, the lack of communication with the residents before the construction, the decision to not install sidewalks on West Palmetto, which is a dead-end street, the availability of the park for walking, the residents' preference for the seclusion of their dead-end street, the lack of prior information about the sidewalk installation plan, the potential water concerns if sidewalks are installed, and the absence of resident input in the decision-making process.

8. MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

District #3. Mayor McMillan thanked the Commission for the Mayor's selection. He would like to have two proclamations for the next meeting: one for American Craft Beer Week, which is May 16 through May 22, and one combining May 20, Florida Emancipation Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, and May 18, 1876, when the Post Office was founded in Longwood. He was looking to craft a resolution that would combine all of them and would be working with community partners on this. On April 17, he attended the Push-In Ceremony for the Ladder Truck at station 15. He would like to designate some of his city funds to purchase a commemorative patch to remember that event. He mentioned he designated some of his city funds to support Fire Staff to participate in the Ali's Hope Charity Golf Classic fundraiser, which supports young adults with mental health concerns. On April 20, he attended the Rescue Outreach Mission's "Rescue on the River" event and then the Employee Event on May 3. On April 27, the Walk for Autism & Inclusion was held at Reiter Park, and he participated in the walk. On May 4 was the Longwood Lua, and he commented that it was a fun event.

Mayor McMillan reported on the true, good, and beautiful. For the "true," he mentioned inflation and that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for March 2024 is at 3.4%. He commented on the current price of convenience items, the increase in food costs, and the need to be mindful as they work on the budget. For the "good," he mentioned tradition and the radio dispatch announcement of the changeover for the Ladder Truck across the county. For the "beautiful," he mentioned springtime flowers and has seen many beautiful arrangements for sale. He also reminded everyone that Sunday was Mother's Day.

District #4. Deputy Mayor Morgan congratulated Mayor McMillan and commended Commissioner Boni for his service the past year as Mayor. He asked the City Manager why residents were not informed about the sidewalks being installed.

Mr. Gioielli responded that the sidewalks are part of the projects to improve the bicycling and pedestrian safety in the community and are included in the master planning, which was initiated publicly at a City Commission Meeting and is updated every year. He stated it has also been included in the five (5) year plan in the budget presented to the City Commission at a workshop, a public meeting open to the public. He noted that the city tries to be transparent by including the Commission Meetings online, and agendas are presented in advance on the website and can be accessed through the website app. He explained that the reason for the bicycle and pedestrian master plan, in part, is curbing, and sidewalks help direct water away from residents' yards and to the stormwater system and help alleviate flooding. The sidewalks for West Palmetto Avenue, which is a dead-end, may allow further discussion and communication. He said there was a chance to make changes, but at the same time, he had to be sure all the sidewalks were tied into each other for ADA compliance. He stated he would discuss with the engineers to have specific conversations about the areas and concerns brought, specifically noting West Palmetto Avenue. He suggested getting together for a group meeting and would get the phone numbers from the City Clerk. He also explained there was no assessment and the money to be used comes from the One Penny Sales Tax. He explained how this process differs from an assessment of a neighborhood.

Deputy Mayor Morgan attended the April 17 Push-In Ceremony for the Ladder Truck at station 15. He explained the importance of public safety and two (2) fire stations in Longwood. On April 18, he attended a Seminole County Veterans Luncheon. On April 19, he met with Ms. Colleen Doering at the Longwood Babe Ruth fields at Candyland Sports Complex and brought up some areas of improvement. He thanked Mr. Capizzi for providing updates on the items currently being addressed. He

thanked Nan & Pops Ice Cream for hosting a Heroes Strong fundraiser for Jose and his American Flag paintings. On April 21, he met with a resident, Madison Homes, regarding his concern about rumored townhomes getting built in his neighborhood. Deputy Mayor Morgan confirmed that was not the case. He thanked Matt Austin with Fox 35 for having him on his Podcast to promote the Walk for Autism and Inclusion. On April 23, he was a keynote speaker at an event for Recovery Connections of Central Florida held at the Longwood Community Building. He had a meeting at Reiter Park regarding the setup for the Longwood Lua event and thanked Mr. Chris Capizzi and Mr. Ryan Rinaldo for helping with the event. He thanked Zac with Fox 35 for the interview regarding the Walk for Autism and Inclusion. On April 25, the Pearls of Seminole event was held at the Longwood Community Building, and he thanked Nance Acevedo for coordinating. On April 26, he attended the 5th Annual Passover Seder at Congregation Rebirth Synagogue, 1470 Myrtle Lake Hills Road. On April 27, he organized and participated in the 2nd Annual Walk for Autism and Inclusion at Reiter Park. He attended the Boys and Girls Club of Central Florida's "Blue & White Be Great Gala" fundraiser. He attended the N.O.W. Matters More Golf Tournament. On May 3, he thanked the city employees for organizing the casino night for city employees. On May 4, he attended the Longwood Luau and thanked his wife, Larissa, for organizing the event. He also noted that she serves as the Longwood Parks and Recreation Advisory Board chair.

District #5. Commissioner Sackett noted that the city was required to have two (2) fire stations because of the railroad tracks. He enjoyed the April 17 Push-In Ceremony for the Ladder Truck at station 15. He wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day, which was coming up that weekend. He wished everyone a happy graduation. He congratulated the Longwood COBRA Baseball team, who took second place in their championship game held in Orlando. He thanked the Morgans and sponsors for the Walk for Autism and Inclusion and Longwood Luau events. He mentioned that the food at the Luau was more affordable. He attended the Council of Local Governments in Seminole County (CALNO) meeting in Oviedo. At the meeting, the City of Oviedo gave a presentation on its master plan for redevelopment. He reported that Seminole County would like to discuss at a CALNO meeting regarding best practices in code enforcement. The next CALNO meeting will be held in Longwood in August, and he confirmed with the city manager that the fire department will be ready with their presentation. He reviewed what was discussed at the MetroPlan meeting, including the presentation from FDOT on their road construction projects, daily ridership of Lynx, Florida Turnpike proposed improvements for lane expansion from four (4) to six (6) from St. Lucie County to Yeehaw Junction, MetroPlans budget was presented and approved by the committee, crash, and fatality data for distracted drivers

were also discussed. A 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan with its goals and objectives was presented, and he needed the assistance of the city manager to complete a survey.

Commissioner Sackett addressed the fields for Longwood Babe Ruth (LBR), particularly the TBall field, for the upcoming Spring season. He also wanted the TBall field dressed up for the LBR Closing Ceremonies and the signs looking better. He had a list of thirty-five (35) items to address at Candyland Sports Complex and asked to meet with the City Manager and Mr. Capizzi to review it.

Commissioner Sackett was disappointed to see graffiti at the Arbor Park Dog Park over the past weekend. He mentioned one item that was tagged as the sewer pipe, which had names of dogs painted on it nine (9) years ago when it was first put in, and some of the dogs have since passed away. He hoped they could find who was responsible and have them come back to clean it up. He also mentioned that the State Legislator in 2022 – 2023 amended the law and now allows a city to create an ordinance restricting smoking and vaping within its boundaries in city parks. He would like to have an ordinance as soon as possible since the smoking and vaping in Candyland Sports Complex is getting out of hand.

Mr. Gioielli responded that an ordinance would be drafted with the assistance of the City Attorney and brought back to the City Commission.

District #1. Commissioner Shoemaker recognized the City Clerk and the 55th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week, May 5 through May 11, 2024. She reported that Mark Schneider, who spoke during public participation, had reached out to her, and she directed his concern to the City Manager. She thanked the City Manager for following up and working with all the residents on their concerns. She stressed that it was important for residents to reach out and contact the Commissioners; if they are not aware there is a concern, they can't address it.

Commissioner Shoemaker attended the April 17 Push-In Ceremony for the Ladder Truck at station 15. On April 20, she attended the Rescue Outreach Mission's "Rescue on the River" event, noting the boat's name is the Barbara-Lee. She attended the Walk for Autism and Inclusion and the Longwood Luau and thanked the Morgans for organizing both events. She mentioned she heard some complaints about the price of food at the Luau and was unsure where the more reasonably priced food was located. She did not get any contact information from those who made the comments. She attended the employee event, which was well organized, and she thanked those involved in putting it together.

District #2. Commissioner Boni congratulated Mayor McMillan, noting that he will do a good job. He thanked his fellow Commissioners, the City Manager, especially the City Clerk, and the entire staff for making his last year serving as Mayor enjoyable and a great experience.

Commissioner Boni reported on the Senior Center for Longwood, which he has worked on for the past ten (10) months. He stated he was committed to making this happen and bringing a senior recreation center to Longwood. He has been working with Northland Church and Mercy Road. He thanked Deputy Mayor Morgan for the follow-up on the sidewalks, and he agreed that the residents need to be more involved and attend or watch the meetings. He thanked the residents who participated in the meeting to voice their concerns. He provided his contact information, which is on the city website. He addressed the vacant lot discussed during public participation. If it is private and not being maintained, code enforcement should be able to do something. He thanked the Morgans for organizing the Walk for Autism and Inclusion and the Longwood Luau events. He commended the staff for the employee casino night. He attended the April 17 Push-In Ceremony for the Ladder Truck at station 15 and never knew the history surrounding the event. On May 25, starting at 4:00 p.m., the Longwood Historic Society will have its charity poker tournament for the new roof on the Historic Inside-Outside House. The event will be held at the Longwood Community Building.

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

10. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve the Minutes of the April 15, 2024, Regular Meeting.

B. Approve the Monthly Expenditures for March 2024.

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

11. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Read by title only and adopt Ordinance No. 24-2250, which creates a new Article VIII of Chapter 82, taxation of the City Code, authorizing the Inclusion of Twin Lakes Properties for the purpose of a Municipal Service Benefit Unit (MSBU) to fund Lake Management of Twin Lake.

Mr. Langley read Ordinance No. 24-2250 by title only.

Mr. Gioielli noted there was no new information, but staff was available to answer questions from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Sackett asked what the cost would be to the property owner and would have liked to see this information incorporated into the agenda memo.

Mr Gioielli responded that Seminole County indicated that each property owner's assessment would be around \$279 per year.

Mayor McMillan opened the public hearing. No one spoke in favor or opposition to Ordinance No. 24-2250.

Commissioner Shoemaker moved to close the public hearing. Seconded by Commissioner Boni and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Commissioner Boni moved to approve Ordinance No. 24-2250 as presented Item 11A. Seconded by Commissioner Shoemaker and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

12. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. City Commission to consider a lien reduction request made at the April 1, 2024 City Commission meeting from the property owner at 1040 Alameda Drive.

Mr. Gioielli presented the item and outlined the history of the Code Enforcement process. He noted that the lien total amount was \$83,636.69, which includes an administrative fee of \$236.69. Staff had discussed the 15% lien reduction amount allowed by policy. The property owner indicated that they could not afford it and requested a further reduction to something in the \$2,000 to \$3,000 range.

Jose Ramirez, the property owner, addressed the Commission and stated he had not received any notices since the first one, which was in 2017. His neighbor, Johanna Delgado, 1051 Alameda Drive, attended to translate for him.

Mr. Gioielli addressed the issue of the notices and explained the process. He also stated that notices had been sent by regular mail, certified mail, and physically posted on the property's garage door. The notices included the initial notice, notice that the violation was not corrected, notice when the violation went to the

Special Magistrate, notice of the code hearing, the results of the Special Magistrate, warning that the fines would begin if the violation was not addressed, and to advise the lien process would start as a result of failure to correct the issue and pay the fines. He also noted that the certified mail was returned to the city marked "refused," indicating that the property owner refused to accept the mail.

Discussion ensued about the multiple notices, the time frame of the violation, the impact on neighbors, certified mail getting returned and refused, discounting the lien, and whether to take any action on the request.

Mayor McMillan stated he feels the current policy for a lien reduction and allowing for a payment plan is fair in this circumstance and was inclined to take no action as a commission on the request.

No action was taken on the request to consider a lien reduction.

B. City Commission to approve an amendment to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Grant and Agreement Award regarding the Skylark Subdivision Drainage System Rehabilitation at 800 and 804 Raven Avenue and authorize the City Manager to execute associated documents.

Mr. Smith presented the Item.

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

13. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Gioielli reported that staff will work on the no-smoking ordinance and bring it back for the commission consideration at the next meeting. He advised that there will be road paving in the subdivisions of Devonshire and Tiberon. There will also be road paving on Highland Street from Orange Avenue to Longdale Road and Industry Road from Longdale to the end of the cul-de-sac. The priority of the paving is based on the three (3) year road quality study, and the worst roads are being repaired in the order of worse to better. He reminded the Commission of the Longwood Babe Ruth closing ceremony at 9:00 a.m. at Candyland Sports Complex next Saturday. He reported that staff has started working to finalize budget preparations, and meetings with the City

Manager and Finance Director are taking place. He congratulated Mayor McMillan and thanked Commissioner Boni.

14. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT. No report.

15. CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Ms. Longo reported that the Tri-County League of Cities will be offering the mandatory annual training for elected officials on May 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Casselberry Recreation Center. There will not be the normal meeting just the ethics training. She stated she was looking to schedule a ribbon cutting for Chipotle and provided two options, either Wednesday May 15 or May 22 and asked the Commission which would work best.

It was the consensus of the Commission to schedule the ribbon cutting for 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 22.

Ms. Longo presented a program to honor veteran graves at Christmas from an organization called "Wreaths Across America" and asked if the Commission was okay if she reached out to gather additional information. She explained that initially, she thought there was a cost to the City, but it was brought to her attention again, and the good news was that the volunteer coordinator does the fundraising for the cost of the wreath. The City needs to agree to have its cemetery participate and help identify veteran graves. There was also an option to do a small ceremony with eight (8) wreaths. If there were no opposition, she would follow up with the organization. She also mentioned that if the Commission knew of anyone who might be interested in being the volunteer coordinator, to let her know. She was not certain if that person could be an employee.

There was no opposition from the Commission.

Ms. Longo thanked Commissioner Shoemaker for recognizing the week of May 5 through May 11, 2024, as the 55th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week. She also took a moment to acknowledge Records Coordinator Nerys Hernandez for all her hard work and dedication to the Clerk's office and the City of Longwood. She thanked the Commissioners for their continued support, noting that she and Ms. Hernandez appreciated it.

Ms. Longo congratulated the new Mayor, Matthew McMillan, and thanked Commissioner Boni for his service as Mayor.

16. ADJOURN. Mayor McMillan adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Minutes approved by City Commission: 05-20-2024.

Matthew McMillan, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michelle Longo, MMC, FCRM
City Clerk

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