

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

MINUTES
June 17, 2024
6:00 P.M.

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

Absent: **Commissioner Brian D. Sackett (excused)**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor McMillan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- 2. OPENING INVOCATION.** Rabbi Yanky Majesky with Chabad of North Orlando gave the invocation.
- 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, June 19, 2024, from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Longwood Community Building, 200 West Warren Avenue. The movie will be Champions.**
 - B. The City of Longwood will host a “Juneteenth” celebration on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., at the Longwood Community Building, 200 West Warren Avenue.**

- C. **The City of Longwood will host its Rock, Freedom, and Fireworks event on Saturday, June 29, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Reiter Park, 311 West Warren Avenue. There will be live music, food trucks, and a firework show which will begin around 9:00 p.m. Parking will be available in the parking lot of the Orlando Health South Seminole Hospital and at the Longwood SunRail Station. This is a free event.**
- D. **The “Downtown Longwood Cruise-In” Car Show will be held on Saturday, July 13, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in the Historic District of Longwood.**

5. PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS

- A. **District #1 Nomination of the Business Person of the Month Award for July.**

Commissioner Shoemaker nominated Debbie Helton, Owner, Ruby Gifts, 218 West Church Avenue, Longwood for Business Person of the Month for July 2024.

- B. **Nomination of the Beautification Award.**

Deputy Mayor Morgan nominated Drake Lawn & Pest Control, 795 West State Road 434 for the Beautification Award. Nomination carried by a unanimous voice vote with Commissioner Sackett absent.

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.**

Mayor McMillan nominated Justin Lerro for appointment to the Board of Trustees for the Police Officers’ and Firefighter’s Pension Trust Fund. Seconded by Commissioner Boni and carried by a unanimous roll call vote with Commissioner Sackett absent.

- B. **Public Participation.**

Ana Romero, 114 Dellwood Drive, Longwood. She had a complaint related to the upkeep of Longwood Memorial Gardens. She visited the cemetery on Father’s Day and in her opinion, it was unacceptable to see the grave sites of loved ones covered with grass.

Michael Rice, 122 Fairway Drive, Sanford. He spoke about his mother's home at 345 East Palmetto Avenue, Longwood. He addressed the construction in the area, issues involving speeding, and the installation of the traffic light at East Palmetto Avenue and Ronald Reagan Boulevard. He stated that the traffic light installation has created a highway from Ronald Reagan Boulevard to Grant Street. He has reached out to the Police Department regarding the speeding and feels that he needs the Commission to look into the issue of speeding in that area. He also addressed the dust in the area created because of the sewer conversion project and the road conditions, noting his mother cannot open her windows for fresh air. He feels the project has taken too long. He suggested paving the roads when an area is completed and not waiting until all areas are completed. He also commented that the sewer connection was to take place this week, and no one was doing anything today.

Mark Rice, 345 East Palmetto Avenue, Longwood. He stated that he is Michael's brother and spoke about the same situation on Palmetto Avenue. He also has contacted the Police Department numerous times and noted he spoke with Sergeant Gelm a couple of weeks ago. He was told the traffic unit was on duty but unavailable, and he felt it was unacceptable for the whole traffic unit to be doing something and not monitoring the traffic. He also explained his conversation with Sergeant Gelm and his dissatisfaction with the police department. He asked the Commission who voted to make East Palmetto the thoroughfare for Candyland Sports Complex Park. He wondered if this was because of the traffic light at the end of the street. He also addressed the sewer project, explaining how he contacted what he believed was Mr. Andrew Marsian's assistant, asking what the hold-up was. She told him that they were waiting for a DEP Permit. Mr. Rice felt that the permits were needed before the project started. He explained that a gentleman was walking around looking at the area last Tuesday and stated they would be starting today on Palmetto Avenue at the crossing of Oleander Street. He expressed his displeasure at being told something that had not happened. He would like to know what the two-month delay has been, what permit they were waiting to be issued, why no one was working today, and the gallons of water being pumped out of the fire hydrants to spray on the roads to keep the dust down. He feels a lot of water was being wasted on roads that should have been paved.

8. MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

District #1. Commissioner Shoemaker attended the Car Show on June 8 and the Flag Retirement on June 14.

District #2. Commissioner Boni asked the City Manager to address the questions during Public Participation. He welcomed the high school interns he and another colleague were working with. The names of those present at the meeting were Akalish, Ishaan, Anshul, and Avesh. He attended the Flag Retirement on June 14, the PBAS Breakfast that had a panel discussion on the Penny Sales tax, and he stopped by the VFW Car Show. He covered for Commissioner Sackett, attended the MetroPlan meeting, and reported that the intersection at State Road 434 and County Road 427 has been moved to the top of the priority list, and action is being taken.

District #3. Mayor McMillan expressed confidence that staff would address the issue of the grass at Longwood Memorial Gardens. He attended the Flag Retirement Ceremony event and expressed appreciation to the staff for their work on the event and the vendors who attended. He stopped by the passport event that Congressman Cory Mills held in Sanford at the Civic Center that week to get his passport renewed. He stopped by the American Muslim Community Clinic for their open house and had a tour.

Mayor McMillan reported on the true, good, and beautiful. For the "true," he spoke about the flag's history, which began on June 14, 1775, when the Continental Congress formed the United States Army. Washington was appointed Commander and Chief and needed a national banner. He said the flag has a function on the battlefield, and Washington felt the need for one. June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress, the legislative body, adopted one, which is why it is Flag Day. For the "good" he mentioned that a virtue of the flag is unity. He said Washington and the colonies had to establish that banner in the beginning as they went into Valley Forge in 1777 and 1778 to establish independence, then the Articles of Confederation, and later the Constitution. It requires people to be united to work on something, a virtue. For the "beautiful," he stated that the beauty that stems from that unity is the flag's design. It started with the thirteen colonies, the thirteen stars that have grown to fifty and have inspired art and images. At the Flag Retirement, the Star-Spangled Banner song was performed by Lorelai, with Hero's Strong, which he found beautiful.

District #4. Deputy Mayor Morgan reported that State Attorney General Ashley Moody invited him to be one of the guest speakers at a new venture called Revive Awareness Day. This event is to raise awareness of

the dangers of opioid overdose, and he thanked Representative Rachel Plakon and Senator Jason Brodeur for their support. He mentioned the American Muslim Community Clinic open house and encouraged those needing medical and dental care to see them. He was a keynote speaker for the Annual Hope Gala for the Recovery House Central Florida. He thanked the City Attorney for assisting him with his Form 6, which later was unnecessary, and he could have completed Form 1. He attended the Flag Retirement Ceremony and provided some suggestions to improve the event.

District #5. No report.

9. A. ADDITIONAL ITEMS RAISED DURING MAYOR'S AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mayor McMillan discussed the issues brought up during Public Participation regarding Palmetto Avenue. Staff will address the concerns expressed. He said the long-term solution related to the project on the turn lanes on Ronald Reagan Boulevard and State Road 434 is being funded by the Florida Department of Transportation, which should help alleviate traffic. He also mentioned that some delays are related to the new WOW Internet installation, which has broken several water mains and diverted staff's attention to address these issues.

Mr. Smith addressed the mowing at Longwood Memorial Gardens and said it would have started; however, there was chain saw training today. He said mowing would take place tomorrow. He said part of the mowing issues was related to rain, and there hadn't been any in a while, so they did not have to mow as often. He stated that staff would be out tomorrow and the rest of the week to address the cemetery.

Mr. Gioielli stated he would follow up with Ms. Romero that week. He also stated that Chief Dowda has spoken with Mr. Rice and will follow up on the other concerns.

Mr. Smith addressed the traffic light at Palmetto and said it was installed per a SunRail Safety Study done in 2014. He explained that the area was studied and they needed to change Georgia's access, and the process included putting a signal in Palmetto as a safety measure. He also provided an update on the project, stating that it is ahead of schedule; he received the DEP Clearance today. He said they cannot apply for the DEP Permits until the lines are in the ground. There is a pre-paving meeting scheduled

for that coming Friday. He said to address the complaints of the dust they have been watering and grading any potholes.

Mr. Gioielli stated he would contact Mr. Rice that week.

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

10. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve the Minutes of the June 3, 2024, Regular Meeting.

B. Approve the Monthly Expenditures for May 2024.

C. Approve Monthly Financial Report for April 2024.

D. Approve a purchase order in the amount of \$301,313.84 to Barnes, Ferland and Associates for professional engineering services per agreement RFQ #0825022, related to the West Longwood Phase III Septic Tank Abatement Project.

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

11. PUBLIC HEARINGS. None.

12. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Read by title only and adopt Resolution No. 24-1666, authorizing a budget amendment in the amount of \$49,426 to fund the purchase of artistic benches and planters for the Ronald Reagan Complete Street Project.

Mr. Langley read Resolution No. 24-1666 by title only.

Mr. Gioielli presented the Item.

Discussion was held on the benches, including how many there would be, where they would be placed, the design, and whether the look was fitting in the historic district.

Deputy Mayor Morgan moved to adopt Resolution No. 24-1666 as presented Item 12A. Seconded by Mayor McMillan and carried by a unanimous roll call vote with Commissioner Sackett absent.

13. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Gioielli reported that at the last meeting, Commissioner Sackett brought up some bushes on the right-of-way along West Warren Avenue from the Community Building down to Judy's Dolls. He stated they are working on making upgrades to that right-of-way. He reported that they were still in negotiations with the Fire Union. The budget work session was scheduled for July 10, and the proposed budget would be presented. At the rollout of the new ladder truck, he noted they saw that the Fire Department Command Vehicle was not fully equipped; it is complete and in service.

14. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT.

Mr. Langley reported that he and the City Clerk sent out information from the Commission on Ethics regarding the Form 6 requirement being overturned by the Federal Court on the basis that the legislation that enacted it violated the First Amendment. He noted this was a preliminary injunction, so the Commission on Ethics released a memorandum and updated its website instructing all the Form 6 filers under this legislation to file Form 1 by July 1. He stated if you have already filed Form 6, you are not required to also file Form 1. It was also confirmed that the due date to file the form was extended to July 15.

15. CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Ms. Longo reported that at their last meeting, the Commission updated the Rules & Procedures regarding the order of business for the agenda, specifically related to section 9, which deals with additions or deletions to the agenda. She asked for a consensus on a slight change and added a section name for #9 to state COMMISSION AND STAFF ADDITIONS OR CHANGES and list A & B as sub-sections. Sub-section "A" would be the new section called "Additional Items raised during Mayor's and Commissioners reports," and "B" would be "Any additions or deletions to the agenda." The reason for the request was a formatting issue with CivicClerk.

It was the consensus of the Commission to approve this change.

Ms. Longo reminded the Commission that the City Offices would be closed on Thursday, July 4. She also reminded them of the regular meeting schedule for July and the changes that had been made. The Monday, July 1, and July 15 meetings had been canceled, and they would have one regular meeting in July on Monday, July 22. There will also be an upcoming Budget Work Session on Wednesday, July 10, at 3:00 p.m.

Ms. Longo reported that the Florida League of Cities (FLC) had sent out an email regarding the 2024 FLC Annual Conference, which would be held

August 15 through 17 in Hollywood. She asked that they please let her know if they plan to attend so she could register them and confirm hotel arrangements. She asked that they let her know as soon as possible, as the hotel fills up quickly.

16. ADJOURN. Mayor McMillan adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Minutes approved by City Commission: 07-22-2024.

Matthew McMillan, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michelle Longo, MMC, FCRM
City Clerk