



# CITY OF WINTER GARDEN

## City Commission REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 25, 2024

**REGULAR MEETING** of the Winter Garden City Commission was called to order by Mayor Rees at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 300 West Plant Street, Winter Garden, Florida. An Opening Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were given.

**Present:**

Mayor John Rees  
Commissioner District 1 - Lisa L. Bennett  
Commissioner District 2 - Ron Mueller  
Commissioner District 3 - Mark A. Maciel  
Commissioner District 4 - Colin Sharman

**Also Present:**

City Manager Jon C. Williams  
City Attorney A. Kurt Ardaman  
City Clerk Angee Grimmage

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion by Commissioner Sharman to approve regular meeting minutes of January 11, 2024, as submitted. Seconded by Commissioner Bennett and carried unanimously 5-0.**

2. **PRESENTATION**

A. **Key to the City – West Orange High School Future Farmers of America’s National Food Science Competition Champion**

Mayor Rees and the City Commission presented four students from West Orange High School with the Key to the City. Sustainability Coordinator Donna Corbus shared how the students made history by winning a national award at the Future Farmers of America (FFA) National Convention and Expo held in Indianapolis, Indiana. They recently won the National Food Science Competition. This is the first national win from the FFA organization for West Orange High School and Orange County Public Schools. In recognition of this achievement, a Key to the City was presented to each student: Kaley Henderson, Sarah Lewis, Marissa Romeu, and Cate Solomon. Furthermore, a Key to the City was also presented to West Orange High School and was accepted by the Principal, Matthew Turner, who recognized the teachers and supporting staff also in attendance. Mr. Turner shared some of the other activities that the students are involved in and voiced that he is so proud of them.

3. **SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES**

A. **Ordinance 24-08:** AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE 23-25, THE CITY OF WINTER GARDEN FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 BUDGET TO CARRY FORWARD PRIOR YEAR APPROPRIATIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

City Attorney Kurt Ardaman read Ordinance 24-08 by title and an excerpt of revenues with identical expenditures. Finance Director Zielonka stated that this is the second

reading for the carry forward budget to carry forward the prior year appropriations that were not spent last fiscal year. She noted that Exhibit 1 provides the items that staff recommend be carried forward.

Mayor Rees opened the public hearing; hearing and seeing none, he closed the public hearing.

**Motion by Commissioner Mueller to adopt Ordinance 24-08. Seconded by Commissioners Sharman and carried unanimously 5-0.**

#### 4. **REGULAR BUSINESS**

- A. **Resolution 24-04:** A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA, IDENTIFYING AND OFFICIALLY DESIGNATING THE HISTORIC EAST WINTER GARDEN NEIGHBORHOOD; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

City Manager Jon C. Williams noted that staff requests moving Resolution 24-04 to the first meeting in February.

**Motion by Commissioner Mueller to POSTPONE resolution 24-04 until February 8, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Sharman and carried unanimously 5-0.**

- B. **Recommendation to approve City of South Daytona piggyback contract for sewer rehabilitation services with Atlantic Pipe Services, LLC**

Assistant City Manager for Public Services Stephen Pash stated that this is a request to use an agreement that the Atlantic Pipe Services, LLC has with the City of South Daytona Beach for a piggyback contract. He described that the company installs liners in sewer and storm lines. He noted that this method prevents the City from digging them up and makes it cheaper and faster. Staff recommended approval.

There was discussion that the first place this would be used is at the Valencia Shores sewer lines.

**Motion by Commissioner Sharman to approve City of South Daytona piggyback contract for sewer rehabilitation services with Atlantic Pipe Services, LLC. Seconded by Commissioner Mueller and carried unanimously 5-0.**

- C. **Recommendation to approve hiring Hudson Pump & Equipment for Wastewater Treatment plant effluent pump repair in the amount of \$79,875**

Assistant City Manager for Public Services Stephen Pash stated that this is a request to hire Hudson Pump & Equipment to rebuild the pump as well as the motor on one of the affluent pumps at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). He noted the use of the pumps throughout the City for irrigation purposes. Staff recommended approval.

**Motion by Commissioner Bennett to approve hiring Hudson Pump & Equipment for Wastewater Treatment plant effluent pump repair in the amount of \$79,875. Seconded by Commissioner Maciel and carried unanimously 5-0.**

D. Recommendation to approve agreement and authorize City Manager execute an agreement with Healthy West Orange for Pocket Park Sculpture

Planning Director Kelly Carson stated that Healthy West Orange is requesting to install a sculpture in a City park at the corner of Plant Street and North West Crown Point Road. She noted that the sculpture would depict their mascot Westley running alongside a dog figure. She described the size and its installation into an existing landscape bed. Furthermore, Ms. Carson explained that the approval of this agreement would allow for Healthy West Orange to install the sculpture and makes them responsible for the long-term care and maintenance. Staff recommended approval.

Mayor Rees sought clarification that the City would maintain the landscaping around it. Ms. Carson affirmed.

**Motion by Commissioner Maciel to approve agreement and authorize City Manager execute an agreement with Healthy West Orange for Pocket Park Sculpture. Seconded by Commissioner Sharman and carried unanimously 5-0.**

E. Recommendation to approve SITE PLAN for 411 North Dillard Street (Health Central Park addition & renovation) with revised architecture and minor site plan changes

Planning Director Kelly Carson reminded that this is an assisted living renovation and expansion project approved by the City Commission in 2022 and is currently under construction. She described the requested improvements, minor site plan changes, and a related community meeting. Staff recommended approval, with an 02-form enclosure being stucco or clad with another finish material, rather than just painted.

There was discussion on the façade and issues with parking.

**Motion by Commissioner Sharman to approve SITE PLAN for 411 North Dillard Street (Health Central Park addition & renovation) with revised architecture, minor site plan changes, and change to form enclosure as noted. Seconded by Commissioner Bennett and carried unanimously 5-0.**

F. **BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Code Enforcement Board**

Planning Director Kelly Carson stated that the Chairman of the Code Enforcement Board, Dave Buckles, recently resigned leaving the need to appoint another replacement member. She noted that the City code does not have specific district requirements, but rather requires experience for interests in the fields of zoning and building control. Staff recommended appointing one new member to serve on the Code Enforcement Board.

There was discussion and confirmation that Dave Buckles was in District 1.

**Motion by Commissioner Bennett to appoint Nick Farrell to the Code Enforcement Board. Seconded by Commissioner Mueller and carried unanimously 5-0.**

5. **MATTERS FROM PUBLIC**

Joseph Richardson, 220 N. Highland Avenue, Winter Garden, Florida, addressed an issue brought to the attention of the City Commission by former Commissioner Bob Buchanan regarding a prior campaign violation of Commissioner Ron Mueller. He mentioned a VoxPopuli article, which highlighted Iliana Jones also having violations during that campaign. He spoke of his past issues, rights violations regarding the invocation and pledge of allegiance, and blockage from Commissioner Bennett's Facebook page. He shared a bible parable about an unforgiving debtor. He thinks that the scheduled workshop should be a fair resolution of this matter.

Bob Buchanan, 148 Roper Drive, Winter Garden, Florida, noted that he gave information about Commissioner Ron Mueller regarding a \$750 fine regarding the prior campaign of which \$5,000 has not been accounted for, but stated that Iliana Jones is not a seated commissioner, but Commissioner Mueller is, and he thought that the public should know it.

Iliana Ramos Jones, 529 Lake Cove Pointe, Winter Garden, Florida, stated that she had not planned to speak, but since her name was mentioned, she wanted to address Mr. Richardson's claim that yes, she was investigated by the State. She stated that she was a new person, a rookie, and the person that actually reported her to the State was Ron Mueller. She stated that he has been a political figure since 1990 and disputed his claim of being a rookie. She stated that she is learning, still learning and hopes to be learning more.

6. **MATTERS FROM CITY ATTORNEY**

**City Attorney A. Kurt Ardaman** informed the City Commission of the new legislative requirement for elected officials, in cities throughout Florida, to comply with completing the Financial Disclosure Form 6 by July 1. He informed of a law firm's challenge to this law, a \$10,000 fee for a city to join, and shared some of the items covered by the fee and some items that are not. He shared how one could participate and received the temporary injunction until final judgment in the lawsuit.

There was discussion on a city inclusion versus an individual's involvement and the timeframe of the lawsuit, filing, temporary injunction, and compliance with the Form 6 requirement. Also discussed were risk, loses, attorney fees and individual conversations regarding the issue.

