



# CITY OF WINTER GARDEN

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## CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 8, 2021

**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 and Commissioners  
Lisa L. Bennett – District 1      Ron Mueller – District 2      Colin Sharman – District 4

**Absent:** Commissioner Mark A. Maciel – District 3

**Also Present:** City Manager Mike Bollhoefer, City Attorney Dan Langley, City Clerk Angee Grimmage, Assistant City Manager of Administrative Services Frank Gilbert, Assistant City Manager of Public Services Jon Williams, Community Development Director Stephen Pash, Economic Development Director Tanja Gerhartz, Finance Director Laura Zielonka, and Police Chief Stephen Graham

### 1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion by Commissioner Mueller to approve regular meeting minutes of June 24, 2021 as submitted. Seconded by Commissioner Sharman and carried unanimously 4-0.**

### 2. **FIRST READING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE**

A. **Ordinance 21-18:** AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY OF WINTER GARDEN FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

City Attorney Langley read Ordinance 21-18 by title only. Finance Director Zielonka stated that this Ordinance amends the current year budget to account for changes occurring since it was originally passed back in September. These changes are changes recommended by staff.

Mayor Rees highlighted some of the items that were new as well as noting that some items had already been previously approved in other meetings. Ms. Zielonka pointed out that one of the items noted by Mayor Rees was covered by the West Orange Health District grant.

Commissioner Mueller summarized previous decisions regarding the golf course, its purchase by the City and reimbursement. City Manager Bollhoefer described the purchase as being reimbursed by special assessment over 20 years. Commissioner Mueller inquired about the City's consideration for controlling the golf course. Commissioner Sharman responded by noting the Stoney Brook resident's desire to keep

it private and not open to the public. City Manager Bollhoefer noted that with the requirement of the residents paying a monthly dues, there may not even be a golf course, but noted the final decision as being theirs to make. Commissioner Mueller inquired about the issuance of a Planned Unit Development (PUD) for this neighborhood and leverage for building in that area. City Manager Bollhoefer noted that they would have to come to the City Commission for approval to change zoning in order to build. He also noted that a PUD actually allows more building, but their maximum density for building has already been met. He added that at this point the residents have no interest of adding any more building there. Commissioner Mueller noted this was his biggest concern.

Commissioner Mueller inquired about paying for the traffic light at Oakland. City Manager Bollhoefer explained that this was an agreement made at the onset of the PUD approval; their payment is through impact fees, which is common.

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

**Motion by Commissioner Mueller to approve Ordinance 21-18 with a second reading and public hearing July 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Sharman and carried unanimously 4-0.**

### **3. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE**

- A. **Ordinance 21-17:** AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA VACATING A PORTION OF THE PLAT DEDICATED DRAINAGE AND UTILITY EASEMENT OVER LOT 20 OF COURTLA OAKS PHASE 2B, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 41, PAGES 67-69, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA (LOCATED AT 208 TRAIL BRIDGE COURT, WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA), AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREIN; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND RECORDING

City Attorney Langley read Ordinance 21-17 by title only. Community Development Director Pash stated that this is a request to vacate a section of the platted drainage and utility easement located at 208 Trail Bridge Court. He noted that this is Lot 20 of Courtlea Oaks subdivision Phase 2B. It has been reviewed and approved by the Development Review Committee (DRC) and staff recommends approval of Ordinance 21-17.

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

**Motion by Commissioner Sharman to ADOPT Ordinance 21-17. Seconded by Commissioner Bennett and carried unanimously 4-0.**

4. **REGULAR BUSINESS**

- A. Recommendation to approve setting the proposed MILLAGE RATE for fiscal year 2021/2022 at the current rate of 4.5000 mills and set public hearing dates for FY 2022 budget

City Manager Bollhoefer stated that staff recommends keeping the millage at the same rate. He informed that by law, if there was a desire to lower the millage rate at a later date this could be done, but in order to raise the millage rate the City would have to go through the Truth in Millage (TRIM) process again. Staff recommends keeping the millage at the same rate, believing it to be sufficient for funding the needs of the City.

Commissioner Mueller recalled past history regarding the millage rate, mentioned pause given by Commissioner Sharman regarding the issue and voiced his appreciation in keeping the millage rate the same. Commissioner Sharman explained that his pause was satisfied because the City was able to provide the first responders and Police Officers a much needed raise.

There was discussion about the City of Winter Garden having one of the lowest millage rates in the County and still offering the best services.

**Motion by Commissioner Sharman to approve setting the proposed MILLAGE RATE for fiscal year 2021/2022 at the current rate of 4.5000 mills. Seconded by Commissioner Bennett and carried unanimously 4-0.**

Finance Director Zielonka reminded that budget hearing dates for FY 2022 also needed to be set. Discussion ensued on dates that worked best for everyone.

**Motion by Commissioner Mueller to set public hearing dates for FY 2022 budget for September 15, 2021 and September 29, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Sharman and carried unanimously 4-0.**

- B. Recommendation to approve COMMUNITY EVENT - Water Activity Day in East Winter Garden on July 31, 2021

Community Development Director Pash stated that this is a special event request to hold a community water event in East Winter Garden. The event is proposed for Saturday, July 31, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on City owned property as well privately owned property. He explained some of the event activities and spoke of coordinated efforts to provide the event. Staff recommends approval.

City Manager Bollhoefer recognized the event coordinator, Wendell R. Coates, Jr., who he noted is working with the City on this event. This is part of an effort to build more events which would build relations between the community, the Police Department and

the City of Winter Garden. Mr. Bollhoefer voiced that he thinks this is a great opportunity and Mayor Rees expressed appreciation to Mr. Coates for the event.

**Motion by Commissioner Mueller to approve COMMUNITY EVENT - Water Activity Day in East Winter Garden on Saturday, July 31, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Bennett and carried unanimously 4-0.**

**5. MATTERS FROM PUBLIC**

Jeff Beccaris, 1012 Vinsetta Circle, Winter Garden, Florida, stated that he was present as a homeowner's association (HOA) board member of a community located at Stoney Brook, Marsh and Avalon. He addressed non-stop motorist U-turns during rush hour as they try to avoid that intersection. He noted surveilling the location and foreseeing potential danger for the children at a nearby playground. He expressed being present to seek solutions, suggested the possibility of increased Police presence, and described a recent accident at the intersection. He expressed concerns for future issues that may occur at this location.

Mr. Beccaris thanked the City of Winter Garden Police Department and specifically Captain Anthony Dawkins for his extreme helpfulness through this process and timeliness in addressing the concerns. He mentioned a traffic study that was conducted in the area and the Police reviewing the intersection.

City Manager Bollhoefer disclosed that he and Police Chief Graham went out to review this issue. He noted possible solutions such as a no U-turn sign as well as Police presence for monitoring the situation. He explained that things changed in the area with the new State Road 429 off ramp and believes more green arrow time may alleviate the issue. He further noted a redo of the intersection as another option, but there was discussion on a short term solution being a top priority.

**6. MATTERS FROM CITY ATTORNEY** – There were no items.

**7. MATTERS FROM CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Bollhoefer thanked City staff for work with the parade on Sunday, noting an unbelievably large crowd and how it went well barring the usual few minor issues. He noted the fireworks and a glitch at the end, which is bound to happen, but everyone was happy to have a bit of normalcy as we come back to life. He stated that staff did a great job.

**8. MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS**

**Commissioner Mueller** echoed City Manager Bollhoefer comments regarding Fourth of July, stating that it was really great.

**Commissioner Bennett** echoed comments regarding the Fourth of July event, noting a good turnout for the parade and a lot of happy citizens and great staff support.

