

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

**MINUTES**  
January 16, 2023  
6:00 P.M.

**Present:** Mayor Matt Morgan  
Deputy Mayor Matthew McMillan  
Commissioner Abby Shoemaker  
Commissioner Tony Boni  
Commissioner Brian D. Sackett  
Dan Langley, City Attorney  
Clint Gioielli, Acting City Manager  
Michelle Longo, City Clerk  
David Dowda, Police Chief  
Chris Kintner, Community Development Director  
Chris Capizzi, Leisure Services Director  
Ryan Rinaldo, Recreation Manager

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **OPENING INVOCATION.** Pastor Darius Hughes with Church on the Living Edge gave the invocation.
3. **THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Commissioner Boni led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Ms. Longo read the following announcements.
  - A. **National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Candyland Sports Complex, 599 Longdale Avenue.**
  - B. **The Senior Matinee will be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Longwood Community Building, 200 West Warren Avenue. This month's feature is *Late Night*.**

- C. **Longwood Movie in the Park will be held on Friday, January 20, 2023, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Reiter Park, 311 West Warren Avenue. This is a free event and the movie will be *Lyle, Lyle Crocodile*.**
- D. **The City of Longwood will host a Food Truck Battle and Concert in the Park on Saturday, January 21, 2023, from 4:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Reiter Park. The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. and feature *Rockit Fly*.**
- E. **The Mid-Florida Mustang Club's 36th Annual Mustang and Ford Roundup will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Historic District of Longwood.**

5. **PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS**

- A. **Proclaiming January 21, 2023, as Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Day in the City of Longwood.**

Mayor Morgan read the Proclamation and then presented it to Ms. Jan Edwards. Photographs were then taken.

- B. **Recognition of the 2022 sponsors for the Annual Celebrate the Season and Breakfast with Santa events.**

Mr. Capizzi and Mr. Rinaldo recognized the business sponsors of the 2022 Annual Celebrate the Season and Breakfast with Santa events and presented them with a certificate. Photographs were then taken.

- C. **Recognition of the 2022 Longwood Christmas Parade winners.**

Mr. Capizzi and Mr. Rinaldo recognized the winners of the Longwood Christmas Parade and presented them with an award. Photographs were then taken.

- D. **District #2 Presentation of the Business Person of the Month Award for January 2023 to Richard T. Grimaldi, Owner and President of Gameroom Concepts Unlimited, Inc., 111 N. Longwood Street, #125, Longwood.**

Commissioner Boni read a brief biography on Richard T. Grimaldi and then presented him with the Business Person of the Month Award for January 2023. Photographs were then taken.

**E. Presentation of the Beautification Award to Fancy Fruit and Produce, 360 S. US Highway 17-92, Longwood.**

No one was present to accept the Award and arrangements will be made to deliver it to them.

**F. Presentation of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Good Citizenship Award to Mayor Matt Morgan.**

Commissioner Shoemaker read a Proclamation recognizing Mayor Matt Morgan and presented him with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Good Citizenship Award. Photographs were then taken.

**G. Presentation of the Martin Luther King Jr. Good Citizenship Award to Ian Scott Schneider.**

Commissioner Boni read a Proclamation recognizing Ian Schneider and presented him with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Good Citizenship Award. Photographs were then taken.

**H. Presentation of the Martin Luther King Jr. Good Citizenship Award to Jon Ham.**

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

**I. Presentation of the Martin Luther King Jr. Good Citizenship Award to Cathy and Warren Brown.**

Commissioner Sackett read a Proclamation recognizing Cathy and Warren Brown and presented them with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Good Citizenship Award. Photographs were then taken.

The Commission recessed at 6:57 p.m. and reconvened at 7:08 p.m.

**6. BOARD APPOINTMENTS.** None.

**7. PUBLIC INPUT**

**A. Public Participation.**

Patrick McFadden, President of Longwood Babe Ruth Baseball (LBR), 437 Sundown Trail, Casselberry. He thanked all those involved in the league's contract renewal for the next two (2) years. He invited the Commission to

attend Opening Day on Saturday, February 25. He stated LBR has 249 players compared to 143 last year resulting from all of the hard work from the Longwood Babe Ruth Board of Directors.

Drew Miller, 520 Westport Drive, Longwood. His family moved to Longwood two (2) years ago and loves the City. The reason he was at the meeting was to share what he noted was serious enough for him to consider leaving Longwood. He had posted a video to a WordPress.com website called Longwood Residents Against Noise that summarizes his concern and stated he would email the link to the Commissioners. The video summarizes the situation between Tiberon Cove and the kennel next door. He referenced news articles he read in 1982, 1985, 1997, and 1998 related to code violations of dogs barking. He has talked to Code Enforcement and they have been doing everything they can to help the residents. He commented on his challenge to sleep through the night and the times he has been awakened. He said it has gotten to a point where he and his neighbors are at their wit's end unable to enjoy their property. He added he is a first-time homebuyer, and just wants a quiet place for his children where they can play and study, and not have to go to a hotel on the weekend just to get a good night's sleep. He explained the problem has been that severe, and noise-canceling headphones and double-pane windows only go so far and you can still hear barking. He wanted to share this situation and ask for the Commission's help. He said for forty (40) years a solution has not been found and he knows the problem is complicated.

Joe Kern, 522 Westport Drive, Longwood. He is a neighbor of Mr. Miller and his family. He explained the situation in his area is unbearable and that he has never lived in this kind of environment. It is a nice neighborhood and house but he stated every single family hears the barking. He mentioned he had his five-year-old's birthday party, ordered a big blow-up house, paid a bunch of money, everything looked nice, and heard every parent comment "I can't believe you live here. How do you guys deal with this?" The parents live in Winter Park, Maitland, and even other parts of Longwood, and they told him they would not deal with this situation and that they could not believe his family had to hear the noise. He had to blast music to try not to hear the barking dogs but still did. He commented that barking comes through the stove, you can hear it in the bathroom, hear it when you try to sleep, and his children are awakened by the consistent barking.

He said the situation is insane. He has a landscaping company and services a lot of houses in Maitland and Winter Park and knows those people would not stand for this. He said the kennel needs to build a new structure instead of the old-style metal building that it currently has. He

added if you go to the pound in Sanford, you do not hear any dogs in the parking lot. The animal shelter is soundproof and it is in a residential area. He commented you can smell the poop from the kennel in his neighborhood even though it is cleaned up. He stated the situation is serious and the video is posted on the website. He said the problem has been going on for forty (40) years and asked if the business can be forced to build a new building or be located closer to the road. He estimated the kennel has about one-and-a-half (1 ½) to two (2) acres of land. He said he only has lived in the neighborhood for six (6) months and he needs to leave now. He reiterated the situation is unbearable and he wanted to bring it to the attention of the Commission.

Mayor Morgan said after the meeting he planned to visit the homes of Mr. Miller and Mr. Kern if that was okay with them.

Rachael Carroll, 108 S. Hamlin Court, Longwood. She spoke about Arbor Park Dog Park and the proposed fence. She did not feel it was a good idea to put in another fence or entrance at the park. She felt parking would be an issue and vagrancy. She commented if there is any aggression with the dogs, there is a lot of space in the park and the owners would have enough time to get the dogs out of the park. She said if a dog is aggressive, it should not be in the park with other dogs.

Judi Coad, 1695 Grange Circle, Longwood. She reported the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board unanimously voted against putting a new gate at the back of the Dog Park. The reasons had to do with safety, parking, and another gate would be needed for the small dogs, not just for big dogs. She noted from her research a lot of dog parks have just one gate for all sizes of dogs. She said if the City chooses to put in this gate, there is a one-way lock available for the gates so people cannot come in from the outside. She added the three gates would cost three (3) times the proposed \$2,900 because the inside gate or fence has to be realigned to allow for the small dog park. She stated statistically small dogs bite and are more aggressive than large dogs so if the City is doing this for safety, then it should be for all dogs. She explained Arbor Dog Park does state as you enter, you come in at your own risk and the City is not liable. In regards to parking, she knows the grass area gets used at other times when there is overflow from baseball so it is a problem that also needs to be addressed. She reiterated the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board voted unanimously against a new gate.

Michelle Phillips, 904 N. Grant Street, Longwood. She attended the meeting to talk about the request for a second entrance at Arbor Dog Park. She goes to the Dog Park every night and has seen many dog fights, and many issues among parents of dogs. She thought there should be a

second exit at the park for safety issues. She has witnessed a man not being nice and yelling blocking the exit, and a bad dog fight where a dog was almost killed, and if there had been a second exit, she would have been able to leave. She commented that dog fights usually happen at the beginning of the dog park in front of the gate, and there is no way to pass around. A second gate going through the small dog park is fine. She was asking for a second exit for people and dogs to get out when there is an issue.

## **8. MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORT**

**District #4.** Mayor Morgan thanked the American Muslim Community Center for the invitation to tour their facility, see all the different things they are doing in the City, and allow outsiders to learn more about their faith. He attended a grand reopening at Get Fueled on Ronald Reagan Boulevard located next to the Wild Hare Market. He attended a ribbon-cutting for Extreme Youth Sports an after-school program that introduces sports to children.

Mayor Morgan moved to direct staff to return to the next Commission meeting with an agreement for Clint Gioielli to be the permanent City Manager for the City of Longwood. Seconded by Commissioner Boni and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Mayor Morgan addressed Mr. Miller and Mr. Kern reiterating he will visit their homes after the meeting. He noted the Arbor Park Dog Park subject will be addressed later in the meeting.

**District #5.** Commissioner Sackett requested City Commission meetings not to be held on holidays, examples he provided were Martin Luther King Jr. and Presidents Day. He would like to see the January and February meetings held on the second Monday of the month or scheduled on an extra Monday of the month. He asked Mr. Gioielli to look into rescheduling the January and February meetings and any others that occur on federal holidays.

Commissioner Sackett asked if cooks were needed for hot dogs at National Night Out and volunteered.

Commissioner Sackett is concerned about the area along State Road 434 on the west side of town which he thinks looks terrible. He thought new sod and landscaping should be occurring there soon and hopefully, this item would be brought up during the City Manager's report. He commented on the two houses he owned and one had a conversion from septic to sewer. The house with the septic to sewer has a bill of \$30 less per month than his other house. The difference in the bill generates for

Sunshine Utilities an average of \$60,000 a month, \$720,000 a year for what he thought was horrible service. He requested a presentation or a call with Sunshine Utilities to discuss the differences.

**District #1.** Commissioner Shoemaker attended the Light Up Longwood Awards, the Chili Cook-Off, and the ribbon-cutting for Extreme Youth Sports. She commented on the happy and safe environment being provided for children after school. She attended an event held for women elected officials in Seminole County which was enjoyable.

Commissioner Shoemaker mentioned she found a new bicycle shop called Retro Sports next to Bella Ballerina in Longwood. She and the shop owner discussed how bicycles are getting popular in the City but they are not a lot of bike racks available. She requested a bike rack for City Hall in the next budget if possible. Commissioner Shoemaker watched the service of Christ Church online and saw the blessing of the first responders by Reverend Michelle Roach.

**District #2.** Commissioner Boni congratulated Larissa Morgan for her recent appointment as chair of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. He said there is a local person who provides free pickleball lessons at the city courts on Tuesdays and his wife and daughters are taking lessons. He was happy to see the courts being utilized and enjoyed not only from Longwood but other areas too. He noted the pickleball courts were a good addition to the Candyland Sports Complex.

Commissioner Boni attended the ribbon-cutting for Extreme Youth Sports and was glad to see kids getting involved in sports at a younger age which builds character and discipline. He attended the Chili Cook-off and he commended all the participants and winners. He addressed comments made regarding barking dogs and has seen the video.

Commissioner Boni reported he has had retired residents call him and tell him that Sunshine Utilities keeps raising their utilities every month. He commented the situation is getting out of hand, especially on a retired person's fixed income. He wanted to emphasize the need to talk with Sunshine Utility.

**District #3.** Deputy Mayor McMillan commented ideally combining utility services for residents under one system would be the best-case scenario but that is not economically feasible at this point. He attended the ribbon-cutting for Extreme Youth Sports. He noted the organization adopted E.E. Williamson Road in Longwood as part of the Adopt-A-Road program in Seminole County. He was not able to attend the Chili Cook-Off or the Blessing of First Responders at Christ Church because he was

committed to a two-day event at the Central Florida Highland Games in Winter Springs. He suggested the Commission if possible next year to get together and cook chili for the Chili Cook-Off.

Deputy Mayor McMillan reported on the true, good, and beautiful. For the “true”, he heard an interesting economic statistic at the Seminole County Chamber Longwood Council’s Lunch and Learn meeting. The guest at the meeting talked about the overall Florida economic impact saying income migration into the State of Florida happened at a rate last year of \$2 million per hour, and the current rate is \$2.7 million per hour. He explained those numbers represent income, jobs, and people who are migrating into the State of Florida, and a lot of wealth and money is moving into the area. He added this statistic is something to consider in terms of development in the state and the region. For the “good”, were the four award winners for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Good Citizenship Award including Mayor Morgan, Jon Ham, Ian Schneider, and Cathy and Warren Brown. He read a quote from Martin Luther King Jr. For the “beautiful”, he congratulated Coastal Mental Health Center and the Pineda Family as winners of the Light Up Longwood lighting contest. He also thanked city staff for their work on holiday decorations at Reiter Park.

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

10. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. **Approve Minutes of December 19, 2022, Regular Meeting.**

B. **Approve the Monthly Expenditures for January 2023.**

C. **Approve the Monthly Financial Report for December 2022.**

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

11. **PUBLIC HEARINGS.** None.

12. **REGULAR BUSINESS**

A. **Read by title only and consider adopting Resolution No. 23-1624, which would state the City Commission’s position on the potential future annexation applications for certain areas north of the city boundaries.**

Mr. Langley read Resolution No. 23-1624 by title only.



Mr. Kintner presented the Item and answered questions. Discussion ensued on the importance to plan for future development in areas north of the city boundaries in an unincorporated area, expressing the Commission's direction, the need to address concerns of residents who live in that area, fear of commitment for future Commissions, and maintaining the rural character of the area.

Commissioner Boni moved to adopt Resolution No. 23-1624 as presented Item 12A. Seconded by Mayor Morgan and carried by a four-to-one (4-1) roll call vote with Commissioner Sackett voting nay.

**B. City Commission discussion regarding requirements for storage facilities in General Commercial zoning and consider whether to give staff direction to propose Longwood Development Code changes to facilitate the development of a storage facility.**

Mr. Kintner presented the Item, went over the recent code changes in April and three scenarios where self-storage facilities are allowed, and answered questions.

Discussion ensued on the proposed storage facility and visibility of the location, five storage facilities already exist and another one is not needed, other creative ways to use the property, and storage facility changes in a recent vote by the Commission stating no more storage units.

Deputy Mayor McMillan moved to direct staff to propose code changes that would allow flag lot development. Seconded by Mayor Morgan and motion failed by a three-to-two (3-2) roll call vote with Commissioner Shoemaker, Commissioner Boni, and Commissioner Sackett voting nay.

**C. City Commission discussion regarding the installation of a new double gate at the North End of Arbor Park Dog Park.**

Mr. Capizzi presented the Item and went over the quote for installing a new double gate entrance/exit at the north end of the park, \$2,900 was the lowest bid, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board discussed it at their meeting on January 10, 2023, and unanimously voted against it, is an unbudgeted item and would need to have a transfer from general fund reserves if approved.

Discussion ensued on the installation of a new double gate, the concern of safety for people in the park, the need for a second exit in the event of dog or owner conflicts, funds to be used for security cameras, and pavement of the existing parking lot, request Duke Energy to put in a meter for electricity at the park, consider the addition of dog agility equipment, and the funds for the proposed gate to come from reserves or next year's budget.

Deputy Mayor McMillan moved to direct staff to install a double gate fence. Seconded by Commissioner Sackett.

Discussion ensued on the proposed gate and the cost, upgrades required including parking and security, and the need for more funds than just the gate expense.

Motion failed by a four-to-one (4-1) roll call vote with Commissioner Boni, Mayor Morgan, Deputy Mayor McMillan, and Commissioner Shoemaker voting nay.

Mayor Morgan and Commissioner Boni requested Mr. Capizzi to look at the big picture and bring back a presentation for the Commission on park safety, fun, and equipment for the dogs.

**13. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Gioielli agreed about the poor service with Sunshine Utilities as a staff member and as a customer. He gave an example of a new roadway that collapsed within thirty (30) days as a result of poor Sunshine Utility infrastructure underneath the roadway. The roadway is still not fully repaired as of this date. The City has approached Sunshine Utilities in the past about the possibility to purchase a portion of their utility system from I-4 east through the City of Longwood, maybe squaring it along E.E. Williamson Road and some areas south in Rolling Hills. He stated he will re-approach Sunshine Utilities and see if there are any options or if their position has changed. He will strongly encourage them to come before the Commission and offer a report on their status, rates, and short and long-term goals.

Mr. Gioielli reported that they are moving forward with the purchase of an ADA-compliant, portable walkway for Reiter Park. He addressed an earlier concern by Commissioner Sackett that improvements along the median of State Road 434 are scheduled for February. He said there have been delays with this project such as the hurricane and cold weather but work will begin next month.

Mr. Gioielli stated staff has received quotes and is preparing to move forward with upgrades to the splash pad flooring at Reiter Park. Plans include the removal of mismatched patched areas and replacing them with a concrete base. The result will be a consistent appearance and a non-slip surface. Staff hopes to schedule the upgrades right away in time for the splash pad to open up for the next season.

Mr. Gioielli reported the fence at Arbor Park Dog Park has been repaired to its original state and staff has been working diligently to fill in any holes caused by the hurricane or tree root systems. He hopes to get the park opened up soon and will make the announcement on social media and the city's website.

Mr. Gioielli said upgrades have been made to Longwood Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Trees have been trimmed and the fountain has been repainted. The IT Infrastructure upgrades are in progress: 1) Desk phone system has been updated 2) Data center including encrypted servers, internet routers, and dedicated internet for the city will increase in speed ten (10) times 3) Dual authentication to protect against cyber security threats and cloud backups.

Mr. Gioielli reported flooring for the Community Building approved in the last budget will be replaced the week of February 6. The flooring is commercial-grade laminate and water-resistant. He also reported the Community Forum for the Police Department will continue in 2023 with the next meeting scheduled at the department for residents on January 25.

14. **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT.** No report.
15. **CITY CLERK'S REPORT.** No report.
16. **ADJOURN.** Mayor Morgan adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Minutes approved by City Commission: 02-06-2023

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**Matt Morgan, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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**Michelle Longo, MMC, FCRM**  
**City Clerk**

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