

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

MINUTES
January 17, 2022
6:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Brian D. Sackett
Commissioner Abby Shoemaker
Commissioner Matt McMillan
Commissioner Matt Morgan
Dan Langley, City Attorney
Clint Gioielli, Acting City Manager
Michelle Longo, City Clerk
David Dowda, Police Chief
Judith Rosado, Financial Services Director
Chris Kintner, Community Development Director
Shad Smith, Public Works Director
Ryan Rinaldo, Recreation Manager

Absent: Deputy Mayor Tony Boni (Excused)

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Sackett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **OPENING INVOCATION.** Pastor Eric Scholten with First Baptist Church of Longwood gave the invocation.
3. **THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Commissioner Shoemaker led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Ms. Longo read the following announcements.
 - A. **The City of Longwood will host a Food Truck Battle Event with over 20 food trucks on Saturday, January 22, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Reiter Park.**

- B. **Orlando Health South Seminole Hospital will be sponsoring the “Concert in the Park” event on Saturday, January 22, 2022, from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Reiter Park. Music starts at 7:00 p.m. and food will be available for purchase. The band will be *September Dogs* and this is a free event.**

5. **PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS**

- A. **Recognition of the 2021 Annual Celebrate the Season and Breakfast with Santa events.**

Mr. Rinaldo recognized the business sponsors of the 2021 Annual Celebrate the Season and Breakfast with Santa events and presented them with a certificate. Photographs were then taken.

- B. **Recognition of the 2021 winners of the Longwood Christmas Parade.**

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

- C. **District #1 Presentation of the Business Person of the Month Award for January 2022 to Shelly Morgan, Co-Owner Comprehensive Energy Services, Inc., 777 Bennett Drive, Longwood.**

Commissioner Shoemaker read a brief biography on Shelly Morgan and then presented Jen Pennypacker with the Business Person of the Month Award for January 2022, who accepted it on her behalf. Photographs were then taken.

- D. **Presentation of the Beautification Award to Simon Parrilla Bar and Grill, 295 South Ronald Reagan Boulevard, Longwood.**

Commissioner McMillan presented Marie Lopez, Manager, with the Beautification Award for Brentwood Club Subdivision. Photographs were then taken.

- E. **Presentation of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Good Citizenship Award to Elsie Richardson, Lifetime Member of the Longwood Citizens on Patrol.**

Mayor Sackett read a Proclamation recognizing Elsie Richardson and presented her with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Good Citizenship Award. Photographs were then taken.

F. Presentation of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Good Citizenship Award to David Young, Eagle Scout.

Commissioner McMillan read a Proclamation recognizing David Young 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 Lori Rice, Longwood Resident and Current Member on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Commissioner Morgan read a Proclamation recognizing Lori Rice and presented her with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Good Citizenship Award. Photographs were then taken.

H. Proclaiming January 23-29, 2022 as Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA) Week in the City of Longwood.

Mayor Sackett read the Proclamation and it will be sent to them.

I. Proclaiming January 23-29, 2022 as School Choice Week in the City of Longwood.

Mayor Sackett read the Proclamation and it will be sent to them.

6. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

A. District #1 Nomination to the Land Planning Agency.

Commissioner Shoemaker nominated Judy Putz for reappointment to the Land Planning Agency. Nomination carried by a unanimous voice vote with Deputy Mayor Boni absent and Commissioner Morgan absent for the vote.

B. District #5 Nomination to the Land Planning Agency.

Mayor Sackett nominated JoAnne Rebello for reappointment to the Land Planning Agency. Nomination carried by a unanimous voice vote with Deputy Mayor Boni absent.

7. PUBLIC INPUT

A. Public Participation.

JoAnne Rebello, 301 Loch Lomond Avenue, Longwood. She said she was speaking about Item 12A, which raises the rates for water

and wastewater for five (5) years and thereafter without public input would continue to raise them. One of the things she has noticed, especially with serving on many City boards, is transparency and all facts are the foundation for trust. She felt that cloaking this agenda item with a generalized description of fees and schedules is not transparent enough for the general public. Those that do not know that Chapter 90 deals with water and wastewater would not know that this is what the item was about. She had concerns about this. Another concern she had was the justification for raising the rates. She hoped the members of the Commission will question the statements of fact and ask for the justifications that she is asking for. She mentioned the graph which shows Longwood in the middle, however, if you look closely the majority of the cities in Seminole County are below Longwood's rates. This includes Seminole County rates. She questioned why the rates need to be raised. Longwood is not the largest city, why do our rates need to be so high. She also said the residents are faced with other increases both at the stores and other utilities. She felt like the city of Longwood is trying to "*keep up with the Joneses*" and because others are raising rates we should. She wanted the Commission to consider if it was really necessary and look into what the money for the increases that have already been done was spent on. She noted they were told the increases were needed for projects and asked were the projects completed. She would like to know the answers to these questions. For the projects, they are asking for increases, is there some way to make sure the projects will be done. She stated, if the increases are needed, do they need to be as high as they are.

Judi Coad, 1695 Grange Circle, Longwood. She passed out a document to the Commission. She agreed with the comments of Ms. Rebello and was also speaking on Item 12A. She said ordinance 21-2215 is a concern to her as a Longwood resident and taxpayer. The chart she passed out reviews the monthly base rates from 2015 to the end of the current proposed increase which will go from \$6.30 to \$15.29 and equals a 204.6% increase in a total of ten (10) years. The chart does not use the other increases the water bill also entails because we pay by how much we use so the increase is much greater. She said this is an absurd cost of increases for the Longwood residents. In addition, 2016 changed the scale of the water costs from 10,000 gallons per usage to 9,000 gallons. This also increased the cost to the taxpayer. She said the Commission also wants to add the price index factor that is not subject to a public hearing but also allows the City to make additional changes to the rates by the City. She

noted, where is this out in the public view. She also asked where are the checks and balances on these charges or changes. Commissioners are elected to be responsible to the public for just these types of items. She said the current Commission may sit here now but who will sit here later, and in the “Sunshine” for all of us to see and to hear. She stated you cannot foresee who will be running the City in the future. Then the Commission wants the index rate to be no more than 5% but as you look at the chart there is barely a year that is not a lot more than 5% or the CPI which you are saying is the max. She said the last five (5) years we have had an increase of 73.33% and by the end of the new five (5) year plan another 40.01%. This is only the base rate including 2.462 times the cost of water on December 31st, 2015. She asked if each of the Commission's personal income increased 73.33% at the end of December 31st, 2021 and if they believe their personal income will increase another 40.01% by the end of December 31st, 2025. She said if they do, then you are blessed. She stated this will not happen to the majority of Longwood taxpayers but not anyone on fixed incomes. For the last five (5) years increases are way above the average CPI produced by the Labor Department. She said the Commission is looking to continue that trend with the new increases and then pass the buck on overseeing the water increases in the future. She said to her this is just the tip of the iceberg and she wishes the Commission would consider reviewing these. She has been through this the last time around and it just seems we are on the same trend to continue this.

8. MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

District #2. No report.

District #3. Commissioner McMillan wished everyone a Happy New Year and read the Martin Luther King Jr. quote earlier about life's most urgent question is “what are you doing for others”. He congratulated all the recipients of the MLK Award. He said last Monday he attended the Commission's Work Session regarding the Gibbs Retail Study and he thought it went great. There is a lot of good information out there and it breaks down everything by category. He was glad the Commission was able to get together and spend time, not at a regular meeting, talking about the development issues and changes to the development code.

Commissioner McMillan said for the “true” the CPI for 2021 is at 7%. That is the consumer price index and inflation gauge that measures costs across dozens of items. It rose 7% in December from a year earlier and is the fastest pace since June 1982 and is something we need to keep in mind when we are looking at costs for everything. For the “good”, he

saw civil engagement at the Community Building. Last year, he was hopeful the City would get more groups in the first week of 2022, and there were two (2) events he stopped by. One was the Florida Freedom Keepers who held a forum with Representative Plakon and David Smith before the start of the legislative session and talked about medical privacy issues. Then Eric Monte, a candidate for the School Board held his campaign kick-off at the Community Building. For the “beautiful”, on December 30 he attended the memorial service for Pastor Ed Benore, who was the chaplain of the Citizens on Patrol. He said he was grateful last year when the Commission passed the resolution to restore the invocation that Pastor Benore was the first to volunteer and deliver the invocation at the June 7th meeting and it was a beautiful blessing.

District #4. Commissioner Morgan said on December 21 the city of Longwood celebrated Torah Day. Then at the Science Center, they had a Torah script and he thanked Rabbi Yanky Majesky for inviting him to the event and to read the proclamation the city prepared for him. On December 29 was Chaplin Benore’s funeral and said he was a very giving and faithful man. On January 2, Longwood Babe Ruth had a community clean-up day and did a good job at the park. Commissioner Morgan had his first Longwood Babe Ruth Board meeting that evening. He said the new President, David Rubin is doing a great job with the league. The registrations are up 110 versus 33 at this time of year from last year. He reminded everyone that on Wednesdays there will be free baseball and softball clinic at Candyland Park starting at 6:00 p.m. On January 4, the Florida Freedom Keepers were at the Longwood Community Building and he was honored to be able to co-host the event. He was happy to see so many groups having their events at the Community Building. On January 8, they held registration for Longwood Babe Ruth at the Longwood Farmers Market. He thanked Mr. Rinaldo for doing a great job with the Longwood Farmers Market. Later the same day he had an autograph session at Game Time Cardz in Orlando which raised money for the Seminole County Boys and Girls Club. On January 10 was the presentation of the Gibbs Study.

Commissioner Morgan spoke about transparency. He said there is not a City Commission in this county that is more transparent than Longwood. He noted they negotiate contracts, police, and fire, on the record and Facebook Live. He said we have also done it for a new city manager, not once but twice since we became the first city in the southeast region to adopt Facebook Live. He noted Longwood is the furthest thing from non-transparent. He said the workshop related to the ARPA Funds was on Facebook Live. The Gibbs Study workshop was also on Facebook Live for everyone to watch. He said there is a lot of good information for those who would like to go watch it.

Commissioner Morgan is part of a group called Next Step and later on, January 10 went to a meeting. This group helps those with special needs find housing when they become adults and help build their skill sets. On January 11, LifePoint Church in Longwood held an open house for Freedom Christian Academy (FCA). He also went to Lake Mary Prep and spoke to the students about the importance of sports and where they will implement the lessons learned later in life.

Commissioner Morgan is proud to have been appointed to the Seminole County Boy Scout Golden Eagle Dinner event committee. The dinner is one of the biggest fundraisers of the year. He said this upcoming Wednesday he will be at Lyman High School with Supervisor of Elections, Chris Anderson, to talk about the importance of voting. It is a non-partisan event. He reminded everyone on January 20 at Grace Church on State Road 434 there will be a Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) meeting at 6:00 p.m. to discuss State Road 434. He also said over the past two months he has had multiple meetings with both Longwood Historic Society's President Tracey Putnam and Longwood Business owner Frank Carter. Mr. Carter is in possession of the two (2) Greyhound statues from the Dog Track. An idea that has come up is Mr. Carter is willing to donate the two (2) dog statues and both Mr. Carter and Ms. Putnam would like to commemorate them as part of the Dog Track, which before it closed, was the oldest Longwood business. The Greyhounds themselves being placed in our Dog Park is a great way to commemorate them. Commissioner Morgan noted there is a caveat that the park is renamed "*Greyhound Dog Park*" or "*Longwood Greyhound Dog Park*". He said he did research and had assistance from the City Clerk and Acting City Manager to be sure he was not missing anything regarding the current name "*Arbor Park*" having any historical content in the name. None could be found.

Commissioner Morgan moved to have Arbor Dog Park renamed Greyhound Dog Park.

Commissioner McMillan stated he was okay with renaming the park however he was not comfortable making a decision so quickly and would like to take time to think about it.

Discussion ensued and questions were asked about cost (it was noted there was no cost associated with it) and bringing back the name change as an agenda item. It was clarified that Mr. Carter would not give the statues to the City unless the park was renamed.

Mayor Sackett brought up his desire to also look at renaming Candyland Park.

District #5. Mayor Sackett said he was back in town on January 3 and today he went to Blue Springs Manatee Park. He was impressed with Longwood's Senior Matinee and watched the movie about Lucille Ball. He spoke about the concession stand at Candyland Park and changing the colors to red, white, and blue. The building would become white, the doors would be blue, and the trim would be red.

Commissioner Shoemaker clarified the building would be white, the doors would be red, and the trim would be blue.

Mayor Sackett said he did want to make a motion regarding painting the building and noted there would be a cost to the City as it was going to be covered. He asked if a motion was needed.

Mr. Gioielli said he was going to address this topic in his report but would do so now. He said he did want a voice vote and explained the concession stand and the unattached office space would all be painted white, all the doors would be painted red, and the trim and gutters will be painted blue. He checked with risk management and those that would be painting the building would need to sign waivers and this would not create a liability for the City. He was looking for Commission input on this change.

Discussion ensued on liability, waivers being signed, concerns if the colors were changed on the buildings, and the building being outdated.

Commissioner McMillan noted this was the first he is hearing of this and would prefer not to make decisions without having time to review and consider the request.

Discussion ensued on getting this completed quickly before the start of the baseball season, there is no cost or liability to the City, and the paint changes helping to revitalize Longwood Babe Ruth.

It was the consensus of the Commission to approve the new paint colors.

Mayor Sackett spoke about the Gibbs Study and how he would like to get Tom Krueger and Chris Kintner out there to connect with businesses outside of the state to see what is new and if they would like to come to Longwood. He said Code Enforcement is supposed to be friendly this month and noted there is a lot of flashing lights and gave the example of the ones at Max & Meme Cafe. He was not sure if they have to be solid for so long before they could flash again. He also said he hopes that come February 1 everyone is compliant. He asked how many Temporary

Use Permits (TUP) have been put in place since Code Enforcement in January has ridden around and advised things are changing in February. He said he saw it was posted on social media and the bills.

Mr. Gioielli replied and said it has been posted and he cannot speak to TUPs and the education is being done. He noted staff has issued 181 educational code notices as of last week.

Mayor Sackett stated there is still the broken sign near the Greek Sandwich place that was hit by the car. He also said he is having some concerns with the 32750-32779 Facebook page and would like to see something posted that shows what is actually inside the city limits. He has seen posts that are from people who live near Wekiva. He feels a little education as to where the city lines are would be helpful.

Mayor Sackett said that Buddy Ball is having its annual banquet soon. He made a clock for that event. He attended PBAS, the Private Business Association of Seminole County, with the Acting City Manager and the HR Director. He loved the idea of the 9/80 or the 4/40 or the 9 to 2 workweeks for parents to draw different people with different skills into our City. He explained the various workweeks and noted we could offer different options in schedules and liked that idea.

Mr. Gioielli stated the premise of the conversation was difficulties employers are currently dealing with regarding recruitment. He said some of the benefits described at the meeting for quality of life were the 9/80 work schedule and he described other alternatives in a work schedule. He noted if the Commission gave him the direction he would research different options and bring back a plan.

Discussion ensued on work schedules and the current labor market.

It was the consensus of the Commission to have research done.

Mayor Sackett said he is on the Lyman Board for Sports as the city liaison. He informed them the City would not be using their facility this summer. He noted Mr. Capizzi is looking into alternatives since Lyman's rental cost to use their facility has increased. He said he has meetings this coming week on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. They consist of Mayors and Managers, Florida League of Cities, and Leadership Seminole.

District #1. Commissioner Shoemaker said she attended Mr. Benore's Celebration of Life and he will be missed. On January 9, Mother Michelle with Christ Church held a service for First Responders. Commissioner

Shoemaker also said that Mother Michelle does this each year and believes it is held on the second Sunday of each January.

Commissioner Shoemaker said David Rubin is knocking it out of the park with Longwood Babe Ruth. She thanked him for all that he does. She also mentioned when she was waiting in line at the store someone said they were going skating at Candyland Park and they were from Virginia. She stated it is known as Candyland by many who come there and the Commission may want to consider this when discussing renaming it.

Commissioner Shoemaker said she had one call on the proactive code enforcement, which was to remove a trailer and she has spoken with the Acting City Manager. She said the resident states he has a silent majority (about eight (8) or nine (9) people) who are also upset about this. He was unable to attend the meeting tonight but he said he would come to the next meeting. She noted she voted “no” on proactive and he raised a lot of good questions. Mr. Gioielli helped her clear some things up in the ambiguity of the code, which does not specifically state you cannot have a trailer in your driveway. She said he has a work trailer and drove by it for many years and it does not bother her. This was a summary of the call she received.

Commissioner Shoemaker addressed transparency. She understands what Ms. Rebello said and it takes someone like her who pays attention to detail to concern themselves with all the records. The records are never denied to anyone, they are available. She also said she feels they are very transparent and to let her know if anyone feels they are not, and she will address it.

9. ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA.

Mayor Sackett requested that Item 10E be pulled for a separate discussion.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Minutes of the December 6, 2021, Regular Meeting and December 20, 2021, Regular Meeting.**
- B. Approve the Monthly Expenditures for January 2022.**
- C. Approve the Monthly Financial Report for December 2021.**
- D. Approve a purchase order in the amount of \$323,931.09 to Prestige Ford and the JCO Corporation for police vehicles and necessary emergency equipment.**

- E. **Approve a purchase order in the amount of \$75,000.00 to Helping Hand Lawn Care, Inc. for citywide mowing and maintenance services from December 1, 2021, through February 28, 2022.**

Item was pulled for a separate discussion.

- F. **Approve a purchase order in the amount of \$70,000.00 to Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) to provide Professional Consulting Services associated with the East Church Street Complete Streets Capital Improvement Project.**
- G. **Approve an Interlocal Agreement for the Seminole County Regional Opioid Settlement Funds between Seminole County, City of Longwood, City of Lake Mary, City of Casselberry, City of Oviedo, City of Sanford, City of Altamonte Springs, and the City of Winter Springs.**
- H. **Approve the final plat for Monterey South, the south phase of the Monterey Subdivision previously known as Longwood TOD.**

Commissioner McMillan moved to approve Items 10A, 10B, 10C, 10D, 10F, 10G, and 10H as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Morgan and carried by a unanimous roll call vote with Deputy Mayor Boni absent.

Discussion ensued on Item 10E regarding Helping Hands Lawn Care, Inc. and the quality of their work. Mr. Gioielli said they have asked for a three (3) month extension to have a full review of the contract which will assist with them going out to bid and better identify costs and areas to be mowed.

Commissioner McMillan moved to approve Item 10E as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Shoemaker and carried by a unanimous roll call vote with Deputy Mayor Boni absent.

11. PUBLIC HEARINGS. None.

12. REGULAR BUSINESS

- A. **Read by title only, set February 7, 2022, as the public hearing date, and approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 21-2215, amending Appendix B – Fee Schedule relating to fees and charges referenced in Chapter 90 of the Longwood City Code.**

Mr. Langley read Ordinance No. 21-2215 by title only.

Mr. Gioielli presented the Item and passed out a project list that outlined the projects they wish to complete over the next five (5) years. He said this lays out what the funds will be used for and the prior increases in rate costs were used for. He also reviewed all the costs associated with the increase and answered questions.

Mr. Gioielli stated he spoke with Deputy Mayor Boni and he requested that the CPI be taken off and would like a mandatory review in three (3) years and the costs have been appropriately corrected or if there has been a change in the market that allows for the reduction for the taxpayers.

Discussion ensued on the mandatory review, the CPI, indexing, and including this in the approval.

Commissioner McMillan moved to approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 21-2215 to include a provision to add in a three (3) year review by the Commission and set February 7, 2022, as the public hearing date. Seconded by Commissioner Shoemaker and carried by unanimous roll call vote with Deputy Mayor Boni absent.

B. Read by title only and adopt Resolution No. 22-1592, approving and authorizing the execution and delivery of a City Deed conveying a portion of city-owned property in the public right-of-way to the State of Florida Department of Transportation.

Mr. Langley read Resolution No. 22-1592 by title only.

Mr. Smith presented the Item and answered questions.

Commissioner McMillan moved to adopt Resolution No. 22-1592 as presented Item 12B. Seconded by Commissioner Morgan and carried by unanimous roll call vote with Deputy Mayor Boni absent.

13. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Gioielli said Deputy Mayor Boni has asked staff to research adding larger American Flags to both Candyland and Reiter Park. He said if the Commission approves this evening he can get costs and bring it back for review at a future meeting. This would also include possible locations at both parks.

Discussion ensued on flag location and sizes, along with the netting at Candyland Park used for safety. Mr. Gioielli said staff will work on it and bring it back to the Commission.

Mr. Gioielli said the lightning detectors for the parks have arrived and is working out the details with the contractor to get them installed. He said staff is aware that another face on the clock tower has stopped working. The Commission has approved already a complete overhaul of all the internal components of the clock. Work will begin once the parts are received. He also said they are working on a flag retirement schedule and looking for input on the mailbox artwork contest. He noted they have not received a lot of interest from the schools but does want to wait until the deadline to see what is received. He asked if the Commission wished to work on a backup and he would contact Jeff Sonsken in the event there is not any interest from the school or if what is received does not meet the Commission's standards. If Mr. Sonsken was not able to do it, he would research other options.

There were no objections from the Commission to work on a backup option.

Mr. Gioielli said last week during the State Administration Appropriations Subcommittee both of the city of Longwood's requests were heard and passed. He said this is step one and there are several in the process. He has reached out and contacted the sponsors and the leadership of the subcommittee thanking them for their support and reminding them of our hope to be included in the base budget.

- 14. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT.** No report.
- 15. CITY CLERK'S REPORT.** No report.
- 16. ADJOURN.** Mayor Sackett adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Minutes approved by City Commission: 02-07-2022

Brian D. Sackett, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michelle Longo, CMC, FCRM
City Clerk