

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

MINUTES
February 21, 2022
6:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Brian D. Sackett
Deputy Mayor Toni Boni
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
Chris Kintner, Community Development Director
Chris Capizzi, Leisure Services Director

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Sackett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **OPENING INVOCATION.** Mother Michelle Roach with Christ Episcopal Church gave the invocation.
3. **THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Commissioner McMillan led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Ms. Longo read the following announcements.
 - A. The “Longwood Food Trucks” will be held on Friday, February 25, 2022, from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at Reiter Park, 311 West Warren Avenue.
 - B. Longwood Movie in the Park will be held on Friday, February 25, 2022, beginning at 7:00 p.m., Reiter Park, 311 West Warren Avenue. This is a free event and the movie will be “*Clifford the Big Red Dog*”.
 - C. Orlando Health South Seminole Hospital will be sponsoring the “Concert in the Park” event on Saturday, March 5, 2022, from

5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Reiter Park, 311 West Warren Avenue. Music starts at 7:00 p.m. and food will be available for purchase. The band will be "September Dogs".

5. PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS

A. District #2 Nomination of the Business Person of the Month Award for March 2022.

Deputy Mayor Boni nominated Kristi Uribe, CEO/Owner of Nan & Pop's Ice Cream Shop for the Business Person of the Month Award for March 2022. Nomination carried by a unanimous voice vote.

6. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

A. Commission nomination of a resident to the Board of Trustees for the Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension Trust Fund.

Mayor Sackett nominated Robert Redditt for reappointment to the Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension Trust Fund. Nomination carried by a unanimous voice vote.

7. PUBLIC INPUT

A. Public Participation.

Michael Johnson, 312 Tangerine Street, Altamonte Springs. He said he came here today because there was something that happened this past week that was very disturbing in the City of Longwood. He said he wanted to address a little bit about that and provide a little bit of education. He explained he is a thirty-seven (37) year retiree from the federal government. He worked with the Department of Defense (DOD) for the state. He also was in the military and was part of the Army Security Agency (ASA) which was the army side of the National Security Agency (NSA). He was also in the military intelligence command and battalion for six (6) years doing voice intercept operation type of stuff. He retired. He could not get involved in politics when he was working for the government for thirty-six (36) years. When he got out, he decided to change his party affiliation from Non-Party Affiliation (NPA) to Republican and joined the Republican Party. He said the Republican Party actually meets right across the street at the Longwood Community Building and noted some of the Commission are members. He stated, what happened is that somehow the Longwood Police showed up at the meeting and they are tracking that down. He had just filed a complaint with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) about it. He was taking it further than that because he was going to put together a two-page civil lawsuit against what happened to him in that meeting. He does not

blame the Police Chief. He said he was not getting on the policemen. It is not their fault. It is the person who invited them, the former mayor of Longwood Ben Paris invited them there to be at that meeting. He noted they are tracking that down and going to be asking for the dispatch. He said we are going to be getting all the contracts and everything else about why they were asked to show up at that meeting. When the officers were there and they were asked to do certain things, they did not know the rules. He asked the Clerk to pass out his handouts. He wanted to go over them because they were in the battle. He was a union president also, the Federal Union President for six (6) years when he was in the federal government. He was at the GS-14 pay level when he retired. He was offered Senior Executive Service (SES) jobs in the federal government in the DOD up in the Pentagon. But, when you do use simple rules of order like you guys do here every meeting, everybody pretty well knows them. He said when it comes to a meeting that you want to get rid of officers, and the officers are not conducting the meeting in accordance with Robert's Rules and Procedures, and state law 103.121. He said I want this put in the record, and I swear under oath I am telling the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth help you, God. I am coming from the deep of my heart because everyone that knows me, knows I had to put cases together and be honest about the cases I put together because people lost their livelihoods because of what I made decisions on. He said right now, what is happening is we got Robert's Rules of Order that need to be followed that your policemen did not understand. They were just doing their job when they walked me out and another member out. He said we are allowed to debate and the procedures that we were following is that when we make a point of order, the chairman is supposed to stop and ask and answer it. There are also procedures that we all know that is called "Appeal to the Decision of the Chair" and there are other procedures called "Division" which a lot of people do not understand. He said you got to go to more advanced classes in Robert's Rules of Order. I am trying to help everybody out here to do the right thing. The other thing is that when a person is removed, this was where it gets back to your policemen, the chairman does not have the authority to remove people in that meeting period no matter how loud we get. All he has to do is he bangs the gavel and calls for a vote. *"Who wants Mike Johnson or Rich or whoever to leave?"* The membership is the only one who decides whether members leave that meeting. No one was violent. We had to yell in the audience because we had no microphone. He said they hide the microphones. We understand that and we are going to straighten that out. I am just letting you guys know about future meetings we are going through the same process again. He said if we have to bring in our security from the state or sheriff's office we will do that. He said he read the documents he passed

out and is trying to do the right thing. He stated we want unity and to get along in this community.

Mayor Sackett responded he considers himself very knowledgeable about the Rules of Orders. He said he saw this as an event and it is not under the auspice of the City of Longwood, it was a rental event.

Mr. Gioielli clarified the Longwood Community Building was rented out by a private entity. That entity requested there be an off-duty police officer assigned which was paid for by the entity. He said this event like any other event at the Community Building whether it be a wedding or party or a graduation, should the event host bring an unwanted guest to the attention of the officer, the officer would have the unwanted guest removed from the property. That was his understanding of what was happening.

Judi Coad, 1695 Grange Circle, Longwood. She spoke about the forthcoming Code Enforcement discussion. She said just as with the previous discussion and job hours for employees and the recommendations for the Commissioners, the Commission does not belong overseeing the Code Enforcement management. This should be overseen by the city administrator for whom this is his job. She was aware per social media that Commissioners are being contacted by those who have been given what is called a "notice", understanding that due to the lack of proactive enforcement for over the last five (5) plus years. There are a great number of properties that have not been adhering to code based on they chose not to or they did not know the code. Those people are a minority, a small minority of our city residents. She said they are the ones you are only hearing from. This will ease up as time goes by. As a personal example of a Notice of Violation, she used herself. She had received a Notice of Violation that her boat was parked in the driveway. She chose to call Code Enforcement to let them know that she was caught up in a rainstorm and the boat was full of water that needed draining, drying out, and then taken back to storage. She had approximately ten (10) days to resolve the situation or get a violation. There was no fine unless she chose to continue the violation. That then becomes a person's personal choice. She said your choice is to uphold Longwood's Code and the effect those do not have on the majority of the citizens. Those are your majority. Those are the affected ones. When the Commission is contacted by a resident, she suggested they listen and be kind. But, let them know as a Commissioner, you are not allowed to be involved in the daily work of a city employee. You can ask them do they need help such as mowing their lawn, a list of where they may store their item, etc. That you may help them get that information. The job of the Commission is to protect all properties, residential and commercial.

It is also obvious on social media as she has been watching it. Many are grateful the City is back in proactive mode to protect their property values and they are asking when will the City be showing up in their areas to see these results. Her suggestion is in the next water bill include a Letter updating citizens of the current status. Also, provide a list which has not been done yet of common issues to make citizens aware, such as boats, vehicles, parking, no tags, being inoperable, yard maintenance, what needs permits, windows, roofs, water heaters, etc. Having an active Code Enforcement system of dealing with all properties and education is what Longwood is in need of and is being put into place. If these are codes this Commission does not care for, maybe you could form a citizen review committee for referral of change. She suggested the Commission give it one (1) year which has been put in place to get it active and up and running. Also, to see if our Acting City Manager comes back to say we need additional help. That was on the agenda several years ago and let go. She is grateful for what the Commissioners are doing and she was glad they have taken the residents out of being the Code Enforcement officers.

Ms. Coad also thanked the City for getting out to Barrington and starting the maintenance on a City wall that has long needed it. She said it is greatly appreciated by the residents.

8. MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

District #4. Commissioner Morgan said later in the agenda the Commission will address Ms. Coad's points which were well taken. He said on February 8, he was appointed to the Board for the Salvation Army which has a facility that works with addicts, and he is excited to help those who are obviously in need. That same evening he went to Winter Springs to do an event called Keys to a Well-Run City. He made a joke multiple times saying he should have his Acting City Manager there and expressed his gratitude for Mr. Gioielli. The event included Commissioner Morgan and City of Altamonte Springs Commissioner Jim Turney. Commissioner Morgan said it was an opportunity to brag about the City of Longwood in regards to upcoming events and changes, and also an opportunity to work with other cities.

Commissioner Morgan commended Nina Feliciano, a Longwood resident, who won the title of Miss Florida. On February 9, she presented her fundraising efforts to the AdventHealth Hope & Healing Center which provides care for adults with substance abuse disorders. He explained when Miss Feliciano won Miss Florida, she was allowed to take those monies and put them towards a charity of her choice. He thanked her and commented on her future leadership.

Commissioner Morgan said there is a large event, which he hoped selects Reiter Park as their location, called America Salutes 2022. The event shows their appreciation for those in high school who are enlisting in the military. Organizers were considering such locations as Miami and Orlando. He along with David Rubin showed them Reiter Park in Longwood as an alternate location. He said America Salutes would attract thousands of people to the City in honor of youth who will proudly serve our country. In addition, the event produces a video with celebrities and athletes which is shown across the country to every single member of the military who is graduating from high school and about to join. On March 1, Commissioner Morgan said he and others from the City plan to attend the Seminole County Prayer Breakfast at the Altamonte Springs Hilton. He also thanked the Longwood Police Department for another effective and positive Coffee with a Cop on February 11. He said the event, which was advertised multiple times on social media, is another opportunity for residents to talk to the City's Police Department and officers, many of whom grew up in Longwood and want to continue protecting the City.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Mr. Gioielli, Mr. Capizzi, and staff for taking care of Candyland Park. He said there were a lot of successful events with Girls Softball, and some pro and college players came to the park. A huge tournament was held and it drew a lot of people with the Concession Stand doing exceptionally well earning \$800 in just a few hours. Commissioner Morgan appreciated the staff's response to cleaning up missed graffiti in the park on such short notice.

District #5. Mayor Sackett said he attended the Private Business Association of Seminole Inc. (PBAS) Professional Breakfast and they touted the success of sports within Seminole County. Girls softball and other sports have been the driving force the last two (2) years for filling hotels and things like that. A panel also talked about what to expect next in sports. He also attended a meeting held by the Florida League of Cities in Ocoee. The new Director, Angela Crist from the University of South Florida (USF) is putting together relevant agendas regarding what the organization can be doing.

Mayor Sackett toured the City of Casselberry's new Public Works Building as part of the Mayors and Managers meeting. The \$15 million facility was phenomenal, he said, but it also gave everyone a chance to talk about what they want to see universally happening within Seminole County. A list is being generated to address those needs. The next day Mayor Sackett planned to go to Highlands Elementary School for their Joy Award Presentation, and State of the County also was that week. In regards to Reiter Park, Mayor Sackett noticed sports groups are using it on a weekly

basis. He asked if the groups on the grass field are renting space or if it is just first come, first serve.

Mr. Capizzi answered stating the City has a contract with Fit Kids and they do multiple sports so those are some of the sports the Mayor is seeing. There may be another organization that comes out regularly to the park but by and large, if they show up first-come, first-serve the City does not charge them anything. He said if it is a repeat situation and they notice that, they usually try to approach them and say if you are making money on this, then you will have to partner with the City to do that.

Mayor Sackett responded when a similar situation happened at Candyland Park a few years ago where one court was always in use for lessons and no one got to use it. He said it sounds like the City is doing the right thing and he appreciated that.

District #1. Commissioner Shoemaker said she may not be able to attend the Seminole County Prayer Breakfast on March 1 due to her work schedule.

District #2. Deputy Mayor Boni said he was proud to announce the date of the First Annual Longwood Historic Society Poker Tournament on June 4. He thanked the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Mr. Capizzi, and Mr. Gioielli for helping put the event together. He was looking forward to helping coordinate the event which is to benefit the Longwood Historic Society. Deputy Mayor Boni commented he and his family were in Panama City, Florida the past weekend for his daughter's wrestling regionals. He congratulated his daughter who came in sixth (6th) in her weight class, and it was her first year for Girls Wrestling in the State of Florida.

District #3. Commissioner McMillan thanked the City of Longwood Fire Department for taking care of his grandfather who had a slip and fall accident, and his mother commented on the quick response time. All is well now and his grandfather has recovered. He said on February 8 and 9, he was in Tallahassee on personal business. While there he also did some lobbying on behalf of the City. He met up with the Florida League of Cities and got their information important to the organization and the municipality. One other item, which he learned about and mentioned to Mr. Gioielli, is a bill to increase the amount of the Sovereign Immunity Limit. He said it is significant because it would affect the city's insurance rates. Basically, the bill would allow people to sue the City for more money. He said he was primarily interested in the Cybersecurity Bill and the \$1 million request for the City Fire Station. He met with State Representatives Scott Plakon and Cyndi Stevenson and thanked them for

getting the bill for the Longwood Fire Station Construction all the way to the House. In addition, he met with State Senator Jason Brodeur and the Office of State Senator Kelli Stargel who was on the Senate Budget Committee. He encouraged them to take the position of the House in the final budget to make sure the Fire Station Bill gets to the Governor. He learned how that process worked by talking to people at the Capital which he found to be an interesting experience. He said when he returned from Tallahassee, he attended the Downtown Longwood Cruise-In Car Show. He received positive feedback from people regarding the turnout, and they felt the show is getting better.

Commissioner McMillan reported on the true, good, and the beautiful. For the “true” he said he was sticking with inflation. Last month, he reported the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was seven (7%) percent. Numbers posted at the end of January were projected to be seven-point three percent (7.3%) and we topped out at seven-point five percent (7.5%) so prices are going up. For the “good”, he found a good value at the restaurant Simon Parrilla Bar and Grill which recently received a City Beautification Award. He enjoyed Colombian cuisine at a fair price. The dish included steak, sausage, egg, rice, beans, plantains, and arepa. He posted a photo on Facebook and got a lot of positive responses. For the “beautiful”, he commented on a beautiful, red sunset over West Lake as well as a nice house being built on Church Avenue which he saw while walking his dogs in his neighborhood.

9. **ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA.** None.
10. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. **Approve Minutes of January 17, 2022, and February 7, 2022, Regular Meeting.**
 - B. **Approve the Monthly Expenditures for February 2022.**
 - C. **Approve the Monthly Financial Report for January 2022.**
 - D. **Approve a donation in the amount of \$2,000.00 to the Boy Scouts of America Central Florida Council from the State Law Enforcement Confiscation Fund.**
 - E. **Approve the 2021 – 2025 Voluntary Cooperation and Operational Assistance Mutual Aid Agreement between the City of Longwood Police Department and the City of Orlando Police Department.**

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

11. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Read by title only and adopt Ordinance No. 21-2207, an amendment to the Longwood Comprehensive Plan related to the 2021 Interlocal Agreement for Public School Facility Planning and School Concurrency and authorize the transmittal to the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO).**

Mr. Langley read Ordinance No. 21-2207 by title only.

Mr. Kintner presented the Item.

Mayor Sackett opened the public hearing. No one spoke in favor or opposition to Ordinance No. 21-2207.

Commissioner Morgan moved to close the public hearing. Seconded by Commissioner McMillan and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Deputy Mayor Boni moved to adopt Ordinance No. 21-2207 as presented Item 11A. Seconded by Commissioner McMillan and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

- B. Read by title only and adopt Ordinance No. 21-2216, a Small-Scale Comprehensive Plan Amendment for Properties at 811 and 655 Wilma Street (SPA 05-21).**

Mr. Langley read Ordinance No. 21-2216 by title only.

Mr. Kintner presented the Item.

Mayor Sackett opened the public hearing. No one spoke in favor or opposition to Ordinance No. 21-2216.

Commissioner Morgan moved to close the public hearing. Seconded by Commissioner McMillan and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Commissioner Morgan moved to adopt Ordinance No. 21-2216 as presented Item 11B. Seconded by Commissioner Shoemaker and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

12. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Read by title only and adopt Resolution No. 22-1595, renaming Candyland Park to Candyland Sports Complex.

Mr. Langley read Resolution No. 22-1595 by title only.

Commissioner Morgan moved to adopt Resolution No. 22-1595 as presented Item 12A. Seconded by Commissioner McMillan and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

B. Read by title only and adopt Resolution No. 22-1596, a fiscal year 2021/2022 budget amendment to recognize the purchase and installation of surveillance cameras for Candyland Park.

Mr. Langley read Resolution No. 22-1596 by title only.

Mr. Gioielli presented the Item and answered a question regarding where the cameras would be mounted.

Commissioner Morgan moved to adopt Resolution No. 22-1596 as presented Item 12B. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Boni and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

C. City Commission discussion regarding changes to the Code Enforcement Policy.

Mayor Sackett said the Commission received a list of twelve continual problems that come up, some on a broader scale than others. He said recently Commissioners extended the date of Temporary Use Permits (TUP) until the end of the year, December 31. Mayor Sackett asked if all Code Enforcement items could fall into that same time frame with more education. He suggested a citizen's board or the Commission talking more about it. He said if the Commission was putting a hold on Temporary Use Permits then hold everything.

Discussion ensued on commercial versus residential code enforcement and possible infringement on the right of City staff to make decisions.

Mr. Gioielli compared the situation to the Police Chief who does not get involved in who gets a ticket and who does not. If someone has acted unprofessionally or in a corrupt fashion then that is important for him to know so he may address it from a disciplinary standpoint. He said the same thought process can be applied to the Commission and the City Manager. He said he is

watching for equality, productivity, consistency, and professionalism. Outside of that, he would not want to be involved in it. He commented the Commissioners work very hard at making each of their constituents happy. It is very easy to have someone call them and give a story that pulls at their heartstrings. He said if we look at it on a case-by-case basis, then what happens is we become inconsistent and send out a different message. From what he understood, if it was moved from a Commission level to a staff-level they could consistently issue code notices. He said there are times discretion is used, and someone calls and says they need a few extra days. Therefore, the Code Enforcement Officer works with them, and he is comfortable with that. He said once a decision has been made, they need to call staff and direct their issues to them because the professionals are going to deal with it. If someone thinks they need a break, he was in no better position than anyone else to come along and suggest the Code Enforcement Officer do something that she has not already done. She has issued a violation and the recourse is to go to the magistrate. He said he can support this position if that is what the Commission desires.

Discussion ensued further on the need for a trained eye to see code violations, more education for residents, how the new process of proactive code enforcement in residential areas seems to be working, and whether City staff should determine reactive or proactive status.

Mr. Kintner clarified if the plan is to stay proactive then that is what is in the resolution now so there is no need to change anything.

No action was taken on the Item.

- D. City Commission discussion and consideration of reappointment of the Acting City Manager for one-hundred and twenty (120) day period commencing at 12:01 a.m. on March 10, 2022, and ending at 12:01 a.m. on July 7, 2022. If the City Commission reappoints Mr. Gioielli for an additional period, the provisions of the Memorandum of Agreement, as previously amended, shall continue to apply as contemplated by the Third Amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement.**

Deputy Mayor Boni moved to reappoint Mr. Gioielli for another 120-days. Seconded by Commissioner Morgan and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

13. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Gioielli thanked the Commission for their support. He said the installation of surveillance cameras at Candyland Park was projected for the first or second week in March. He reported the next day the Police Department planned to participate in a Best Foot Forward event focusing on pedestrian safety in an area along State Route 434. He also wanted to point out he, staff, and the Commissioners have received some feedback from the community regarding water bills. He wanted to assure the Commission and the citizens he and staff have taken steps as a stop-gap to add additional support to the current water meter reader so he will be able to properly facilitate his job for the next couple of months until the new water meter system is installed, which is anticipated to start in May of this year. He said there already has been one delay but it is outside the City's control. In the meantime, staff was going to assign someone from the Public Works Department to help the current water meter reader. He and the staff are close to finalizing the artwork for the flag mailboxes. The artwork, wrap, and labor for both mailboxes totaled \$1,025. He asked about the Commission's thoughts on the funding of the mailboxes.

Commissioner Shoemaker asked if funds could be used from the Pennies for Parks fund.

Mr. Gioielli answered, if the Commission desires as a majority, he can move forward with that request.

Mayor Sackett and Commissioner Morgan said to make sure the funds are not already allocated by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Mr. Gioielli said if the Pennies for Parks Fund does not work, then the Commission could use their Community Relations fund. He said he will check into the funding of the mailboxes.

Mr. Gioielli said he and staff have been working the last few months on a new website. Many departments have come together to introduce the new format. The before and after the website was shown to the Commission. Mr. Gioielli explained they have made items have fewer clicks, removed dead ends, applied new color schemes, and captured the colors to move towards branding and trying to standardize its image.

Deputy Mayor Boni asked about the New Resident tab in reference to the new website.

Mr. Gioielli responded staff is still working on the one-page resident guide and flyer but they are aware of the need for that particular tab.

14. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT. No report.

15. CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Ms. Longo reminded the Commission that the Annual State of the County Luncheon hosted by the Seminole Chamber will take place this Thursday, February 24th 11:30 to 1:30 pm, and will be held at the Westin in Lake Mary. She also provided an update on the Clock Tower and stated the equipment has been delivered and the service coordinator has been scheduled to be here on March 3rd to install the equipment.

16. ADJOURN. Mayor Sackett adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes approved by City Commission: 03-07-2022

Brian D. Sackett, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michelle Longo, CMC, FCRM
City Clerk

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