

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

MINUTES
March 20, 2023
6:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Matt Morgan
Deputy Mayor Matthew McMillan
Commissioner Abby Shoemaker
Commissioner Brian D. Sackett
Dan Langley, City Attorney
Clint Gioielli, City Manager
Michelle Longo, City Clerk
David Dowda, Police Chief
Chris Kintner, Community Development Director
Chris Capizzi, Leisure Services Director
Judith Rosado, Financial Services Director
Priya Persaud, Accounting Manager
Michael Hicks, Purchasing Manager
Rex Grice, Finance Grants Coordinator
Angel Lunkins, Finance Senior Administrative Assistant
Kimberley Feld, Police Corporal

Absent: Commissioner Tony Boni (Excused)

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **OPENING INVOCATION.** Pastor Derwin Anderson with Northland 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. Longwood Pirate Seafood Festival will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sunday,

March 26, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Reiter Park, 311 West Warren Avenue. There will be plenty of seafood, music, and fun for the whole family. This is a free event.

- B. **The City of Longwood will host the Great American Camp Out on Saturday, April 1 to Sunday, April 2, 2023, in Reiter Park. Participants are required to register for the event. Children must be accompanied by an adult, and camping supplies will not be provided. Some activities include a movie, DJ, and magic show. Register by March 27 at 5:00 p.m. by emailing rrinaldo@longwoodfl.org or calling (407) 260-3497.**

5. **PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS**

- A. **Nomination of the Beautification Award.**

Deputy Mayor McMillan nominated Grace Living Ministries. Seconded by Commissioner Sackett and carried by a unanimous voice vote with Commissioner Boni absent.

- B. **Proclaiming March 20 through March 24, 2023 as Government Finance Professionals Week in the City of Longwood and recognition of the Finance Department for receiving the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA's) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget.**

Mayor Morgan read the Proclamation and Awards and they were presented it to the Financial Services staff. Photographs were then taken.

- C. **Recognition of Milwee Middle School for receiving the Merit School of Excellence Award and for being recognized as one of the nation's top 24 Magnet Schools of Excellence by Magnet Schools of America.**

Commissioner Sackett recognized Milwee Middle School and presented a Certificate of Recognition. Photographs were then taken.

6. **BOARD APPOINTMENTS.** None.

7. **PUBLIC INPUT**

- A. **Presentation:** Ms. Ingrid Collins, AARP's Associate State Director for Community Engagement in Central Florida, to present a plaque to the City for reaching a monumental milestone in their

community efforts to improve services to our older adult population.

Ms. Ingrid Collins presented a plaque to the City. Photographs were then taken.

B. Public Participation.

Dayna Webb, 986 N. Wayman Street, Longwood. She has a \$93,000 lien on her house which goes back to 2017, when Hurricane Irma struck the area. The hurricane knocked down all of her fences, and she could not get help from FEMA because they responded the fences were like that before the hurricane. She said she could not prove or disprove FEMA's statement. She moved into the house in 2010 but did not live there full time since she took care of her mother, who had severe dementia. She was aware the fences were down but unaware of a code enforcement violation accruing every day. In October, her mother passed away, and she went into a diabetic coma for several days. She had not been able to work since taking care of her mother. After her mother's death, when she discovered a lien on her house, she contacted Code Enforcement, who provided her with the option to file a lien reduction which would reduce the violation to \$14,000. Unfortunately, she does not have the money to pay that amount. She has spent ten (10) years caring for her mother and asked the Commission for help.

8. MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

District #3. In response to Ms. Webb, Deputy Mayor McMillan would like to look at the information regarding the situation and was sure staff would work with her. His view is that the goal of Code Enforcement is to get the property into compliance, and there will be no further citation once that is done.

Deputy Mayor McMillan attended the ribbon cutting for Get Fueled and the Concert in the Park with Hard Drive. The Legislative Session has begun, and legislators are active. Commissioners have been receiving email updates from the Florida League of Cities regarding pending bills that impact the City. He is interested in a bill on sovereign immunity limits that would affect the City budget and exposure to lawsuits. He said if limits are raised on incidents in total, that would put the City's money at risk, and the Florida League of Cities is fighting that bill. Another bill of interest is a utility bill, which looks at the issue of cities that have customers outside City limits and should be regulated by the Public Service Commission and not charge as much in terms of a surcharge. He

also mentioned a bill regarding solid waste or garbage, which will affect the City's ability to have exclusive contracts on commercial and multifamily but not residential. If the bill passes, it will reduce the amount the City could charge for a permit to administer costs, and they will get free access to any garbage company they want. He plans to attend Legislative Action Days for the Florida League of Cities in Tallahassee on April 4 and 5 at his own expense. He hoped to do some lobbying and bring up any other issues that affect the City.

Deputy Mayor McMillan reported on the true, good, and beautiful. For the "true," he had a historical and scientific fact. He had the privilege of attending a dedication at Red Bug Lake Park of a historical marker for Hedy Lamarr, who was a resident of Casselberry from 1991 until she passed in 2000. She was a beautiful, golden-age actress who starred in Cecil B. DeMille movies and was a Jewish immigrant from Austria who was active during World War II as a scientist. She developed math and science to improve submarine torpedoes and their guidance systems. She developed a frequency hopping technology, a system that would randomly switch to different radio frequencies. For the "good," he said the City had an exceptional car show this month with many attendees and a variety of vehicles. For the "beautiful," he said his lunch was beautiful at the Seminole Chamber Lunch & Learn at the Community Building. The food vendor was MRBL BBQ, who won the City's Chili Cook-Off, and lunch included barbecued pork and chicken with sauce.

District #4. Mayor Morgan attended a Heroes Strong fundraiser event with Deputy Mayor McMillan at the Citrus Club in Orlando entitled Cocktails for a Cause and Karaoke. Heroes Strong earned over \$9,000 from the event, and Mayor Morgan congratulated President David Rubin on his success. On March 8, he attended a ribbon cutting for Get Fueled, a meal prep company located next to the Wild Hare Market. He felt the meals were a good value and healthy, adding he and his wife have ordered meals there. The company also offers help with diet and workout plans. That same evening the Commission filmed a video showcasing the newly painted water tower with the City logo. He thanked Mr. Gioielli and the staff for their hard work on a project he first brought up in 2018.

Mayor Morgan, on March 9, participated in a Florida League of Mayors Wekiva River canoeing and kayaking trip. It was his first time in a kayak, so he was nervous but later got more comfortable and enjoyed the trip. He took his family out canoeing the following weekend so they could enjoy the experience as well. On March 14, he attended a grand opening for CenterWell Senior Primary Care, an AdventHealth facility on Ronald Reagan Boulevard. He mentioned the new center represents a good

redevelopment of the property, which was formerly a bank and serves a significant purpose in taking care of area seniors.

Mayor Morgan attended the Concert in the Park Series and visited the neighborhood behind the park to hear the sound from the Concert. He said whatever changes were made by staff were noticeable in the sound level from the neighborhood. He thanked Mr. Capizzi for his work in response to resident complaints. He mentioned that the Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) is to support first responders on the scene with water or food, not just selling hamburgers and hot dogs at an event. He asked Mr. Gioielli to ensure CERT is being contacted on calls for the fire department so they may assist.

Mayor Morgan announced he and his wife Larissa have been working on the first annual Walk for Autism Awareness and Inclusion for April 29 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Reiter Park. He secured four sponsors who will cover event expenses. Cheyne Ranch will contribute mini horses and rabbits; there will be a bounce house, food, and games. Service providers will attend, offering resources for families with autism and providing learning opportunities for the general public. He mentioned the Pirate Seafood Festival event, noting that the first festival attracted 20,000 people on the first day. He hoped to break the attendance record this year and encouraged everyone to attend the March 25-26 at Reiter Park.

Mayor Morgan said he posted a video with his son at one of the neighborhood parks and got good feedback from residents who needed to be made aware of other parks in the City besides Reiter Park and Candyland Sports Complex. He said the City has nine parks, including Arbor Dog Park.

District #5. Commissioner Sackett commented that Wekiva River is beautiful and he has canoed up to fifty (50) miles. He said he appreciates the Police Department's reminder on social media to lock vehicles at 9:00 p.m. The CERT team has been around for about fifteen (15) years, and he encouraged them to set up a tent as originally done with public information. He recalled only seeing them two (2) times in the past, so perhaps fewer fires in the City. He requested they make sure there is enough money in the budget to cover CERT and COPs supplies and reiterated that these organizations are all volunteers serving the community.

Commissioner Sackett said he had been at Candyland Sports Complex a couple of times the past week, and one of the visits involved the police being called for a confrontation at the Pickleball courts. The second night

was calm with beginner players. He noted over six-hundred (600) pickleball players and four-hundred (400) baseball players in a busy park. He asked if the parking lot could be paved to provide more spaces and to move the Public Works vehicles toward the dirt.

Commissioner Sackett mentioned he rented an RV and traveled with his 18-year-old grandson, who would like to work as an aide in a nursing home or autistic school. When he returned, his daughter celebrated a birthday, and his sister came for a visit. For Spring Break, he and his family went to Flagler Beach. There were about 10,000 people there, and he was glad to see the police maintaining order and keeping everyone safe.

Mayor Morgan asked if they could discuss the situation regarding Ms. Webb during Mr. Gioielli's report.

District #1. Commissioner Shoemaker agreed with the request by Mayor Morgan to discuss the situation with Ms. Webb during Mr. Gioielli's report. She attended many events with fellow commissioners. She said a memorable event was the recent ribbon cutting for Get Fueled. She and her son enjoyed the meals. She planned to get more meals and commented that Thursdays are \$5 meals. She and other Commissioners participated in the Welcome to Longwood video showcasing the City's newly painted water tower.

Commissioner Shoemaker attended the monthly and noticed a lot of colorful and vintage cars. She added that the day after the event, the area is always well-cleaned, absent of the people's trash and food, and thanked staff for their phenomenal job. She called Mr. Capizzi to open the City's Chambers to offer more restroom options for the crowd so they were not constantly using the church's restrooms. She rode her bicycle to the Farmers Market to meet a client. She also met a new part-time staff member and saw Mayor Morgan, his wife, and his son. She talked with a woman from Kissimmee who was celebrating a birthday with her family at Reiter Park and commented that people from other cities come to spend time in Longwood. She said a school takes children to the park, and a karate dojo works out there. She anticipated at least 10,000 people if not more, to attend the upcoming Pirate Seafood Festival.

District #2. No report.

9. ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

City Clerk requested Item 12D be added to the agenda, and the Item was as follows:

Item 12D approved a request from Deputy Mayor McMillan to cover the registration cost to attend the Florida League of Cities (FLC) Institute for Elected Municipal Officials (IEMO) II, the advanced educational program.

It was the consensus from the Commission to add this Item and address it at this point of the meeting.

- Added On. 12D. Approve a request from Deputy Mayor McMillan to cover the registration cost to attend the Florida League of Cities (FLC) Institute for Elected Municipal Officials (IEMO) II, the advanced educational program.**

Commissioner Sacket moved to approve the registration cost for Deputy Mayor McMillan to attend the IEMO II advanced education program. Seconded by Mayor Morgan and carried by a unanimous voice vote with Commissioner Boni absent.

- 10. CONSENT AGENDA**
- A. Approve the Minutes of the March 6, 2023, Regular Meeting.**
 - B. Approve the Monthly Expenditures for March 2023.**
 - C. Approve the Monthly Financial Report for February 2023.**

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

- 11. PUBLIC HEARINGS**
- A. Read by title only, hold the second public hearing and adopt Ordinance No. 23-2236, which would implement standards including separation requirements for smoke shops, vape shops, CBD establishments, smoking lounges, and marijuana dispensaries.**

Mr. Langley read Ordinance No. 23-2236 by title only.

Mayor Morgan opened the public hearing. No one spoke in favor or opposition to Ordinance No. 23-2236.

Commissioner Sackett moved to close the public hearing. Seconded by Deputy Mayor McMillan and carried by a unanimous voice vote with Commissioner Boni absent.

Mr. Kintner answered questions, and discussion ensued on the Commission's ability under the ordinance to relocate a business if the new location meets the City's standards, existing businesses are not affected by the ordinance and may remain within a mile radius of another vendor, the ordinance will put needed restrictions on future businesses, an ordinance versus moratorium, an ordinance is permanent versus the moratorium is temporary, and residents feel strongly about fewer marijuana dispensaries in the City.

Mr. Kintner stated that if the ordinance is approved, anything currently submitted for a permit would have to be approved. There are currently two (2), a marijuana dispensary and a hookah bar.

Commissioner Sackett moved to adopt Ordinance No. 23-2236 as presented. Seconded by Mayor Morgan and carried by a three-to-one (3-1) roll call vote with Deputy Mayor McMillan voting nay and Commissioner Boni absent.

12. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. City Commission discussion and direction regarding the construction phase of the Fire Station 15 project.

Mr. Kintner presented the Item, provided a status update to the Commission related to estimated project costs, and reviewed the funding status and the cost options. The most recent estimate from earlier this year of the total cost of the construction, including site preparation, demolition of the easternmost of the two buildings, and site and building construction is \$9.6 million. He did note this number could change. A rendering of the building was displayed. The City has \$4.4 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, received funds from FEMA for the design phase, and may be eligible for funding for the construction phase. If the project is deemed cost-feasible from FEMA's perspective, the City may be eligible for an estimated \$1.1 million to \$2.2 million in grant funding for the construction phase. The City has applied for \$3 million in funds through the Resilient Florida program and contracted with a grant writer who indicated that approximately \$100 million in funding had not been announced. He noted they

intend to apply for \$4.5 million through the Rebuild Florida grant program, but the state has not announced a timeline for the submittal of applications.

Mr. Kintner explained the three scenarios prepared, showing the general fund debt load and how it would be affected by each loan scenario. Scenario 1 is half ARPA funds and half borrowing the remainder. Scenario 2 is part ARPA funds, part borrowing, and part using reserves. Scenario 3 is borrowing a total of \$9.6 million amount.

Mr. Kintner requested approval to move into the project's construction phase with the Commission knowing the current project estimate costs and staff's recommendation of Scenario 1.

Discussion ensued regarding the size of the new station, what happens to the current stations and Fire Annex building, the length of the loan and debt, the different cost scenarios, the layout of the new station, and expanding of Reiter Park.

Commissioner Shoemaker moved to approve option one as presented. Seconded by Mayor Morgan and carried by a unanimous roll call vote with Commissioner Boni absent.

B. City Commission discussion and direction on installing a new single gate at Arbor Park Dog Park.

Mr. Capizzi presented the Item explaining the gate would be installed at the northern interior portion of the small dog area and would open one way into the small dog area only. The gate size would be 6' X 4' and cost \$1,940. He explained that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a meeting on Tuesday, March 8th, and Member Judi Coad motioned that any additional gate installed at the Dog Park be a double gate system similar to what is already at the park. The motion was seconded and carried out unanimously with two board members absent. The last quote obtained for a double gate system was \$2,900.

Discussion ensued on the gate functioning as an emergency exit and how a single gate would accomplish this.

Commissioner Sackett moved to approve the installation of a single gate at Arbor Park Dog Park. Seconded by Mayor Morgan and carried by a unanimous roll call vote with Commissioner Boni absent.

C. City Commission discussion and direction on the type of surveillance camera to install at Arbor Park Dog Park.

Mr. Capizzi Mr. Capizzi presented the two camera options. Option one would be to purchase two Verkada cameras that require a power source. Option two would be to purchase two solar-powered cameras that could be attached to trees or wooden posts in or around the park. Both options would have two cameras. One camera positioned in the parking lot would allow surveillance of the entire gated entrance, a portion of the parking lot, and a portion of the large and small dog park. The second camera would be positioned on the side of the park closest to North Grant Street. This camera would have visibility into the small and large dog park areas. He reviewed the costs. The Verkada Cameras cost \$9,138.36, and the Solar Powered HIKVISION Cameras cost \$2,810.00.

Discussion ensued on the camera options, the costs, quality, and no need for cameras.

The Commission took no action on this item.

13. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Gioielli addressed Ms. Webb's comments and said the Commission has implemented a policy to allow staff to waive Code Enforcement liens but not reduce them by less than fifteen percent (15%) of the original fine amount. Part of the reduction's qualifications would be that the property is in code compliance, and an additional reduction would require Commission approval. He stated the Commission could either take action that night or direct staff to collect additional information and return at the next meeting.

Mayor Morgan asked that the lien reduction request be brought back as an agenda item at the next meeting.

Mr. Gioielli reported that the Human Resources Department organized leadership training for their executive leaders, supervisors, and middle managers in April. The Splash Pad at Reiter Park has reopened with a redesigned and refreshed look. He reminded the Commission that the next day was the Prayer Breakfast hosted by the City of Longwood. He stated the Pennies for Parks fund balance is \$2,078, and staff has begun coordinating a "Mother and Son" Dance scheduled for May 11 with the "Father and Daughter" Dance following June 14.

Mr. Gioielli passed out a brochure and said the staff created them for only \$200. The Resident Guide includes the form of government, the various departments and their functions, and top-rated restaurants in the area.

14. **CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT.** No report.
15. **CITY CLERK'S REPORT.** No report.
16. **ADJOURN.** Mayor Morgan adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes approved by City Commission: 04-03-2023

Matt Morgan, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michelle Longo, MMC, FCRM
City Clerk

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