

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

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

Present: Mayor Brian D. Sackett
Deputy Mayor Tony 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
Judith Rosado, Financial Services Director
Chris Capizzi, Leisure Services Director
Shad Smith, Public Works Director

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Sackett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **OPENING INVOCATION.** Pastor Stephanie Salinas with Longwood Hills Congregation gave the invocation.
3. **THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Mayor Sackett led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Ms. Longo read the following announcements.
 - A. **The “Longwood Food Trucks” will be held on Friday, March 25, 2022, from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at Reiter Park, 311 West Warren Avenue.**
 - B. **The Longwood Pirate Seafood Festival will be held on Saturday, March 26, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 27, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Reiter Park, 311 West Warren Avenue. The event will showcase pirates, mermaids, a free kid zone, unique entertainment, and great food. This is a free event.**

- C. **Orlando Health South Seminole Hospital along with Ladies 327, Inc. will be sponsoring the “Concert in the Park” event on Saturday, April 2, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Reiter Park, 311 West Warren Avenue. There will be a kid zone, vendors, and food trucks. Music starts at 7:00 p.m. and the band will be *Torn*.**

5. PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS

A. Nomination of the Beautification Award.

Commissioner Morgan nominated Bayridge Sushi, 400 Savage Court, for the Beautification Award. Nomination carried by a unanimous voice vote.

6. BOARD APPOINTMENTS. None.

7. PUBLIC INPUT

A. Public Participation. None.

8. MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS’ REPORT

District #1. Commissioner Shoemaker said she believed her fellow Commissioners received the same email as herself regarding a community partnership with One School of the Arts. She said she reached out to Mrs. Salva and told her she would bring the item forward during her Commissioner’s Report. She referred to the school’s event on April 19 and asked the Commission if they plan to attend to please contact Mrs. Salva. She added the school is not within city limits but Longwood residents probably attend the private school.

District #2. Deputy Mayor Boni referenced the mailboxes that were in the Commission Chambers and noted it was an idea by his wife Amy, and with the help of the Commission, Mr. Gioielli, and staff the City has retirement flag mailboxes. He said they looked really good. He noted the two (2) mailboxes, which have all of the City symbols including local organizations and the military, will be installed at Reiter Park and Candyland Sports Complex. He asked if people starting in May can drop off their flags.

Mr. Gioielli replied and stated staff planned to install the mailboxes by next Wednesday, and suggested the Commission consider an unveiling event. If the Commission wanted to tie in with another event, he said the next City event is Movie in the Park on Saturday, April 2. The food trucks are scheduled at 5:00 p.m., the movie at 7:00 p.m., and the Commission could consider the unveiling at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Morgan asked if President David Rubin of Heroes Strong, Longwood may attend.

Deputy Mayor Boni strongly agreed and said he had texted Mr. Rubin a photo of the mailboxes.

Mayor Sackett suggested two (2) unveilings of the flag retirement boxes, one event at each park.

Discussion ensued on possible dates and times of the events.

It was the consensus of the Commission to hold the first unveiling of the mailboxes during the next City event at Reiter Park on April 2, Movie in the Park, at 5:00 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Boni reported he attended a cancer awareness event where someone wrapped their Lamborghini in pink so everyone could sign the car with a Sharpie. He thought it was a good idea to get in the spirit of getting rid of cancer. He also attended a ribbon-cutting for MA-SE Sushi Eatery and welcomed the restaurant to the city of Longwood.

District #3. Commissioner McMillan thanked the Longwood Fire Department for their assistance in getting his grandfather to the hospital. He was expected home the next day with some broken bones from a fall and was going to start in-home hospice. He said he was there at the time of the fall, and he greatly appreciated the efficient and professional service of the City Fire Department.

Commissioner McMillan said referring to the last Commission meeting he thought it was a good idea to do something for the City's 100th Anniversary of its charter, especially from an educational point of view. He said it is important to let people know Longwood is a municipality and is incorporated along with utility and public safety services. He added the City's history does go back further than 100 years clearing up any misunderstanding of past events.

Commissioner McMillan reported on the true, good, and beautiful. For the "true", he pointed out the fact the City's 2020 census population is 13,657 which was posted on Longwood's website. He noted the City's population continues to grow. For the "good", he saw good volunteerism that was promoted on social media by the Citizens on Patrol (COPs) after a storm. He was near his parent and grandparents' houses about two weeks ago when the electric lines went down, and the COPs went out and stopped traffic. He saw wires everywhere on the street and commended the volunteer organization for their help in this situation. For the "beautiful", he did miss the opening of MA-SE Sushi Eatery due

to the incident with his grandfather but he did go to Bayridge Sushi with Andre Klass who was celebrating the start-up of his technology nonprofit in Longwood City Center. He noted Bayridge Sushi is a nice place in the way it is decorated and how it is lit so everyone can go there and have a good time.

District #4. Commissioner Morgan said he was happy to hear Commissioner McMillan's grandfather is doing okay adding his age is impressive at 103 ½ and recalled he had visited the City Commission on his 100th birthday. He also thanked COPs for their work during a recent storm. He posted an item on Longwood Facebook the other day regarding the COPs and based upon comments told people there is a difference between the Longwood Police Department and Citizens on Patrol (COPs). He said the COPs do a lot of volunteer work in the community giving up their own time choosing to contribute days, especially on weekends to the City. He expressed gratitude along with his fellow Commissioners for the organization which frees up time for the Longwood Police Department so they can conduct other business. He asked residents to thank the COPs if they see them working in the City. He said his Facebook post was in reference to a large tree that had fallen near his neighborhood on Longwood Hills Road. Wires had fallen as well from a telephone pole, and there were two COPs in the rain on a Saturday afternoon helping close down the street and veer traffic away from the area. He said earlier that day there was a similar issue on Slade Drive where cables had fallen down and again the COPs were directing traffic on their day off.

Commissioner Morgan said there is a "Be Great Gala" coming up in April on behalf of the Seminole County Boys and Girls Club of America. He mentioned a lot of kids in Longwood attend the Boys and Girls Club at one of three locations in Seminole County including Altamonte Springs, Oviedo, and Sanford. He said as a board member the Gala is the biggest fundraiser of the year with all proceeds going right back to the clubs. He also said he continues to push Longwood as a central location for another club, and there was a meeting recently regarding that idea at Victorio's Oyster Bar & Grille. For the last two years, Commissioner Morgan said he has asked the owner of Victorio's, a Longwood restaurant, to contribute to the Boys and Girls Club, and without question, Victor Selenica has provided food for the gala. He thanked Mr. Selenica for his consistent contributions to the community.

Commissioner Morgan reported attending a one-year celebration on March 9 for Main Street Community Bank in unincorporated Longwood. He explained a lot of people in unincorporated areas do not realize they are actually not in Longwood city limits. When he gets the opportunity, he goes out to events in these areas to support those constituents,

especially businesses. He also attended another one-year anniversary for the Advent Health Hope and Healing Center. He said the event represented a lot of work between Seminole County Sheriff Dennis Lemma, CEO Tim Cook of AdventHealth Altamonte Springs, and others in the community including Walmart and Leadership Seminole to get a facility in Seminole County to treat for opioids, alcoholism, and the like. He pointed out the center does not require insurance for treatment like so many other facilities do. On March 12, he attended an event for a teen named Mark who unfortunately died from an opioid overdose. The teen was popular and well-known at the City Skate Park. He said the "Skate for Mark" event continues to grow in size and there is an actual skateboarding competition. In addition, the family who lost their son, Mark, was in attendance. He thanked Matt, the brother of Mark, Chris Capizzi, Leisure Services Director, Ryan Rinaldo, Recreation Manager, and David Dowda, Police Chief for their contributions to the event.

Commissioner Morgan said there is a local coffee manufacturing company called Blessed Bean. He said the company located in Longwood is ranked in the Top 5 as a national distributor of bags of ground coffee, and they distribute all over the world but mainly throughout the United States. A woman from the company about two years ago contacted him in regards to the trademark for the term "Strongwood" which he brought to the attention of the Commission. He told the woman he did not own the rights to the term "Strongwood" but the company wanted to do a strong coffee blend called that name. The coffee would be Colombian coffee with extra caffeine. Recently, he took a tour of the coffee facility and the term Strongwood came up again for a strong coffee blend. Several businesses in the area would sell this coffee for \$10 a bag, and \$5 of the purchase would go to the Longwood Parks and Recreation Department. He has spoken with Mr. Gioielli about the idea which he thought was very positive in the promotion of the City of Longwood.

Commissioner Morgan thanked Deputy Mayor Boni and his wife Amy for their work on the flag retirement mailboxes which are impressive looking and enable the City to move forward in their flag retirement ceremony.

District #5. Mayor Sackett said he was sad to hear about Commissioner McMillan's grandfather as he enters the later stages of his life. Mayor Sackett later pointed out the City's population is about 15,000 not 13,000 as mentioned earlier by Commissioner McMillan.

Mayor Sackett reported attending the ribbon-cutting for MA-SE Sushi Eatery in Longwood and he and his wife later enjoyed the spicy tuna. He said this past week the City hosted the Mayors and Managers Meeting. The major discussion item which he brought forward was what was everyone doing about gas. He asked if you had a \$100,000 budget for gas

for your trucks and other vehicles, how are you handling that so it doesn't suddenly raise to \$150,000 or \$200,000? Some individuals responded they do not let the trucks idle or a couple of people go on a single trip. He said no strong suggestions were made with individuals saying gas prices are going down. He was concerned about the responses but he was impressed with the City of Longwood because staff is taking a team approach among department heads and keeping good tabs on the gas situation.

Mayor Sackett said he participated in the League of Mayors meeting which is still on Zoom. Their discussion was also about gas and how are people in cities dealing with it. Suggestions included vehicles not idling anymore, and making smarter purchases of gas like going to 7-Eleven compared to Wawa.

Mayor Sackett commented Ms. Tammy, who has been a long-time coordinator of Boy Scouts, was in the audience with her youngest son who also is a Scout. He said Ms. Tammy, knew of a boy's family who was not doing well like having to live in a car, lost an apartment, had a vehicle stolen, and wrecked. Mayor Sackett's daughter volunteered to take in the boy temporarily about four or five days out of the week. The boy visited Mayor Sackett's family the past week and said they were doing things right, appearing happy most of the time, but they can also challenge each other. He thought this was due to Scouting.

Mayor Sackett said he hoped under the Acting City Manager's Report he had something about Dog Park mulch or suggestions on the improper sod installation along Longdale Avenue.

9. **ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA.** None.
10. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. **Approve Minutes of March 7, 2022, Regular Meeting.**
 - B. **Approve the Monthly Expenditures for March 2022.**
 - C. **Approve the Monthly Financial Report for February 2022.**
 - D. **Approve a proposal and purchase order in the amount of \$52,565.52 to Rep Services, Inc. for the removal and disposal of existing playground equipment and the installation of new playground equipment at Smallworld Park as part of a FRDAP grant.**

- E. **Approve a purchase in the amount of \$55,000.00 to Sun State Ford, Inc. for the purchase of a 2022 Ford F250 with a Knapheide Service Body Fleet Vehicle.**

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. None.

12. REGULAR BUSINESS

- A. **Approve a purchase order in the amount of \$73,731.00 to Sun State Ford Inc. for the purchase of a 2022 Ford F550 with a Knapheide Service Body Fleet Vehicle.**

Commissioner Morgan moved to approve Item 12A as presented. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Boni and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

- B. **Read by title only and adopt Resolution No. 22-1598, a fiscal year 2021/2022 budget amendment for the purchase of a 2022 Ford F550 with a Knapheide Service Body Fleet Vehicle.**

Mr. Langley read Resolution No. 22-1598 by title only.

Commissioner Morgan moved to adopt Resolution No. 22-1598 as presented Item 12B. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Boni and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

- C. **Read by title only, set April 4, 2022, as the public hearing date, and approve the first reading of Ordinance No. 22-2221, amending Chapter 30, Section 30-10 of the Code of Ordinances; relating to geographical commission districts.**

Mr. Langley read Ordinance No. 22-2221 by title only.

Commissioner Morgan moved to approve Ordinance No. 22-2221 and set April 18, 2022, as the second public hearing date. Seconded by Commissioner McMillan and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

13. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Gioielli said he appreciated the support of the Commission of city staff and pointed out how hard Ms. Longo, City Clerk, worked on Item 12C which is a very difficult process.

Mr. Gioielli said regarding Arbor Dog Park in Longwood, staff is considering several things including the greyhound signs and different kinds of mulch. In the past, mulch has been too sharp for the dogs' paws, or the mulch is only temporary, or if dogs use mulch as a restroom how long does it last. He said meanwhile staff planned to move mulch into the entrance area of the park as well as the smaller dog park which would allow for less dust and dirt on the animals as they come and go. In addition, staff was considering an upgrade or removal of some of the old wood fencing which surrounds the area. He said the large wood bollards that run along Grand Street have been removed, and vehicle stops have been added to the parking lot. Plans also include additional bench seat areas and alternative dog activities for the park.

Mr. Gioielli introduced Shad Smith, Public Works Director, to address citizen concerns regarding the perception of substandard work from the City's contractor on the septic tank abatement program.

Mr. Smith said his department has received a lot of comments from the Longdale Project area on the sod and other things. He said the company who laid the sod has plans to come back and replace the sod. He added a lot of the sod looks good but there are places in people's yards that need to be fixed. Staff is still working on the issue, and residents just need to notify the Public Works Department if there is a problem. He said also the contractor will repave Longdale Avenue this Thursday and Friday along with other spots that need finishing up. The contractor still has another month to clean up. He asked the Commission if they had any questions.

Mayor Sackett said he has told citizens to call either Mr. Smith or Mr. Gioielli if they had problems.

Mr. Smith responded citizens can call him or the general office number at Public Works.

Mr. Gioielli answered not only are citizens getting a call back from staff but also a visit to the property to evaluate their concerns and follow through until their issue is resolved.

Mr. Gioielli said both appropriation requests with the State of Florida for the new fire station construction project and the IT infrastructure request are being funded by the House and Senate. Staff also has been approached by the Governor's Office even more since the last Commission meeting and even as late as last Friday. He and staff continue to provide the feedback and all the answers they are looking for. Staff has even taken the proactive step of engaging with the governor's budget chief office in an attempt to establish a line of

communication, request their support, and provide any information in advance of questions they may have.

Mr. Gioielli reported the City had been approved for the FEMA Safe Room Grant Phase One which at the time was estimated at \$116,000. He said the good news is that amount has changed, and the City has been approved to receive up to \$362,000 for Phase One which is the planning phase. The City also has been approved for Phase Two which would allow the City to receive up to \$2.5 million additional dollars. He said the project is the City's commitment to making a safe room out of the fire department.

Mr. Gioielli stated surveillance cameras are set up, working, and recording at Candyland Sports Complex. One of the lightning alert systems has been installed at Reiter Park, and the other system is scheduled to be installed this week at Candyland Sports Complex.

Mr. Gioielli said in regards to the second phase of the Gibbs Retail Study, he would like to get Commission input on dates for a Workshop.

Discussion ensued on possible dates.

It was the consensus of the Commission to meet Wednesday, April 6 at 5:00 p.m. for a Gibbs Retail Study Workshop.

Mr. Gioielli said the morning unveiling of a flag retirement mailbox at Candyland Sports Complex is tentatively scheduled for April 2 pending confirmation from Commission Morgan on times. The Commission had earlier agreed to the unveiling of a second mailbox at Reiter Park on the same day, April 2, at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Gioielli said following up on a request from the last Commission meeting, he presented proposed locations of the Greyhound signs from the former Dog Track. He confirmed there will be a plaque placed with the signs.

Discussion ensued on the sign locations.

It was the consensus of the Commission to place the Greyhound signs in Arbor Dog Park on the Seminole County Trail side upon completion of the project. Permission was given to Mr. Gioielli to decide on the height and direction of the signs.

Mr. Gioielli announced the Orlando Magic is hosting a City of Longwood Pride Night Game on Friday, April 1. The tickets are discount prices and \$5 will go to support the Longwood Historic Society.

Commissioner Morgan pointed out that Longwood Babe Ruth Baseball & Softball is hosting a Spirit Night on the same night.

Mr. Gioielli did note the tickets for Orlando Magic were already purchased, the City was already committed, and there was no way to change the date.

Mr. Gioielli said in regards to fuel costs, staff is looking beyond carpooling and idling of cars, and has engaged a wholesale company in an attempt to see if the City can purchase gas cheaper. Also, staff is working on a pilot program to see if they can save money that way, and they have approached retailers to see if there are any loyalty savings programs such as Easy Pay at Circle K.

14. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Langley passed out information on an upcoming item that will be on the next agenda related to a settlement agreement. He gave a summary of the case and stated there has been a lawsuit pending since 2006 involving Highline Drive in Longwood, which is in an industrial park near a Chevron Station on State Road 434.

Mr. Langley explained there was a situation back in the 1980s where the private industrial park owners came to the City asking for the City to take over ownership and maintenance of the roads and to put utilities in. The City did that with a special assessment. One of the property owners, Mr. Demetree, who owns a warehouse building at 100 Highline Drive, has disputed the City's ownership of part of that roadway which is 100 feet in width. The pavement area is about 28 feet, and Mr. Demetree has claimed that the City wrongfully claimed ownership of 72 additional feet, beyond what it was entitled to. Mr. Demetree claims the City wrongfully put utilities on his property and never should have done that, and the utility should have been under the pavement or the road and filed a lawsuit in 2006.

Mr. Langley said this case has not been prosecuted nor pursued by the plaintiff very much over the years. Recently, Mr. Demetree has hired a lawyer who has gotten more interested in the case, and the case has moved aggressively in the last few months. It has been set for trial in May. On Monday morning, Mr. Demetree and his attorney came to Mr. Langley's office and signed a proposed settlement agreement which has been approved by the City attorney and staff. The agreement states that the City would continue to own the portion of the road that is needed for road purposes, and then for the remainder of the property, the City would get easements to allow continued use for utilities, road maintenance, and prohibit any interference with the utilities that are in

place. The City would then release to Mr. Demetree ownership of the unpaid portion which allows him to combine that area with his building envelope. He would then have to pay taxes on that property. That would also allow him to potentially in the future subdivide his property and build an additional building which would increase the City's tax base in the industrial park. The City would not pay any money to Mr. Demetree nor would Mr. Demetree pay anything to the City. The city would pay its own attorney's fees.

Mr. Langley said he would reach out to each of the Commissioners through phone calls to answer any questions. He recommended the settlement agreement.

15. CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Ms. Longo thanked Chris Kintner and Dan Langley for their assistance in preparing the proposed district map as well as a review of the code language changes related to the ordinance for the geographical commission districts. She also said the Florida League of Cities will be hosting a Post-Legislative Session Webinar on Wednesday, March 23 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and sent a link to the Commission to register if they wished.

16. ADJOURN. Mayor Sackett adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes approved by City Commission: 04-04-2022

Brian D. Sackett, Mayor

ATTEST:

**Michelle Longo, CMC, FCRM
City Clerk**

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