

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

MINUTES
May 3, 2021
6:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Richard Drummond
Deputy Mayor Abby Shoemaker
Commissioner Matt McMillan
Commissioner Matt Morgan
Commissioner Brian D. Sackett
Dan Langley, City Attorney
Clint Gioielli, Acting City Manager
Michelle Longo, City Clerk
David P. Dowda, Police Chief
Craig Dunn, Information Technology Director
Judith Rosado, Financial Services Director
Chris Kintner, Community Development Director
Shad Smith, Public Works Director

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Drummond called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION**

Mayor Drummond announced he would be submitting his resignation and would be moving out of state for a job opportunity. He advised he would be here through the end of May.

3. **THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Commissioner Morgan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. **Election of Mayor**

Mayor Drummond turned the meeting over to the City Attorney to conduct the Election of the Mayor.

Mr. Langley stated the election of Mayor occurs at the first meeting in May of every year and is elected amongst the Members of the Commission. He opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Drummond nominated Commissioner Sackett as Mayor. Seconded by Commissioner Morgan.

Commissioner Sackett stated he accepted the nomination.

Mr. Langley closed the floor for nominations.

Nomination carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

4. **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Ms. Longo read the following announcements.
 - A. **The Lyman High School Senior Car Parade will be held on Monday, May 10, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. and proceed through the Historic District of Longwood.**
 - B. **The Senior Matinee will be held on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, from 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the Longwood Community Building, 200 West Warren Avenue. This month's feature is *News of the World*.**
 - C. **The "Downtown Longwood Food Trucks" will be held on Thursday, May 13, 2021, from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at Reiter Park, 311 West Warren Avenue.**
 - D. **The City of Longwood will host The Sharing Center's 35th Birthday Bash on Saturday, May 15, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Reiter Park, 311 West Warren Avenue. There will be live entertainment, games, shopping, and food trucks.**
 - E. **The "Downtown Longwood Cruise-In" Car Show will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2021, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in the Historic District of Longwood.**
 - F. **The City of Longwood will host the School of Rock musical performances on Sunday, May 16, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Reiter Park, 311 West Warren Avenue. The students of the School of Rock will have performances throughout the day.**
5. **PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS**
 - A. **District #2 Nomination of the Business Person of the Month Award for May 2021.**

Commissioner Drummond nominated King's Wok III, 192 S. US Highway 17-92 for the Business Person of the month for May 2021. Nomination carried by a unanimous voice vote.

B. Proclaiming May 2 through May 8, 2021, as Municipal Clerk's Week.

Commissioner Drummond read the Proclamation and photographs would be taken with the Clerk and her staff.

C. Proclaiming May 9 through May 15, 2021, as "National Police Week"; and "Peace Officers Memorial Day".

Deputy Mayor Shoemaker read the Proclamation and then presented it to Police Chief Dowda. Photographs were then taken.

D. Proclamation recognizing The Sharing Center's 35th Anniversary.

Commissioner McMillan read the Proclamation and presented it to Ms. Nina Yon and Mr. Chris Ham with The Sharing Center. Photographs were then taken.

6. BOARD APPOINTMENTS. None.

7. PUBLIC INPUT

A. Public Participation.

Johnnie Richardson, 1050 Alameda Drive, Longwood. He said he was there that evening in favor of open prayer for their Commission Meetings. He went on to say over a quarter of a century ago, our United States Supreme Court ruled that prayers before public meetings do not violate the Constitution. Since then government bodies of the National, State, and local levels have routinely invited clergy to pray before they conduct public business. In 1983, the Supreme Court ruled in Marsh v. Chambers that prayers for a state legislature do not violate the Establishment Clause of the United States Constitution. That ruling has been interpreted continually to prevent prayer before government public gatherings such as City Council meetings as long as there is no imposition or improper restriction on the type of prayer that can be made to open session. It was his understanding that Council meetings cannot just limit the allowed prayers to be Judeo-Christian and the City Commission must be

inclusive of all religions. He believes that the Commission Meetings should be opened with a spoken prayer, not just a silent one. It is not unconstitutional to have a prayer to open any City Council meeting. The authors of the United States Constitution were concerned about the potential power of religious institutions to generate conflict if they were linked in any way with the government. At the time the constitution was written, Europe was enjoying the first period of relative peace following many decades of interreligious warfare that had caused the deaths of millions of people. The author of the Bill of Rights wrote the Establishment Clause into the First Amendment forbidding any establishment of religion by the Federal government. The further Amendments to the Constitution as interpreted by the courts led to the concept of the separation of church and state at the Federal, State, and Municipal levels of government. The governed principles were based on the following: 1) Individuals are guaranteed almost complete freedom of religious expression. 2) Government agencies including Commission meetings may not recognize one religious faith as more valid than any other faith or secularism. 3) They may not promote religion over secularism. 4) They may not promote secularism over religion. He said he believes secularism should adopt a policy that does not proselytize or emancipate any faith or belief or show any preference over one religion and exclusion of others. He also believes the members of the City Council, sitting employee, or any other person in attendance at a meeting should not be required to participate in any prayer or invocation that is offered. Everyone should be treated equally and respected on however they chose to participate or not participate in prayer or invocation. Prayer and invocation should be completely voluntary and delivered by an administrative and established congregation located in the City of Longwood or Seminole County. This opportunity is voluntary and speakers are free to offer their invocation according to the dictates of his or her consequences. In the spirit of respect, City Commission should request that the prayer or invocation opportunity not be exploited as an effort to convert others to any particular faith or belief of the speaker nor to disparage any faith or belief different from that of the speaker. I also think we should ask them to limit their prayers or invocation to no more than two minutes.

Don Epps, 144 Peacock Drive, Altamonte Springs. He said he wanted to comment on the speech that was given at the Constitutional Convention on June 28, 1787. After four (4) or five (5) weeks of discussion, sentiments, reasonings, and wrestling

back and forth amongst the convention attendees, Benjamin Franklin, who was probably one of the least religious of all of our founding fathers, stood in front of George Washington, President of the Constitutional Convention. He quoted Benjamin Franklin's speech, "I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live the more convincing proofs I see of this truth -- that God governs in the affairs of men... We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings that 'except the Lord build they labor in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this; I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the Builders of Babel... I, therefore, beg to leave to move -- that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the Clergy of this City be requested to officiate in that service." He said all across our country, local governments, municipalities, states, and the nation, participate in this kind of activity. He encouraged the Commission to reinstate the opening prayer and invocation and ask the wisdom of God almighty for assurance from heaven to help in the decisions made as they serve these people in Seminole County and the City of Longwood.

Jesse Phillips, 1124 Duncan Drive, Winter Springs (via Zoom). He said he was grateful to Commissioner McMillan for requesting this discussion. He thinks it was one of those things that are good to visit periodically. Years ago, when the decision was made to remove this, he spoke against that, and although the decision was not the one he wanted, he developed very good relationships with several Commissioners. He said he commends the way the Commissioners are going about this process. He considers former Mayor Ben Paris to be a good friend, as well as, Commissioner Morgan and Commission McMillan. He thinks it says a lot in today's polarized climate that the Commissioners would potentially revisit a decision to see how the thinking has changed. That was a sign of good leadership and health, which, he thinks everyone should emulate. He said sometimes it is worth having a discussion and revisiting. He echoed the sentiments and believes the constitution asks for this expression in the First Amendment. He thinks this was one small way the Commission can acknowledge where the people in the community are at and be open, honest, and fair in diverse expression to the sincerely held beliefs the members of the community have. He applauds Commissioner McMillan for bringing this up.

Jim Maloney, 255 West Magnolia Avenue, Longwood (via Zoom). He said he has lived in Longwood for twenty-eight (28) years. He bought his house after he finished his military service. He said there was construction going on recently and he spent a lot of money on windows to try to reduce the noise in the house. He understands and appreciates that Reiter Park was going to be a very busy place but said the bass noise that comes from the concerts, even on Easter Sunday morning, radiates through the house. He said he should not have to hear it inside his house. He knows there are about twenty-five (25) homes affected by this. He asked if there was any way to put a baffle behind the auditorium, add a door they can close, or lower the bass. He said that at any time the Commissioners are more than welcome to come to his house and listen. He then thanked the Commission for having the meetings on Zoom and said it was hard to get to the Commission meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Rachael Carroll, 108 South Hamlin Court, Longwood (via Zoom). She thanked the Commission for making the meeting available on Zoom because it was very convenient. She also thanked Commissioner Drummond for his service as Mayor and said he will be missed very much. She said this team has been an amazing round of Commissioners. She gave thanks for the fundraisers for schools and the events at Reiter Park during COVID to get families together during the pandemic

8. MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Districts #2. Commissioner Drummond reported attending his last Mayors and Managers meeting last week. He said it was always a pleasure getting the opportunity to spend time with the City Manager. This last meeting was at Top Golf and although it was not in Longwood, he encourages anybody that has not been there to visit. He said the good thing about the Mayors and Managers meeting was that you talk exclusively to other Managers and Mayors of other cities. The Chairman of Seminole County was always there and it was a great way to exchange information. He noted that at the last meeting, they spent an extensive amount of time talking about the mask mandate and where the county fell on that decision. He said it looks like now the Governor is trying to vacate that, so we will see where all of that lies in the political realm.

Districts #3. Commissioner McMillan reported attending the Seminole County Prayer Breakfast last Friday where he spoke to Mr. Epps and other people about putting the prayer on the Agenda. He then reported on "The true, the good, and the beautiful". For "The true", he noted the Census data was coming out. He said the preliminary data was released

this past week and as they get more data, they will know more. He reminded everybody he was on the Charter Advisory Board with Mr. Richardson last year and he passed an amendment related to this. He said when they get that new data they are obliged to look at it and determine whether their districts are practically equal. He said they would probably have to look at redistricting moving forward. Longwood voters vote for all five (5) districts. He said Commissioners have a residency requirement to live in one particular district and any changes made will not change anyone already in office under the law. This was just to make sure everything was more balanced and it will be coming up at some point this year.

Commissioner McMillan reported on “The good” and said he had the opportunity to attend the Grand Opening of Pantera Technical Services on Friday, April 23. He saw good entrepreneurship and instruction. It was sponsored by the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce. He said they are located on Ronald Reagan Boulevard and they teach certification courses for mechanical installation and maintenance of medical gas. In certain medical facilities, there are piping in the walls where oxygen and other gases go through and they have to be serviced. This school has hands-on instruction. He said it was inspiring that Tatiana and Angel did this because they wanted to teach their son a marketable skill. It was nice to meet them and they were having a great time.

Commissioner McMillan reported on “The beautiful” and said he attended the ribbon cutting for RC Salon Collective, which was the facility damaged by the accident by the Assisted Living Facility on State Road 434. It looks nice and it was a comfortable environment. He said several cars were honking at them so he knows there was something beautiful.

Districts #4. Commissioner Morgan congratulated Commissioner Drummond for his future endeavors and said he did a good job as Mayor and will be missed. He reported attending the Lyman High School Baseball Team’s Senior Night on April 21. He said each year he gives a speech to the outgoing class of Senior boys about the analogy of sports and how you can get different disciplines and teachings through sports that crossover into real life. He said the work that you put into something was what you are supposed to get out of it and he was proud of the Lyman Baseball Team and the Girl’s Softball Team.

Commissioner Morgan reported attending the ribbon cuttings for Pantera Technical Services on April 23 and the RC Salon Collective. He said they were appreciative of having these ribbon cuttings because they catch the public’s attention and drum up interest in their business. He also reported being invited to Lake Mary Prep for City Government day on

April 28. He broke down the role of a City Commissioner, the policies passed in the City, and the accomplishments they are proud of such as streaming City Commission meetings on Facebook Live. He said now that it was on Facebook they have more input from their residents. It is their job to be the conduit and pick their brains on what they want to see done in the City. The more they watch and participate in these meetings, the better they can do their job. He also mentioned the different events at Reiter Park and how they differentiate themselves from the other cities with their social events.

Commissioner Morgan reported attending a resident's child's IEP meetings online. He explained an IEP is the blueprint of a special needs child's goals for their upcoming school year. He said his wife and him would lend themselves out to anyone who ever needs help reviewing their child's IEP meetings. He also reported attending Seminole County's Prayer Breakfast on Friday, April 30. He said Lou Holtz was in attendance and he grew up a Notre Dame fan. He advised that the Seminole County Sheriff's Office faith-based community team will hold their National Day of Prayer at Christ Episcopal Church, 151 West Church Avenue, on May 6. He said it will be co-hosted by Mother Michelle Roach and can RSVP with Nancy Cancel at ncancel@seminolesheriff.org.

Commissioner Morgan reported he would be joining Sheriff Dennis Lemma and Nicole Dupre' of Opera del Sol on Friday, May 7, as guest speakers of the Sanford Chamber of Commerce event at Teen Challenge in Sanford, a faith-based addiction center that provides structure and helps opioid addicts who must commit to staying there for a year.

Districts #5. Mayor Sackett reported attending the Farmers Market. He mentioned the Census and said that Longwood was close to 17,000 people when not that long ago they were at 13,000. He said their districts are old and redistricting will probably come up. He noted Babe Ruth was coming along and better. He also reported attending Babe Ruth on Saturday morning and said every field was being used and his grandson hit his 12th home run.

Mayor Sackett commended Mr. Gioielli for working toward getting six (6) pickleball courts at their parks. He said he signed up to a pickleball group on Facebook and he gets ten (10) to twenty (20) notifications a day from them. He mentioned Lyman High School doing very well at sports and congratulated the Lyman Girls Softball team. He reminded the high school graduates who were graduating this week to be safe and have a wonderful summer. He said he was proud of their accomplishments.

Mayor Sackett reported attending the ribbon-cutting for RC Salon Collective and said it was nice to see them recover quickly after the building was crashed into. He noted the end of his career in teaching was coming up in a couple of weeks. To celebrate it, there was an end-of-the-year 5th-grade celebration and he would be dancing and singing in the Greatest Showman with six other teachers. He said it has been a wonderful school year and he will miss the kids.

Districts #1. Deputy Mayor Shoemaker reported attending the ribbon cuttings for Pantera Technical Services and RC Salon. She said she was happy with all of the businesses coming into their City. She thanked Commissioner Drummond for his service as Mayor.

9. ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA.

Deputy Mayor Shoemaker moved to have Item 12F handled first under Regular Business. Seconded by Commissioner Morgan and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve Minutes of the April 19, 2021, Regular Meeting.

B. Approve the Monthly Expenditures for April 2021.

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

11. PUBLIC HEARINGS. None.

12. REGULAR BUSINESS

F. City Commission to consider a Historic District Grant Application (HG 01-21) from the Longwood Historic Society for the Bradlee-McIntyre House at 130 West Warren Avenue.

Mr. Gioielli presented the item and said the Commission has budgeted for grant funding to support Historic Buildings in the District. The Historic Society was going to be completing over \$23,000 in work. They were asking for a matching grant through reimbursement of \$5,000, half of the budgeted amount that was available. He noted all the requirements of the grant have been met.

Commissioner Morgan moved to approve the Historic District Grant Application (HG-01-21) as presented Item

12F. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Shoemaker and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

A. Commissioner McMillan requests a discussion on adding an opening invocation to the Commission Agenda.

Commissioner McMillan presented the Item and said he spoke to many people in the community since he first proposed this Item back in the January meeting on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, reviewed the previous meeting minutes related to this, and spoke to members of the faith community and community at large. He said the sentiment has been enthusiastically positive.

Commissioner McMillan noted there were things he forgot to mention during his report. He thanked Commissioner Drummond for his service and for being Mayor. He was grateful Commissioner Sackett was Mayor and Commissioner Shoemaker was Deputy Mayor. He said we have a great team and Commissioner Drummond will be missed. He also was grateful for our Clerk and Law Enforcement who were recognized during their Proclamations.

Commissioner McMillan said he understands there were some logistical problems in the past with scheduling but believes they can craft an ordinance that can accomplish this task. He discussed scheduling, what would happen if somebody did not show up, and having the silent meditation as backup, as well as, the appropriate means by which they can limit participation to those with a connection to the City of Longwood. In addition, accommodating a wide array of people to alleviate the anxiety of the involvement of out of State interest groups. He believes this should be about their community coming together.

Commissioner McMillan said Longwood was founded as a small community with five (5) different churches and E.W. Henck offering land from his homestead to several different denominations who wanted to build churches because he understood the role that faith organizations play in our community. He also believes the Global COVID-19 pandemic has impacted us all. He said faith organizations like The Sharing Center and American Muslim Community Center have answered the call supporting public health measures, offered vaccinations, and supported those who have been economically dislocated by lockdown measures while at the same time enduring restrictions on their worship activity.

Commissioner McMillan said that as we continue to reopen our economy and society after COVID, he hopes that we can take this small but significant step towards restoring confidence in religious liberty and bring our community together. One of the reasons he selected this date was because Thursday, May 6, was the Sheriff's Interfaith National Day of Prayer event. He said this shows what our community was all about. He requested staff to work on an ordinance to bring back Invocation.

Commissioner Morgan said they were faced with this back in 2017 because of Satanic worshipping groups and people that were there to make a mockery out of Christ. They were going to have to allow them to come in here and present. He asked how they defend against something like that.

Mayor Sackett noted that they would have to forward a proposal to staff and give them direction on what they want to do and include those steps in it. He said the reason the motion was made to end invocation was political and it became near impossible for the City Clerk to get the consistency of the delivery of a prayer. He noted he has been an Ordained Reverend for fifteen (15) years and was called upon four (4) times to give the prayer. He said they were only hearing my version and it was not inclusive to every group that may be represented within our chambers or outside. He said he has no problem with putting prayer back in place but he accepts the concern of no-shows and doing a moment of silent meditation instead. He noted it would have to be sculpted to be a Longwood priority event. He said if it was not working after a year they can re-discuss this.

Deputy Mayor Shoemaker said she recalls the conversation and made the argument then, and will make it now, that she prays during every silent meditation. She feels this was fairer, however, the other factors are cancellations and the scheduling of the Clerk's office. She said she likes the idea of having the backup of silent meditation if there was a no-show as long as everyone understands that it was also prayer. She noted her understanding was they cannot discriminate and anyone was able to come and do the invocation.

Mr. Langley stated they could not discriminate but could provide some rules on how one would become the speaker, give the invocation and the process for it. He said they could give an expression of what the speech is not supposed to be about. He

mentioned they were not permitted to regulate the content but there could be limitations such as the connection to the City and whether it was an established organization within the City limits. He said there has to be a way of scheduling people and they had a process in place when they did this before. There are written rules that could be used as the foundation moving forward.

Discussion ensued about crafting an ordinance and creating a process for invocation.

Commissioner Drummond said when this was first brought up he was taken aback but the more they talked about it, investigated it, and found out what was going on, it changed his way of thinking to think that silent meditation was the way to go because it allows everybody to pray or not pray based on what they think is best for themselves. He said they had a lot of pushback and a petition was started. He started talking to people and explaining why they were doing this, and they want to limit outside agencies. He said you could not regulate the content and the time.

Discussion ensued on how to choose the speaker for the invocation.

Commissioner McMillan moved to have staff prepare a resolution restoring the opening invocation on the Commission agenda. Seconded by Commission Morgan and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

B. Read by title only and adopt Resolution No. 21-1558, which adopts a Grants Administration and Accounting Policy.

Mr. Langley read Resolution No. 21-1558 by title only. He noted a correction for exhibit A, the first bullet point of the policy and it should say “property” and not “properly” for the “Federal and State grants are property authorized by the City...” The adoption would include this change being made.

Mr. Gioielli presented the Item and noted that at the April 19 Commission Meeting their independent auditors recommended that the City adopt a policy on Grant Management, essentially allowing for the administration of grants to be centralized, making the audit and the accountability for grants going forward, more efficient. He answered questions.

Commissioner McMillan noted a typo on the first bullet point. It states “Federal and State grants are property authorized by the City...” and he thinks it should state, “properly authorized”. It was noted the Attorney had addressed this.

Commissioner Drummond moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-1558 with the change of the word “property” to “properly” as presented Item 12B. Seconded by Commissioner Morgan and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

C. Read by title only and adopt Resolution No. 21-1559, which adopts a Fund Balance Policy.

Mr. Langley read Resolution No. 21-1559 by title only.

Mr. Gioielli presented the Item and said the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recommends there be a formal Fund Balance Policy. While the Commission has always made the General Fund Reserves a high priority and strived to have a minimum of an unrestricted fund balance of 17%, the Finance Department wanted to follow the GFOA’s recommendation and make it a formal policy. This policy establishes a minimum of 17% with a goal of as high as 20% to 25%.

Commissioner Morgan moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-1559 as presented Item 12C. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Shoemaker and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

D. Read by title only and adopt Resolution No. 21-1560, authorizing the execution of a Local Agency Program Agreement between the State of Florida Department of Transportation and the City of Longwood concerning the Cross Seminole Trail Connector from Church Avenue and County Road 427 to Cross Seminole Trail.

Mr. Langley read Resolution No. 21-1560 by title only.

Mr. Smith presented the Item and explained that from Ronald Reagan Boulevard down to Grant Street they will be adding special striping to share the road with bicycles. He said there are no other sidewalk improvements they are doing at this time in that area. Once they get to Grant Street and go North to the very end, they will be doing different sidewalk and trail improvements. In general, from Church Avenue to a little past Rosedale Avenue

they will be adding a sidewalk on the west side of the road and do a few fixes in a few places. Once they get up to the park and cemetery, they will be adding a sidewalk on that side also around the park and its back entrance. Across the street, they will be starting a 10-foot wide shared-use path or trail until the very end of Grant Street. It will then turn near the easement and unopened right-of-way that will take them to Timocuan Way, which is a County road and we already have agreements with them. We are also fixing the sidewalk up and down Timocuan Way. Those same bicycle markings will be up and down the road until the Seminole Cross Trail on General Hutchinson Parkway. He said it was a pretty neat and exciting project because it connects our park and Sunrail station to get to the trail. He then answered questions.

Commissioner Morgan moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-1560 as presented Item 12D. Seconded by Commissioner Drummond and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

- E. Read by title only and adopt Resolution No. 21-1561, authorizing the City of Longwood to join with the State of Florida and other local governments as a participant in the Florida Memorandum of Understanding and formal agreements implementing a unified plan.**

Mr. Langley read Resolution No. 21-1561 by title only.

Mr. Langley presented the Item and said they received a letter from the Florida Attorney General's office requesting the Commission adopt a resolution supporting the statewide effort to settle the Opioid Mitigation. He noted that about 100 jurisdictions in the State are actively participating in litigation against the pharmaceutical industry and other industries connected to opioid crises. He said they are not in litigation in this matter as the Commission decided not to engage in that. Several of these pharmaceutical companies that manufacture these drugs are in bankruptcy. There was a rush to try and settle amongst the State of Florida and maximize the settlement by getting all of the local governments to buy into the state's effort to maximize the amount of money that gets to the state, cities, and counties. The state was asking to jump on their team to improve the settlement. If they do that, the City of Longwood could receive up to \$12,000. Because they are not in litigation, if they vote no on this Item, they are not going to get any money. If they vote yes, there was a potential to get around \$12,000. There are limitations on what they can use the money for but can use it for Narcan. The

counties have greater services they provide that they as a City do not. He recommends approving the Item because he does not see the downside of it. He then answered questions.

Commissioner Morgan moved to adopt Resolution No. 21-1561 as presented Item 12E. Seconded by Commissioner Drummond and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

13. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Gioielli expressed how much they appreciate working together with Commission Drummond, commended his commitment to our community and staff support, and said he will be missed. He congratulated Commissioner Sackett on his nomination as Mayor. He reported attending a meeting at Seminole County Commission where they voted to extend the mask mandate and the Governor passed Executive Order #21-101, which they are still digesting. He understands that the Order will take effect on July 1, 2021. He said there will be more information provided to the Commission and staff as we have a full understanding of it. They have begun taking steps to prepare for the 9/11 Memorial Event. He noted September 11, 2021, is a Saturday, and with the Commission's approval, they would like to set that as their date and make sure other organizations and other governments know they got to it first and may invite other dignitaries and business representatives while they start to work on what the event will include such as road closures, seating, ROTC involvement, helicopter flyovers, speeches, Police and Fire memorials, along with dedications including bagpipes and taps. He asked if that date was okay with the Commission.

It was the consensus of the Commission to set the 9/11 memorial on September 11, 2021, in the early morning.

Mr. Gioielli mentioned the receipt of the American Rescue Plan Funding. He said he understands it will come in two installments. There may be funding received as early as this month, if not, sooner. He proposed a workshop once the money was here to brainstorm on getting the very most of what they have.

It was the consensus of the Commission to hold a workshop.

Mr. Gioielli said staff has put some considerable time into learning, understanding the rules, and evaluating facilities and the cost of pickleball. Some facilities around Central Florida use tennis courts as pickleball courts. There was a way to put two (2) pickleball courts on one (1) tennis court with different colored lines but some feel that would be complex during one of the two games. We currently have one tennis

court at Reiter Park that has been stripped for one pickleball court. He asked whether or not they should make the other tennis courts, pickleball courts. The three (3) at Candyland and two (2) at Reiter Park will give us a total of five (5). We also found some space for the sizes that are required through the USA Pickleball Association. We are looking at \$31,000 plus the cost of fencing for dedicated pickleball courts.

Discussion ensued on where to place the pickleball courts. It was noted this topic would be circled back to after additional feedback.

Mr. Gioielli reported there will be a public meeting hosted by Seminole County Government at the Longwood Community Building on May 18, 2021, at 5:45 p.m. to discuss the proposed roadway improvements for Ronald Reagan Boulevard and State Road 434. He said Mayor Sackett had expressed interest in going and the Clerk will post a Public Notice in case anyone else would like to come. He noted they have expressed interest in pursuing the possibility of adding the slip lane along the tracks to allow for southbound Ronald Reagan Boulevard traffic to move unrestricted onto westbound State Road 434. We support their position of increasing the number of turn lanes for east and westbound State Road 434, allowing more vehicles to get to the intersection and cross without being held back by the train. Our issue and staff's priority has been the beautification of the corner there. He said they want to see this project get funded. He said it was an unfunded project and he thought that having them pursuing it on several levels and a push during this meeting at the Community Building would be helpful.

Mr. Gioielli reported on the gentleman who was interested in purchasing the Lewis House and said he has not returned their calls over the last month. He said this brings us to an important point in recognizing the deterioration of the building on the City's property. He said they have been in contact with the Historic Society and there may be some interest but nobody is prepared to take that one with the amount of cost. If they had a location to put it and the Commission was to approve that location they anticipate it being about \$150,000 to properly restore the building. He believes that the cost includes moving it.

Discussion ensued on what direction to take with the Lewis House and the true cost of it.

Mr. Gioielli mentioned Commissioner Morgan's dedication to Public Relations and his goals which included helping promote the City in general specifically City events, highlighting the City, staff, and Commission's accomplishments, the City's important milestones, and developmental projects, as well as creating marketing within the City and

surrounding regional areas to try to motivate people to come to Longwood to live, work, or play. He also mentioned the discussions they shared included the possibility of a Public Relations firm or a Public Relations staff member dedicated to facilitating those objectives through social media and the media in general, as well as being involved in the promotion of different priorities of the Commission and staff.

Mr. Gioielli researched and spoke to representatives from the City of Altamonte Springs who have had both contract work and staff employees. He also contacted the same company that did Altamonte Springs' work, the Wellons Communication Group, and they provided pricing. He researched the median income of somebody dedicated as an employee for this work. He noted the contracted work for one event is \$425 and any work after that would be billed at \$75 an hour. If they handled social media and digital newspapers they would charge a retainer of \$850 a month which would include social media development and coordination, weekly media posts about events and happenings in our City, a complete editorial calendar, monitoring of social media platforms including customer relations and crisis communication, development and execution of a monthly newsletter, and paid digital advertising which would be available upon request. They were originally billing Altamonte Springs \$55 to \$65 an hour. Their billing rate to him was \$75.

Mr. Gioielli researched pricing for different independent firms in comparison to an employee and said while the ranges are pretty wide, it is a median annual income of around \$50,000 to have a dedicated City employee. He said when Altamonte Springs went with Wellons Communication they spent \$50,000 for their first annual contract. When they added the things they felt they needed for being a larger City with more events they were up to \$75,000. They now have three (3) dedicated staff and two (2) that have collateral duties that involve Public Relations work.

Discussion ensued on how to proceed with Public Relations for City events.

Mr. Gioielli reported that staff submitted a funding request to Representative Stephanie Murphy's office for the funding of the design phase of the West Warren Avenue Complete Streets Project. A total of \$400,000 was requested and they were notified before walking into the meeting, by her Deputy Chief of Staff, that the project would be listed on her project request list for review by the House Appropriations Committee.

