

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

**MINUTES**  
June 6, 2022  
6:00 P.M.

**Present:** Mayor Matt Morgan  
Deputy Mayor Tony Boni  
Commissioner Abby Shoemaker  
Commissioner Matt McMillan  
Commissioner Brian D. Sackett  
Dan Langley, City Attorney  
Clint Gioielli, Acting City Manager  
Michelle Longo, City Clerk  
David Dowda, Police Chief  
Magdala Ridore, Human Resources Director  
Molly Ralston, Human Resources Generalist  
Trisha Fuston, Payroll/HR Coordinator

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **OPENING INVOCATION.** Father Daniel Hickman, with St. Stephen Orthodox Church, gave the invocation.
3. **THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Commissioner Sackett led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Ms. Longo read the following announcements.
  - A. The City of Longwood will host a “Longwood Luau” a Hawaiian-themed party on Saturday, June 11, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at Reiter Park, 311 West Warren Avenue.
  - B. The “Downtown Longwood Cruise-In” Car Show will be held on Saturday, June 11, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in the Historic District of Longwood.

- C. **The City of Longwood will host a Flag Retirement Ceremony on Tuesday, June 14, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., at Reiter Park, 311 West Warren Avenue. American flags that need to be retired can be brought to Reiter Park for proper disposal.**
- D. **The “Senior Matinee will be held on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Longwood Community Building, 200 West Warren Avenue. This month’s feature is The Marksman.**
- E. **The City of Longwood in partnership with Ladies 327 will host a “Juneteenth” celebration on Saturday, June 18, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., at Reiter Park, 311 West Warren Avenue.**

**5. PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS**

- A. **Proclaiming June 19, 2022, as “Juneteenth Day” in the City of Longwood.**

Mayor Morgan read the Proclamation and passed it to the City Clerk.

- B. **Recognition of Aaron Holland for his service as the Citizens on Patrol (COP) Chief.**

Chief Dowda recognized Aaron Holland for his service as the Citizens on Patrol Chief. He then presented him with a plaque and photographs were then taken.

**6. BOARD APPOINTMENTS. None.**

**7. PUBLIC INPUT**

- A. **Presentation: Kathy Jordon, Consultant with Siver Insurance Consultants to present their summary review and recommendation regarding the Group Medical Insurance Program provider.**

Mrs. Ridore introduced Kathy Jordon and Siver Insurance the consultants assisting the City with the preparation of the Request for Proposals (RFP) and the entire process regarding the Group Medical Insurance provider.

Ms. Jordan gave a presentation on their summary review and recommendations. She stated the City received the following three proposals: 1) Public Risk Management of Florida (PRM) with coverages provided by Florida Blue 2) Florida League of Cities

Florida Municipal Insurance Trust (FMIT) with coverages provided by United Healthcare 3) Humana. Ms. Jordan said the City has been with PRM for more than ten (10) years, and their proposal was excellent with a 3 percent increase which in today's marketplace is very good and it involved no changes. The proposal from FMIT represented a reduction in the cost of health insurance which was about a 3.5 percent reduction. The Humana proposal was about the same cost as PRM. She added there was a committee of six (6) staff members who reviewed the proposals, scored them on a number of different criteria, and the recommendation is to go with the FMIT program. She explained FMIT is able to administer the same plans so employees will not have much change in their copayment or deductible. The network of providers with United Healthcare is actually better than Florida Blue. Ms. Jordan said they looked at the 100 most used providers by City employees and their family members, and United had more of them in network than Florida Blue. Her company's recommendation is consistent with the committee's recommendation in scoring.

Discussion ensued including the City will realize \$125,000 in savings from last year with the FMIT proposal; what you have accumulated in your deductible up until the transfer from Florida Blue to United HealthCare will be transferred to the new insurance; employees will receive a discount in services just like they do now with Florida Blue; more doctors used by employees are in the United Healthcare network than in Florida Blue.

Commissioner Sackett moved to have Item 12D under Regular Business moved up on the agenda and handled now. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Boni and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

12. D. **Approve the award for Request for Proposal (RFP) #03312022 to the Florida League of Cities Florida Municipal Insurance Trust (FMIT) as the Group Medical Insurance Program provider for the city.**

Commissioner Sackett moved to approve Item 12D as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Shoemaker.

Commissioner McMillan said he like that the City is getting a 6.41 percent decrease over the other proposal at a time when everything else is going up, and it expands coverage for

employees in their selection of doctors. He commended the consultant and city staff committee for a job well done.

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Mrs. Ridore thanked PRM and said they have had a great relationship with them over the past ten (10) years and continue to have one on the Property and Casualty side. They have been a great partner. PRM has also offered its assistance in the upcoming transition to FMIT. She also thanked the committee members for their help with the proposal reviews which involved several meetings and several documents. She said the decision was not taken lightly especially dealing with people's insurance and money. The committee included Michael Saylor, Utility Billing Manager; David Dowda, Police Chief; Michael Peters, Fire Chief; Molly Ralston, Human Resources Generalist; James Miles, Fire Department Lieutenant; and Matthew Hockenberry, Stormwater Supervisor. She also thanked Greg Kirby, Purchasing Manager, for his assistance during the entire process as well as the City Commission.

Mr. Gioielli also thanked the same group and recognized Mrs. Ridore for her leadership on this project.

**B. Public Participation.**

Al Krulick, 750 N. Thistle Lane, Maitland. He said he was here to introduce himself as a courtesy just as Mayor Morgan had introduced himself prior to the meeting. Mr. Krulick stated he is a candidate for the United States Congress from District 7 which includes all of Seminole County and parts of Southeast Volusia County. He is visiting all of the cities in the district to introduce himself, and his website is [krulickforcongress.com](http://krulickforcongress.com). If any member of the City Commission wanted to discuss an item of concern, he would be happy to hear from them. He said if and when he wins the election he looks forward to working with the Commission for the benefit of the people of Longwood, Seminole County, Volusia County, and of course the country. He left his card with the City Clerk if anyone would like to contact him.

Kurtus Hayes, 460 Tullis Avenue, Longwood. He said he and his wife grew up in Longwood and have family here totaling sixty (60) plus years. His wife works for the Veterans Affairs (VA) Clinic and a pest control and wildlife business. They have a trailer on their property with a side-by-side on top of it. They received a code

violation for it being parked in the front yard. At their home's location, he said they cannot get the trailer on the side yard due to the fact one side has an AC unit and water lines. On the other side, there is a 9.5-foot oak tree and a pool pump. They have sent multiple emails and could not figure out a resolution other than building a carport which is a lot of money. Unfortunately, his wife wakes up every morning at 4:30 a.m. and she is out the door. The storage places in the area are not available to access the trailer until 6:00 a.m. so that will not work for them as well. He is proposing some kind of recoding like paying a monthly fee for legitimate businesses that are in the community which is tagged as such paying perhaps through the water bill. This would be something they would have to apply for and make sure it is up to code, for example, not having four-foot grass around it. The City would receive something monthly and the businesses can still keep their equipment on hand.

Robbie Chartier, 3434 Hancock Bridge Parkway, Fort Myers. She said she is the PRM Executive Director and she thanked the City for their ten (10) plus years of partnership with the group health trust. She also apologized they were inadequately represented in the city committee interviews, and they are taking responsibility for that. They will address that issue in their June 17 board meeting. She wished the City well in their new medical health and was happy to see they would receive a reduction. Lastly, she wanted to send a hello from Don Roper, who was unable to attend, to Commissioner Sackett.

Ryan Ramirez, 141 Fig Tree Run, Longwood. He said he wanted to address the topic of Longwood Babe Ruth, as well as, Candyland Sports Complex. He was aware of accommodations being made for pickleball organizations, and he has been reaching out to local pickleball leagues and clubs. They have branches in Sanford, Lake Mary, and Longwood. He suggested building pavilions over the courts to accommodate players who often are part of an older population and have the sun beating down on them. He said the pavilions would be a draw to pull in pickleball players from other cities to use the new facility at Candyland Sports Complex.

Mr. Ramirez commented in regards to Longwood Babe Ruth. He said Chris Capizzi gave three (3) options to move forward: 1) Extend the Longwood Babe Ruth contract 2) Rent out the fields to private teams or travel teams 3) Seek another league. He recalled option one (1) Longwood Babe Ruth always being there, as well as, travel teams so he did not think it was one or the other. He

thought during the off-season the City can still have revenue from the travel ball teams coming into the park. He added regarding the parking, which is a dirt lot, there are no organized parking spots, and it gets filled up all the time. There is a need for organized parking spots at the park.

Lindsey Larson, Account Executive. She said she is from the Florida League of Cities/FMIT/United Healthcare, and she is the account executive who will be working with the Human Resources team and the group health insurance moving forward. She commended the staff on the process and cyber group. They were diligent with their questions and made sure they were getting the best insurance for the City. She and her organization look forward to partnering with the city on October 1.

## **8. MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORT**

**District #1.** Commissioner Shoemaker said on May 19 she and Deputy Mayor Boni attended the Tri-County League of Cities Ethics and Luncheon. She noted it was the first time Deputy Mayor Boni attended and he could elaborate. On May 30, she attended the Memorial Day Celebration with VFW Post 8207. The next day, May 31, she attended the ribbon-cutting for Alta Cypress and noted they are beautiful apartments. On June 2 she attended the Board Appreciation Dinner, which was very nice and she thanked Ms. Ralston, Ms. Longo, and Mrs. Ridore. On June 3 she went to the ribbon-cutting for Carstens Closet Boutique, which she thoroughly enjoyed. The newly opened shop on State Road 434 features women's clothing, jewelry, shoes, regular sizes, plus sizes, and items for kids. She added the boutique represents another woman business owner in the City. On June 4, she attended the Charity Poker Tournament hosted by the Longwood Historic Society. It was only the third time in her life she played Texas Hold'em and she was the last Commissioner to go out of the game. Commissioner Sackett had to leave early so, in reality, she may have come in second. She said the first annual event was a lot of fun and she looks forward to the next one.

**District #2.** Deputy Mayor Boni said he attended the Ethics Course of the Tri-County League of Cities along with Commissioner Shoemaker. The instructor included humor which made the course enjoyable. He reminded everyone of the Flag Retirement Ceremony scheduled for June 14 at Reiter Park. He commented the Longwood Historic Society's First Annual Charity Poker Tournament on June 4 was a great success. It was put on by Historic Cigars of Longwood, they were the title sponsor. He did not play poker but instead, was the master of ceremonies (MC). He reported the event raised \$8,400 for the roof at the Bradlee-McIntyre House, and he thanked the players, residents, and fellow commissioners

for their participation. He gave special thanks to the twenty-one (21) businesses in Longwood for their gift card donations for the top ten poker players. He said the community was able to get together for some fun for a few hours and raise money for a good cause.

**District #3.** Commissioner McMillan said he wanted to observe today's anniversary of D-Day, June 6, 1944, and thanked his grandfather who was a veteran of Omaha Beach, and all veterans. He also wished Happy Birthday to his father who turned 75 years old last week and noted he and his father share birthdays. He mentioned he posted on Facebook a birthday fundraiser for Rescue Outreach Mission, of which he is a board member. He thanked everyone for their quick response and contributions to the homeless shelter program reaching his goal of \$200. He reported attending the Board Appreciation Dinner, he thought it was a classy evening and well done. He said he appreciates the volunteers on the boards; Land Planning Agency, Parks and Recreation, and Pension who conduct important business, which is referred to the Commission. He participated in the Charity Poker Tournament and thanked Deputy Mayor Boni for all his hard work in putting the event together. He said he was not the first player nor the last player standing, and he had a great time along with his fellow commissioners.

Commissioner McMillan reported on the true, good and beautiful. For the "true", he stated how many millions are in a billion, it is 1,000. He said there was \$3.1 billion vetoed in the state budget which is \$3,100 million, and to put in that perspective each of the Commissioners is in a district that has 3,100 voters, and if each one of them had a million dollars in an entire district that represents the amount cut from the budget. For the "good", he saw reverence during the Memorial Day Celebration at Longwood Memorial Gardens. The ceremony conducted by VFW Post 8207 was well done with Taps played and a wreath laid. There was another ceremony later at the lunch hosted by VFW Post 8207. For the "beautiful", he appreciated the ribbon-cutting at Carstens Closet Boutique. He commented the shop was very stylish and offered plenty of options for women to look beautiful.

**District #4.** Mayor Morgan said on May 17 he attended along with Mr. Gioielli the Mayors & Managers meeting. He learned the City of Winter Springs continues to negotiate the interlocal agreement related to school capacity whereas the City of Longwood and other involved government entities have already come to an agreement with that. He reported also at the meeting there was a discussion allowing for a better understanding of unified police dispatching. For the first time, law enforcement agencies in Seminole County are being dispatched from the same center that is the Seminole County Sheriff's Office which he expressed gratitude

for. On May 18, he was invited as a guest speaker for Seminole County Public Schools, Night of Champions Event. He spoke at an event for Players of the Year, which honors the athletes from each sport at each high school. He congratulated the athletes from Longwood who did a good job representing the City at the awards event held at Hagerty High School in Oviedo. The next day he helped give a presentation at the meeting of the Seminole County Opioid Council. Later that day, he did an interview on a podcast by Fox News with Tyrus, a co-host who is a former pro-wrestler friend of his. He took the opportunity to explain what he does as an elected official for the City of Longwood. On May 25, the Wild Hare Natural Market in Longwood took part in a transition to living cuisine. He said there has been a change in ownership over the last couple of years so he was happy to see the new owner continuing to want to include the community in as many things as possible. Regarding the Memorial Day Celebration, he said the event was the first time for the City. In years past, the VFW Post held the event on their own at Longwood Memorial Gardens. However, he would receive inquiries from residents asking if they could attend the VFW event and pay their respects. He thanked Mr. Gioielli and Ms. Longo for their follow-up from a prior Commission meeting to see what the City could do as a co-host of the Memorial Day Celebration. He hoped in the future the event could be expanded to continue to honor those who lost their lives for everyone's freedom. On May 31 he attended the ribbon-cutting for Alta Cypress with his fellow commissioners. On June 1, he and his son Jackson participated in a football camp held by Nate Jefferson and his non-profit organization called Wishing for A Hero. He explained Mr. Jefferson is a talented football player and graduate from Lyman High School who is currently a sophomore at FIU in Miami. His organization raises money for back-to-school supplies and gifts for children during the holidays. In addition, they recently held a football camp for grades K-6 for a discounted price of \$15. His son did very well at the camp with the other children and coaches. Also, the second day of camp was held for grades 6-12 and Mayor Morgan participated as a guest speaker. He commented on the outstanding leadership Mr. Jefferson has demonstrated at such a young age and mentioned the city should think about recognizing him.

Mayor Morgan said in regards to the Board Appreciation Dinner many residents give up time from their families to volunteer for City boards and committees. The Commission reviews a lot of the ideas and recommendations from the boards. He thanked Ms. Longo, Ms. Ridore, and other staff for their hard work on the event. He mentioned he got a phone call from a woman who has a special needs child in Winter Springs. She was upset because she was told her daughter could not participate in the Special Olympics because she did not have a COVID vaccine. He reached out to the state governor's office and he got a call back from the

staff, as well as, the child's mother. They showed up at a press conference with Governor DeSantis. He said thousands of Special Olympians who were unable to get a vaccine were now able to participate. He and his wife watched the Special Olympics on tv and saw the woman's daughter named Chelsea in the opening ceremonies. He explained Chelsea could not get a COVID vaccine because she is allergic to one of the ingredients and a doctor's note confirmed that. He thanked the governor for allowing these athletes with disabilities to participate in Special Olympics.

Mayor Morgan thanked Deputy Mayor Boni for his many efforts in the first annual Charity Poker Tournament. He added he is not a poker player but still participated making large bets with his chips so he could attend other events. He won three hands in a row to his amazement. Nevertheless, he said everyone had a great time, and he gave special thanks to the business sponsors of the event, as well as, the Longwood Historic Society. He encouraged others to join the historic society and become involved with the community. He reported attending the Concert in the Park. He thanked Ladies 327 for helping with the event which featured food trucks, various vendors, and a band called Switch. Unfortunately, the weather was bad raining just before the event but people did attend. Yesterday, he had a Longwood Babe Ruth Board meeting and thanked the Citizens on Patrol (COPs) group for allowing them to use their office for the meeting.

**District #5.** Commissioner Sackett said he attended the Memorial Day Celebration at Longwood Memorial Gardens. He pointed out it was a solemn event honoring those who lost their lives in past wars. He added he wished he knew all the names of the people in attendance along with their military service. He noted it was nice to be asked to provide the invocation for the Board Appreciation Dinner recognizing all the people who work hard in the City. He mentioned Aaron Holland who was recognized earlier in the meeting for all his volunteer work with COPs. He described Mr. Holland as a sensitive, kind, straight-forward thinking man with a great sense of humor. Commissioner Sackett reported attending the ribbon-cutting for Carstens Closet Boutique. Initially, he thought the store involved closets but instead, it features women's clothing and accessories. He said when he arrived he discovered he had taught the children of the owner before he retired as a teacher. He enjoyed speaking with them as well as their mother who he also knew and is now an entrepreneur in the City.

Commissioner Sackett reported attending the graduation ceremony for his granddaughter from Lyman High School at the University of Central Florida Arena. He said they went to four (4) parties and all the kids

behaved well. He also participated in the Charity Poker Tournament and mentioned he knocked Mayor Morgan out of the game twice but in the end, another player knocked him out getting all of their chips. He thanked Deputy Mayor Boni for putting together the event, and his wife was happy to help with the finances of the tournament. Afterwards, he and his wife attended the Concert in the Park across the street and celebrated their 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. He thought the concert was the best yet even though the volume was loud. Commissioner Sackett said the next morning he and his wife planned to take a flight to Minneapolis, and they would likely visit the Spam Museum amongst other stops. He said while out of town he will miss several events in Longwood but will return late on June 18. He expressed gratitude for everyone working on all the activities in the City.

Deputy Mayor Boni asked to recognize key sponsors of the Longwood Historic Society's Charity Poker Tournament including Historic Cigars Longwood, the title sponsor, Chianti's Italian Restaurant of Longwood which provided all the food, Waste Pro USA which provided all the gift cards for top ten (10) prizes, Orlando Predators which donated two hundred (200) tickets, and City of Longwood which provided the Community Building.

9. **ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA.** None.

10. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. **Approve Minutes of May 16, 2022, Regular Meeting.**

B. **Approve the Monthly Expenditures for May 2022.**

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

11. **PUBLIC HEARINGS.** None.

12. **REGULAR BUSINESS**

A. **Schedule Wednesday, September 7, 2022, and Monday, September 19, 2022, as regular City Commission Meeting dates and public hearing dates for the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Budget.**

Commissioner McMillan moved to approve Item 12A as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Sackett and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

**B. City Commission to designate one Member of the City Commission to be a voting delegate for the City of Longwood for the August 2022 Florida League of Cities Annual Business Meeting.**

Mayor Morgan nominated Deputy Mayor Boni to be a voting delegate at the August 2022 Florida League of Cities Annual Business Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner McMillan and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

**C. Read by title only and adopt Resolution No. 22-1602; Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) State Highway Lighting, Maintenance, and Compensation Agreement.**

Mr. Langley read Resolution No. 22-1602 by title only.

Mr. Gioielli presented the Item.

Commissioner Sackett moved to adopt Resolution No. 22-1602 as presented Item 12C. Seconded by Commissioner Shoemaker and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

**D. Approve the award for Request for Proposal (RFP) #03312022 to the Florida League of Cities Florida Municipal Insurance Trust (FMIT) as the Group Medical Insurance Program provider for the city.**

Item addressed after the presentation by Kathy Jordan under Public Input.

**13. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Gioielli thanked the Commission for recognizing the staff and all their hard work. He reported the water meter upgrade system to the AMI system is in progress. The system-wide antenna has been installed, and some of the test meters have been placed for testing, which will keep the City on its proposed track of having the entire system upgraded before the end of the fiscal year. He said as a reminder the upgrade will make the system more efficient, more accurate, and supports environmental conservation.

Mr. Gioielli said last October, he reported a peak at the Community Building where for the first time revenues from rentals exceeded \$14,000. He was happy to report they have exceeded that peak last month in May with a new record of over \$17,000. He stated staff anticipated a slower summer but it is good to see the hard work,

marketing, and support from the Commission has allowed for the increase of revenue offsetting some of the taxpayers' expenses.

Mr. Gioielli said hurricane season is upon us effective June 1. He wanted the Commission to be aware and for those citizens watching that city staff is prepared. He said the city's emergency operations center here locally is operational and tested. Staff who works closely with the Seminole County Emergency Operation Center in the State of Florida are prepared, should there be a need. He added there is an anticipated above active season projected.

Mr. Gioielli reported staff is engaged with an acoustical engineering company, and they are facilitating a meeting in hopes of getting started on options to balance the need for events at the park and doing anything possible to limit the impact on the neighboring residents.

**14. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT.** No report.

**15. CITY CLERK'S REPORT**

Ms. Longo reminded the Commissioners of the two upcoming ribbon cuttings. One will be held Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. for Alestone Brewing Co., located at 351 N. Ronald Reagan Boulevard. The second will be held on Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. for Doggo Lovers, located at 460 N. Ronald Reagan Boulevard. She thanked the Commissioners for their support and attendance at the Board Appreciation Dinner. She thanked Summer Raines, Records Coordinator for her assistance with the preparations for the dinner. She also thanked Mayor Morgan and Mr. Gioielli for their participation and assistance, along with Commissioner Sackett for providing the invocation.

**16. ADJOURN.** Mayor Morgan adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Minutes approved by City Commission: 06-20-2022

---

**Matt Morgan, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

---

**Michelle Longo, MMC, FCRM  
City Clerk**