

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

MINUTES
August 3, 2020
6:00 P.M.
(Virtual Meeting – Webex)

Present: **Mayor Matt Morgan**
Deputy Mayor Brian D. Sackett
Commissioner Abby Shoemaker
Commissioner Richard Drummond
Commissioner Ben Paris
Dan Langley, City Attorney
Clint Gioielli, Acting City Manager
Michelle Longo, City Clerk
David P. Dowda, Police Chief
Chris Kintner, Community Development Director
Craig Dunn, Information Technology Director
Judith Rosado, Finance Director

- 1. CALL TO ORDER.** Mayor Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.
- 2. MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION**
- 3. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Commissioner Drummond led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Ms. Longo read the following announcements.
 - A. “Downtown Longwood Cruise-In” Car Show will be held on Saturday, August 8, 2020, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in the Historic District of Longwood located off of Church Avenue.**
 - B. The “Downtown Longwood Food Trucks” will be held on Thursday, August 13, 2020, from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at Reiter Park, 311 West Warren Avenue.**
- 5. PROCLAMATIONS / RECOGNITIONS**
 - A. Nominations for the Annual Key to the City Award.**

Commissioner Shoemaker nominated David Dowda, Longwood Police Chief.

Commissioner Paris nominated Keith Shoemaker, former City of Longwood Employee.

Mayor Morgan nominated Brian Sackett, Deputy Mayor of the City of Longwood.

Deputy Mayor Sackett nominated Cheryl Bryant, owner of the Wild Hare Kitchen and Garden Emporium.

All nominations carried by a unanimous voice vote.

6. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

A. District # 2 (At large) nomination to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Commissioner Drummond nominated Ms. Amanda Sackett for appointment to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Nomination carried by a unanimous voice vote.

7. PUBLIC INPUT

A. Public Participation. None.

8. MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

District #1. No report.

District #2. Commissioner Drummond said a couple of weeks ago my family and I were at AMF Bowling in Altamonte Springs and it happened to be the same day the Longwood Summer Camp kids were there. They were having an awesome time. He commended Ryan Rinaldo and the staff of Leisure Services for their work with the kids. He said he attended the ribbon cutting for Performance Health and Integrative Training (P.H.I.T) on Ronald Reagan Boulevard in the new mall that is filling up rapidly. He talked to several of the trainers there who said if anyone is looking to get in shape or into rehab that is the place to go.

District #3. Commissioner Paris asked how many houses were taken off septic and put onto sewer since we started the Septic Tank Abatement Project. He also asked for an update on the project on Church Street.

Mr. Gioielli said it is being rolled out in phases. We were just approved for and accepted another Environmental Services Grant to move to the next phase. He said he would find out how much is done, how many are

in progress, and what is the next phase as well as how many houses were taken off septic and get that information to you.

District #4. Mayor Morgan said we had a fabulous ribbon cutting at P.H.I.T, off Ronald Reagan Boulevard. We are excited about that. For those gym-goers who are scared of getting back to the gym, this place is super clean and allows for training one-on-one with somebody and not worry about others being around you while you are training. Your skill level and experience do not matter. They can work with everybody. They also have chiropractic care there. It is a good opportunity for many of us that have back issues to go get checked out. Additionally, you know you are giving back to our local Longwood business owners and it is another example of our local economy thriving. Many who talk about this use this as a political point but it is the truth. He said look at how many ribbon-cuttings we are doing in the middle of COVID. It is an awesome time to be here in Longwood. He thanked everyone that has made it very special for these businesses to open. A lot of this comes from the red tape we have cut through as a Commission to make these things happen. He said on July 23 we had our budget workshop. Every decision we make is on camera where residents can weigh in and we can get faster feedback. On Friday, July 24, I had a meeting with Mr. Gioielli. He thanked him for his time. This past Saturday at the Sikh Society of Central Florida in Oviedo, he gave out free meals and school supplies to any who needed it. Tons of people took advantage of this, which is sad, but it reminds you that people have different struggles. It was cool to play a part and see some of these people get these necessities. On July 29, I met with the Central Florida Zoo. It is our #1 tourist attraction in Seminole County. They are struggling financially. The minute they had to shut down because of COVID, they lost millions of dollars and have not been able to pay their staff or pay to feed their animals. I met with Dino who oversees the Zoo to help figure out ways to start fundraisers and events. The Central Florida Zoo is important to my family and me because it is the first Zoo that became Sensory Inclusive. We should be very proud of this because it gives children, like my son Jackson, an opportunity to go into the Zoo and see live animals in person for the first time instead of just on cartoons. This means their whole staff is trained to handle and help kids with sensory issues. They worked with Kulture City to become the first Zoo to be Sensory Inclusive. They give out these gift bags before you go in that include noise-canceling headphones that help and make a difference. We were going there almost every weekend. It is a fun time. He encouraged everyone and their family to visit. They have a great splash pad and playground. He said later that evening, I had the opportunity to go on a talk show with Dr. Drew along with one other elected official, and a Fox personality, Tyrus from The Greg Gutfeld Show. We were there to try to convince Dr. Drew to run for office. He lives out in California and has given serving in office a lot of thought. Hopefully, we

were able to convince him. Mayor Morgan said we had an awesome ribbon cutting on Thursday, July 30, at Caroline's Divine Touch Massage. He thanked her for choosing Longwood. He also thanked Emmanuel's Hair Salon who has done an amazing job throughout this virus and has been good about helping our residents that have reached out to them. He said he spoke with Nina Yon from The Christian Sharing Center about getting capacity signs up for each of their departments. I put her in touch with our Fire Marshal to handle that. If you have not had a chance to visit, it is an entire strip mall dedicated to a multitude of free services. He encouraged contributing to the Sharing Center and recommended visiting and taking a tour.

Mayor Morgan noted earlier this morning someone sent a phishing email, pretending to be him while using a fake email address, and reaching out to and trying to get the Finance Department to transfer money. Our Police Department and Mr. Dunn, IT Director, will be looking into this.

District #5. Deputy Mayor Sackett thanked Mr. Dunn and his team for helping him attend the budget meeting via Webex while he was on vacation. He also thanked Mr. Gioielli who contacted him during the Hurricane, while he was at the beach, to see if he needed to check on his home. He said he went to the Longwood Summer Camp and bought them all ice cream. They were very thankful. He noted Babe Ruth is registering this weekend until August 8. Within their registration, they have an insurance clause. It is a smart move. If a kid falls out of a baseball season for any reason, it guarantees a partial refund. He said I started my 42nd year of teaching. Woodlands Elementary's population is down to 50% of students attending face-to-face. The others will be doing Seminole Connect, where the student will get direct instruction from a teacher while at home, and Florida Virtual School, which is not correlated to Seminole County's School schedule. These students have a right to come back into the classroom after a certain number of weeks. I am proud to say I am coming back to face-to-face classes. My grandkids are also going back to school attending face-to-face. He said instead of having 26 kids in his class, he will have 15 kids. I set them up today with their social distancing. I am excited to see them face-to-face and I hope we have a fantastic problem-free opening.

Mayor Morgan asked about the school set-up.

Deputy Mayor Sackett said the whole small group instruction is a little bit different than it used to be but it is exciting and doable and the teachers that are teaching online are excited about what they are offering.

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

10. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Minutes of the July 20, 2020, Regular Meeting.**
- B. Approve the Monthly Expenditures for July 2020.**
- C. Approve the Seminole County Public Schools 2020 – 2021 School Resource Officer Agreement.**

Commissioner Paris requested that Item 10C be pulled for a separate discussion.

Commissioner Shoemaker requested that Item 10B be pulled for a separate discussion.

Commissioner Paris moved to approve Item 10A as presented. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Sackett and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Discussion ensued on Item 10B with Commissioner Shoemaker asking if the \$32,000 to fix the VAC Truck is spent every quarter. She also asked what Cloud 9 Services is.

Mr. Gioielli said he would have to get more information and present it to her tomorrow. He believes it is a repair of a Lift Station.

Deputy Mayor Sackett said when he finds the answer, it should be added to the minutes.

Mr. Langley said technically the minutes do not have to include that, but if the Commission wants the minutes to reflect that response, that is fine.

Commissioner Shoemaker moved to approve Item 10B and asked that the Acting City Manager add the response to her questions to the minutes. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Sackett and motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Discussion ensued on Item 10C with Commissioner Paris asking how many School Resource Officers (SRO) we have in the City of Longwood and how does the breakdown of paying them works.

Chief Dowda said we used to have four School Resource Officers. In the upcoming school year, we will have two officers permanently assigned to Lyman High School and one officer in Longwood Elementary. For Lyman, the Seminole County School

Board is covering 50% of wages and benefits for one officer and 100% of wages and benefits for the other officer. For Longwood Elementary, the County is paying for 50% of the wages and benefits for one officer.

Commissioner Paris asked if our School Resource Officers cover Rock Lake Elementary and Milwee Middle School.

Chief Dowda said the Seminole County Sheriff's Office has deputies assigned to those schools.

Discussion ensued on the number of officers previously assigned to Lyman, what happened to the third floating officer, and why the number of SRO's went down from four to three. It was noted the third floating officer is assigned to our Community Relations Unit and if one of the SRO's has to leave, that floating officer can fill in for them.

Mr. Gioielli noted this was not a decision made by us but rather a decision based on an anticipated loss of funding from the State, which is outside of the staff's control. We are anticipating the reallocating of funds as a result of priorities that they have identified this year and maybe even COVID. With that anticipated funding ending, that has already been reflected in the proposed budget that we have presented to the Commission.

Deputy Mayor Sackett asked why we are paying for the School Resource Officers and not the School Board.

Chief Dowda said he does not know the reason why but he knows the reason for the breakdown. He noted it started in the mid-'90s when he was not the Chief and when we supplied the first SRO to Lyman High School. That was the original breakdown and that is the way it has been maintained ever since.

Deputy Mayor Sackett noted he would like to get out of the SRO business and have the School Board pay for our SRO officers to protect the children, however, he will vote yes to this Item.

Commissioner Paris said the City of Longwood is paying for what is necessary. He pointed out that we are providing Officers and staff to protect the children. That is an important distinction. The City is stepping up and putting extra Officers out there using taxpayer money from our budget.

Commissioner Paris moved to approve Item 10C as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Drummond and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

11. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Read by title only and adopt Ordinance No. 20-2183, amending the City Charter and providing that said proposed Charter Amendments be submitted to the voters for referendum at the election held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.**

Mr. Langley read Ordinance No. 20-2183 by title only.

Commissioner Paris invited Matthew McMillan, Chair of the Charter Advisory Committee to review the recommendations in the Ordinance.

Mr. McMillan went over the changes listed on the Ordinance. It was noted the changes to the Charter were all made unanimously.

Discussion ensued on how long the Charter Advisory Committee took to make these recommendations.

Mayor Morgan opened the public hearing. No one spoke in favor or opposition to Ordinance No. 20-2183.

Deputy Mayor Sackett moved to close the public hearing. Seconded by Commissioner Drummond and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Deputy Mayor Sackett moved to adopt Ordinance No. 20-2183 as presented Item 11A. Seconded by Commissioner Shoemaker and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

12. REGULAR BUSINESS

- A. Read by title only, set August 24, 2020, as the public hearing date and approve Ordinance No. 20-2184, which amends and extends the Residential Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Services Contract with Waste Pro of Florida. *(This item was tabled at the July 20 meeting for further discussion.)***

Mr. Langley read Ordinance No. 20-2184 by title only.

Mr. Gioielli presented the Item and stated we received a letter from Waste Pro requesting no rate increase for the next fiscal year, an adjustment to the contract to be paid on all city residences regardless if they paid or not, and a four-year contract

extension effective October 1, 2021. The Commission asked staff to research and see what the impact of the request would be. The impact of Waste Pro's request to be paid on all City Residents for one year would cost the City approximately \$57,000 because if the City were to pay for all houses in the City, the Commission would be approving the pass on of that expense due to City taxpayer money. If we approve the contract's language change and the four-year extension that would continue into the next four-year contract for a year-over-year negative impact.

Mayor Morgan asked if the total cost of \$57,000 is for the residents that have not been paying.

Mr. Gioielli said that is the average for all who do not pay but it changes if someone were to move. If you have a residence that is a rental property but is vacant while the landlord is looking for a tenant, the utilities would not be turned on or collected, but the City would have to pay that cost even if there is no one there and no trash to collect.

Mayor Morgan asked if other companies could figure out a way to collect on the homes that are not paying.

Mr. Gioielli said we agree and our recommendation is to not absorb that cost. It is a unique situation for those that chronically do not pay as a result of not having their water tied to their solid waste services. Some cities have their utilities tied to their tax rolls which makes it incumbent upon the owner of the property to pay, others, as is for half of the residents in our City, are motivated to pay because when they do not pay their bill, their water gets turned off.

Mayor Morgan noted this is not how it is set up in the City.

Mr. Gioielli said we have done some research and sought out input from Mr. Langley. He asked the Commission to allow him to present an ordinance at the next meeting that allows staff to pursue those houses that do not pay and move forward with a lien that is tied to the house and make it incumbent upon the owners of the property to come forward and pay. The thought is that if our vendors are to continue to pick up trash in houses that do not pay, what is the motivation for their neighbor to continue to pay.

Commissioner Shoemaker suggested taking away the green trash bin for those who do not pay their bill and have Waste Pro pick up trash to those who only have the green trash bin.

Commissioner Drummond said the contract is good through September 30, 2021, and there is no rate increase although they missed the deadline to ask for a rate increase. In our contract, we are only paying them for the houses that are paying us. We can stay with that and turn down the four-year extension or go out to bid before their contract expires and take no current action.

Commissioner Paris stated there is a section of the City that does not get water services from the City; therefore, the solid waste fee is not put into their bill. He asked if there is an opportunity or mechanism to get Utilities, Inc. to collect that fee for us.

Mr. Gioielli said our contract makes it incumbent upon the City to collect and charge an administrative fee, but that may be a possibility to explore. He clarified the total amount includes those houses that typically do not pay and additional miscellaneous amounts based on tenants moving and people selling houses.

Discussion ensued on the houses who currently do not pay for collecting their waste, options on how to get them to pay, how to move forward with the contract, and the possibility of seeking out a Request for Proposal (RFP).

Mr. Langley said we do not have to take action on this Ordinance. Another option provided in the contract is to extend the contract for a six-month probationary period beyond the next fiscal year running from October 1, 2021, through March 30, 2022, and locking in the same rates and terms for another six months so the City can explore other alternatives for service.

Commissioner Drummond moved to take no action on Ordinance No. 20-2184. Seconded by Commissioner Paris and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

B. Read by title only, set August 24, 2020, as the public hearing date and approve Ordinance No. 20-2185, which proposes changes to Business Tax Receipts.

Mr. Langley read Ordinance No. 20-2185 by title only.

Mr. Kintner presented the Item and said the Commission had a desire to create a hybrid fee schedule because some businesses

saw an increase, which was not intended. The direction we received was to keep the old fee schedule but incorporate parts where people benefited from the new (current) fee schedule. We have a computer system that has caused us many problems in putting the business tax receipts out and we are going away from that. Fortunately, the Commission signed off on us moving to SmartGov, which would be a lot better to work with. The program we have now is very typical to work with on generating reports and invoices. It had already been transitioned to the new (current) fee schedule and does not include the old fee schedule so we have to go back and reset it to the old fee schedule and try to find a way to find those businesses who benefited from the new fee schedule and incorporate it into the proposed fee schedule. We decided to present a proposed fee schedule that accomplishes what the Commission directed us to do and includes improvements beyond that. One of the things we did is go from 74 categories down to 58 making it more manageable. We also added more flat fees. The standard schedule fee for almost all BTR's was \$70 for 1-5 employees, \$100 for 6-10 employees, and goes on to \$125, \$150, and \$200. The vast majority of Longwood businesses are within that 1-5 employee range. Where the current fee schedule tried to meet those in the middle, this proposed fee schedule puts it at the low number that most people pay. The reason we think this is better is that you can look at the schedule fee in this document and know what everybody is paying. Additionally, we added language that allows businesses who paid a lower rate in 2019 to pay that rate for this fiscal year. We think this is a cleaner schedule than either of the two previous ones. Since we have changed some of the categories and in light of what is going on right now with COVID, smaller retailers and restaurants will pay less under this proposed fee schedule than they would have under the last two fee schedules because we are cognizant of the impacts those businesses have had. One of the benefits we had in taking the Business Tax Receipts on was the opportunity to meet the businesses in person and talk about what they are seeing out there, how their business is doing, and how we can help. He said one concern about having a hybrid fee schedule were some businesses ending up paying too much and us having to fix those issues. It would make us look disorganized and unprofessional and that is not what I want the interaction people have with us to be. Having this fee schedule adopted affirmatively would help us have more predictability, make the payment process easier on both sides, and help businesses impacted by COVID-19 recover. We anticipate a reduction in revenue from last year. He showed the Business Tax Receipts chart and explained the reductions, provided examples, and

answered questions from the Commission. He pointed out there is a second version of the Ordinance in case the Commission is not comfortable with the staff's recommended version.

Discussion ensued on the invoices for Business Tax Receipts that will be sent out to businesses and the proposed fee schedule.

Deputy Mayor Sackett moved to approve the staff recommended Ordinance No. 20-2185 and set August 24, 2020, as the public hearing date. Seconded by Commissioner Paris and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

- C. Read by title only, set August 24, 2020, as the public hearing date and approve Ordinance No. 20-2186, authorizing a Purchase and Sale Agreement (PSA) between the City of Longwood and TowerPoint Communications and the conveyance of a communication easement.**

Mr. Langley read Ordinance No. 20-2186 by title only.

Mr. Gioielli presented the Item and said as suggested by the Commission we pursued other avenues to see if this was a competitive offer from the original offer. Based on that advice, we found a more competitive offer that had better terms and offered the City more money. Currently, the City receives approximately \$30,000 to \$34,000 a year for its lease. That is at five-year increments so it can end soon or last for a long time, but in exchange for selling that, the City would receive \$493,000 in a lump sum payment that would go towards revenue for the City. Staff recommends the purchase be approved by the Commission realizing this money has not been considered in our proposed budget, it would be essentially savings or money in the bank during these unprecedented times. The disadvantage is we would be losing the annual payment. We would have no idea how long that would go on. The people who are purchasing this do not know either. They are taking on a risk, but the City would receive the benefit of that especially in these trying times. Mr. Langley has been heavily involved in the deal and we appreciate that. Without his guidance, we would not be where we are. It is our recommendation the Commission approve the sale of the lease easement.

Commissioner Paris said he would like to speak in favor of this. As you can see in our package, T-Mobile South is one of the parties involved in this, and they have merged with Sprint, making them

one of the largest cellular contacts in the United States. Furthermore, as we heard from Tallahassee in 2018 and 2019, cities and municipalities have no control over the 5G network. The 5G network is going to be micro towers. The technology coming out is not going to be old-fashioned large towers. I do not know how long the life span of something like this is going to be but cell phone providers already are reducing with the advent of 5G towers. I say we take the lump sum of money and it is a good time to get out of these large cell phone towers. Additionally, if any lawsuits or repercussions come back from any further use of cell phones, which has always been a concern nationally, it gets us out of the way of that. I do not see a negative with this, I only see a positive and with COVID-19, this would be a great boost for moving into the next tax cycle.

Deputy Mayor Sackett asked the attorney to explain the three-year abandonment language.

Mr. Langley noted we are selling an easement for 55 years. Once the easement term expires then they do not have the right to own a tower or any communication equipment there anymore. He said the language states that the 55-year term can be shorter if they ever take their equipment off the easement area. The abandonment assumes the equipment is gone. If the equipment leaves for more than three years then they lose their right to be there and the rights revert to the City. The abandonment means the flagpole towers comes off the site. One of the things this tower company has agreed to is to keep it as a flagpole tower and not to alter it because the Commission that negotiated this original lease was adamant that this would be the case.

Commissioner Paris moved to approve Ordinance No. 20-2186 and set August 24, 2020, as the public hearing date. Seconded by Commissioner Drummond.

Deputy Mayor Sackett asked what account line the \$493,000 would go to.

Mr. Gioielli said it would be in the Reserves Fund, which means it will be unassigned and available to carry forward. Once it is in there any moving of expenses would require the Commission's approval.

Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

D. Set the Tentative Millage Rate for the 2020/2021 Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2020, and Authorize the Director of Financial Services to complete the Certification of Taxable Value (DR-420) and Maximum Millage Levy Preliminary Disclosure (DR-420MMP) forms via the Department of Revenue's eTRIM System.

Mr. Gioielli presented the Item and stated there is no tax increase.

Deputy Mayor Sackett noted that there is no increase in the millage but the value of his house has gone up so he is paying more taxes. It is an increase because we are doing so many good things to the City. We are not doing a rollback.

Commissioner Paris said one of the challenges Longwood has had for many years is after the 2007 housing crisis that affected the country as a whole, the City of Longwood fell behind and barely reached an equilibrium of our property values until 2017-2018. We are just now reaching a point where these increases are going to be real rate increases and have additional taxation. In a few more years, since we finally started to catch up and have seen the greatest increase in property value in Longwood, I think we can continue at a pace like this. The future Commissions will have the luxury of considering a rollback rate because you get to those points where you start seeing increases beyond the equilibrium of 2012 and real property increases. I think right now we are still just trying to keep up and we have done a great job. We have also been able to cut back taxes in other places like BTRs, impact fees, and permitting fees.

Deputy Mayor Sackett moved to approve the tentative millage rate of \$5.500, which is 5.88% higher than the rollback rate of \$5.1948 for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2020, and ending September 30, 2021.

Seconded by Commissioner Drummond and carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

13. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Gioielli said the Summer Camp went off without a hitch. We were one of only two in the County for cities that had a Summer Camp this year. We are very proud of the staff. They were able to keep those kids who chose to come to camp safe from COVID and injuries. To Commissioner Paris, he said over 500 homes have been completed through the septic tank abatement program and we are anticipating another 130 homes be completed by the end of September which will include those at Commissioner Paris's home and those around him. He

said with COVID, while the numbers are still high, I am proud to report Seminole County is experiencing a reduction in active cases, the hospitals are seeing a reduction of COVID patients, and the rate of positive testing seems to be down. These are all good indicators and we are hopeful that is going to continue to trend in a direction that is more advantageous for citizens' health. To Commissioner Shoemaker, he said, while on vacation, Mr. Smith is watching our meeting and has conveyed that the emergency expenses on the report for the use of Cloud 9 Services and their trucks were to help us keep up with the overflow in Columbus Harbour. The lift station went down and our single vacuum truck could not keep up. He confirmed it was a one-time emergency expense and had no other option. The lift station was down for five days and it has been repaired. It was just an unfortunate cost.

Mr. Gioielli said he kept on trying to keep the Commission informed on the tropical storm/hurricane that was coming our way. While we did not need the things that were in place, we appreciate the Commission supporting our staff who did a wonderful job preparing our citizens, facilities, departments, and employees for a possible impact. He said we think we handed out several hundred sandbags between Friday and Saturday. We also went around to all of our special needs residents and mobile homes parks and prepared our staff to be on standby to respond to a power outage or any kind of flooding and be prepared to stay here for at least 72 hours if necessary. He asked the Commission for direction on Credit Card fees. He said in doing general cursory research in preparation for our budget, on average the City currently pays over \$50,000 a year in credit card fees. As things have changed with COVID, more people are paying remotely and the City has begun to absorb that cost. We thought maybe it was time for the Commission to consider whether or not you would be interested in staff creating something to present that would allow this cost to be passed on to the consumer, recognizing that those who chose to pay by cash, check or by taxes should not be responsible for that cost. We have done some basic research on some of the surrounding jurisdictions and governments and we know it to be standard to see a percentage per transaction, still recognizing that if our citizens were not interested in that cost they have the option of paying by cash or check. He asked the Commission for feedback.

Commissioner Paris said many places add additional fees. He said he is okay with having staff pursue this option. He asked if there would still be a fee associated with doing a direct wire transfer from your bank account. Often, for recurring payments, you can also do it where it is directly withdrawn from the account using your routing and checking account numbers and that generally does not have a fee associated with it because it is not using a credit card transaction. Allowing something

like that for convenience has some advantages because it is not attached to a credit card that does not get lost, stolen, compromised, or removed.

Mr. Gioielli said we could ensure that is an option available to our citizens if approved by the Commission.

Commissioner Shoemaker said she is for the City looking into this and charging a convenience fee, however, she thinks we should put it on hold for another year to see where COVID takes us. Everyone is hurting right now and \$2 on top of a water bill is \$2 some people do not have. She said she wants staff to look into it and give us the numbers, but she is not in a hurry to do it.

Commissioner Drummond says he is for staff looking into it, see how much it would cost the City, and then we can make a decision.

Deputy Mayor Sackett said to leave it how it is and investigate it over the year, but he is for exploring the convenience fee.

Mr. Gioielli reported we are finalizing a proposal for the Commission for the Municipal Services Impact Fee Study. The vendor has completed the study and they are reviewing the numbers to ensure accuracy with staff. We will have that done this week, then there will be a final presentation to staff, and we are going to solicit the assistance of Mr. Langley to put together a presentation and an Ordinance for the Commission.

Commissioner Shoemaker noted impact fees would affect new development, not residents.

Mr. Gioielli said the City of Longwood has supported and is aware that Seminole CARES has started. This is a program using COVID CARES Act funding to create two programs that all City of Longwood residents will be eligible for if in need. One is for small businesses and the other is for individual families, which some of our residents need to apply for as a result of hardship. The portal will open up at the Seminole CARES website on Wednesday, August 19, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. All residents and businesses that have a need are encouraged to apply. Lastly, I know there were questions during the workshop about the Fire Department's overtime and confusion about there being mandatory basic overtime associated with Firefighters and their schedules, it has been lumped in with what we recognize as standard overtime or additional time worked. We are trying to finalize a breakdown that is going to separate those two lines to be able to more accurately track standard overtime and additional hours worked. We are going to finalize and present that when we bring the budget forward in September.

Deputy Mayor Sackett asked how we are educating the residents and businesses about the Seminole CARES act.

Mr. Gioielli said we are adding it to our website and social media. Community Development has direct access options through email and phone numbers and we have encouraged them to reach out.

14. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT. No report.

15. CITY CLERK'S REPORT

Ms. Longo reminded the Commission the Florida League of Cities Annual Business meeting/conference will be held virtually on August 13 and August 14, and if anyone has not yet done so and wishes to attend let her know, and she will register them. She also stated the next Commission Meeting will be held on Monday, August 24 and the first meeting in September will be held on Thursday, September 10.

16. ADJOURN. Mayor Morgan adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Minutes approved by City Commission: 08-24-2020

Matt Morgan, Mayor

ATTEST:

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