



CITY OF WINTER GARDEN

City Commission REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 24, 2022

REGULAR MEETING of the Winter Garden City Commission was called to order by Mayor Rees at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 300 West Plant Street, Winter Garden, Florida. An Opening Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were given.

Present:

Mayor John Rees
Commissioner District 1 - Lisa L. Bennett
Commissioner District 2 - Ron Mueller
Commissioner District 3 - Mark A. Maciel
Commissioner District 4 - Colin Sharman

Also Present:

City Manager Jon C. Williams
City Attorney Kurt Ardaman
City Clerk Angee Grimmage

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Commissioner Bennett to approve regular meeting minutes of March 10, 2022 as submitted. Seconded by Commissioner Sharman and carried unanimously 5-0.

2. **REGULAR BUSINESS**

A. **Recommendation to approve Memorandum of Understanding with the Orange County Sheriff's Office for addition of the Ocoee Police Department to the West Orange Narcotics Task Force (WONTF)**

Police Chief Steve Graham stated that the Orange County Sheriff's Office is requesting a modification to the Memorandum of Understanding for the West Orange Narcotics Task Force (WONTF). He noted that the Ocoee Police Department has rejoined the task force and this agreement has been revised accordingly.

Mayor Rees inquired as to the reason for the past withdrawal of the Ocoee Police Department. Police Chief Graham stated that the prior Police Chief decided to withdraw their Police Department and now a new Police Chief seeks to rejoin. He shared that this would offer more staff to address issues in West Orange County.

Motion by Commissioner Sharman to approve Memorandum of Understanding with the Orange County Sheriff's Office for addition of the Ocoee Police Department to the West Orange Narcotics Task Force (WONTF). Seconded by Commissioner Mueller and carried unanimously 5-0.

B. **Recommendation to approve Binding Lot Combination Agreement for 279 & 291 Gary Drive**

Community Development Director Stephen Pash stated that this is a binding lot agreement for two properties located at 279 and 291 Gary Drive. The owner of 291 Gary Drive recently purchased the neighboring home and requests combination of the lots to create one lot with the two homes. Staff recommends approval.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett to approve Binding Lot Combination Agreement for 279 & 291 Gary Drive. Seconded by Commissioner Sharman and carried unanimously 5-0.

C. Recommendation to approve Drainage System Repair Partial Reimbursement Agreement with Lakeview Reserve Homeowner's Association, Inc.

City Engineer Jim Monahan stated that this is a request for a Reimbursement Agreement with Lakeview Reserve Homeowner's Association, Inc. The Lakeview Reserve Master Stormwater System is in poor condition and in need of rehabilitation. He described components of the proposed rehabilitation plan and explained why the City determined there exists a public purpose for ensuring that the repair work is performed. He noted provisions of the agreement as repair cost reimbursement of up to \$1,600,000, which consist of an \$800,000 City cash contribution. An additional contribution of \$800,000 to be repaid via a special assessment against the lot owners of Lakeview Reserve and any repair costs exceeding the \$1,600,000 being solely at the Association's expense.

City Manager Williams noted that this agreement is consistent with the presentation he made in August 2021. The total contribution from the City is \$1,600,000, with \$800,000 to be repaid over a 20-year annual assessment. He informed that the HOA is responsible for engaging the contractors and resurfacing roads after the completion of stormwater drainage improvements.

Motion by Commissioner Mueller to approve Drainage System Repair Partial Reimbursement Agreement with Lakeview Reserve Homeowner's Association, Inc. Seconded by Commissioner Sharman and carried unanimously 5-0.

D. Recommendation to approve Authorization to Dispose of Surplus Vehicles and Equipment

Fleet and Facilities Division Manager Michael Caines stated that this is a request to dispose of the attached list of vehicles, equipment and property that is no longer functional, useable or that has become obsolete as of March 17, 2022.

Motion by Commissioner Maciel to approve Authorization to Dispose of Surplus Vehicles and Equipment. Seconded by Commissioner Bennett and carried unanimously 5-0.

E. Recommendation to approve SPECIAL EVENT – Annual Spring Fever in the Garden by Bloom 'N Grow Garden Society - April 2 - 3, 2022 in Downtown Winter Garden

Community Development Director Stephen Pash stated that this is the request for a special event for Spring Fever in the Garden, noting it is good that it is coming back. He announced the dates as Saturday, April 2 and Sunday, April 3. He indicated that it would be the same as previous years, described the street closure locations, activities and times. Staff recommends approval.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett to approve SPECIAL EVENT – Annual Spring Fever in the Garden by Bloom ‘N Grow Garden Society - April 2 - 3, 2022 in Downtown Winter Garden. Seconded by Commissioner Sharman and carried unanimously 5-0.

3. MATTERS FROM PUBLIC

Joseph Richardson, 220 N. Highland Avenue, Winter Garden, Florida, spoke of blood donations and noted some locations. He encouraged everyone to come to the blood drive on April 9, 2022 at the Crooked Can and expressed the importance of blood donations.

Norine Dworkin, VoxPopuli news organization of Winter Garden, questioned the City Commission on whether they would support of LGBTQ neighbors and residents of Winter Garden as brought forth at the last meeting by Joseph Richardson regarding the “Don’t Say Gay Bill” which is now before the legislators.

4. MATTERS FROM CITY ATTORNEY – There were no items.

5. MATTERS FROM CITY MANAGER – There were no items.

6. MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Maciel thanked City staff for their efforts in a recent East Winter Garden event. He stated that the event was coordinated with Wendell Coates and explained how City staff took care of everything. He wanted to be sure thanks was extending to all staff that help with the event.

Mayor Rees noted that it has been since November 11, 2021 that Jon C. Williams took over as City Manager and has done a very good job. He noted hearing the same sentiments from everyone he spoke with at the City.

Motion by Mayor Rees to appoint Jon C. Williams as City Manager, subject to execution of a contract.

Commissioner Maciel expressed that he could not agree more on Jon doing a great job.

Commissioner Bennett also expressed that Jon has done a great job.

Commissioner Mueller inquired if the City Commission wanted to go through a process of looking at other candidates before making that selection, however, stating he is very supportive of this decision.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Sharman.

Mayor Rees commented that the City could spend the time doing that, but we have a good person and it would be his preference to move on.

