

**CITY OF TAVARES
MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 19, 2015
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
4:00 p.m.**

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT

Kirby Smith, Mayor
Bob Grenier, Vice Mayor
Lori Pfister, Councilmember
Lisa Johnson, Councilmember
Robert Speaks, Councilmember

ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

John Drury, City Administrator
Nancy Barnett, City Clerk
Robert Q. Williams, City Attorney
Tammey Rogers, Community Services Director
Jacques Skutt, Director of Community Development
Stoney Lubins, Police Chief
Richard Keith, Fire Chief
Bob Tweedie, Economic Development Director
Lori Tucker, Human Resources Director

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pastor Greg Watts, Liberty Baptist Church, gave the invocation and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Smith advised that there were hearing devices available by the front door. He asked for those who wished to speak on a specific item in the agenda to please fill out the Request to Speak forms and turn into the FirePolice Chief or City Clerk. He asked that cell phones be muted or turned off.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Smith asked if staff had any changes. Mr. Drury requested to add Tab 6A for a Signature Fall Event Request.

MOTION

Robert Speaks moved to add thatis item to the agenda, seconded by Bob Grenier. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Mayor Smith asked if Council had changes to the agenda.

MOTION

Bob Grenier moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Robert Speaks. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tab 1) Minutes of August 5, 2015 Regular Council Meeting

MOTION

Robert Speaks moved to approve the minutes of August 5, 2015 as submitted, seconded by Bob Grenier. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

V. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Tab 2) Presentation on the Establishment of Future Land Use Designation of County Property located in the Tavares ISBA

Mr. Skutt stated he wished to make a presentation on the planning aspects of the Interlocal Services Boundary Agreement that was passed in the spring. He reviewed the process, noting that the main part of the agreement was establishing the boundary line which represents what the City anticipates being the City its boundary of Tavares 20 years from now. Establishing the boundary line required the city to negotiate with Leesburg, Mt. Dora, Astatula, and Lake County (the City of Eustis was satisfied with the existing boundary) .and Astatula.

He presented the Future Land Use Map noting that everything that is in color is within the City of Tavares; anything not colored is within the unincorporated part of Lake County. The City's Comprehensive Plan is a requirement by the State and one of the elements is "Future Land Use." Future Land Use is an estimated vision of what the City would anticipate in the long range; i.e. Commercial, Industrial, Residential, Mixed Use, Institutional, Conservation—those are large designations that are incorporated into the Future Land Use Element. The State uses the Comprehensive Plan as a tool to determine funding, how much to increase roads, schools, etc.

Mr. Skutt said subordinate to the Comprehensive Plan is zoning and Land Development Regulations that adhere to the policies incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Skutt showed the County's Comprehensive Plan showing County Future Land uses noting they are usually residential and rural. He said before the ISBA was approved, the City could only annex properties that were contiguous to the City's boundary which made it easier to determine Land Uses for annexations. He said under the new rules and regulations, the City can receive requests to annex that are not contiguous. Under the agreement the city is obligated to annex those properties and to assign a City Future Land Use designation. One issue is that the City's

Urban Land Use designation may not be consistent with what the County has envisioned. The planning for these scenarios has not taken place yet. One of the clauses of the ISBA is that the City and the County agree to work together to make sure that a consistent Future Land Use and zoning regulations are determined for the unincorporated parts of the ISBA. The agreement anticipates that that process will take up to three years. After an appropriate plan has been worked out, then the City will enter into a local planning agreement with Lake County which will pre-establish future land uses and zonings for those unincorporated parts of the County that are within the City's ISBA.

Mr. Skutt noted that the staff and the Planning and Zoning Board isare sensitive to the concerns of residents living in those areas that are rural in nature. He emphasized that this is a 20 year plan, Tavares is a growing city, and this is an opportunity to plan for growth.

Mr. Drury noted this is about compatible land use zoning. He gave as an example that the city does not want to see residential zoning under the flight path of an airport. He discussed the planning process that had been undertaken with the other Lake County cities and the process that would be followed over the next two years to identify compatible land use zoning. He noted that over the next two years there will be requests to annex into Tavares before this process is complete. He said when that occurs the applicant will go through a process of negotiating with staff, followed by going to the Planning and Zoning Board with an opportunity for public comment. The vote of the P&Z Board will then come to City Council with public discussion. He said Council will be asked to make a decision during this period without the benefit of a comprehensive plan.

Vice Mayor Grenier asked Mr. Drury to comment on discussions with the neighboring cities. Mr. Drury outlined some of the points in the discussions that had taken place.

VI. SWEARING IN BY CITY ATTORNEY AND DISCLOSURE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS

None.

VII. READING OF ALL ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS - None

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

XI. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Tab 3) Acceptance of Street Lights for Lake Elsie Subdivision

Ms. Houghton stated this is for consideration of the acceptance of the monthly electric charges for street lights in the Lake Elsie Subdivision. She noted the final plat with dedicated right of way was approved on July 18, 2007. The maintenance bond has been returned to the builder. When the plat was dedicated to the city it did not include the street lights. The Finance Department has received a request from Sentry Management who manages the HOA for the subdivision asking the City to assume the responsibility. The subdivision has 84 lots and is at build out. She said it has been the practice of the city to assume the standard costs of street lights. The cost will be for 27 lights at an approximate monthly cost of \$793. The standard cost that the city has typically paid is about \$10.00 for a wooden pole. The Lake Elsie poles are at a cost of \$21.85 per pole.

Mr. Drury said there are other options that cities take choose in the State of Florida on how to handle streetlights in subdivisions. In some cities they do not take over the streetlights. Another option is to consider them as public streets and agree to have the taxpayers share in all streetlights which has been the typical practice of the city. He said Tavares pays about \$300,000 a year for streetlights which is about a half mil. He said the third option is to do an assessment for a lighting district.

Vice Mayor Grenier asked if this included repair and maintenance of the lights. Mr. Drury said the city contracts out the maintenance. He said he the city does not take over street lights in gated communities.

Denise Laratta, Royal Harbor

Ms. Laratta asked what the statement meant “once the public infrastructure has been accepted by the City Council.” Mr. Skutt discussed the two year maintenance bond that is acquired to ensure that everything functions during that period. Ms. Laratta said there could be an option to share in some of the cost of the lights.

Council Discussion

Councilmember Speaks noted that out of the \$792 a month, \$9.00 comes back to the City in franchise fees. He said it comes to about \$401 a year per light. He said the city pays for all of the other subdivision lights other than the gated communities, communities; so therefore, he believed the city should pay for these lights.

Mayor Smith said he had done some research and noticed the different types of lights in the subdivisions. He said the residents in the gated communities pay for their own lights as well as lights in other neighborhoods. He said he would like to have information on a lighting district before he makes a decision. Vice Mayor Grenier said he agreed with Mayor Smith. Councilmember Speaks said he agreed however the issue before Council needed to be decided.etermined.

Mr. Drury said he could have the information for the next Council meeting. He said he would have the City Attorney provide information on the legal process to develop assessments.

Attorney Williams noted that the County has street lighting assessments out in some of the rural areas (MSTU's). He said it would be a standard Chapter 170 assessment wherein the benefit would have to be determined for each resident and then on how it would be collected. He added

Attorney Williams noted the City does not currently require streetlights and there is no legal obligation to pay for street lights other than the fact that the city has historically done so and has paid for them out of the General Revenue as a tax revenue benefit.

Councilmember Pfister said she believes that everyone already pays for their street lights out of the millage and she would rather pay for the street lights, but, just at the base fee (\$10.00). She said she was concerned that if an assessment was done, people might not want street lights and there which would beis a safety issue.

Mayor Smith said he agreed, but Council does not have all the information. Mr. Drury suggested that Council could table the item after until the information is provided.

MOTION

Bob Grenier moved to approve the staff recommendation of tabling this item until information can be provided on street lighting assessments on September 3rd and to delaying the vote on Lake Elsie until the second meeting in September (September 17), seconded by Lori Pfister. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 4) Request to Waiver Permit Fee for Turkey Trot Event

Mr. Skutt said this is a request from the Golden Triangle YMCA for the permit application fee to be waived for the third annual 5K run to be held November 26. No city services are being requested. The application has been processed. The permit fee for special events outside the Downtown Entertainment District is \$250.00. He noted Council has waived the fee in the last two years.

Denise Laratta

Ms. Laratta said she was wondering if Council wanted to set an overall policy about what should be waived rather than taking up the issues one at a time.

Mayor Smith asked if they YMCA would be using the Lake County Sheriff. Mr. Skutt confirmed.

MOTION

Robert Speaks moved for the approval of the waiving of the permit fee for the YMCA 5K rRun November 26, seconded by Bob Grenier.

Councilmember Pfister said she votes against this request because she has done research into non-profits and is bothered by the high salaries of the Board members. She encouraged those present to look into this before making a donation. Councilmember Speaks said the local YMCA Board of Directors are volunteers.

The motion carried unanimously 4-1 as follows:

Kirby Smith	Yes
Bob Grenier	Yes
Lisa Johnson	Yes
Bob Speaks	Yes
Lori Pfister	No

Tab 5) Good Citizens Reward Program

Chief Lubins reported that at the last meeting, Council had brought forth the idea of a reward program for drivers similar to a program that had been done in Mt. Dora. He said staff reviewed their program and came up with some logistical, legal, and safety concerns. He said staff feels an

alternative would be a “Good Citizen” reward program whereby the Police Department staff would review incidents throughout the City in which a citizen has done something extraordinary and would provide a certificate and present them before the City Council for recognition. Councilmember Johnson thanked the staff for looking into this. She said when she brought it up, the program in Mt. Dora had been an idea but she had hoped staff would brainstorm as has been done and she appreciated this proposal. She said it is about positive recognition versus the negativity. in the world.

Mayor Smith spoke in support of this program. He thanked Councilmember Johnson for bringing the idea forth and for the staff recommendation.

MOTION

Robert Speaks moved to approve Option #2 – to institute the City Council Good Citizen Certificate Program, seconded by Lisa Johnson. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 6) Discount for Public Schools for Tavares Pavilion on the Lake

Ms. Rogers stated at the last Council Meeting staff had brought forward consideration of a poicypolicy to provide a discounted user rate at the pavilion for Tavares Elementary, Middle School, and High Schools. Council requested staff to modify that policy. The modification has been provided in this agenda summary. She discussed the details:

- All public schools in Tavares are eligible for the discount
 - Tavares Elementary, Middle, and High
- Bookings to be scheduled Mon-Thurs only and as the building is available
- 25% discount
- Eligibility listing will be requested from the school principal on an annual basis and will include only those groups, clubs, or organizations that are authorized by the principal
- Interaction with school groups will be “Business as usual”
 - Only Preferred Caterers are used at these events
 - 7-day courtesy hold will be granted at which time a contract and a deposit must be received or date will be released to the public
 - A security deposit and the remaining payment is due in full 60 days prior to event
 - The rental block is as stated, however, additional hours may be purchased
 - Reservations may be made up to one-year in advance

Ms. Rogers noted that Council had also asked for information on the cost to operate the pavilion. She said the Finance Department is preparing this information and will provide at the September 16, 2015 Council Meeting.

Denise Laratta

Ms. Laratta stated anything that can be done to help with fundraisers and publicity for the schools, is a good thing to do as the schools need our help.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to approve a policy to allow 25% discount to school principal authorized Tava4res public school clubs, groups or organizations Monday to Thursdays as available, no further out than one year, and based on the operational policies of the pavilion with regard to depoxsit and use of caterers. The motion was seconded by Bob Grenier. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 6A) Signature Fall Event Request

Mr. Tweedie said this is a request from the Tavares Waterfront Entertainment District (TWED) for (TWfor city support for them to host a signature fall event on October 3, 2015^{3rd} at Wooton Park.

He noted there has been interest in a fall event for several years to help compliment the businesses who are challenged in the fall and spring time frames when the seasonal visitors and residents are not present, which is common throughout Florida. Staff had previously proposed a fall event and had included some funding in the upcoming budget for 2016. TWED has asked to bring forward an event in 2015 to help the businesses during this in between season. It will be an Oktoberfest themed event which will cost around \$20,000 and will include four bands. Estimated attendance is about 4500. The request is for a \$5,000 contribution from the city for which they will match the remainder through fundraising and in kind services. They are requesting use of the event pad and closure of a portion of Ruby Street for the event. It is consistent with the city's Special Event policy. they are requesting that it be considered a fully supported city event which means it will include portalets, waste containers, police support, etc. Staff recommends approval.

Mr. Drury said this event is in keeping with the city's Vision Statement. Prior to this event is Rifles, Rails and History and this event will build upon that historic foundation.

Councilmember Johnson said as a business owner, she knows the struggles on the weekends so she would be in favor of this event. She thanked TWED for bringing the proposal forward.

Mayor Smith asked how much of Ruby Street will be closed. Ms. Buigas said it would be the portion between St. Clair and Rockingham and the hope is to have jeeps and vendors on the event pad. Mayor Smith suggested that Main Street should also be closed to help other vendors. Ms. Buigas said this is the first event and they wanted to make sure this one was done correctly. She said with more funding it could be expanded.

Mayor Smith said barricades deter people and he recommended barricading both Ruby Street and Main Street.

Councilmember Pfister thanked TWED for taking ownership in the downtown and coming up with this idea.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to re-write the policy to include all public schools, Monday through Thursday at 25% discount, for clubs approved by the principal (the principal providing a list), approve Option 1 to support the event with \$5,000 contribution and categorize it as fully supported, seconded seconded by Bob Grenier. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Vice Mayor Grenier said he wanted clarification on the motion.

Lori Pfister stated that she wanted a list of clubs (from the principal) and if the club is on the list as a legitimate club and wants to have a dinner, an awards banquet, an arts show (not a fundraiser), etc., the club could approach the person booking the pavilion and if that date is available, it could be booked at a 25% discount, as long as the club is legitimate, Monday through Thursday only.

Mr. Drury commented that instead of regulating whether they can fundraise or not fundraise, it would be easier to not put any restrictions.

Councilmember Pfister stated she wanted to approach the fundraisers differently and her motion was not meant to address fundraisers. She said if a club wanted to do a fundraiser it needed to be presented separately.

Mr. Drury asked to clarify the motion as follows: **All Tavares public schools, for clubs approved by the principal, Monday through Thursday, if the room is available would receive a 25% discount. Councilmember Pfister responded in the affirmative.**

Mayor Smith asked if there should be a limit on how far out the facility could be booked; i.e. 8 months, or one year. Ms. Rogers suggested one year.

Vice Mayor Grenier asked if anyone schedules weddings Monday through Thursday. Ms. Rogers responded in the affirmative. He noted that if the facility is booked by a discounted club, then it would not be available to a full paying bridal party. Ms. Rogers stated the policy is to do a courtesy hold to anyone for seven days. Within that period the contract must be signed and a deposit must be made or the date will be released and re-sold. The same policy would apply under this scenario.

Councilmember Pfister added an addendum to her motion, that it would have to be exactly business as usual, deposit made in a timely manner, etc.

Mr. Drury said the revised policy would be brought back as follows: one year limit on booking ahead, business as usual, including but not limited to deposits and reservations.

Councilmember Pfister suggested that a club should only be entitled to the use of the pavilion once a calendar year. Discussion followed. Councilmember Pfister added that that issue could be re-addressed if needed at another time.

Vice Mayor Grenier said the motion is to approve just having another policy written. Vice Mayor Grenier re-affirmed that he seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Mayor Smith said the revised policy will come back to Council for consideration.

Councilmember Pfister said she wished to address the fundraiser request.

Mr. Drury noted that the public sometimes does not understand why some discussions take time which is due to the Sunshine Law that does not allow public officials to speak outside a publicly noticed meeting. He said once full discussion has been held on the issue of fundraising requests, another policy will be provided at a separate meeting for consideration.

AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD

Betty Burleigh, 214 N. New Hampshire Avenue

(Mayor Smith distributed an article provided by Ms. Burleigh.)

Ms. Burleigh stated the headlines in 1975 stated the Tavares Police Department acquired a speed gun. “Acting Chief Al Hodges said ‘we don’t want to write tickets, just want people to slow down. The police will be mostly giving warnings until people get used to the speed gun but if the speed is too excessive or in a school speed zone they will be given a ticket, no warning.’” said a Tavares resident from Oklahoma had asked about the Oklahoma stone in the County’s flagpole base. She said in doing research to answer his question she found the article and she summarized some of the information as follows:

The flagpole base was dedicated on March 5, 1937, Lake County 50th anniversary. The base was designed by Arthur Williams, a Tavares architect. The stones were marked and placed by H. J. Kennell, a Tavares resident from Connecticut and he was assisted by Herman Lund of Astatula. The rocks came from native states or countries of Lake County residents. The Will Rogers stone was the 53rd stone. It was a dark Oklahoma sandstone which came from Will Rogers’ ranch in Oologah provided by Dr. A.S. Hawkins of Clermont who was a relative of Rogers. The flagpole base was dedicated at 2:30 p.m. after the parade. The base held three flags: the American flag on the center pole was 40 feet high, and the County flag on the right and the State flag on the left were on 22 foot poles. Lake County was the first County in the nation to have its own flag and it was raised for the first time by Peggy Duncan, daughter of Carl and granddaughter of H.H. Duncan. Another rock of interest, is a grey granite from Gettysburg battlefield with two bullets imbedded in the stone—the Confederate marked with two rings and the Union marked with three rings, and a Massachusetts stone bearing a fossil of a dinosaur track.

Ms. Burleigh said she had looked at the base today and encouraged everyone to look at it.

Sam Chesser, Fox Run Homeowners Association

Mr. Chesser stated Mr. Banta, president of the HOA, could not attend and had asked him to attend and express the HOA’s appreciation for the recent paving in the Fox Run Subdivision.

Mayor Smith asked if anyone else in the audience wished to comment.

XI. FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET WORKSHOP – FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PLAN

Tab 137) Budget Workshop – Presentation and Discussion of Five Year Capital Plan

Mr. Drury reviewed the navigation and organization of the Five Year Capital Plan. He went over the capital items by function (Table 1), by funding source (Table 2), and by function in further detail (Table 3)

three previous workshops held on July 1, July 15, and August 5th which followed the development of budget goals in February. This will be the 4th Budget Workshop. He noted at the July 15th meeting the tentative millage rate was set at 6.6166 and the debt service at .4068. Throughout the process Council has flagged items which have been brought back for discussion. He noted the public has also had questions and those were also reviewed and brought back. In September the two Public Hearings will be held; the first on Thursday September 3rd. The regular meeting will begin at 4:00 and the Public Hearing on the Budget will start at 5:05 p.m. The final hearing will be on Wednesday September 16 with the regular Council Meeting at 4:00 p.m. and the budget hearing at 5:05 p.m. for a final vote on the budget and the millage rate.

Mayor Smith thanked Mr. Drury and Ms. Houghton for addressing some questions on numbers that had been answered and corrected. He said he had one comment. He said as he frequents the downtown businesses he is asked why the Chamber of Commerce is not open on Saturdays or Sundays. He said the city is giving the Chamber of Commerce \$7500 and he asked if the city could hold back this donation until they agree to open year round on Saturdays for least four hours.

Councilmember Speaks said he has also had this concern and when the city agreed to provide funding to the Chamber some years ago, he had asked for feedback on the return for the investment. He said he did not think the city was getting a report. He said that part of the return would be that they would be open on the weekends when the city holds events, to supply information or be available to help guide the public.

Discussion followed with the consensus to provide the \$7500 funds to the Chamber contingent on the Chamber being open on some weekend hours.

Councilmember Speaks said he would like the Chamber to attend a Council Meeting and give a report regarding the \$7500 donation.

REQUEST TO SPEAK

Mayor Smith recognized Randall Hokenson to speak. Mr. Hokenson (468 King Way, Tavares) said he has lived in Fox Run for the past nine years and the roads in Fox Run have not been re-done. He said the City has done some patching but the roads are in terrible condition. He said he did not see Fox Run listed on the Five Year Capital Plan.

Mr. Drury replied that about four years ago the City inventoried all of its roads and developed a data base with that information. The following year the City budgeted to have each road evaluated and assigned a grade between 1 and 7. The next step was to develop an annual budgeted program. The plan was to budget about \$700,000 per year to tackle the road upgrade program which is about nine million in arrears because for the last 15 to 20 years the roads have

not been repaved. This year there is \$100,000 budgeted and staff will come to Council to determine which roads to be paved in terms of their condition.

Mr. Thompson stated in the next two weeks, the city will be spending \$37,000 in the Fox Run subdivision to overlay the entrance and the intersections going down Fox Run Blvd. and some stretches on Myakka. Discussion followed on some of the streets that were repaved during the stormwater project some years previously.

Mayor Smith recommended that Mr. Hokenson meet with Mr. Drury and the staff to discuss the plan in more detail.

Robert Banta, Wekiva Road, Fox Run

Mr. Banta said Mr. Hokenson had expressed many of his concerns. He said he has been president of the Fox Run Homeowners since January. Mr. Banta said his concern is how the process for repairing roads is handled and that they have received different information on this from the city. He said the belief is that Fox Run has been on a list for repairs to its roads before but has not seen any results. He said they are glad to hear something is going to happen in the next few weeks. He asked how the city deals with roads that are in need of repair when the funding is inadequate.

Mr. Drury said the points are well made. He discussed the repaving projects that the city has undertaken compared to other cities he has been involved with but acknowledged that the roads are an issue in some of the subdivisions.

Mr. Banta reiterated his concern about the process. Mr. Drury said the HOA director can write a letter asking when the roads are planned to be repaved and the city will respond in writing which will provide a record. He welcomed Mr. Banta to meet with him and to make his request in writing.

Mr. Thompson noted Mr. Banta will be notified when the upcoming repairs will be done. The plan is for August 17th but this will depend on the weather. Mr. Banta asked for a copy of the list that shows how the roads are ranked. Mr. Drury said that will be provided.

Vance Joachim – Lake County Resident/Writer of Fiscal Ranger Blog

Mr. Joachim said he had two comments for council consideration. 1) With regard to the sales tax renewal, he recommended not bonding because of the risk of overspending in the first few years and 2) regarding the CDBG grant, he had sent out an email earlier regarding a County CDBG grant that requires them to comply with the Fair Housing standards which is a rule that has just been issued by HUD that is very onerous and could affect the City in the future when it accepts a CDBG grant. Mr. Joachim also complimented the City on the presentation of its financial information.

Capital Plan Discussion

Councilmember Pfister asked about Page 6, under Public Buildings, “City Hall Security Program.” Mr. Drury advised that this is funding to improve the layout of the offices at city Hall for security reasons. He noted the project will be bid out.

Tab 10) Previous Council Workshop: Flagged Items

Mr. Drury noted at the July 1 and 15th meeting, Questions and Answers were flagged and information provided in the backup material. The last flagged item was the issue of the beautification of Alfred and Caroline Street. Staff is recommending that the City do half the project this year; i.e. to do the streetscape and landscape for just Caroline Street would be about \$450,000 and over a 10 year period the debt service would be about \$55,000 depending on the market next year. One of the possible funding resources would be the excess revenues anticipated from the state which could be appropriated to a small debt service of about \$450,000 to do the half of the streetscape and then the following year Alfred Street could be considered.

Councilmember Pfister said she felt it was important to finish this project and she thought this would be a fair way to accomplish it.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

Tab 11) Update on Hanging Flower Basket Program

Mr. Thompson reported that the program began earlier this year with a prototype Seaplane themed double plant hanger filled with flowers. There has been positive public support. Funding was acquired from Economic Development in the amount of \$6700 for the purchase of the hangers, baskets, and planting materials for Phase 1; Phase II will be another \$6500 for 16 additional locations. Mr. Thompson noted he had provided a map that shows the present and future locations. He said the landscape specialist, Tracy Anderson, is the staff member who envisioned this project and carried it out.

Mayor Smith he loves the program but was disappointed that it did not include Caroline and Alfred Street. He said if it is continued on those streets it will help out with the beautification of the road and will help bring downtown further out.

Councilmember Speaks said he was glad to see that the baskets will be placed on West Main Street.

Tab) Request for Update by Councilmember Johnson on Parking for Main Street Businesses during Events

Mr. Tweedie stated he had met with Chief Lubins to discuss a program. Five areas and six events have been identified: Dragonboat Races, Classic Raceboat Regatta, Sunnyland Boat Show, Planes, Trains & BBQ; and the two Seaplane Fly-Ins which are the largest contributors to the traffic and parking issues on Main Street. Portable sign stanchions with weighted bases will be purchased with “two hour parking only” notations which will be deployed prior to the event in the morning when barricades are placed. The Police Department will video the area at the beginning and will then make routine patrols throughout the event.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Johnson said that Mt. Dora has a safe driving rewards program and that she would like Council to direct the staff to investigate this program for use in Tavares. She said the police in Mt. Dora are stopping citizens who are doing well and this would be an opportunity to build up the morale for the Tavares Police Department.

Mr. Drury said staff can come back with a program for Council consideration. Councilmember Pfister said she did not like to copy other programs and she thought the Police in Tavares were doing a great job. Mayor Smith said he would agree if it did not take too much staff time.
Consensus for staff to look at this program and bring back information to Council.
League of Cities – Councilmember Pfister

Councilmember Pfister said she had attended the League of Cities conference and represented the city. She said it was a very informative conference and she had learned a great deal.

XIV. AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD

XV. REPORTS

Tab 14) City Administrator

Mr. Drury said he had nothing to add other than the meetings coming up. He thanked Councilmember Pfister for agreeing to attend the Florida League of Cities annual conference. this morning there had been an open house at a new downtown business, the Community Health Centers. He said they are living up to the word “community” in their name. They have brought into their décor, the city’s seaplane brand. He said they provide healthcare for children and adults who are uninsured. He said it is all about building community in a city and it is good to see healthcare services come back downtown.

City Clerk

Ms. Barnett reminded those present of the Red Gala in September put on by the Chamber of Commerce. Vice Mayor Grenier said he would not be attending due to a conflict. announced that on August 17th at noon, the following candidates qualified to be on the ballot for the November 3rd city election:

Seat 2 – Kirby Smith (elected without opposition to Seat 2)

Seat 4 – Gary Koerner, Jamie Stanley, and Robert Wolfe

Economic Development **Community Services**

Ms. Rogers said the Community Health Services Company generously donated three bicycles to the city’s summer reading program at the library.

Finance Director

Public Communications Director

Ms. Ross announced this was her last Council Meeting due to her decision to retire and that she had turned in her resignation. She extended her thanks to the Council and all the staff members for her positive experience during the past five years.

Community Services Director

City Attorney

Attorney Williams congratulated Ms. Ross noting that when she was hired Mr. Drury had advised the Council to give her a year and they would see the wisdom of the decision to have a Public Communications Director. He said Ms. Ross has been a joy to work with and the fact that Tavares has been in the paper so frequently with such good press has been due to her work.

Tab 15) City Council

Councilmember Pfister

Councilmember Pfister thanked Ms. Ross. She noted she had been a naysayer originally about the position and she was wrong. She said Ms. Ross had done a spectacular job.

VVice Mayor Grenier

- Thanked Ms. Ross and congratulated her on her retirement plans.

Vice Mayor Grenier expressed Happy Birthday tomorrow to his father, Bob Grenier, who will be 86 years old.

- Noted in the last few weeks the Council has had positive feedback about the Fire Department and the Police Department, and Public Works on how they are serving the citizens. He said it is important to remember that the City is here to serve the residents and the staff is aware of that.
- Recently attended the 107th birthday party for Anita Doebler, a Tavares resident in a local facility. He said Ms. Doebler had great stories and is a wonderful person.
- Attended the Tavares theater at Bridges this past Friday and encouraged everyone to attend. He said he saw Steel Magnolias and it was a wonderful production.
- Thanked Mr. Thompson for the continued efforts to improve Squibb Park.
- This Friday is Purple Heart Day. He said he is writing a new book on Central Florida's World War II veterans which has been very inspiring to him. Two weeks ago he interviewed Bill Cumbaa in Leesburg who received two Silver Stars and three Purple Hearts for his service.

Councilmember Speaks

Councilmember Speaks wished Ms. Ross best wishes on retiring. Councilmember Speaks reiterated the comments of Vice Mayor Grenier on commending the staff. Expressed condolences to Chief Keith and his family and also to Chris Thompson and his family

Councilmember Johnson

Noted on Tuesday August 25th there will be an event put on by the Chamber, “Tavares Tapas Tuesday” from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Councilmember Johnson congratulated Ms. Ross on her retirement. She thanked the City and staff for the swift cleanup after the storm microburst that occurred recently downtown.

City Clerk

Ms. Barnett said in addition to work as Communications Director, Ms. Ross has been an excellent staff trainer, and the best she has ever worked with in that capacity.

Mayor Smith

Mayor Smith asked about the status of the Clerk’s Building. Mr. Tweedie said staff is working through some logistical items with the demolition contract and items regarding utilities that need to be taken care of in advance of demolition. He said it will be a process of about 30 to 45 days once the contract is in place.

Vice Mayor Grenier asked about the historical plaque on the outside wall. Mr. Drury said the plaque will be taken down by the staff and preserved.

Mayor Smith said on this day in 1871, Orville Wright was born and that today is also National Aviation Day due to Wright’s accomplishments.

Mayor Smith told Ms. Ross she would be missed and he hoped she would stay long enough to train the next Public Communications Director. He said it had been an honor to get to know her professionally and she had done a fantastic job.

Mayor Smith noted that today in 1861 the United States levied its first income tax at 3% to anyone who made more than \$800.00 per year.

Adjournment

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 6:015:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy A. Barnett, City Clerk, MMC