

**CITY OF TAVARES  
MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 16G  
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  
Tammy Rogers, Community Services Director  
Jacques Skutt, Director of Community Development  
Stoney Lubins, Police Chief  
Lt. Jayson Paynter, Police Department  
Richard Keith, Fire Chief  
Bob Tweedie, Economic Development Director  
Lori Tucker, Human Resources Director  
Brad Hayes, Director of Utilities  
Chris Thompson, Director of Public Works

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

Mayor Smith announced that this was the second and last Public Hearing with regard to the budget and millage rate which will begin at 5:05 p.m. The General Government section of the meeting will be held up until 5:05 p.m. He 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 there were any changes. Mr. Drury requested to add Tab 6A for a Signature Fall Event Request. responded that staff had no changes.

#### **MOTION**

**Robert Speaks Lori Pfister moved to add that item to approve the 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 of August 5September 3, 2015 Regular Council MeetingMeeting - Deferred to the next 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 Proclamation for National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan) – October 10, 2015**

Mayor Smith read a proclamation recognizing National Day on October 10, 2015 for the Republic of China (Taiwan) and New Taipei City, the City's Sister City.

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 boundary of Tavares 20 years from now. Establishing the boundary line required the city to negotiate with Leesburg, Mt. Dora, 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 staff and the Planning and Zoning Board is 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 Attorney Williams sworn in those who wished to give testimony on Tabs 5-11. He then asked Council if they wished to declare any ex parte communications on these ordinances. Mayor Smith said he had spoken with an employee of the Hiway concerning the annexation. .

**VII. READING OF ALL ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS** - None

Ms. Barnett read the following ordinances by title only:

**ORDINANCE 2015-14**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF TAVARES BY ANNEXING UNDER THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE INTERLOCAL SERVICE BOUNDARY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF TAVARES AND LAKE COUNTY APPROXIMATELY 2.14 ACRES NON-CONTIGUOUS PROPERTIES, CONSISTING OF THREE PARCELS OF LAND GENERALLY LOCATED APROXIMATELY 400 FEET WEST OF THE INTERSECTION OF LANE PARK ROAD AND CAMP ROAD, FROM COUNTY AGRICULTURAL TO CITY C-2 (HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL); SUBJECT TO THE RULES, REGULATIONS AND OBLIGATIONS ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TAVARES COUNCIL; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**ORDINANCE 2015-15**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE TAVARES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE LAND USE MAP 2020, PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE OF FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION ON APPROXIMATELY 2.14 ACRES OF NON-CONTIGUOUS PROPERTIES, CONSISTING OF THREE PARCELS OF LAND GENERALLY LOCATED APROXIMATELY 400 FEET WEST OF THE INTERSECTION OF LANE PARK ROAD AND CAMP ROAD, FROM COUNTY RURAL TRANSITION TO CITY COMMERCIAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**ORDINANCE 2015-16**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, REZONING APPROXIMATELY 213 ACRES OF VACANT UNDEVELOPED PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED AT THE WESTERLY END OF WOODLEA ROAD AND EAST OF PENINSULA DRIVE FROM PLANNED DEVELOPMENT TO RFS-A (RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY) WITH CERTAIN CONDITIONS; SUBJECT TO**

**THE RULES, REGULATIONS AND OBLIGATIONS ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TAVARES COUNCIL; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**ORDINANCE 2015-17**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS BY ADDING A NEW ZONING DESIGNATION TO BE IDENTIFIED AS RSF-2 (RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY 5.6 DWELLING UNITS PER ACRE) THAT MATCHES THE REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO THE EXISTING RMF-2 (RESIDENTIAL MULTI-FAMILY) ZONING DESIGNATION WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS, DUPLEXES AND TOWNHOMES ARE EXCLUDED AS A PERMITTED USE; SUBJECT TO THE RULES, REGULATIONS AND OBLIGATIONS ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TAVARES COUNCIL; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**ORDINANCE 2015-18**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS BY AMENDING TABLE 8-3, DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR THE COMMERCIAL DOWNTOWN DISTRICT, BY INCREASING THE MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF STRUCTURES TO EIGHTY FOUR FEET; SUBJECT TO THE RULES, REGULATIONS AND OBLIGATIONS ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TAVARES COUNCIL; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**ORDINANCE 2015-19**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, REZONING APPROXIMATELY 2.28 ACRES OF PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF NELSON STREET AND U.S. HWY 441 FROM A MIX OF RSF-1 (RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY) AND C-2 HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL TO C-2 HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL; SUBJECT TO THE RULES, REGULATIONS AND OBLIGATIONS ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TAVARES COUNCIL; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**ORDINANCE 2015-20**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE TAVARES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE LAND USE MAP 2020, PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE OF FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION ON APPROXIMATELY 2.28 ACRES OF PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF NELSON STREET AND U.S. HWY 441 FROM A MIX OF LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL TO WHOLLY COMMERCIAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND CONFLICTS;**

**PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**VIII. CONSENT AGENDA**

**XI. PUBLIC HEARING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016 MILLAGE AND BUDGET**

Mayor Smith called the Public Hearing to order at 5:05 p.m.

Ms. Barnett read the millage and budget resolutions in their entirety as follows:

**RESOLUTION 2015 - 11**

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FINAL MILLAGE RATE OF 6.6166 FOR THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, FOR AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016; SETTING FORTH THE PERCENT BY WHICH THE MILLAGE RATE IS GREATER THAN THE "ROLLED-BACK" RATE.**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA:

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tavares of Lake County, Florida on September 3, 2015, adopted the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Tentative Millage Rate following a public hearing as required by Florida Statute 200.065.

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tavares of Lake County, Florida, following due public notice as required by law, held a second public hearing on September 16, 2015, as required by Florida Statute 200.065 on the 2015-2016 Millage Rate; and

**WHEREAS**, the gross taxable value for operating purposes not exempt from taxation within Lake County has been certified by the County Property Appraiser to the City of Tavares as \$675,210,640.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City of Tavares of Lake County, Florida, that:

1. The City of Tavares Fiscal Year 2015-2016 operating millage rate to be levied is hereby set at 6.6166 mills, which millage rate is greater than the rolled back rate of 6.5547 by .94%.
2. The voted debt service millage rate is set at .4068 mills for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.
3. This Resolution will take effect immediately upon its adoption.

**PASSED AND RESOLVED** this 16th day of September 2015 by the City Council of the City of Tavares, Florida. Time Adopted:\_\_\_\_\_.

**RESOLUTION 2015 - 12**

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 - 2016.**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA:

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the proposed 2015-2016 budget was held at the Tavares City Hall Council Chambers in the City of Tavares, Florida, Lake County, Florida on Thursday, September 3rd, 2015 at 5:05 p.m., as required by Florida Statutes 200.065; and

WHEREAS, the general public was given an opportunity to express its views pertaining to the proposed budget, and

WHEREAS, the City Council approved the tentative budget for 2015-2016, and

WHEREAS, a second public hearing on the proposed 2015-2016 budget was held in the Council Chambers at the Tavares City Hall, 201 East Main Street in the City of Tavares, Florida, on Wednesday, September 16, 2015, at 5:05 p.m.,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Budget for 2015-2016 fiscal year for the City of Tavares, Florida is hereby adopted by the Tavares City Council in the amount of \$37,006,432 at public hearing this 16<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2015.

This resolution will take effect immediately upon its adoption.

**PASSED AND RESOLVED** this 16th day of September, 2015, by the City Council of the City of Tavares, Florida. Time Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_P.M.

**Tab 3) Resolution #2015-11 – Final Millage Rate FY 2015-2016**

Ms. Houghton noted this is the second public hearing for the millage rate. The millage rate is supported by the following assumptions and details:

- Ad valorem millage rate of 6.6166 mills which is .94% above the rollback rate of 6.5547 mills, and .1117 mills less than the current millage rate of 6.7283 mills or 1.66% less than the current millage rate.
- An assessed taxable property value of \$675,210,640 which is an increase of 6.22% in value (unadjusted for TIF) from the prior year.

- A Fire Assessment at 100% of assessed costs. Rates remain unchanged from the prior year.
- A balanced Proposed General Fund Budget of \$15,593,695.
- 5% Pay Increase for all employees
- One new Police Officer at mid-year,
- An overall workers' compensation rate increase of 5%.
- An overall general liability rate increase of 15%.
- The Proposed Budget maintains a similar level of service.

Advertising occurred to meet the TRIM requirements on September 13.

Mayor Smith asked for audience comment.

#### **MOTION**

**Lori Pfister moved to adopt the proposed operating millage rate and proposed voted debt service millage rate for Fiscal Year 2016 as reflected in Resolution 2015-11. The motion was seconded by Bob Grenier. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

#### **Tab 4) Resolution #2015-12 – Final Budget FY 2015-2016**

Ms. Houghton advised that the total General Fund Budget is \$15,592,695 supported by the approved millage rates. The total budget for all city funds is \$37,006,432. She said the same salient points listed for the millage are applicable to the budget.

Mr. Drury thanked the Finance Department and specifically CharLynn Woods, Budget Specialist and Lori Houghton, Finance Director, for working with each department head to put the budget together. He thanked Council for holding the eight public workshops and working together with staff and the public in preparation of the budget.

Mayor Smith asked for public comment.

#### **Brenda Smith, 1250 Smith Avenue**

Ms. Smith thanked the City and City Council and the financial advisors for working hard to keep the budget and millage rate as low as possible. She said as a volunteer with the Tavares Historical Society, she wished to relay that they consider that they are partners with the City and they wanted to thank the City for everything it does.

#### **MOTION**

**Robert Speaks moved to adopt the proposed operating budget for Fiscal Year 2016 as reflected in Resolution 2015-12 and any additional changes, seconded by Lori Pfister. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

## **X. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

### **Tab 5) Ordinance #2015-14 – Annexation and Rezoning of 2.14 Acres at 11912 Lane Park Road – South Side of Lane Park Road on Lake Harris**

Mr. Skutt stated this is an application to rezone and annex 2.14 acres on property that is generally located at the intersection of Lane Park Road and Camp Road. The property is owned by Hideway Ventures. There are three parcels: Little Joe's Hideway Bar and Grill located on the south side (consisting of two parcels) and a third parcel across the road that is utilized for parking. The property is within the City's Interlocal Services Boundary Area (ISBA). Under the terms of the ISBA the property owner must also concurrently enter into a Water and Sewer Utility Agreement to extend utility infrastructure to the subject property. The owner has agreed to design, permit and contribute to the cost of the infrastructure. They also agree to provide land for a new city lift station and to pay all impact fees. They will also participate in a pioneer agreement in the future. They are requesting a C-2 zoning designation as they are operating under a state quota license as a bar. Under the city's Land Development Regulations, bars are only allowed in a C-2 or Commercial Downtown zoning district. It was therefore felt that a C-2 designation would be appropriate.

At the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting the Planning & Zoning Board voted to recommend approval and staff recommends approval.

#### **MOTION**

Lori Pfister moved to approve Ordinance #2015-14 [annexation, rezoning, and Utility Agreement], seconded by Robert Speaks. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Pfister welcomed the owner to the City.

### **Tab 6) Ordinance 2015-15 – Small Scale Future Land Use Amendment – 2.14 Acres – 11912 Lane Park Road – County Rural to City Commercial**

Mr. Skutt said this was the corresponding Future Land Use Map Amendment that accompanies the annexation just approved. The Commercial Land Use designation is most appropriate. The impacts of the proposed development on the surrounding properties will be monitored by the City's Concurrency Management system. At the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval and staff is recommending approval.

#### **MOTION**

**Robert Speaks moved for approval of Ordinance #2015-15 [Future Land Use Amendment from County Rural Transition to City Commercial], seconded by Lori Pfister. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

### **Tab 7 – Ordinance #2015-16 – Rezoning of the Peninsula Property**

Mr. Skutt stated this is a city initiated action to revoke the old PUD ordinance from 1993 and assign the subject property a zoning designation with a lowest intensity and density that is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. In 2014 the City adopted Ordinance #2014-15 that created a time limit for the development of Planned Developments. It also provided for the automatic revocation of PD's that failed to develop within prescribed deadlines and provided for City Council to take action to rezone the property to the lowest intensity and density zoning designation that is consistent with the overlying Comprehensive Plan designation. The Peninsula PUD consisted of 500 homes of varying types. Other than the 18 lakefront lots developed under Phase 1, the project was not constructed. Portions of the land have now been sold. The PUD time limit has expired and the original owner no longer has unified control over the entire parcel. City staff has had several meetings with the owners of Gorgeous Groves who have consented in writing for the rezoning of this property to RSF-A designation (three dwelling units per acre). The original PUD had a minimum lot size of 140 feet wide and 170 feet deep and required that all homes built on lots adjacent to that project would be at least 3000 square feet in size. The owners requested that the city honor this commitment to the owners in Phase One by adding that condition into the rezoning map application. This condition and rezoning will have no time limit if approved.

At the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting the Planning & Zoning Board recommended approval and staff recommends approval.

#### **MOTION**

**Lori Pfister moved to approve Option 1 [Revoke PUD Ordinance #93-37 as amended and assign the subject property a zoning designation with the lowest intensity and density consistent with the Comprehensive Plan--RFS-0A, Residential Single Family 3/du/acre, with a condition that honors commitments made to property owners in Phase 1 regarding minimum lot and house sizes on those lands that abut Phase 1], seconded by Robert Speaks.**

Councilmember Pfister commented that she appreciates the review that is done by the Planning & Zoning Board regarding land issues which makes it easier for Council to move through the process.

**The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

#### **Tab 9) Ordinance #2015-17 – Amendment to Land Development Regulations to Create New Zoning District – RSF-2 for Single Family with 60 Ft. Lots**

Mr. Skutt stated this new zoning district RSF-2 (Residential Single Family) will allow exclusively single family detached dwellings on 60 ft. wide lots on 6500 sq. ft. lots. Other than site specific time limited Planned Developments, the only residential zoning district currently that allows single family detached development on 60 ft. wide lots is an RMF-2 residential multi-family zoning. This also allows duplexes and townhomes subject to certain design criteria. The inherent variation for

allowable dwelling types in this zoning lends uncertainty to the rezoning process for neighboring impacted communities when applications are received to rezone to this designation. This was seen recently with the rezoning application on Old 441. He noted single family detached development on 60 ft. wide lots is a housing industry standard and prevalent in many residential subdivisions within Tavares. The proposed ordinance adds text amendments to the Land Development Ordinance to appropriately modify the regulations to accept this new designation.

The Planning & Zoning Board voted unanimously to recommend approval and staff recommends approval.

### **MOTION**

**Lori Pfister moved to approve Ordinance #2015-17 to create a new residential zoning district (RSF-2) that allows exclusively single family detached dwellings on 60 ft. wide lots, seconded by Bob Grenier.**

Mayor Smith thanked Mr. Skutt for his work on this ordinance.

**The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

### **Tab 9) Ordinance #2015-18 – Amendment to City’s Land Development Regulations – Increase of Maximum Building Height in Commercial Downtown**

Mr. Skutt said this amendment will increase the allowable maximum building height in the Commercial Downtown District from 60 ft. to 84 ft. to correspond with the recommendations of the City’s adopted Downtown Master Plan. In 2008 the City adopted the Downtown Master Plan. The City has since implemented action strategies necessary to ensure redevelopment progresses in the manner specified in the plan. In the downtown core the plan recommends stepped building envelope forms that gradually increase in height to 84 feet in the middle of the blocks along Main, Maud and Ruby Streets. This stepped building design has been added to Chapter 9, Architectural and Site Design Standards in the Land Development Regulations, however, City staff missed increasing the maximum height in the Commercial Downtown District when the architectural design standards were done. In comparison, the County’s downtown parking garage is 78 feet in height; the Judicial Center is 108 ft. in height; the Round Building is 82 ft. in height. The four story hotel on Ruby Street is 70 feet in height and City Hall at its highest point is 55 ft. in height. The proposed ordinance implements an action strategy of the Downtown Master Plan and it is consistent with a lot of the buildings that exist in the downtown. The Planning & Zoning Board voted 4-1 to recommend approval. The only question that the Board had was for the Fire Chief and whether he was in agreement. Staff recommends approval of Option 1 to increase the maximum building height in the Commercial Downtown District to 84 ft. in height.

Vice Mayor Grenier asked Chief Keith if he needed to expand on his written comments.

Chief Keith said the letter that he had written was a response to the question posed by the Planning & Zoning Board. He said high rise buildings are provided for through building codes.

The ground ladder will cover up to about three stories. The aerial ladder will cover up to about six stories. Anything beyond that becomes a high rise but building codes take over and provide a safe building through engineering practices such as alarm systems, exit stairwells, etc.

Councilmember Pfister said this will support green space by allowing the City to grow but still keep its green space.

### **MOTION**

**Lori Pfister moved to approve Option 1, to approve Ordinance #2015-18 to increase the maximum allowable building height in the Commercial Downtown District to 84 feet to correspond with the recommendation of the City’s adopted Downtown Master Plan. The motion was seconded by Robert Speaks.**

Councilmember Speaks asked for confirmation that this change was for the downtown area only. Mr. Skutt confirmed. He asked if there were any other height restrictions in the rest of the city. Mr. Skutt said there are height restrictions throughout the city that vary from zone to zone. Councilmember Speaks said this issue had arisen in Mt. Dora with building a theater and he wanted to ensure that the City had some room to be flexible.

**The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

### **Tab 10) Ordinance #2015-19 – Rezoning of 2.28 Acres of Property on the NE Corner of Nelson Street and US 441**

Mr. Skutt said this property is presently owned by Church Extension Plan. A prospective purchaser of the property would like to construct a wholesale distribution facility for baked goods with a retail sales component. The zoning of the property (which is being split off from a larger parcel) is shown on the city’s zoning map as being half residential and half commercial. Under the LDR’s, zoning lines are to run either along the center of a street or along a parcel line. It appears that the zoning line has been erroneously drawn on the zoning map and the property should be either wholly residential or wholly commercial. Since the parcel fronts on US 441, it is staff’s opinion that it is most appropriate for the parcel to be zoned C-2 highway commercial. The applicant has requested that the zoning be confirmed through an amendment to the zoning map and the Land Development Regulations. The owner agrees that there will be no access driveways to the property off Texas Avenue and that the frontage along Texas Avenue will be heavily buffered through a continuous hedge or berm, etc.

The Planning and Zoning Board voted unanimously to recommend approval and staff recommends approval.

Councilmember Pfister asked how many jobs would be created. Mr. Hiott from BESH, 902 N. Sinclair Avenue, stated that it would create about 30 jobs.

### **MOTION**

**Lori Pfister moved to approve Option 1 to approve Ordinance #2015-19 for the rezoning of approximately 2.28 acres of property located on the northeast corner of Nelson Street and US Highway 441 from a mix of RSF-1 and C-2 to wholly C-2. The motion was seconded by Bob Grenier. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

**Tab 11) Ordinance #2015-20 – Small Scale Future Land Use Amendment – NE Corner of Nelson Street and US 441**

Mr. Skutt reported that this is the FLUM that corresponds with the zoning application just reviewed. The request is for a Commercial Future Land Use designation which is the most appropriate. The impacts will be monitored through the concurrency management system. The Planning and Zoning Board voted unanimously to recommend approval and staff recommends approval.

**MOTION**

**Lori Pfister moved to approve Option 1, to approve Ordinance #2015-20 for the Future Land Use Map amendment for approximately 2.28 acres of property located on the northeast corner of Nelson Street and US 441 from a mix of Low Density Residential and Commercial to wholly Commercial. The motion was seconded by Bob Grenier. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

**XI. GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

**Tab 12) Chamber of Commerce Request to Discuss the Annual Grant**

Ms. Houghton stated this was a request from the Chamber to discuss the conditions on the City's FY 2016 Chamber grant funding in the amount of \$7500. She stated that on July 15, 2015 the Chamber requested the city to include the \$7500 in support of the Chamber's FY 2016 budget. She said at the August 19<sup>th</sup> Budget Workshop, City Council approved the funding request contingent on the Chamber being open six hours on Saturdays to assist visitors. She said the Chamber has requested an opportunity to discuss this condition with the City Council.

Mayor Smith recognized Orin Owen of the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Owen said he lives in Eustis and is present to represent the Tavares Chamber Board. He said the Chamber would like to request that the City keep the line item in the budget for the grant. He said they would like to come back and propose a solution on October 21<sup>st</sup> as to the City's suggestion for keeping the office open on Saturdays.

Mayor Smith asked for confirmation that Mr. Owen wished to keep the line item with the contingency until October 21<sup>st</sup> when the Chamber would come back with either approval or disapproval. Mr. Owen said they would come back with a proposed solution.

Mayor Smith said he was concerned because the City and the Chamber had always had a good relationship. He said the Chamber does two events that have been on the calendar for several years. One of those events is Hallo-O-Fest or Trunk or Treat. He said it is his impression that Trunk or Treat has been growing in participation by the children every year. He said it had been relayed to him through Mr. Tweedie, the City's liaison to the Chamber, that the Chamber has decided to cancel Hallo-O-Fest. Discussion followed on the timing of the Chamber's decision and communication issues.

Mayor Smith asked Ms. Rogers if her department had the capacity to take on the Trunk or Treat event. Ms. Rogers answered in the affirmative. Mr. Drury said the city would need to allocate about \$5000 to this event. He said he would hold off on hiring the Public Communications Director vacancy in order to do it within the budget.

Councilmember Speaks spoke in support of the Trunk or Treat event. He said he was on City Council when the Chamber came years ago asking for financial help to keep the Chamber open. He said at that time he had requested a partnership that could be expanded in order to work with the City. He said he would like to see more of a partnership. He said there are a lot of people visiting on the weekend during events and it would be helpful to have the Chamber office open for people to go in and receive information on the area.

Vice Mayor Grenier said he still wanted to keep the line item in the budget. He said his preference is that the Chamber office be open at least on Saturdays during events.

Councilmember Pfister reiterated her desire to have the Chamber be open six hours on Saturdays. Mr. Owen discussed a past survey done by the Chamber to determine the traffic on Saturdays of visitors to the Chamber, the outcome of which determined that they felt did not justify having it open on Saturdays.

Councilmember Johnson spoke in support of having the Chamber be open on Saturdays.

Mr. Drury said this was an opportunity to have the Chamber present and they will be returning on October 21<sup>st</sup> to make their presentation. The money will stay in the budget until that time and until they meet the Council conditions.

Mayor Smith asked for a motion on Trunk or Treat.

### **MOTION**

**Lori Pfister moved that the City of Tavares take on Trunk or Treat and use the funds that are needed to make it happen, seconded by Robert Speaks. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

Councilmember Grenier asked for confirmation that the motion only applied to the current year. Mr. Drury confirmed. He commended Ms. Rogers for agreeing to take on the event on short

notice. Mayor Smith noted that he hoped the Chamber would consider the opportunity to take the event back next year.

**Tab 13) Request to Accept Streetlights in Lake Elsie Subdivision**

Ms. Houghton stated that Lake Elsie Subdivision Homeowners Association has asked the City to consider accepting monthly electric charges for their streetlights. On August 19<sup>th</sup> City Council discussed this request and then asked staff to provide information on streetlight assessments. Staff subsequently presented preliminary findings to Council.

Ms. Houghton said it has been the practice of the City to assume standard costs on monthly streetlight charges for a new subdivision once the public infrastructure has been accepted by the City Council and upon receiving a written request by the HOA. Duke Energy reports that the subdivision is currently billed for 27 lights and 27 poles at a monthly cost of \$793.20. The lighting is considered “fancy” and not standard. Ms. Houghton said she has provided to Council a summary of costs for streetlights throughout the City. Currently the cost for the lights is \$21.85 for 27 lights. If the City was just to pay for standard poles it would be a cost of \$5.81 per pole.

Mayor Smith asked for clarification on “standard” and “fancy.” Mr. Drury said the standard cost that the City will pay is \$5.81. The HOA will pay \$15.99 per light pole. Mayor Smith asked that this not include anything retroactive. Ms. Houghton said that staff recommends the billing period to begin October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**MOTION**

**Lori Pfister moved to approve Option 1, to accept the Lake Elsie Reserve Homeowner’s Association request to assume monthly electrical charges for street lights at the standard cost with the subdivision paying the increase over the standard cost with an effective date of October 1, 2015. The motion was seconded by Robert Speaks. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

**Tab 14) Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Tavares and the Tavares Police Benevolent Association**

Lt. Paynter reported that the management team of Councilmember Speaks, Mr. Drury, and Chief Lubins met with Officer Baugh, Officer Harper, and Mr. Micciche of the PBA. The main points are noted in the agenda summary. The contract has been ratified by all parties. Lt. Paynter thanked Councilmember Speaks for participating in the bargaining.

**MOTION**

**Robert Speaks moved for approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, seconded by Lori Pfister. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

**Tab 15) Approval of Contract with International Association of Firefighters, Tavares Local 3245**

Chief Keith reported that over the last few months the city and union has been meeting with Mr. Drury being the chief negotiator and Vice Mayor Grenier representing the Council. He thanked Vice Mayor Grenier, Mr. Drury and the Union executive board for their assistance in negotiations. Chief Keith noted Lt. Kidd, the President of the Local, was in attendance as well as Engineer Bringard, Vice President of the Local.

He noted the salient points are as follows:

- It is a 3 year full contract
- The COLA is the standard 5% that is going to all city employees
- Working out of classification – previously the employee received .75 an hour. This has been increased to \$2.50 an hour.
- Changes to the pension – included in the contract is language that provides a re-opener for pension language for the next year if needed

Vice Mayor Grenier said it was his first time being a part of negotiations and it was a pleasure to participate and witness the process.

**MOTION**

**Bob Grenier moved to approve the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented between the Tavares Professional Firefighters Local 3245 and the City of Tavares and authorize City Administrator John Drury to sign the contract on behalf of the City. The motion was seconded by Lori Pfister. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

**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 cost of \$793. The standard cost is about \$10.00 for a wooden pole. The Lake Elsie poles are at a cost of \$21.85.

Mr. Drury said there are options that cities take 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.

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, 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 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 determined.

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.

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 the base fee (\$10.00). She said she was concerned that if an assessment was done, people might not want street lights and there is 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 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 delaying the vote 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 a policy about what should be waived rather than taking up the issues one at a time.

Mayor Smith asked if they 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 run 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:**

<b>Kirby Smith</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Bob Grenier</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Lisa Johnson</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Bob Speaks</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Lori Pfister</b>	<b>No</b>

**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 where 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 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 policy 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 Tava4es 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 depoxit 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 this is a request from the Tavares Waterfront Entertainment District (TWfor city support for them to host a signature fall event on October 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

### **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), seconded by Bob Grenier.**

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

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.'"

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

**Tab 13) 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)

**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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 16) Follow-Up Discussion on City Assessments**

Attorney Williams said information was presented at the last meeting regarding the methods for collecting for streetlights. Currently the City pays for streetlights out of the General Fund which is

an authorized use of public funds. He discussed the provision under Chapter 170 for doing an assessment. He said some cities are doing assessments in order to shift ad valorem taxes into non-ad valorem assessments where it is a fee as opposed to a tax. He noted that he had provided information from the City of Casselberry regarding their streetlight assessment. It must be based on a study that determines the benefit group and the way that people are benefitted. The firm GSG provided a quote for doing the study at a cost of approximately \$15,000 to \$18,000. The assessment can either be collected by the City through the utility bill or through the uniform method shown on the tax bill. He discussed the advantages and disadvantages.

### **MOTION**

**Lori Pfister moved to take no action on this matter, seconded by Robert Speaks. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

Mayor Smith thanked staff for providing the information.

### **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.**

#### **XIV. AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD**

##### **Bill Stomp, Royal Harbor**

Mr. Stomp said that the residents of Royal Harbor appreciate the work done by the staff. He said recently a contractor working on his home told him he preferred to do work in Tavares because of the excellent service of the staff.

Mr. Stomp said he had three items to bring forward:

- Noted the substation on US 441 was to have been heavily landscaped however it does not appear to be so, and needs to be more attractive as the City's main thoroughfare
- Stated there are two four lane highways that intersect with medians—US 441 and SR 19. There are a number of grassed areas in those medians; some have plantings of trees and minimal shrubs. He said he understood that the availability of irrigation is the deciding factor as to whether or not they can put in more landscaping in some of the other areas. He asked for a review or confirmation that irrigation is or is not available in those medians that are not planted and a determination of the process to extend irrigation to all or some of the unserved medians and a determination of very drought resistant plantings for unserved medians. He encouraged beautification of the medians.
- He asked Council to focus on the city debt. He said he was not bringing this to Council as a complaint or concern but would like Council to focus on reducing the city's debt

Mr. Drury said he would provide a written response by the end of the week on these matters.

##### **Betty Burleigh, Tavares**

Ms. Burleigh gave the history on Little Joe's Hideaway. In 1973 the fish camp was transformed into a quaint restaurant and tavern. There was a juke box and a piano and entertainment by a 76 year old pianist. It was best known for its food. They had docking space for boaters and an outdoor deck. In 2001 it was purchased and became "Big Johns." Then in 2004 Dan Kellyman purchased it and it is now called Lake Harris Hideaway.

#### **XV. REPORTS**

**Tab 14) City Administrator**

Mr. Drury said he had updated his list of events including “Rocktober Fest” coming up on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Public Works Director**

Mr. Thompson thanked Council for compensating the staff during a hard budget year.

**Utility Director**

Mr. Hayes said his staff appreciates the increase.

**Fire Chief**

Chief Keith reiterated the previous comments and thanked Council for approving the Union Contract.

**City Attorney**

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.

**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.

**Economic Development**

**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**

Vice Mayor Grenier noted Ordinance #2015-16 covered the rezoning [of the Peninsula]. He said the original owner was Captain Melton Haynes who purchased it in 1868 for \$5.00 down for 160 acres through the Homestead Act of 1862. After five years he received a patent after paying a total of \$18.00. The grant was signed by Ulysses S. Grant.

Reminded everyone that next weekend is Rifles, Rails and History at Wooton Park. He said it is the third year and people are coming from four different states to participate. He said Sorrento Elementary will be busing students and parents on Friday.

Stated that he will be unable to attend the first meeting in October.

- Thanked Ms. Ross and congratulated her on her retirement plans.
- 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 107<sup>th</sup> 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 commended Mr. Stump on his presentation. He noted as a retired banker he is also concerned about debt but he thinks the City's debt is in line. He said it was a pleasure to negotiate the Police Union contract and it had been a good bargaining session. He commended the staff for their business friendly services and said he was glad to be able to provide the 5% increase. He commended Mr. Drury for his leadership. Councilmember Speaks wished Ms. Ross best wishes on retiring. Councilmember Speaks reiterated the comments of Vice Mayor Grenier on commending the staff.

### **Councilmember Johnson**

Councilmember Johnson said the budget meetings had been exciting and educational. She commended the department heads for their assistance and for her answering her questions. She said Mr. Drury has been helpful to her in providing explanations and information. She said she is glad about the Hallo-O-Fest being assumed by the City and that she will happy to help out.

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 thanked the Historical Society for attending every Council Meeting. He said it is helpful to have their resources available. He commended Ms. Rogers for accepting the Main Street Hallo-O-Fest event.

Mayor Smith said on this day in 1782 the U.S. Seal was used for the first time. He added that today is National Monte Cristo day for those who like sandwiches.

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 6:015:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nancy A. Barnett, City Clerk, MMC