

**CITY OF TAVARES  
MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 2, 2011  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT**

**ABSENT**

Robert Wolfe, Mayor  
Bob Grenier, Vice Mayor  
Sandy Gamble, Councilmember  
Lori Pfister, Councilmember  
Kirby Smith, Councilmember

**STAFF PRESENT**

John Drury, City Administrator  
Lori Houghton, Finance Director  
Bob Williams, City Attorney  
Nancy Barnett, City Clerk  
Bill Neron, Economic Development Director  
Lori Tucker, Human Resources Director  
Chief Lubins, Police Department  
Jacques Skutt, Director of Community Development  
Chief Richard Keith, Fire Department  
Chris Thompson, Interim Public Works Director  
Tamera Rogers, Director of Community Services  
Brad Hayes, Director of Utilities

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pastor Tim Green gave the invocation and those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Drury stated that staff would like to remove Tab 3), Shanti Niketan Senior Condominiums, at the request of the owner. This item will be removed and will not be taken up again for at least 30 days. It will be re-advertised at such time as the owner makes the request.

**MOTION**

**Bob Grenier moved to approve the agenda with the removal of Tab 3, seconded by Kirby Smith.**

1 Mayor Wolfe stated Council will not be discussing Tab 3 if the motion is approved.

2  
3 **The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

4  
5 **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 16, 2011**

6  
7 **MOTION**

8  
9 **Sandy Gamble moved for the approval of the minutes of February 16, 2011 as submitted, seconded**  
10 **by Bob Grenier. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

11  
12 **V. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

13  
14 **Tab 2) National Nutrition Month**

15  
16 Mayor Wolfe noted Sue Miller was in the audience. He read a proclamation designating March as National  
17 Nutrition Month.

18  
19 Sue Miller stated she is a registered dietician who lives in Tavares. She expressed appreciation for the  
20 Mayor reading the proclamation and noted she would provide a copy to various dietetic associations. She  
21 gave a sign to the mayor that proclaimed March as National Nutrition Month.

22  
23 **VI) SWEARING IN BY CITY ATTORNEY AND DISCLOSURE OF EXPARTE CONTACTS**

24  
25 Attorney Williams stated there were no quasi-judicial matters on the agenda.

26  
27 **VII) READING OF ALL ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS INTO THE RECORD**

28  
29 None

30  
31 **VIII) CONSENT AGENDA**

32  
33 None

34  
35 **IX. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS – PUBLIC HEARING**

36  
37 **Tab 4) Resolution #2011-05 – Amending Project Scope for Street Paving Loan**

38  
39 Ms. Houghton stated she had added additional language that she hoped would address questions.  
40 Resolution 2008-19 was adopted authorizing the issuance of debt through Capital Improvement Note Series  
41 2008 in the amount of \$1,500,000. The projects for this note were intended for paving of unpaved  
42 roadways within the city. Due to economic conditions actual bids for the unpaved roads were less than  
43 anticipated. In October 2009, Resolution 2009-15 was then adopted to amend the resolution which  
44 expanded the project scope to include alleyway improvements and resurfacing of specific streets. January  
45 19, 2011 Council approved a contract with BESH Engineers to incorporate the downtown master plan  
46 streetscape recommendations into the Alfred Street Two Way Pair project at a cost of \$152,800 and to use

1 some of the remaining funds in the capital improvement revenue note series 2008 account, There is  
2 approximately \$317,000 in that fund and this will use approximately \$153,000.

3  
4 The purpose of the resolution is to ensure that the resolution for the project that supports the debt, includes  
5 the Alfred Street project.

6  
7 Councilmember Smith thanked Ms. Houghton for addressing his questions and for providing more  
8 information. He asked if the remaining \$148,000 could be used for alleyways and sidewalks. Ms. Houghton  
9 said it could be used for other transportation related projects and the resolution could probably be further  
10 expanded to include those areas.

11  
12 Mayor Wolfe asked if the audience had comment.

13  
14 **MOTION**

15  
16 **Bob Grenier moved to approve Resolution #2011-05, seconded by Kirby Smith. The motion carried**  
17 **unanimously 5-0.**

18  
19 **X. GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

20  
21 **Tab 5) Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Priorities**

22  
23 Mr. Drury stated he had provided a lengthy presentation on the upcoming budget at the last meeting with a  
24 full power point presentation. He noted he had provided that information again in the agenda packet but he  
25 did not feel he needed to make a second presentation. He noted that he had met with each councilmember  
26 since that meeting. He said staff is looking for broad budget direction and goals from Council for the next  
27 fiscal year. He noted there is an \$800,000 shortfall in the General Fund because the city relies on property  
28 valuation to run city services which is anticipated to go down one more year according to the property  
29 appraiser. In addition there are some expenses that are increasing. He said prior to staff developing a budget  
30 over the next year; the staff would like to ensure that the budget that is developed is in alignment with  
31 Council's goals.

32  
33 **Discussion**

34  
35 **Mayor Wolfe**

- 36  
37
  - Noted that taking money from reserves might need to be considered if the amount did not damage
  - 38 the city's bond rating
  - 39 • Would consider a possible one day or half day furlough
  - 40 • Line items should be reviewed for further cuts
  - 41 • Would prefer that no staff positions be eliminated if not necessary.
  - 42 • Reconsider the fire assessment and possibly lower the millage rate.

43  
44 **Vice Mayor Grenier**

- 45
  - Furlough would be preferable to making job cuts (half day if it will help)

46  
47

1 Councilmember Smith  
2

- 3 • Does not wish to impact the basic services of fire, police, water, and sewer
- 4 • The Police Department is already the leanest in the county
- 5 • Fire Department is working with minimal personnel
- 6 • Continue to look at a Tri City Fire District however that will not assist with the upcoming budget
- 7 • Consider furlough program (employees receive time off which helps with compensation)
- 8 • If cuts are necessary look at below the basic services
- 9

10 Councilmember Pfister  
11

- 12 • Fire District would not necessarily save monies
- 13 • Would consider reduction in forces since Council does not want to raise the millage rate or take
- 14 from reserves; prefer to get to essential needed employees
- 15 • Consider having part-time employees fill in for different positions
- 16

17 Councilmember Gamble  
18

- 19 • Has heard only one councilmember consider reducing reserves; has concerns about going further
- 20 into reserves
- 21 • Consideration of a change with the youth program
- 22 • Consider if employees are duplicating services
- 23 • Would prefer a half a day furlough if a furlough is necessary (thinks employees would prefer that
- 24 over job cuts)
- 25 • Consider costs of some extracurricular activities—some projects and events (some of the events
- 26 may be incurring overtime)
- 27 • Not in favor of a millage increase
- 28 • Not in favor of a fire assessment
- 29 • Property on Lake Dora – if it will take money out of general fund to purchase, may need to wait on
- 30 that project
- 31

32 Mayor Wolfe clarified that he would not want to take monies from reserves to a 5% level.  
33

34 Councilmember Gamble said taking from reserves would only be a last choice. Councilmember Smith said  
35 he is not in favor of any millage increase whatsoever and that he would like to see a decrease. He said if the  
36 city was to enter into the Tri City Fire District, it could be done by having each city pay for its share or  
37 there could be a fire district tax (assessment). He asked if that 1.8M was taken out of the budget how it  
38 would impact the millage rate. Mr. Drury said Ms. Houghton responded that 1.8M is equivalent to a  
39 millage rate of 2.95 however if this amount was taken out of the budget there would probably be a need  
40 from the general fund to compensate for untaxed properties.  
41

42 Mr. Drury discussed the County's model for their fire district. Vice Mayor Grenier noted that property rates  
43 were still yet to come officially from the property appraiser's office.  
44

1 Councilmember Pfister said she wished to review the line items in the general budget. She said she  
2 believed last year some things were moved into line items without discussion and therefore she wished to  
3 go over line items closely this year. Councilmember Smith agreed.

4  
5 Mayor Wolfe asked the audience for comment.

6  
7 Norman Hope – Fox Run  
8

9 Mr. Hope said he has been asking questions of Ms. Houghton. He said he would like to see how many  
10 positions have been added versus how many have been cut. He said he had spoken to the property appraiser  
11 and the private appraiser about the 10% projection which has been verified by the property appraiser but  
12 not the private sector.

13  
14 Mr. Hope said he understood the city's dilemma and that he appreciated that Council did not wish to cut  
15 any funds from public safety. He agreed with the half day furlough but had concern over taking that from  
16 the employees. He thanked Council for looking at all areas rather than focusing on just one area. He  
17 expressed concern about taking from reserves.

18  
19 Mr. Cunningham  
20

21 Mr. Cunningham questioned the need for twice a week garbage pickup and thought in that area there could  
22 be a savings.

23  
24 Mayor Wolfe said a study was done and he did not believe there was much savings. Councilmember Smith  
25 agreed and discussed the analysis that had been done. Councilmember Pfister with the rise in fuel it might  
26 be worthwhile looking at it again.

27  
28 Mr. Drury said staff will send Council and Mr. Cunningham a copy of the study that was done.

29  
30 Mr. Cunningham said he appreciated the Fire and Police services and that hopefully Council will not cut  
31 their budgets.

32  
33 Councilmember Pfister asked if there could be consideration of going to once a week pickup during the  
34 summer because of the decrease in residents during the summer.

35  
36 Charlotte Hope – Fox Run  
37

38 Mrs. Hope said reserves are usually the last resort in budgeting. She said in this day and time residents have  
39 to be creative at home and Council will need to be creative with the budget for the city. She advised  
40 looking at line items. She discussed her opinion regarding Council action taken last year with regard to a  
41 reduction on fines for a code enforcement violation. She said she believed there is an abundance of fines  
42 and liens which would mean instant revenue back into the city.

43  
44 Councilmember Gamble noted the governor is trying to enact the 5% contribution from the employees and  
45 therefore the last thing he wanted to do was take anything further away from the employees. He noted that  
46 might affect the city's contribution as well.

47

1 **Tab 6) Agreement with the Chamber of Commerce for the Sale of Alcohol at the Colt Ford Concert**

2  
3 Ms. Rogers discussed the proposed agreement which has been developed by working with the Chamber.  
4 They will provide beer sales on site at the concert. They will also be selling the city's bottled water which  
5 the city will sell to them at cost. The profit from the alcohol sales will be divided between the land owner,  
6 the city and the chamber. On site will be one food vendor.  
7

8 Councilmember Pfister said she was concerned about the business owners although she supported the  
9 Chamber. She asked if staff have talked with all the business owners to determine if they are all agreeable  
10 with the Chamber being the sole provider of water and beer.  
11

12 Ms. Rogers said staff has met with Andrew O'Keefe, president of the Downtown Business Development  
13 Committee and the landowner. He said they have both been agreeable to the contract. She said once people  
14 are within the concert area they will not be able to leave the area and return. Councilmember asked about  
15 the other businesses that sell alcohol. Ms. Rogers said Mr. O'Keefe was representative of the committee  
16 and typically staff will meet with the president who in turn will relay the information to the other  
17 businesses.  
18

19 Councilmember Gamble asked about the price of beer which was referred to in the contract. Ms. Rogers  
20 said she believed it was \$4.00 but it would need to be included in the contract.  
21

22 **MOTION**

23  
24 **Lori Pfister moved to approve the chamber selling beer at the event [Colt Ford concert], seconded by**  
25 **Kirby Smith. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**  
26

27 **XI. OLD BUSINESS**

28  
29 None  
30

31 **XII. NEW BUSINESS**

32  
33 None.  
34

35 **XIII. AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD**

36  
37 Mayor Wolfe invited public comment.  
38

39 **Doris Ragan**

40  
41 Ms. Ragan said she is president of the Palm Garden Club. She said the retention pond holds a fountain  
42 called the Chris Daniels Memorial Park. She said the club would like to request that the retention pond be  
43 renamed the "Welcome Lake" which would give a welcome to all who enter the city from the west.  
44 Mr. Drury said this could be put on the next agenda to allow Council some time to consider this.  
45

46 **XV. REPORTS**

47

1 **Tab 13) City Administrator**

2  
3 Mr. Drury stated he had provided a list of meetings and events. He noted on March 15<sup>th</sup> the County will  
4 host the community-wide fire discussion at the Magnolia Room at Lake Sumter at 4 p.m.

5  
6 **Attorney Williams**

7  
8 None

9  
10 **Finance Director**

11  
12 None

13  
14 **Community Services Director**

15  
16 Discussed opening day for Babe Ruth this Saturday at Fred Stover field.

17  
18 **Fire Chief**

19  
20 None

21  
22 **Chief Lubins**

23  
24 None

25  
26 **Economic Development Director**

27  
28 Mr. Neron discussed upcoming events.

29  
30 **Communications Director**

31  
32 None

33  
34 **City Clerk**

35  
36 No report

37  
38 **Utility Director**

39  
40 Stated staff has received notification of a \$20,000 grant from the Florida Department of Health for  
41 equipment at Water Treatment Plant #1 which Ms. Houghton is reviewing.

42  
43 Presented the container of pills that have been dropped off at the Police Department by the public, thus  
44 keeping them out of the aquifer. Police Lubins stated the pills will be disposed of by the Police Department.

45  
46 **Tab 14) City Council**

47

1 **Councilmember Smith**

2 Councilmember Smith said he would like to see the list of proclamations that have been done previously.

3  
4 He asked for a count of the tickets that have been sold for the Colt Ford Concert. Ms. Rogers said “195”  
5 and that she has been advised by the talent buyer that that is a good pre-sale because it is general admission  
6 and there is no incentive to buy early.

7  
8 Councilmember Smith asked if the city has all the rowers it needs for Dragonboat and encouraged others to  
9 participate.

10  
11 Noted that the mayor has been complimented on the job he has done on the flagpole and the monument but  
12 that Jim Dolan is a resident of Tavares who works with Mr. Wolfe and they have both donated their time  
13 (over 20 hours) to do this for the city.

14  
15 Vice Mayor Grenier noted the Historical Society newsletter will be featuring the Mayor and Mr. Dolan.

16  
17 **Councilmember Gamble**

18 Asked for confirmation that the Golden Triangle meeting will be March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thanked the audience for  
19 their attendance.

20  
21 **Councilmember Pfister**

22 No report.

23  
24 **Vice Mayor Grenier**

25 Noted that on March 3, 1845 Florida became a state and that the birthday of Major St.Clair Abrams was  
26 seven days later. Noted that March 4 is the City of Chicago’s birthday (1832).

27  
28 Commented on the flagpole that the Mayor has been constructing which is utilizing the bricks from the  
29 1888 Osceola Hotel donated by Charlene and Jack King.

30  
31 **Mayor Wolfe**

32 Said he met with the Taiwanese consultant who has donated funds for a fireworks show at the Dragonboat  
33 Festival on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

34  
35 **Adjournment**

36  
37 There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned by the Mayor at 6:58 p.m.

38  
39 Respectfully submitted,

40  
41  
42 \_\_\_\_\_  
43 Nancy A. Barnett, C.M.C.  
44 City Clerk