

City of Davenport Regular Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2024

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City of Davenport, Florida, held Monday, August 19, 2024 at 7:13 p.m. in the Commission Room after having been properly advertised with the following members present Mayor Brynn Summerlin and Vice-Mayor Jeremy Clark. Commission Members: Linda Robinson, Bobby Lynch and Donna Fellows-Coffey. Also present were City Manager Kelly Callihan and City Attorney Heather Ramos.

Mayor Summerlin declared a quorum present and opened the meeting with an invocation and a salute to the flag.

PRESENTATION

Steven Tolley with Boy Scout Troop 528 presented the City Commission with a bat box that he built as part of his Eagle Scout project. He thanked Commissioner Fellows-Coffey for helping him kickstart his project, and also the City Manager, City Commission, Danny McClain and Dustin Bleiweiss for their help in being a part of his project.

PRESENTATION – Citrus Connection/Lakeland Transit

Tom Phillips, Executive Director with Citrus Connection apologized for not attending the last meeting and explained that the purpose of his presentation was to provide an update on the city's bus ridership since it was the Mayor's desire that they get more involved to increase the ridership and work on community outreach of the program.

Mr. Phillips drew their attention to the presentation at their places. The presentation outlined their route, and ridership numbers. He briefly explained their Transportation Disadvantage program. He noted their most popular stops which were 43rd and James Street, the Post Office, Market Square and Ridge Community High School. As for their community outreach, they now had a yellow mobile bus, which was their Transportation Disadvantage mobile bus. They were now able to come to Davenport and register people for this program instead of the residents going to Bartow. They were also able to reload their cards every month so they wouldn't have to travel to Bartow or Lakeland. They had also distributed 20,000 stickers to their local coffee shop, the smoke house and Tres Hermanos restaurant. The stickers were placed on their coffee cups and the to-go containers. In addition, they would be willing to coordinate with the Water Department to place a message on the water bills.

He drew their attention to the Fair Share breakdown, noting that they were currently paying 8.6% of the total cost of transit at \$15,000. The fair share at 20% which was their aspirational number to get the Commission to get to would be \$35,074. Obviously they recognized that going from \$15,000 to \$35,074 was something that was not in their budget but would ask that as they did their budget preparations that they consider going from 8.6% to somewhere closer to 20%.

Commissioner Robinson asked if they were looking at going to the VA Center since he had mentioned Lake Nona in his presentation. She was asking because there were several Veterans at her church that had inquired about this. Mr. Phillips answered that this was correct and asked that they call 688-RIDE or 855-POLKBUS and they would be registered.

Commissioner Robinson also stated that they had a very big senior citizen program at her church and asked if someone could come to one of their luncheons and explain the program.

She was asked to call the number and someone would come with the mobile bus to make that presentation.

The Mayor added that he was still looking for the Citrus Connection tent at their 4th of July and WinterFest events, which would be a tremendous opportunity to get the word out to their residents. He felt that their numbers would increase as a result. For them, it was very important to promote this program. Mr. Phillips informed him that he would personally commit to come to WinterFest and man the tent.

In the audience, Joyce Hunter told Mr. Phillips that Davenport High School and Davenport School of the Arts were both on County Road 547. The traffic was horrendous, and it would be advantageous to have a stop in that area. Mr. Phillips answered that he would get with the planners on this and bring it back to the City Commission.

The City Commission thanked Mr. Phillips for his presentation.

APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

Motion by Vice-Mayor Clark and seconded by Commissioner Lynch to approve the Order of Business. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Mayor asked if there was anyone who wished to address the City Commission on anything not on the Agenda.

Michael Sloan of 409 Sapphire Drive asked if Code Enforcement had an ordinance for properties that were overgrown and in disrepair. They had a resident they have tried to get in contact with to no avail. The weeds are high and the residents have asked what kind of action they could take against them to get them to get it taken care. The Mayor responded that he would refer him to Steven Hunnicutt who used to be their Code Enforcement Officer but was now their Assistant City Manager and he could help him get with their Code Enforcement Officer to help him with this issue.

Mr. Sloan also invited them to their Ice Cream Social this Saturday at Golden Ridge between 11:00am and 1pm at the end of Opal Court.

Paul Berthold of 1060 Condor Dr. Highland Meadows voiced his objection to what he felt were unfair and outrageous increases to their water bills. What he understood was that there was a multimillion assessment by the Water District on the new homes and customers on the west side of the tracks and not the older homes. He felt that this was unfair and felt that everybody should pay this increase, not just them. The City Manager informed him that everyone in the city paid the same rates.

There being no one else, the Mayor closed Public Comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Robinson and seconded by Commissioner Lynch to approve the Consent Agenda which consisted of the August 5, 2024 Regular Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 1282 ANNEXING 310 43RD STREET (OWNER OF RECORD: EDITH STAMP)

At this time the Attorney was instructed to read Ordinance No. 1282 by title.

City Planner Raymond Perez explained that this was second and final reading of the Ordinance and there were no changes since first reading.

The Mayor opened and closed the Public Hearing with no public input.

Motion by Commissioner Fellows-Coffey and seconded by Commissioner Robinson to approve Ordinance No. 1282 on second and final reading. Motion carried unanimously.

2. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 1283 ANNEXING 623 SYLVAN RAMBLE ROAD (OWNER OF RECORD: MARGARITA PUNTAS MARTINEZ)

At this time the Attorney was instructed to read Ordinance No. 1283 by title.

Raymond explained that this was second and final reading of the Ordinance and there were no changes since first reading.

The Mayor opened and closed the Public Hearing with no public input.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Clark and seconded by Commissioner Fellows-Coffey to approve Ordinance No. 1283 on second and final reading. Motion carried unanimously.

3. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 1284 ANNEXING 619 SYLVAN RAMBLE ROAD (OWNER OF RECORD: MARGARITA PUNTAS MARTINEZ)

At this time the Attorney was instructed to read Ordinance No. 1284 by title.

Raymond explained that this was second and final reading of the Ordinance and there were no changes since first reading.

The Mayor opened and closed the Public Hearing with no public input.

Motion by Commissioner Robinson and seconded by Commissioner Lynch that the Commission approve on second and final reading, Ordinance No. 1284. Motion carried unanimously.

4. PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 1291 INCREASING THE CEMETERY RATES

At this time the Attorney was instructed to read Ordinance No. 1291 by title.

The City Clerk explained that this was second and final reading of the Ordinance and there were no changes since first reading.

The Mayor opened and closed the Public Hearing with no public input.

Motion by Commissioner Robinson and seconded by Commissioner Lynch that the Commission approve on second and final reading, Ordinance No. 1291. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 1286 ANNEXING 109 EAST FULLER STREET (OWNER OF RECORD: LAWANA NYOKI KING)

At this time the Attorney was instructed to read Ordinance No. 1286 by title.

City Planner Raymond Perez explained that this Ordinance annexed 109 East Fuller Street consisting of .12 acres.

The Mayor opened and closed the Public Hearing with no public input.

Motion by Commissioner Fellows-Coffey and seconded by Vice-Mayor Clark to approve Ordinance No. 1286 on first reading. Motion carried unanimously.

2. PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 1287 ANNEXING SEVERAL PARCELS ON EAST JAMES STREET (OWNER OF RECORD: CINTRA ENTERPRISES LLC)

At this time the Attorney was instructed to read Ordinance No. 1287 by title.

Raymond explained that this was annexing nine (9) parcels on East James Street consisting of 1.26 acres

The Mayor opened and closed the Public Hearing with no public input.

Motion by Commissioner Lynch and seconded by both Commissioner Fellows-Coffey and Commissioner Robinson to approve on first reading Ordinance No. 1287. Motion carried unanimously.

3. PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 1288 ASSIGNING THE LAND USE CLASSIFICATION TO 0 SOUTH BOULEVARD E. AND 425 SOUTH BOULEVARD E. FROM RESIDENTIAL LOW (RL) TO RESIDENTIAL MEDIUM (RM)

At this time the Attorney was instructed to read Ordinance No. 1288 by title.

The Mayor noted that this had been tabled at the Planning Commission.

Motion by the Vice-Mayor and seconded by Commissioner Robinson to table Ordinance No. 1288. Motion carried unanimously.

4. PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 1290 ASSIGNING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION TO 1140 NORTH BOULEVARD WEST FROM SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (R-3) TO LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-5)

At this time the Attorney was instructed to read Ordinance No. 1290 by title.

Raymond noted that this had been presented to the Planning Commission earlier in the evening and had been recommended to deny.

The Mayor opened and closed the Public Hearing with no public input.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Clark and seconded by Commissioner Robinson to deny Ordinance No. 1290. Motion carried unanimously.

Not providing their name or address, a gentleman from the audience asked what the general reason was for rejecting the ordinance. The Mayor responded that the Planning Commission felt that the zoning was not conducive to the surrounding area.

5. REQUEST TO APPROVE THE EAST 547 CDD TRAFFIC CONTROL AGREEMENT

Chief Parker explained that this was an Agreement to enforce traffic laws within the community.

The Mayor opened and closed the Public Hearing with no public input.

Motion by Commissioner Robinson and seconded by Commissioner Lynch that the Commission approve the East 547 CDD Traffic Control Agreement.

Commissioner Robinson stated that at Geneva Landings there was an exit that went out to Park Road, it was her understanding that the "Do Not Enter" sign was placed by the builder and not the city. She further asked that if residents decided they wanted to exit through it would they be given a ticket? Chief Parker responded that he would have to look at the area to make sure he knew what she was talking about. The Vice-Mayor shared that some people have called him about this, and they have gotten warnings but not tickets.

The Mayor stated that he believed that when they approved the development it was an emergency exit. The Chief answered that he would look into it.

There being no other discussion, the Mayor called for the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

6. PUBLIC HEARING AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 1304 AMENDING THE PURCHASING POLICY

At this time the Attorney was instructed to read Ordinance No. 1304 by title.

Finance Director Donald Carter explained that due to the current economic conditions, staff felt that it was cumbersome with some of the thresholds they currently have for their purchasing methods. Looking into these further, staff felt that the limits were low with today's times. This ordinance increased the thresholds for each method. He emphasized that ultimately this would come back to Finance and the process was not changing, only the approval limits.

He proceeded to outline the suggested thresholds as follows.

Purchasing Method	From	To	Purchasing Limits	From	To
Informal	\$0	\$4,999.99	Supervisor	\$0	\$4,999.99
Verbal Quote	\$5,000	\$19,999.99	Dept. Director	\$5,000	\$19,999.99
Written Quote	\$20,000	\$49,999.99	City Manager	\$20,000	\$49,999.99
Bid/RFP/RFQ	\$50,000	Up	Commission	\$50,000	Up

He further outlined the other suggested changes which included:

- Future financial amount changes to be approved by resolution.
- Remove the restriction denying any Commissioner or employee the ability to bid on, enter into or be in any manner interested in any contract for city purchase.

The Mayor explained that they still had to be within the budget that they approved. This brought them more in line with other cities too.

The Mayor opened and closed the Public Hearing with no public input.

Motion by Commissioner Fellows-Coffey and seconded by both Commissioner Robinson and Vice-Mayor Clark to approve Ordinance No. 1304 on first reading. Motion carried unanimously.

The Vice-Mayor pointed out that it helped streamline the process.

There being no other discussion, the Mayor called for the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

7. REQUEST TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 508-24 APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A LEWIS MATHEWS PARK RELOCATION PROJECT GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (FDEP)

The City Manager explained that these two Resolutions had to be done and sent to the State for the \$4 million they had received for the Lewis Mathews Sports Complex project and the \$3 million they had received for the Powerline Road project.

The Mayor opened and closed the Public Hearing with no public input.

Motion by Vice-Mayor Clark and seconded by Commissioner Robinson to approve Resolution No. 508-24. Motion carried unanimously.

8. REQUEST TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 509-24 APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A POWERLINE ROAD UTILITIES PROJECT GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (FDEP)

The City Manager reiterated his comments from above.

The Mayor opened and closed the Public Hearing with no public input.

Motion by Commissioner Lynch and seconded by Commissioner Fellows-Coffey to approve Resolution No. 509-24. Motion carried unanimously.

9. REQUEST TO FILL VACANCY ON THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Mayor asked the City Clerk for a brief description of this Committee since he didn't even know they had one. The City Clerk responded that the Committee hadn't met since 2018 and met as needed to provide input on grants.

The Mayor pointed out that they hadn't met in 6 years so why did they need this Committee.

The City Clerk further stated that as a result of Commissioner Robinson being elected, this left a vacancy on the Committee and Mr. Woodlee had expressed an interest.

In response to Commissioner Robinson's comment, the City Clerk responded that there was also a Citizens Advisory Board that was also used by Danny McClain for recreational grants. Commissioner Robinson further voiced her agreement with the Mayor and why it was needed.

The Vice-Mayor asked if the Commission could disband it. The Mayor informed him that the Committee was at the pleasure of the Commission.

Commissioner Fellows-Coffey further added that there was no need to duplicate committees and run into two different recommendations. They had to be cognizant of their volunteers' time. She appreciated that the vacancy was advertised on the city website and appreciated that Mr. Woodlee had stepped up. She didn't want to downplay it or take it lightly because they needed to be mindful when their residents did step up and volunteered, but she didn't want to waste his time or anybody else's time when it was a duplicate process.

It was suggested by the Attorney that they look at the code and see exactly what the duties were for both of the boards and maybe see if the duties of Recreation Advisory Committee

could be folded into the duties for the Citizens Advisory Board and also see how many people from the committee that they are looking to disband would be willing to serve and go on the other committee. This met with the Commission's consensus.

The Mayor further suggested that they go ahead and approve Mr. Woodlee to fill the current vacancy on the Recreation Advisory Committee.

Motion by Commissioner Lynch and seconded by Commissioner Fellows-Coffey to approve Mr. Woodlee to the Recreation Advisory Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

The City Clerk informed them that the reason this had happen was because Mr. Woodlee had made a records request of all the city's boards and committees and this particular seat was vacant on the list that she had given him.

Twila Smith of 305 W. Magnolia Street advised that she served on the Board of Adjustments. At their last meeting, they had discussed new members. She didn't even know who the members were and didn't even know they had vacancies on this committee. She asked if the committees could be published so they could see the different committees. The City Clerk informed her that they were on the city's website under the City Clerk's department and also on the homepage of their website. However, she informed her that the members serving on these boards and committees were not listed, to which Ms. Smith asked why. The Mayor advised her that sometimes the members didn't want to be listed which would open them to being scrutinized based on the variance decision they made.

For clarification, the Vice-Mayor informed her that he had just gone online and they were on there.

The City Clerk also informed her that the positions filled at the meeting were reappointments of current members.

For clarification, Commissioner Fellows-Coffey stated that the members weren't listed on the website but the names were public record if someone asked for them. Any vacancies would be posted on the website and would be approved by them. The City Clerk responded that this was correct.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

The City Manager brought Utilities Director Mike Stripling up to explain the \$3.2 million grant they had received.

Mike explained that DEP had a \$7.7 million allotment for emerging contaminants in the wastewater effluent. He further explained that this was the start of them looking at these emerging contaminants in the wastewater and how to treat them. As such, staff had put a plan together and applied for \$3.2 million to put a system in. It was all very last minute, and this was why they were telling them tonight because it had to be added to the budget both as a revenue and expenditure. The City Manager informed them that he had instructed Donald to add this amount to the budget. They would be making this change to the budget for their presentation at the Budget Public Hearings.

The Commission voiced their enthusiasm on being the few that had received these funds. The City Manager further thanked Mike for his efforts and this grant.

The City Manager also explained that Mike had asked for a Wastewater Trainee in the budget but now had the opportunity to hire somebody at a different level.

Mike explained that this position would call for a bachelor's degree in biology and this individual would also help him with the grant funding side of the projects. They were looking at about \$17 an hour for the Wastewater Trainee and this position would be around \$32 an hour. This position would be an Environmental Compliance Officer. This person would work with the water and wastewater plant operators to make sure they were up to date with their sampling and especially with this pilot project they were going to have more sampling to do.

If approved, the City Manager advised that he would instruct Donald to make the change in the budget. This met with the consensus of the Commission.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT – Nothing to report.

CITY CLERK REPORT

The City Clerk reminded them of the September meeting schedule change.

She drew their attention to the Email Policy form at their places and asked that they review and sign it and turn it in.

She also reminded them that tomorrow was the Primary Election and to vote.

CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS

The Mayor stated that if they had not already voted to vote tomorrow. He further pointed out that people tended to think that Primaries were not important, and he encouraged and implored them to think otherwise. If they had voted early, he commended them. If not, he asked them to vote tomorrow.

He also shared that the Commission had attended the Florida League of Cities conference last week and the city had been well represented. He learned a little each time he attended them. He thanked the City Manager and Assistant City Manager for helping guide him through some of the jungle that was the FLC.

The Vice-Mayor stated that he too had learned a lot and was thankful for the opportunity and for the city allowing them to be a part of it. What he enjoyed the most was meeting other people, but the best part was comparing their staff and city to other cities in attendance and how fortunate they were. He had talked with one individual who had 6-hour long meetings. They were fortunate because they all had one goal, and their staff did such a great job giving them information. He had a mayor from a city in Polk County ask him if the city had gotten any money from the government and he had kind of rubbed it in that they did.

He also thanked Mike for his leadership and for everything that he did. He also thanked their Police and Fire Departments for everything they did.

Commissioner Robinson thanked the residents for allowing her to go to the Florida League of Cities conference. This was the first time she had attended as an attendee and had found it very interesting. What she really enjoyed hearing about was that there was a big push throughout the State for more outdoor spaces for recreation, families and even outdoor spaces next to assisted living facilities. She was really amazed to find out that there were other cities, especially to the north that were facing the same issue they are facing. She too wanted to thank Mike and congratulate him and the City Manager for getting them the grants.

Commissioner Lynch agreed with everyone's comments and also thanked their lobbyist in helping them get the grants. He too had enjoyed the conference. He also voiced kudos to the Vice-Mayor and his church for supplying the backpacks and Chief Parker and his department for their Cram the Cruiser event.

Commissioner Fellows-Coffey echoed everyone's comments. She too thanked the city for allowing them to be able to attend the conference. One of the classes she had attended had dealt with grants and she had left feeling good that they had staff like Mike and the City Manager and Assistant City Manager who could execute these grant requests successfully. It was enlightening to see how the grant process worked. She also thanked the church and Police Department for their backpack event. She also applauded the Police Department for their partnership with the Neighborhood Watch event. Unfortunately, they were unable to attend because they were all at the conference but from what she had heard it would be the first of many. Anything that encouraged the community to work together was a good thing.

Before closing, the Vice-Mayor also thanked Jamestown Concern Citizens for also giving away backpacks.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Lynch.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Minutes are true and correct.



Raquel Castillo, City Clerk