



AGENDA
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
October 18, 2023
4:00 PM
TAVARES CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
201 E MAIN STREET, TAVARES

(Members of the public wishing to speak on an item that is on the agenda must fill out a Request to Speak form available from the City Clerk or at the Council Meeting prior to the meeting being called to order. In addition, the Mayor will ask for comment under the agenda item titled "Audience to be Heard" for matters not on the Agenda. For further information contact the City Clerk at (352) 742-6209 or snovack@tavares.org)

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Tab 1 Pastor James Gardner, Umatilla Baptist Church

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IV. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Tab 2 Tavares Chamber of Commerce Update

Tab 3 Debi Weinert Presentation on Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program (City Administrator)

Tab 4 Recognition of awards from Florida Events and Festivals Association (FEFA) for City of Tavares Special Events (Economic Development)

V. SWEARING IN BY CITY ATTORNEY AND DISCLOSURE OF EXPARTE COMMUNICATIONS

VI. READING OF ALL ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS INTO RECORD

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Tab 5 Approval of the October 4, 2023, City Council Meeting Minutes (City Clerk)

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

IX. ORDINANCES - PUBLIC HEARING

First Reading

Second Reading

Tab 6 Ordinance 2023-11 - Rate Study Ordinance - Second Reading
(Finance)

X. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Tab 7 Board Appointment - Police Pension Board (Mayor)

Tab 8 Memorandum of Understanding & Agreement between the City of
Tavares and Cagan Urban Development for the purchase and sale
of Tavares Square Property (Economic Development)

Tab 9 2023 America in Bloom Update (Public Works)

XI. NEW BUSINESS

XII. OLD BUSINESS

Tab 10 Fourth of July Celebration Parade Discussion (Community
Services)

XIII. AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD

XIV. REPORTS

Tab 11 City Administrator Report

Tab 12 City Council Member Reports

XV. ADJOURNMENT

F.S. 286.0105 If a person decides to appeal any decision or recommendation made by Council with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, he will need record of the proceedings, and that for such purposes he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Individuals with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk at least two (2) working days in advance of the meeting date and time at (352) 742-6209.

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
10/18/2023**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 1

SUBJECT TITLE: Pastor James Gardner, Umatilla Baptist Church

OBJECTIVE:

Pastor James Gardner, Umatilla Baptist Church, will provide the invocation and lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SUMMARY:

Pastor James Gardner, Umatilla Baptist Church, will provide the invocation and lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPTIONS:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

Attachments not provided are available to the public upon request to the City Clerk.

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
10/18/2023**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 2

SUBJECT TITLE: Tavares Chamber of Commerce Update

OBJECTIVE:

To receive an update from the Tavares Chamber of Commerce.

SUMMARY:

Erika Buigas, President/CEO of the Tavares Chamber of Commerce, will provide an update on Chamber activities.

OPTIONS:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. October 23 Report to Council

Attachments not provided are available to the public upon request to the City Clerk.

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
10/18/2023**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 3

SUBJECT TITLE: Debi Weinert Presentation on Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program (City Administrator)

OBJECTIVE:

To receive a Debi Weinert presentation on the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program

SUMMARY:

Debi Weinert will be providing a summary of what she is doing to bring the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program to Tavares and Lake County. By way of background, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books free of charge to children from birth to age five, through funding shared by Dolly Parton and local community partners in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia and the Republic of Ireland. It is a book gifting program which mails high-quality, free books to 2.6 million children around the world each month.

Debi Weinert's goal is to offer this program to children of Lake County, Florida and to get children in Lake County registered in the program, beginning first with the children of Tavares.

OPTIONS:

- 1) Receive presentation
- 2) Do not receive presentation

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Receive presentation

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

yes

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

Attachments not provided are available to the public upon request to the City Clerk.

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
10/18/2023**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 4

SUBJECT TITLE: Recognition of awards from Florida Events and Festivals Association (FEFA) for City of Tavares Special Events (Economic Development)

OBJECTIVE:

To recognize our Economic Development Department Special Events and Operations Manager for excellence in creative marketing and promotions of City special events.

SUMMARY:

The Florida Festivals & Events Association (FFEA) is a not-for-profit association dedicated to supporting and promoting more than 5,500 festivals, events, and fairs in the state of Florida through education, networking, and dissemination of information and the cultivation of high standards. FEFA recently announced the winners of its annual SUNsational Awards during its 29th annual convention and tradeshow. The Program recognizes members' innovation, individuality, and creative collaboration.

Nominations were accepted in ten categories, including Printed Materials; Outdoor Advertisement; PR / Media Campaigns; Photos; Promotional Items; T-shirts; Broadcast Media; and Multimedia Marketing. Events and Programming. Each category included three budget levels. Over 200 events submitted their materials for consideration.

The City of Tavares Economic Development Department was proudly recognized in multiple categories;

2nd Place – Rockoberfest Event Guide / Brochure *designed by Cheri Moan*

3rd Place – Planes, Tunes & BBQ Promotional Mailer *designed by Cheri Moan*

3rd Place – Planes, Tunes & BBQ Radio Ad *copy written by Cheri Moan & produced by CJ Voices*

Representing the City of Tavares at the conference was Cheri Moan, Special Events and Operations Manager.

OPTIONS:

Presentation only, no action required.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

Attachments not provided are available to the public upon request to the City Clerk.

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
10/18/2023**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 5

SUBJECT TITLE: Approval of the October 4, 2023, City Council Meeting Minutes (City Clerk)

OBJECTIVE:

To consider approval of the October 4, 2023, City Council meeting minutes.

SUMMARY:

Attached are the October 4, 2023, City Council meeting minutes as submitted by the City Clerk.

OPTIONS:

1. Move to approve the City Council meeting minutes under the Consent Agenda.
2. Move to approve the City Council meeting minutes with corrections.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

For the Council's approval.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Yes.

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. 10-04-2023 CC Minutes

Attachments not provided are available to the public upon request to the City Clerk.



**TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 4, 2023 – 4:00 PM
TAVARES CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
201 EAST MAIN STREET, TAVARES**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

**Walter Price, Mayor
Sandy Gamble, Vice Mayor
Bob Grenier, Council Member
Lori Pfister, Council Member
Troy Singer, Council Member**

STAFF PRESENT

**John Drury, City Administrator
Lindsay Holt, City Attorney
Susie Novack, City Clerk
Antonio Fabre, Interim Community Development Director
Scott Aldrich, Community Services Director
Bob Tweedie, Economic Development Director
Lori Houghton, Finance Director
Richard Keith, Fire Chief
Crissy Bublitz, Human Resources Director
James Dillon, Public Works Director
Mark O'Keefe, Public Communications Director
Sarah Coursey, Police Chief
Phil Clark, Utilities Director**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Price called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. He asked those who wished to speak on an agenda item to complete and submit a Request to Speak form.

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Tab 1. Phil Clark, Utilities Director

Phil Clark, Utilities Directors, provided the invocation and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Price asked if there were any changes to the Agenda. Mr. Drury said Staff had no changes.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to approve the Agenda, seconded by Bob Grenier. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

IV. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

V. SWEARING IN BY CITY ATTORNEY AND DISCLOSURE OF EXPARTE COMMUNICATIONS

Attorney Holt stated there were no quasi-judicial matters before the Council.

VI. READING OF ALL ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS INTO THE RECORD

Ms. Novack read the following Ordinances and Resolutions by title only:

RESOLUTION 2023-13

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, GRANTING A VARIANCE TO THE CITY OF TAVARES LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, TABLE 8-3, DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS, FOR A MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF 65' ON AN RMF-3 ZONING DISTRICT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF MT HOMER ROAD AND EAST BURLEIGH BOULEVARD; SUBJECT TO THE RULES, REGULATIONS AND OBLIGATIONS ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TAVARES COUNCIL; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

RESOLUTION 2023-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, APPROVING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW A PARKING LOT LOCATED AT 313 DORA AVENUE; SUBJECT TO THE RULES, REGULATIONS AND OBLIGATIONS ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TAVARES COUNCIL; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

RESOLUTION 2023-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE STATE REVOLVING FUND LOAN PROGRAM; MAKING FINDINGS; AUTHORIZING SRF LOAN 350981 FOR CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES FOR THE LAKE HERMOSA REGION BOOSTER PUMP STATION AND WATER TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION PROJECT; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE LOAN; DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES; PROVIDING ASSURANCE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE 2023-11

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 17-54, 17-55, 17-56, AND SECTION 17-75 PROVIDING FOR UPDATES TO WATER, WASTEWATER, RECLAIMED WATER, AND STORMWATER RATE SCHEDULES BASED ON A COMPREHENSIVE RATE STUDY RECOMMENDATION BY RAFTELIS, RATE CONSULTANTS; PROVIDING FOR RATE ADJUSTMENTS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2028, AND PROVIDING FOR AUTOMATIC RATE INCREASES OF CPI PLUS 1% TO RESUME AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2028; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Price asked if anyone wished to pull an item from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

MOTION

Troy Singer moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Sandy Gamble. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 2. Approval of the September 20, 2023, City Council Meeting and Budget Hearing Minutes

Approved on the Consent Agenda.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

Tab 3. Resolution 2023-13 – Variance – Tavares Manor Apartments

Mr. Fabre provided the following presentation:

On July 20, 2022, the City Council approved the annexation, rezoning (Ord. 2022-06) and future land use map amendment (Ord. 2022-07). Approval of subsequent actions allows the applicant to submit a development plan in accordance with the provisions of the City's Land Development Regulations. At this time, the applicant has submitted a variance request for an increase in height

from the permitted maximum height of 50' to a maximum height of 65' for the proposed Tavares Manor Apartments development.

The subject property is approximately 19.81 acres located at the northwest corner of Mt. Homer Rd. and East Burleigh Blvd. The applicant is proposing to construct seven (7) four-story buildings instead of the originally envisioned ten (10) three-story buildings. The proposed buildings will consist of forty-eight (48) units each, totaling 336 residential apartments, together with recreational amenities including a clubhouse and swimming pool. The concept plan and building concept elevations are attached for your review and consideration.

This property is in close proximity to a mixture of institutional, multi-family, and commercial uses all exhibiting a mixture of maximum heights. The adjacent AdventHealth Waterman Hospital PD allows for a seven-story structure with a maximum height of 100'. The adjacent two-story (provided height of 48') Pinecrest Chatter School is part of the Avalon Park Tavares PD. The Avalon Park PD allows for mixtures of maximum heights including four-story townhomes and a maximum height of 100' for non-residential. Across the highway on East Burleigh Blvd, is the Lakeview Center PD, which allows a maximum height of 65' which includes an existing five-story hotel (Comfort Inn & Suites). Therefore, it is the staff's opinion that the height variance request is compatible and appropriate for the proposed development.

On September 21, 2023, the Planning & Zoning Board voted unanimously to recommend approval of Resolution 2023-13 as presented.

Staff recommends that the City Council moves to approve Resolution 2023-13, a variance allowing for a maximum height of 65' for the Tavares Manor Apartment development.

Brandon Rosser, Applicant, 4100 W. Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 213, Tampa, provided a PowerPoint presentation and said moving the project from 3-story buildings to 4-story buildings was due to local feedback and area demographics. He noted moving to 4-stories would require elevators in each building, making each unit fully accessible to all residents, which was more appealing with scenic views. Mr. Rosser said going from 10 to 7 buildings would increase green space, allowing for a larger pool, recreation area, pickleball courts, and dog parks.

Mayor Price asked for comments from the Council.

Vice Mayor Gamble inquired about changes to the building footprints. Mr. Rosser said the footprint would be larger for each building. He said there would be additional parking spaces.

Vice Mayor Gamble inquired about the Charter School traffic study. Mr. Fabre said the original traffic study would be updated to reflect any difference from the addition of 36

units. He said the City transportation planner would review the traffic study update letter to ensure no issues.

Vice Mayor Gamble asked if the project would be age-restricted. Mr. Rosser said no and that it was a market-value project with no affordability, section 8, or age restrictions.

Vice Mayor Gamble inquired about Lake County School Board approval for student capacity. Mr. Rosser said prior approval was obtained, and there would be a need to return to the School Board to ensure capacity for the additional units.

Vice Mayor Gamble inquired about the hospital helicopter pad. Mr. Rosser said Advent Health Waterman provided drawings of the flight path, indicating the direction was north of the project.

Council Member Pfister said she was happy with the design as it had more green space. She noted her support in going up rather than out.

Council Member Singer said he was glad to see more green space and asked if more amenities would be added. Mr. Rosser said the amenities may include pickleball courts and dog parks for large and small dogs. He said there may be more outdoor picnic areas. Mr. Rosser said no supporting buildings would be added. Council Member Singer noted his support for more community amenities and 10% more units as the City and Lake County needed more such housing.

Council Member Singer asked Chief Keith if the fire department vehicles could accommodate 4-story buildings. Chief Keith said Captain Willis was included in the planning process. He said 4-story structures would include sprinkler systems and stated the Tavares Fire Department was in support.

Council Member Singer said projects like this help pay for needed infrastructure in growing areas. He noted his support for the project.

Council Member Grenier said he supported the building's additional green space, location, and look. He noted his support for the project.

Mayor Price asked if the units would remain the same size as the original conceptual plan. Mr. Rosser confirmed.

Vice Mayor Gamble asked if the Lake Hermosa booster pump would enhance the project. Mr. Clark confirmed and said the booster pump would be needed.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to approve Resolution 2023-13, seconded by Bob Grenier. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 4. Resolution 2023-14 – Special Use Permit – Wheeler’s Parking Lot

Mr. Fabre made the following presentation:

On June 19, 2019, the City Council approved the rezoning (Ordinance 2019-12) and future land use map amendment (Ordinance 2019-13) for the subject property in order to allow the applicant to submit a commercial development plan in accordance with the provisions of the City's Land Development Regulations. The envisioned commercial development never came to fruition. At this time, the applicant has submitted an application for a Special Use Permit to operate a Parking Lot at 313 Dora Avenue. The subject property is located west of Dora Avenue, north of Old US Hwy-441, and is approximately 1.23 acres in size. The property is owned by Mark & Kathy Wheeler, and is currently vacant with a single-family dwelling unit. The subject property is within the General Commercial (C-1) zoning district, which requires a Special Use Permit from City Council to allow a public parking lot.

The property owner is proposing to provide a secured fenced area of the property to allow vehicles, boat trailers and RVs to park for rent or fee. The owner has included a Special Use Plan that has a list of conditions of approval which include installation of the required landscaping after approval of the Special Use Permit. The Special Use Plan is attached for your review and consideration. The property is contiguous to existing commercial (C-1) zoning, and is surrounded by a mixture of commercial, multi-family, and one single family property. It is staff's opinion that the proposed parking lot is an appropriate use of the property.

On September 21, 2023, the Planning & Zoning Board voted unanimously to recommend approval of Resolution 2023-14 as presented.

Staff recommends that the City Council moves to approve Resolution 2023-14, Special Use Permit for a Parking Lot located at 313 Dora Avenue, subject to the conditions outlined on the Special Use Plan.

Mr. Fabre said the applicant and his representative was present and available for questions.

Mayor Price asked if the parking area would be paved, grass, or gravel.

Rick Hartenstein, Hartenstein Development and Land Use, LLC, said the lot would be grass parking.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to approve Resolution 2023-14, seconded by Sandy Gamble.

Council Member Singer said Mr. Wheeler had been a great business leader in the community for decades and noted his support. He thanked Mr. Wheeler for all he had done in the City of Tavares. Mayor Price concurred.

The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 5. Resolution 2023-21 – Council to Approve Award of SRF Construction Loan 350981 for Lake Hermosa/Avalon Booster Pump Project

Ms. Houghton made the following presentation:

Previously, the City Council authorized acceptance of a State Revolving Loan for the design of the Lake Hermosa Booster Pump Project, SRF Loan DW350980. The loan document was executed on July 15, 2021. The disbursable amount of the loan is \$247,416.

A timeline summary of previously approved amendments for the design loan are as follows:

- Amendment One (1) was executed on April 28, 2022 which provided for additional time for project completion.*
- Amendment Two (2) was executed on March 23, 2023 which provided for additional time for project completion, and changed the first loan repayment date to February 15, 2025.*

On February 28, 2023, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection provided notice to the City of Tavares that the City had been included on the funding list with FDEP for an SRF Loan for the Lake Hermosa Booster Pump Project.

On April 19, 2023, the City Council discussed the Construction Phase of the Project, and authorized application to the FDEP for an SRF Construction Loan for the Lake Hermosa Booster Pump project, and the Water Treatment Plant Expansion.

On June 21, 2023 the City Council adopted Resolution 2023-08, authorizing application to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for a State Revolving Loan for construction activities for the Lake Hermosa Booster Pump project. The anticipated loan funding to be awarded by FDEP for the project was \$7,235,190 with \$5,799,152 designated for loan repayment, and \$1,447,038 designated for loan principal forgiveness for the project.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has provided a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Construction Loan Agreement, DW35081, to the City of Tavares for City Council for approval.

SRF Loan Agreement DW350981 provides for financing for the Lake Hermosa Region Booster Pump Station with construction loan funding in the amount of \$7,235,190 with \$5,788,152 designated for loan repayment, and \$1,447,038 designated for loan principal forgiveness. Details of the loan are as follows:

- *Construction and Demolition - \$6,292,900*
- *Contingencies - \$629,290*
- *Technical Services After Bid Opening - \$313,000*
- *Disbursable Amount: \$7,235,190*
- *Principal Forgiveness \$1,447,038*
- *Loan Amount: \$5,788,152*
- *Capitalized Interest \$65,700*
- *Projected Completion is scheduled for October 15, 2025*
- *Monthly Loan Debt Service Account with Monthly Deposits to be established no later than October 15, 2025*
- *First Semiannual Loan Payment in the amount of \$167,639 shall be due April 15, 2026*
- *Loan Interest Rate 1.11 per Annum*
- *Loan Term is 20 years*

Staff has reviewed the loan document and recommends approval of Option 1, for Council to approve Resolution No. 2023-21 which authorizes the Mayor to execute State Revolving Loan 350981 with FDEP for Lake Hermosa Booster Pump Project Construction Funding.

Mayor Price asked for comments from the Council.

Council Member Singer said the loan interest rate at 1.11% was great and noted his support. Ms. Houghton noted connection fees for development in the area would help leverage the loan service payments.

Vice Mayor Gamble noted the Council previously approved other developments in the area and asked Mr. Clark what would result if the Council did not approve the loan. Mr. Clark said there would be no future hospital expansion or growth in the area.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to approve Resolution 2023-21, seconded by Bob Grenier. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

IX. ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING

First Reading

Tab 6. Ordinance 2023-11 – Rate Study Ordinance – First Reading

No discussion at First Reading.

Second Reading

X. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Tab 7. Golden Triangle Regional Park – East Campus Project Update

Mr. Aldrich made the following presentation:

In July of this year, the City of Tavares and Lake County entered into an Interlocal Agreement for park improvements at the Golden Triangle Regional Park – East Campus. Funding in the amount of \$300,000 was provided by Lake County as an initial contribution to enhance and renovate the park for the benefit of all residents.

Staff has been working in conjunction with Lake County and the Golden Triangle YMCA to schedule and complete immediate site improvements that enhance the park.

Mr. Aldrich commended Stormwater/ROW Manager Jason Spann and ROW Assistant Supervisor Wendell Hunt on their efforts at the site.

To date, projects include:

- *New fencing around the basketball court (complete)*
- *New fencing around the playground structure (complete)*
- *New engineered playground mulch installed in the playground (complete)*
- *Tree cleaning/clearing and pruning (complete)*
- *Soccer field site improvements (scheduled for mid-October)*
- *Irrigation improvements and landscaping (scheduled for mid-October)*
- *Court resurfacing - creating three pickleball courts and two half-court basketball courts (scheduled for mid-October)*
- *Parking lot sealcoat, paint, and striping (scheduled for early November)*
- *Park signage (scheduled for early November)*

Andy Weighill, Executive Director of the Golden Triangle YMCA, provided a PowerPoint presentation and said the YMCA had a 75% uptick in new membership since improvements began. He said the City and YMCA had been discussing expanding and enhancing programs and services for the existing residents and members.

Mr. Drury thanked Council Member Pfister and Board of County Commissioner Smith. He said the City, YMCA, and Lake County partnership was considerable, and the project was significant for the community. He said the City looked forward to the County continuing to provide grants to grow the project.

Vice Mayor Gamble asked if fence or netting separated the courts. Mr. Aldrich said the courts included ten-foot-high fencing. He noted windscreens would be installed.

Council Member Singer thanked Mr. Aldrich and his Team. He thanked Lake County for the grant and continued partnership.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Drury said he received a request from Edd Holder to rename the Chris Daniels memorial fountain sign from Polly and Charles E Holder, II to Betha and Edd Holder. He said staff had no issues with the request.

MOTION

Bob Grenier moved to approve the name change request, seconded by Lori Pfister. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

Council Member Pfister asked Mr. Dillon to provide an update on the America in Bloom Symposium held the previous weekend in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Mr. Dillon said Staff would bring back a full update at a future meeting. He said the City of Tavares received three awards: The Coolest Downtown, First Place in the 20,000 to 25,000 population category, and Overall Impression. He thanked Council Members Pfister and Singer for attending the America in Bloom Symposium.

Mr. Drury asked Mr. Dillon if the City of Tavares was awarded as the Coolest Downtown in the United States. Mr. Dillon confirmed.

Council Member Grenier and Vice Mayor Gamble said they watched an excellent symposium presentation made by Parks Operation Manager Traci Anderson.

Council Member Pfister said she was proud to participate in the program. She commended Mr. Dillon, Ms. Anderson, and the Public Works Team. Council Member Pfister noted the City's branding was recognized by the conference attendees.

Council Member Singer said the Staff did a fantastic job, and the City was recognized nationally. He thanked Mr. Dillon and Ms. Anderson.

Mayor Price and Vice Mayor Gamble congratulated the City of Tavares and those who contributed to the America in Bloom program.

XIII. AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD

Vance Jochim 12619 Milwaukee Avenue, Lake County, discussed issues with a Pace Home Financing program that was presented during a recent Board of County Commission meeting.

XIV. REPORTS

Tab 8. City Administrator Report

Mr. Drury noted that the upcoming League of Cities luncheon was canceled as the 2023 Sponsor's Event would be held on the evening of October 13, 2023.

Mr. Tweedie noted the 5th Annual Roctoberfest was scheduled for October 14, 2023, and Boo Fest was scheduled for October 27, 2023. He provided an update on activities planned for the events.

Mr. Dillon said five buildings were erected at the new Public Works Facility in five days.

Chief Keith said the Station 29 Air Quality project was completed. He noted two buildings at the new WaWa location would be used for fire department training during the week. He said there would be no fires during the training event.

Ms. Houghton thanked the Council for issuing the Customer Service Week Proclamation at the previous Council meeting. She provided an update on activities for Customer Service Staff and customers.

Mr. Fabre said he was happy to be working for the coolest city in the nation.

Tab 9. City Council Member Reports

Council Member Grenier discussed changes in Tavares since 2006 when Council Member Pfister and Mr. Drury came on board. He said the changes were rewarding, and enthusiasm had not waned through the years. Council Member Grenier said he was proud to look back from 2006 to the present and being called the coolest downtown in America. He said it makes a historian like himself proud and able to gather wonderful stories for future generations.

Council Member Singer said he was looking forward to cool weather and cool downtown activities.

Vice Mayor Gamble said he and Mayor Price attended the Eustis Business Incubator Opening in partnership with the University of Central Florida and Lake County. The program helps and supports new businesses, and Lake County said they anticipate expansion throughout the county. He said he would like to see an incubator site in Tavares.

Vice Mayor Gamble reflected on comments made during recent 9/11 events and asked if the Fire Department and Police Department had the necessary equipment to maintain

staff safety. He said Chief Keith indicated the City Administrator and Council provided the needed equipment.

Vice Mayor Gamble said he visited the new Public Works Facility. He said he was thankful to be a part of the joint venture with Lake County, Lake Technical College, and the State of Florida.

Mayor Price said he was looking forward to the upcoming fall events downtown.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and Mayor Price adjourned the meeting at 5:09 p.m.

Respectfully,

Susie Novack, MMC, FCRM
City Clerk

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
10/18/2023**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 6

SUBJECT TITLE: Ordinance 2023-11 - Rate Study Ordinance - Second Reading (Finance)

OBJECTIVE:

To obtain City Council approval for Ordinance No. 2023-11 to approve Comprehensive Rate Study, and implement Utility Rate recommendations through September 30, 2028.

SUMMARY:

In order to meet revenue sufficiency requirements for Water, Wastewater, Reclaim, and Stormwater debt (bank loans, bonds, and State Revolving Fund Loans), a comprehensive utility sufficiency rate study for the Utility Funds was completed. A comprehensive rate study is accomplished every five (5) years in order to meet debt covenant requirements.

A Rate Study was completed in May 2009 and presented to the City Council on June 18, 2009. This study recommended automatic annual rate increases for water, wastewater and reclaim water of 1% + CPI. The City Council approved this recommendation.

A subsequent Rate Study was completed in September 2014, and presented to the City Council on November 9, 2014. This Rate Study recommended no change to Ordinance 2009-22, therefore automatic rate increases of 1% + CPI remained in effect. The City Council approved this recommendation.

On August 21, 2019, a five-year Rate Study was presented to the City Council by the City's Rate Consultants, Mike Rocca, Principal Consultant, and Joe Williams, Senior Consultant of Raftelis. The Study recommended a small decrease in water rates, but a small increase in wastewater rates. The Study recommended suspending the automatic 1%+CPI increases until October 2023, and implementing the proposed rates that provided for an average combined rate increase over a four-year period of approximately 1.95% for a residential customer with monthly consumption of 4,000 gallons. The City Council approved the study, and adopted Ordinance 2019-18.

A full-scale rate study which is accomplished every five years to ensure revenue sufficiency compliance for operations and debt service covenant requirements was scheduled to be completed in the last quarter of Fiscal Year 2023. Due to economic conditions nationally, in Florida, and the local experience of inflation rates at historical levels, the City completed an interim revenue sufficiency rate review in Fiscal Year 2022 to ensure rate sufficiency compliance would be maintained for the Water/Wastewater Utility. The Interim Rate Study recommended a rate increase of 5% for Wastewater. The study did not recommend rate increases for Water, Reclaim or Stormwater. On December 21, 2022, the City Council Adopted Ordinance 2022-17 approving interim rates effective January 1, 2023.

In February 2023, the City's rate consultants of Raftelis, Mike Rocca, Principal Consultant, and Joe Williams, Senior Consultant, began a comprehensive rate study for the Water, Wastewater, Reuse, and Stormwater Utility services. Raftelis has provided a final Rate Study Report to the City (attached).

The Study recommends the following for the Council's considerations:

- **Water** – no rate increases for FY2023/2024 and FY2024/2025; 2% increases on October 1st each year for FY2025/26, FY2026/27, and FY2027/28
- **Wastewater** - no rate increases for FY2023/2024 and FY2024/2025; 2% increases on October 1st each year for FY2025/26, FY2026/27, and FY2027/28
- **Reclaimed Water** - no rate increases for FY2023/2024 and FY2024/2025; 2% increases on October 1st each year for FY2025/26, FY2026/27, and FY2027/28
- **Stormwater/Mo/ESFU** – no rate increases for FY2023/2024; \$0.15 per ESFU monthly for FY2024/2025, FY2025/2026, FY2026/2027, and FY2027/2028

Proposed Ordinance 2023-11 is attached containing Exhibit “A”, “B”, “C”, and “D” which provides detailed schedules for the proposed recommendations per the Comprehensive 2023 Rate Study.

OPTIONS:

1. Move to Approve Ordinance No. 2023-11 which implements the recommended Utility Rates for Water, Wastewater, Reclaimed Water, and Stormwater Services.
2. Move to Not Approve Ordinance No. 2023-11

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Move to Approve Ordinance No. 2023-11 which implements the recommended Utility Rates for Water, Wastewater, Reclaimed Water, and Stormwater Services.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This Ordinance provides Revenue Sufficiency to meet debt covenant requirements. No rate increases are recommended for Fiscal Year 2024 or Fiscal Year 2025.

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Legally Sufficient

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. Ordinance 2023-11_ Final Rate Study Sept 2023_2
2. Tavares2023Rate.Study Final
3. Legal Ad - Ordinance 2023-11

Attachments not provided are available to the public upon request to the City Clerk.

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
10/18/2023**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 7

SUBJECT TITLE: Board Appointment - Police Pension Board (Mayor)

OBJECTIVE:

For the Mayor to appoint a city representative to the Police Pension Board

SUMMARY:

One Council-appointed seat on the Police Pension Board is expiring on November 30, 2023. The City advertised the seat appointment in the Daily Commercial and on the City website. This appointment is for a two-year term expiring in November 2025. The City received a letter of request for the re-appointment of John Clark. (attached) No new applications were received. The Pension Board appointments are recommended by the Mayor and ratified by the City Council.

OPTIONS:

1. For the Mayor to recommend and the Council to ratify the appointment of John Clark to the Police Pension Board for a two-year term expiring November 2025.
2. Do not recommend or ratify the appointment.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1, for the Mayor to recommend and the Council to ratify the appointment of John Clark to the Police Pension Board for a two-year term expiring November 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Yes.

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. Tavares Police, John Clark
2. Legal Ad - Police Pension Board

Attachments not provided are available to the public upon request to the City Clerk.

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
10/18/2023**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 8

SUBJECT TITLE: Memorandum of Understanding & Agreement between the City of Tavares and Cagan Urban Development for the purchase and sale of Tavares Square Property (Economic Development)

OBJECTIVE:

SUMMARY:

Previously, City Council directed staff to solicit and seek proposals for a multi-level, mixed-use commercial development as conceptualized by the Master Plan and described in RFP#2022-0014 (attached) seeking interest for purchase and conversion of the property to be operable as a viable mixed-use commercial use to complement and enhance the existing surrounding uses of the downtown entertainment district. Through this process, the Council selected the Cagan Management Group as the top-ranked firm and directed staff to obtain a fair market appraisal from a qualified property appraisal firm and negotiate an agreement with Cagan for the sale and future development of the property for Council consideration.

The attached market appraisal report was provided by the Spivey Group Inc. of Orlando, FL (dated May 22, 2023) providing for a value at the time of \$1,600,600 for the property which is located at 122 East Main Street, Tavares.

Based on the appraisal, current market conditions, and the substantial economic impact of this proposed project on our City, staff has negotiated the attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Cagan for Council consideration. Salient points of the MOU include:

A period of up to six (6) months due diligence, during which Cagan is authorized to engage in due diligence to confirm that the Property is suitable for the anticipated redevelopment and commercial use. This may include feasibility studies/reports; surveys of the property; utility studies/reports etc.

1. Purchase price of ONE-MILLION ONE-HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,100,000.00) for the property;
2. CAGAN is to pay FIVE-HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$500,000.00) at closing with a letter of credit to the CITY for the balance owed of \$600,000.
3. CAGAN is to pay the balance of SIX-HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$600,000.00), over 10 years from the date of closing (\$60,000 per year)

By way of background, the City paid \$1,080,000.000 for the property in 2015 with the intention of recouping this investment upon the sale of it to an investor who would develop the property consistent with the downtown Master Plan. This MOU accomplishes both the recouping of the investment goal as well as the redevelopment goal.

OPTIONS:

1. For Council to approve the attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Cagan Urban Development LLC and authorize the City Administrator to execute sale documents for the property.
2. For Council not to approve the attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Cagan Urban Development LLC.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends option 1.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The sale of the property will result in \$1,100,000 in revenue for the City and future property tax and utility fees for service upon development and use of the property. It should be noted, the original \$1,080,000 was paid for by a interfund loan from the Utility Enterprise Fund and will need to be paid back with the proceeds of this sale as described above.

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Legally sufficient.

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. Tavares Square 2022-0014_
2. rTavares Square Appraisal June 2023
3. RFP 2022-0014 Tavares Cagan Urban Development E Copy
4. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - Tavares Square revised

Attachments not provided are available to the public upon request to the City Clerk.

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
10/18/2023**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 9

SUBJECT TITLE: 2023 America in Bloom Update (Public Works)

OBJECTIVE:

Provide Council with an America In Bloom update as well as take a picture with Council, City Administrator, City Staff, and AIB awards to commemorate this momentous occasion.

SUMMARY:

At this year's America In Bloom Symposium, Councilmembers Lori Pfister and Troy Singer, Director of Public Works James Dillon, Parks Operations Manager Traci Anderson, and Cemetery Sexton and ISA Certified Arborist Clay Moffis represented Tavares at the Awards Celebration that took place from September 28th through 30th in Spartanburg, SC. The symposium provided an excellent opportunity to network, learn, and acknowledge outstanding communities.

Tavares was recognized as the Champion Community in the Population Category of 20,000-25,000, which is the most coveted and top honor. Additionally, we were awarded the "Coolest Downtown" and recognized for Overall Impression. These awards complement our 2017 "Coolest Place for Kids" win. Furthermore, our advisors, Sue Amatangelo and Ed Hooker, who visited us in April, nominated Tavares for the Youth Involvement Special Award and Outstanding Achievement for Community Vitality at the 2023 National Symposium. Tavares is a trailblazer in the America in Bloom cohorts, having established the first AIB chapter in the country within Lake County. This achievement has inspired others, and the first is now being replicated in Washington, DC, and the greater Chicago area.

The Department of Public Works Team is grateful to Council, our City leadership team, and the community for their unwavering support, without whom these successes would not have been possible. City staff would also like to take a picture with Council, City Administrator, and AIB awards to commemorate this momentous occasion.

OPTIONS:

No action is required from City Council.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

No action is required from City Council.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Legally Sufficient

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. 23 Tavares, FL Special-Award-Nomination-Cooldest Downtown
2. 23 Tavares, FL Special-Award-Nomination-Youth Involvement
3. 2023 Outstanding Achievement Award Nomination-Tavares-Overall Impression

Attachments not provided are available to the public upon request to the City Clerk.

SPECIAL AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Community/State: Tavares, Florida

2023 Special Award Name: Coolest Downtown



America's Seaplane City spent the past six years working together to clean up and redevelop its waterfront and



neighborhoods after hurricane Irma destroyed the area. From the new marina and Ecological Park, to the recently completed Ruby Street infrastructure, to the new Wooten Park, to the Lake County Museum of Art, Tavares is once again showcasing the beauty of their community, every step of the way. Whether young or old, a wake boarder or seaplane enthusiast, or perhaps you just enjoy kicking back and cruising on an 80-foot, New Orleans style paddlewheel boat, Tavares is for you. The area is enjoyed in so many ways, by so many from near and far that you will have a hard time choosing what to do first. Recently, even the manatees have found their way back to Lake Dora and Tavares.

Carefully crafted zoning has separated the waterfront with its charm and beauty from the more highly traveled, yet still attractive commercialized areas, which works perfectly keeping traffic to a minimum on the waterfront. This also helps to keep the waterfront pristine and protected.

If you are interested in lunch, and perhaps a beverage of choice, there are plenty of non-chain locations to frequent while taking in the stunning view of Lake Dora. You can pick from Buster Tubbs, the Bru Tap House, The Dora Queen, Far Reach Ranch, Hemingway's, Kalua Hale Beach Club, O'Keefe's Irish Pub, Ruby Street Grill, and Tavares Dog House just to name a few.

If you brought your volley ball, you are in luck as the waterfront sports 3 new volleyball courts with lighting so you can continue playing through the evening. Plans are already in the works to bring in a few tournaments to Tavares. Game on!

You can appreciate the beauty of the city from the water. Launch a kayak or take a boat tour through the Dora Canal enjoying some of the most natural beauty of Florida. Considered among the most beautiful in the world, immerse yourself in the natural beauty including towering cypress trees and abundant flora of this short but stunning waterway connecting Lake Eustis and Lake Dora. You'll spot bald eagles, blue herons, turtles, alligators, and other wildlife. A great way to enjoy solitude while getting some exercise rather than staring at the 4 walls of a gym.



Go on a Lake Cruise on the Dora Queen and enjoy scenic views of Lake Dora. The Dora Queen is a New Orleans-style paddlewheel boat with a lounge seating capacity of 70 passengers. Hop on, grab a drink and some cheese, and enjoy lovely afternoon views of the lake. You can also go on a sunset cruise to catch the stunning lake view sunset or get on the Christmas boat parade cruise if you're visiting during the Christmas season. Add to that the thousands of lights that fill downtown and herald in the holiday season.

As America's Seaplane City, you can really go on a Seaplane Ride over the city with Jones Brothers & Co. Air and Seaplane Adventures. There's no better way to experience the beauty of Tavares than to go on a flightseeing tour starting on shore, moving into the water, and up, up, and away you go enjoying the thrill of seaplane flying and taking in the breathtaking views.



For families and the younger generation, Wooten Park is the place to be. This six-acre park features picnic facilities, play areas, and water access through a boat ramp and fishing pier. Spend a Day at the park where you can enjoy a barbecue picnic and then explore the scenery around. The splash pad offers a fun play area for the kids, and the park hosts various community events, such as the Antique Boat Festival and the Tavares Spring Thunder Regatta. Wooten Park as well as all parks throughout Tavares are safety inspected and ADA compliant.

When you have had enough of the Wooten Park, you are only a short walk away to the Lake County Historical Museum where you will discover the area's rich history and heritage, see artifacts from the Florida Indians and the World War II era, learn about the history of early Spanish explorers and settlers in the area and the county's citrus groves. The museum also hosts various events, such as movie nights.

Or, appreciate art at the Lake County Museum of Art (LCMA). This art museum, a new addition to the waterfront, hosts various creative events and art exhibitions showcasing local, national, and international artists. Stroll along the gallery and appreciate contemporary works of art from various local talents, or attend an art class or workshops for both adults and children.

Public art can be found throughout downtown through the use of banners, murals, and statues that are attractive, and in effective locations throughout in the community. You'll learn about those who gave the greatest sacrifice for their country at the Freedom Flag monument, the Groveland Four monument, and the Semi-Centennial Flag Pole Base made up of stones provided by citizens of Lake County from their native states and countries.



Take a quick walk to the new Tavares Ecological Park where you can learn about the floating bee mats. The bee mats are incorporated into five Pond cells and are essential to filtering the pollutant loads in the storm water treatment ponds, and aid in restoring the balance to the surrounding habitat. The bee mats, or floating treatment wetlands, are the latest technology and a powerful tool and water stewardship. The mats biomimic naturally occurring floating islands, creating a concentrated wetland effect. The aquatic plants in the bee mats work to naturally filter and cleanse the water. This technique has been found to be effective and removing 20 times more nitrates, 10 times more phosphate, and 11 times more ammonia making them perfect for removing these



pollutants from the storm water ponds before discharging into Lake Dora. The connective mats launched in each individual treatment pond are planted with a variety of emergent aquatics and as the plants grow, the excess nutrients in the water are taken up through the root system, and stored in their tissues. These floating mats create a healthy environment for fish as well as a place to take shelter plus they add beauty to the 5 pond cells.

If you are just interested in relaxing and taking in a quiet afternoon in a local park, head over to Aesop's Park where you'll find 11.5-acres of park area with active recreation facilities, nature trails, a dog park, a fishing pier, picnic areas, and lush greenery. Take a leisurely walk around the park and enjoy the beautiful scenery and serene atmosphere. Maybe you'll spot some native plants along the trails or take a rest on a bench and catch up on reading.

Tavares is a community that is not only welcoming but promotes inclusivity such as cultural, ethnic, faith, age, and orientation. Just ask Pastor Mike Watkins. Ingraham Park is one of many great stories about collaboration and change and what a little bit of clean up, attention, and the planting of flowers can do to bring families of a community back together. Lots of activity and fun now go on in this neighborhood park with local residents of all ages and all walks of life,

which not too long ago was a haven for trouble including drugs and gangs. Pastor Mike Watkins is a master at bringing folks together and Tavares is so lucky to have him in their community. He is a wonderful partner and has the best interest of Tavares at heart.

Check out the public library where an expansion meant to house high school students just opened. Here the students can meet after school and on the weekends. Book titles are specific to their needs and the gathering of groups for the purpose of education or debate is encouraged.

The youngest children can get to know their library through the book program tailored just for their age group. The program encourages parents to read 1,000 books with their children before they start kindergarten giving them a strong start and instilling a love for reading. A list of titles is provided to the parents and as each has been read, you can keep track by checking off the book. If the parent reads one book a night, it will amount to 365 books a year and 1,095 after 3 years. Goals should be set and once each milestone is reached, the parent can give the child a small reward like a sticker or a trip to the local ice cream shop. Studies have been shown that reading with your child provides a great opportunity for bonding and will create lifelong memories. Not to mention all the wonderful things a child can learn. Little libraries can also be spotted around town and in the parks giving children the opportunity to read where ever they are.

Even before you enter the library you will be exposed to an aisle of gardens planted up by the Master Gardeners of Lake County. Children can see how flowers, vegetables and herbs grow up close and can experience the harvest of a tomato, and the fragrance of a flower, or a rubbed herb. Outside the back door is an outdoor learning area meant to get children outside and provide activities that can and should be done outdoors.

Love riding your bike? Or perhaps you're a runner or like to walk. Trails are available along the waterfront, in the parks, and throughout the city. Hop on the Tav-Lee trail going from Tavares and connecting to nearby Leesburg. A part of the Rails to Trails Conservancy, there are plans to extend this trail to other parts of Florida and beyond.

Let's talk festivals and events of which the list below just scratches the surface:

- Rocktoberfest
- 2023 Pride Celebration
- Summer Jazz Fest
- African American Heritage Festival
- Classic Race Boat Regatta
- Antique and Classic Boat Show
- Dragon Boat Festival
- Boo Fest
- Planes, Trains, and BBQ
- Seaplane Apalooza
- Fright Nights at Far Reach Ranch



But don't stop there! Because of their close proximity to one another and their great relationship, the neighboring towns of Mount Dora and Eustis all get together to help one another at their festivals and special events. You could realistically take the above list and triple it to get an idea of the festivals and special events that are available to these three communities. They even share their events on each other's websites.

Two faith based community gardens are alive and producing not only vegetables but budding gardeners. One church garden is a training ground to send helping hands around the world to teach others how to grow their own food. Another horticultural partnership in Tavares is Knox Nursery which is in their backyard. Together they keep Tavares looking colorful and beautiful.

Without a doubt, Tavares, Florida has the "COOLEST DOWNTOWN" and because of all the work that has had to be done to restore their city after hurricane Irma, it is even sweeter and well deserving of this award!

SPECIAL AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Your Community/State: Tavares, Florida
Special Award Name: Youth Involvement Award



SCAMPY

The "Sunnyland Chapter Apprentice Mentoring Program for Youth", SCAMPY, was established in 2009 to introduce youth to boating and boating safety. It allows students, some needing a guiding figure in their life, to learn boat building skills while they are mentored in the use of hand and power tools. Sunnyland supplies all materials and equipment at no cost, except for the engines, some of which are provided through a partnership with the Florida Antique Outboard Motor Club.

First time builders can choose between two plans and from start to finish the project can take several months. Although the mentors are present, each youth does all the work and they learn valuable, life-long skills, as they build their boat.

Both the SCAMPY and AMIkid's (Associated Marine Institute) partnership, who believe there is potential born into every child and even troubled ones have the potential to become great people, are totally funded by member donations of boats and boating items along with grants from several outside foundations and individuals so there is no cost to the youth.

One youth wanted to get involved with something and the parents kept pushing him toward activities that he had no interest in doing. Once he heard about the SCAMPY program signed up and has built not only one, but two boats and is now acting as a mentor to other children.



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The mentors are able to take children that may have no direction or having difficulties relating to others and help to set them on the right track giving them a focus as well as a lifelong hobby. Success stories include teens that were in trouble with the law, school dropouts as well as children that are withdrawn from society. Each of these individuals found something and someone at SCAMPY that lifted their confidence and their self-respect and made them a better person. The Advisors met a youth in the program who, in the beginning, didn't have the confidence to even speak to her mentors. Today, in her own words, and in front of a group she had never met before, she explained the program and shared her project with us. The picture above is the boat that she built from scratch and is now seaworthy.



All SCAMPY mentors are 100% volunteers and they work hard to provide a caring hand and instill values to today's youth who may need a little extra help. They have created a workshop filled with tools and supplies that can be used by those who are interested in the program. Even better it is seniors working with children.

The Advisor's feel this program is exceptional and unique, and the results speak for themselves. This organization is doing inspiring and extremely important work in their community by

saving at risk youth and helping them to become an involved and constructive part of their community putting these at risk youth on a positive road to life. The benefits will continue to pay back for years to come. There's no more important work in our life than to grow and develop our youth and prepare them for the future and that is exactly what SCAMPY is doing in Tavares. Advisor's Ed Hooker and Sue Amatangelo believe Tavares is deserving of the Youth Involvement Special Award.

Outstanding Achievement Award Nomination Form

Community/State: Tavares, Florida

Criterion Being Nominated: Overall Impression

September 2017.....

According to Lauren Ritchie of the Orlando Sentinel, Tavares took the worst hit from Irma with the county suffering more than \$68.5 million in storm damage including the destruction of the Seaplane Basin and Marina. Docks, planes, and more than 20 boats were torn from the water and thrown ashore along with ruined roofs, damaged fences, downed trees and power lines, flooded houses and the like. According to one eye witness: "Everything was kind of piled on top of each other."



At Wooton Park on the waterfront, docks were ripped apart and shoved ashore, boats were crammed on top of each other and a nearby mobile home park was pummeled by winds so severe that police believe the city might have been hit by a twister. "That was the roof of a large houseboat," a resident said, pointing to a pile of rubble. One pontoon boat was impaled on a concrete pier. Others were pushed up next to the seawall.

All the damage across the county was dreadful, but what the storm did in Tavares was particularly a shame. The city has tried so hard for several years to rebrand itself as "America's Seaplane City," to provide entertainment for residents and to boost businesses that choose to move there. Then came Irma. The storm wouldn't ruin the city's work or destroy the vision, but it certainly will set Tavares back in meeting its goals.

May 2023.....

America's Seaplane City spent the past six years cleaning up and redeveloping its waterfront and neighborhoods with every one of every age in mind. From the new marina and Ecological Park, to the recently completed Ruby Street infrastructure, to the new Wooton Park, to the Lake County Museum of Art, Tavares is showcasing the beauty of their community, every step of the way. Whether young or old, a wake boarder or seaplane enthusiast, or perhaps you just enjoy kicking back and cruising on an 80-foot, New Orleans style paddlewheel boat, the Dora Queen, Tavares is for you. The area is enjoyed in so many ways, by so many from near and far that you will have a hard time choosing what to do first. Recently, even the manatees have found their way back to Lake Dora and Tavares.





Entering Tavares you will automatically feel welcome through the striking seaplane style signs, bearing their city logo, graced by attractive flowers, signaling that there's no mistake you have arrived in Tavares. Flowers grace areas throughout the city including park entrances and in front of businesses.

While driving through Tavares you will not find a single piece of litter or graffiti throughout the city and all areas are neat and tidy. Streets, sidewalks, and curbs are well maintained and street crossings well marked, in many places with the use of bricks making the streetscape more beautiful. Bricks are also clearly used to designate

the street parking from the private parking lots.

Carefully crafted zoning has separated the waterfront with its charm and beauty from the more highly traveled, yet still attractive commercialized areas, which works perfectly keeping traffic to a minimum on the waterfront. This also helps to keep the waterfront pristine and protected, including the newly developed Tavares Ecological Park with its 15 floating mats.

If you are interested in lunch, and perhaps a beverage of choice, there are plenty of non-chain locations to frequent while taking in the stunning view of Lake Dora, and if you brought your volley ball, you are in luck as the waterfront sports 3 new volleyball courts with lighting. Game on!

Directional/Wayfinding signage, monuments, public restrooms, water features, lamp posts, benches, bicycle racks, drinking fountains, trash and recycling receptacles, crosswalks/pavement markings, containers, planters, and cigarette receptacles are all in place in Tavares, there are plenty of each strategically located, each is nicely appointed and add to the beauty of this community.



First impressions are positive in residential, business, and municipal areas. Condition of buildings, grounds, and yards are neat and in order and in good condition. You will not see vandalism, graffiti, broken windows, peeling/faded paint, or rust.

ADA standards are implemented throughout the community, such as public buildings, parking, sidewalks, along the waterfront, trails, and at Wooten Park.

You can appreciate the OVERALL IMPRESSION of Tavares from the water. Launch a kayak or take a boat tour through the Dora Canal enjoying some of the most natural beauty of Tavares. Considered among the most beautiful in the world, immerse yourself in the natural beauty including towering cypress trees and abundant flora of this short but stunning waterway connecting Lake Eustis and Lake Dora. You'll spot bald eagles, blue herons, turtles, alligators, and other wildlife.



Go on a Lake Cruise on the Dora Queen and enjoy scenic views of Lake Dora. The Dora Queen is a New Orleans-style paddlewheel boat with a lounge seating capacity of 70 passengers. Hop on, grab a drink and some cheese, and enjoy lovely afternoon views of the lake. You can also go on a sunset cruise to catch the stunning lake view sunset or get on the Christmas boat parade cruise if you're visiting during the Christmas season. Add to that the thousands of lights that fill downtown and herald in the holiday season. As they reflect off of the lake.

For the more adventurous, you can get an OVERALL IMPRESSION of Tavares by hopping on a seaplane and taking to the skies. As America's Seaplane City, you can go on a Seaplane Ride over the city with Jones Brothers & Co. Air and Seaplane Adventures. There's no better way to experience the beauty of Tavares than to go on a flightseeing tour starting on shore, moving into the water, and up, up, and away you go enjoying the thrill of seaplane flying and taking in the breathtaking views.



For families and especially the younger generation, their OVERALL IMPRESSION of Tavares will be over the moon when they step foot into Wooten Park. This six-acre park features picnic facilities, play areas, and water access through a boat ramp and fishing pier. Spend a day at the park where you can enjoy a barbecue picnic and then explore the scenery around. In the summer, the splash pad offers a fun play area for the kids, and the park hosts various community events, such as the Antique Boat Festival and the Tavares Spring Thunder Regatta.

When you have had enough of the Wooten Park, you are only a short walk away to the Lake County Historical

Museum where you will discover the area's rich history and heritage, see artifacts from the Florida Indians and the World War II era, learn about the history of early Spanish explorers and settlers in the area and the county's citrus groves. The museum also hosts various events, such as movie nights.

Or, appreciate art at the Lake County Museum of Art. This art museum hosts various creative events and art exhibitions showcasing local, national, and international artists. Stroll along the gallery and appreciate contemporary works of art from various local talents, or attend an art class or workshops for both adults and children.

Public art can be found throughout the community through banners, murals, and statues that are attractive, and in effective locations throughout in the community.

In front of the Lake County Courthouse stands the Lake County Law Enforcement Memorial and is one of the most touching of all statues in Tavares depicting an officer hand-in-hand with a child. Carved into the memorial are the names of the officers who have given their lives in the line of duty.

Take a quick walk to the new Tavares Ecological Park where you can learn about the floating bee mats. The bee mats are incorporated into the five Pond cells and are essential to filtering the pollutant loads in the storm water, treatment ponds, and aid in restoring the balance to the surrounding habitat.



The bee mats, or floating treatment wetlands, are the latest technology and a powerful tool and water stewardship. The mats biomimic naturally occurring floating islands, creating a concentrated wetland effect. The aquatic plants in the bee mats work to naturally filter and cleanse the water. This technique has been found to be effective and removing 20 times more nitrates, 10 times more phosphate, and 11 times more ammonia



making them perfect for removing these pollutants from the storm water ponds before discharging into Lake Dora. The connective mats launched in each individual treatment pond are planted with a variety of emergent aquatics and as the plants grow, the excess nutrients in the water are taken up through the root system, and stored in their tissues. These floating mats create a healthy environment for fish as well as a place to take shelter plus they add beauty to the 5 pond cells.

Technology and practicality bring together the floating flowers and fauna to fill the ponds, and they are not only

creating a scenic green space for the Tavares downtown area, but equally as important contribute to reducing and removing the flow of pollutants into like Dora. Take a walk on the trail that goes around the entire pond and enjoy the beauty of this once run-down area.

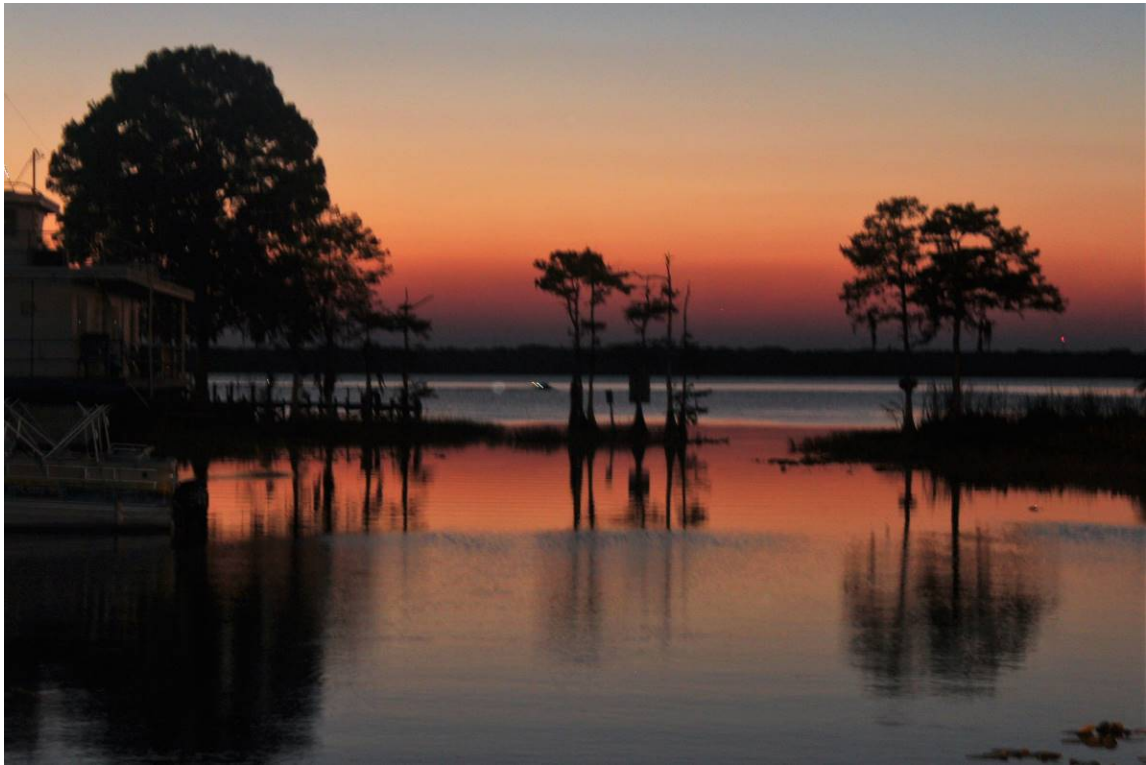
If you are just interested in relaxing and taking in a quiet afternoon in a local park, head over to Aesop's Park where you will find 11.5-acres of lush, serene grounds with active recreation facilities, trails, a dog park, and a fishing pier. Take a leisurely walk around and enjoy the beautiful scenery and peaceful atmosphere. Maybe you'll spot some native plants along the trails or take a rest on a bench and catch up on your reading.

With all the activities that take place in Tavares, you'll never have to worry about finding a parking space. Not only are there plenty with spaces throughout the city and a large beautifully built parking structure that blends in with the architecture, but bump outs on the streets are filled with perennials, shrubs, and trees.

Tavares is a community that is not only welcoming but promotes inclusivity such as cultural, ethnic, faith, age, and orientation. Just ask Pastor Mike Watkins. Ingraham Park is one of many great stories about collaboration and change and what a little bit of clean up, attention, and the planting of flowers can do to bring families of a community back together. Lots of activity and fun now go on in this neighborhood park with local residents of all ages and all walks of life, which not too long ago was a haven for trouble including drugs and gangs. Pastor Mike Watkins is a master at bringing folks together and Tavares is so lucky to have him in their community. He is a wonderful partner and has the best interest of Tavares at heart.



Everything that America in Bloom has presented as opportunities to create a community that is a great place to live, work, and play since 2017 have been implemented by the city of Tavares and it shows. What makes the Overall Impression the best in this community is the people which is why Advisors Sue Amatangelo and Ed Hooker highly recommend Tavares, Florida as the 2023 recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award for Overall Impression.



**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
10/18/2023**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 10

SUBJECT TITLE: Fourth of July Celebration Parade Discussion (Community Services)

OBJECTIVE:

For council to discuss and offer suggestions for the Fourth of July Celebration parade.

SUMMARY:

At a previous meeting, Councilmember Lori Pfister asked to have the Fourth of July parade discussion brought back to City Council for additional conversation. At the September 21, 2022 City Council meeting, Council voted to hold the Fourth of July parade only on Main Street.

As requested, staff is bringing this topic back to the Council for additional conversation and offers the following for your deliberation:

1. Holding the Fourth of July parade on Main Street worked well this year from a staffing perspective.
2. Due to the narrow roadway and minimal sidewalks along Ruby Street, holding the Fourth of July parade only on Main Street provides a better experience than Ruby Street for both the participants and spectators. It has worked well to have the Fourth of July parade only along Main Street and utilize both streets for the much larger Christmas parade.
3. Holding the parade at 5:00pm, while hot and threatened by afternoon storms every year, has been a better fit from a staffing perspective and for the business community than when it was previously held at 10:00am. As a point of background, about 20 years ago the Fourth of July parade was held in the morning, followed in the evening with entertainment and fireworks. In 2004, the downtown business community got together and requested that the parade be moved to the late afternoon, allowing visitors to enjoy the parade and stay in the area for the fireworks. (Attached is a highlighted exert from the minutes at the May 5, 2004 Tavares City Council meeting where the request was made).
4. There have been prior discussions about a boat parade. At this time, the Community Services Department is not equipped nor funded to manage a boat parade on the water, so this option may be better suited for a private boat club or an organization such as the Tavares Chamber or Rotarian Club to take on.

OPTIONS:

1. Council discuss and provide suggestions for the Fourth of July parade
2. Council does not discuss

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1: Council discuss and provide suggestions for the Fourth of July parade

FISCAL IMPACT:

n/a

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

n/a

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. July 4 discussion (minutes from 5.5.2004)

Attachments not provided are available to the public upon request to the City Clerk.

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
10/18/2023**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 11

SUBJECT TITLE: City Administrator Report

OBJECTIVE:

The City Administrator will inform the Council on city-related items.

SUMMARY:

The City Administrator will provide a summary at the meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

City Council Meetings	November 1, 2023, 4:00 p.m., Tavares City Council Chambers (<i>Note: One meeting in November</i>)
Planning and Zoning Board Meeting	November 16, 2023, 3:00 p.m., Tavares City Council Chambers
Library Board Meeting	November 8, 2023, 4:00 p.m., Tavares Library Expansion
Code Enforcement Special Magistrate Hearing	October 24, 2023, 4:00 p.m., Tavares City Council Chambers

OUTSIDE AGENCY MEETINGS:

Lake County League of Cities Meeting	November 10, 2023, 12:00 noon, Mount Dora Golf Course
Lake Sumter MPO Governing Board Meeting	October 25, 2023, 2:00 p.m., Suite 175, 1300 Citizens Boulevard, Leesburg
Tavares Chamber of Commerce Business Meeting	October 25, 2023, 11:30 a.m., Tavares Civic Center

CITY EVENTS:

The current 2023 City Event calendar is attached.

OPTIONS:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. Tavares_2023_EventCalendar_9.29.2023

Attachments not provided are available to the public upon request to the City Clerk.

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
10/18/2023**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 12

SUBJECT TITLE: City Council Member Reports

OBJECTIVE:

To inform the Council on city-related items.

SUMMARY:

The Council will be offered an opportunity to provide a report at the meeting.

OPTIONS:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

Attachments not provided are available to the public upon request to the City Clerk.