



AGENDA
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
January 15, 2025
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 Deacon Paul Gaucher, St. Mary of the Lakes Catholic Church

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IV. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Tab 2 Proclamation - Tavares' 8th Annual Arbor Day Celebration (Mayor)

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

VI. READING OF ALL ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS INTO RECORD

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Tab 3 Approval of the December 18, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes (City Clerk)

Tab 4 Approval of 2025 City Council Meeting Dates (City Administrator)

Tab 5 Broad Budget Goals (City Administrator)

Tab 6 Seasons at Waterstone - Final Plat (Community Development)

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

Tab 7 Resolution 2025-01 - RAISE Grant Application (Public Works)

Tab 8 Resolution 2025-02 - Acceptance of State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection Grant for Stormwater Comprehensive

Vulnerability Assessment (Finance)

IX. ORDINANCES - PUBLIC HEARING

First Reading

Second Reading

X. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Tab 9 Discussion to Name new St. Clair Abrams Stormwater Pond (City Administrator)

Tab 10 Community Grant Awards (City Clerk)

XI. NEW BUSINESS

XII. OLD BUSINESS

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
1/15/2025**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 1

SUBJECT TITLE: Deacon Paul Gaucher, St. Mary of the Lakes Catholic Church

OBJECTIVE:

Deacon Paul Gaucher, St. Mary of the Lakes Catholic Church, will provide the invocation and lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SUMMARY:

Deacon Paul Gaucher, St. Mary of the Lakes Catholic 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
1/15/2025**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 2

SUBJECT TITLE: Proclamation - Tavares' 8th Annual Arbor Day Celebration (Mayor)

OBJECTIVE:

For the Mayor to read the proclamation declaring January 18, 2025, as City of Tavares Arbor Day.

SUMMARY:

Trees are assets to a community when properly planted and maintained. They provide a multitude of benefits, from visual appeal and increased property values to health and wellness. In 2018, the City of Tavares achieved the Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's requirements as established by the Arbor Day Foundation, U.S. Forest Service, and the National Association of State Foresters. Therefore, we declare January 18, 2025, City of Tavares Arbor Day.

OPTIONS:

1. The Mayor will read the City of Tavares Arbor Day Proclamation.
2. The Mayor will not read the City of Tavares Arbor Day Proclamation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1 - The Mayor will read the City of Tavares Arbor Day Proclamation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Legally Sufficient

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. Arbor Day 2025 Proclamation

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



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and

WHEREAS, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate temperatures, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide a habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, and countless other wood products; and

WHEREAS, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, beautify our community; and are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Tavares City Council does hereby proclaim January 18, 2025, as

CITY OF TAVARES ARBOR DAY

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED by the Tavares City Council on this 15th day of January 2025.

Walter B. Price, Sr., Mayor

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
1/15/2025**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 3

SUBJECT TITLE: Approval of the December 18, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes (City Clerk)

OBJECTIVE:

To consider approval of the December 18, 2024, City Council meeting minutes.

SUMMARY:

Attached are the December 18, 2024, City Council regular 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 Council approval.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Yes.

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. 12-18-2024 CC Minutes

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



**TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 18, 2024 – 4:00 PM
TAVARES CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
201 EAST MAIN STREET, TAVARES**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

**John Drury, City Administrator
Lindsay Holt, City Attorney
Susie Novack, City Clerk
Antonio Fabre, 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, Support Services Director
Sarah Coursey, Police Chief
Phil Clark, Utilities Director**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Tavares High School Chorus opened the meeting with the song Peace on Earth.

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. Pastor Jon Carey, First Baptist Church of Umatilla

Pastor Jon Carey, First Baptist Church of Umatilla, 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 asked for the following changes to the Agenda:

- Move and renumber Tab 5, Memorandum of Agreement for the Wekiva Trails – Trails Extension to Tab 2A.
- Move and renumber Tab 3, Resolution 2024-17 – Renewal of Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement (SMAA) for Emergency Management to 8A.

MOTION

Troy Singer moved to approve the Agenda with changes, 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 for consideration.

VI. READING OF ALL ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS INTO THE RECORD

Ms. Novack read the following ordinances by title only:

RESOLUTION 2024-27

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE RENEWAL OF STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT (SMAA) FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Price asked if anyone wished to pull an item from the Consent Agenda for discussion. There were no requests.

MOTION

Sandy Gamble moved to approve the Consent Agenda [Tab 2, Approval of the December 4, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes, and Tab 2A, Memorandum of Agreement for the Wekiva Rails – Trails Extension], seconded by Bob Grenier. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 2. Approval to the December 4, 2024, City Council Meeting Minutes

Approved on the Consent Agenda.

Tab 2A. Memorandum of Agreement for the Wikiva Rails – Trails Extension

Approved on the Consent Agenda.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

IX. ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING

First Reading

Second Reading

X. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Tab 4. Fluoride in Drinking Water

Mayor Price introduced Florida Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladipo and invited him to the podium to speak.

An audience member stood up and asked if he could ask the City Attorney if the Surgeon General was for or against fluoride in the water and if he was limited to speaking for three minutes. Mr. Drury said no and stated that the Surgeon General was presenting on behalf of the City Council and not limited to three minutes.

Dr. Ladipo said a Federal Judge recently ruled that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should issue more regulations regarding water fluoridation. The ruling reflected that there were enough studies to show neuropsychiatric risks, among other risks, with fluoridation at higher levels than the United States strives to achieve. Thus, the EPA needed to study current allowable fluoride levels to levels known to cause harm, as the difference in the recommended fluoride level was too close to the limit. He said some people were more sensitive to fluoride levels and noted that the court ruling prompted him to look at the issue more closely.

Dr. Ladipo said many studies he reviewed when researching the topic were conducted by Dr. Ashly Malin, Assistant Professor, College of Public Health and Health Professions and College of Medicine at the University of Florida. He introduced Dr.

Malin, and Dr. Malin provided a PowerPoint presentation on Fluoride and Neurodevelopment with some of the following highlights:

- Said studies show exposure to fluoridated water and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder prevalence among children and adolescents in the United States.
- Noted parents reported higher rates of medically-diagnosed ADHD in their children in states in which a greater proportion of people receive fluoridated water from public water supplies. The relationship between fluoride exposure and ADHD warrants further studies.
- Discussed the article Prenatal Fluoride Exposure and Cognitive Outcomes in Children at 5 and 6-12 Years of Age in Mexico.
- Discussed JAMA Pediatrics Investigation Association Between Maternal Fluoride Exposure During Pregnancy and IQ Scores in Offspring in Canada
- An increase of 0.5 mg/L in water fluoride concentration in infancy was associated with a 9.3- and 6.2-point decrement in Performance IQ among formula-fed and breast-fed children according to JAMA Investigation.
- Discussed National Toxicology Program (NTP), US Department of Health and Human Services Report on the State of Science Concerning Fluoride Exposure and Neurodevelopment and Cognition: A Systematic Review.
 - Comprehensive systematic review of the existing literature on early life fluoride exposure and child neurodevelopment.
 - Focused on human studies and included animal in-vitro studies.
 - 72 total studies on fluoride and IQ.
 - Determined there was a moderate confidence in the body of evidence that estimated fluoride exposure was inversely associated with IQ in children for those living in areas where fluoride in drinking water is known to be at or above 1.5 mg/L.
 - Associations between drinking water fluoride levels below 1.5 mg/L and children's IQ remain "unclear."
 - It is plausible that pregnant women and children living in optimally fluoridated communities could have a total fluoride intake at or above the level of those living in a community with a water fluoride level of 1.5 mg/L.
 - The NTP report highlighted a need for more US-based studies on fluoride and neurodevelopment.
- Discussed potential mechanisms of Neurotoxicity.
- Reviewed the court ruling.
 - The Court found that fluoridation of water at 0.7 milligrams per liter, presently considered optimal in the United States, posed an unreasonable risk of reduced IQ in children.
 - The scientific literature in the record provides a high level of certainty that a hazard is present; fluoride is associated with reduced IQ.
 - There is not enough of a margin of safety between the hazard level and exposure level of fluoride in drinking water for dental caries prevention. (i.e., 0.7 mg/L)

- The EPA's default standard is for there to be at least a factor of 10 between the hazard level and exposure level.
- According to the NTP report, the hazard to child IQ exists at a minimum at 1.5 mg/L.
- According to the EPA's default standard, the fluoride concentration in drinking water would need to be 0.15 mg/L or lower to provide enough of a margin of safety to protect a child's IQ.

Mayor Price asked for comments from the Council.

Council Member Singer asked Dr. Malin how long she had been conducting studies on fluoride. Dr. Malin said about a decade. Council Member Singer referenced Canadian and Mexican studies and asked if more studies needed to be performed in the United States.

Dr. Malin referenced a report summarizing studies up to 2023, except for a study she led. She said the studies determined that there was a hazard or that the association between fluoride exposure and child IQ was inverse. She said a 2017 Mexico study was the first perspective and included relatively low fluoride exposure. At that time more research was needed. Now there is enough consensus that regulatory action needs to be taken. She said that was the opinion of the Federal ruling on September 24, 2024.

Council Member Gamble asked for the base rate of a .5 increase. Dr. Malin said there is generally around a 0.1 difference in the fluoride levels of pregnant women living in fluoridated versus non-fluoridated communities. Council Member Gamble asked how people who live in non-fluoridate-regulated communities with wells maintain fluoride levels. Dr. Malin said some wells were astronomically high, and approximately 3 million people in the United States had water levels exceeding 1.5 mg/L fluoride.

Mayor Price asked Dr. Ladipo, as the Surgeon General of the State of Florida, if it was his opinion that the dangers of fluoride in the water system outweighed the benefits for public health. Dr. Ladipo confirmed.

Council Member Gamble asked if it would be feasible for the City of Tavares to lower the fluoride level from 0.7 to 0.5. Dr. Ladipo said one of the arguments or defenses you hear is that harmful levels are twice as high. However, he hoped Dr. Malin's presentation demonstrated that twice as high levels were still too close to what is known as risky levels. In terms of the argument that if you stop fluoridating, teeth will fall out, the best studies and the American Dental Association estimate a 25% reduction in dental care. Dr. Ladipo said the data did not support the claim that the reduction was due to water fluoridation. Moreover, there was a review in the past 5 to 7 years that raised a question about the current benefit of water fluoridation because so much has changed since the 1970s when most studies were conducted that reflected a benefit. During the 1970s, there was less access to fluoridated toothpaste, and education and knowledge about dental care were less sophisticated. Dr. Ladipo referenced the Cochrane Review, a gold standard resource for systematic reviews, finding that

fluoridation's benefit declined since the 1970s when fluoride toothpaste became more widely available. Dr. Ladipo said he did not believe reducing levels to 0.5 made sense and there may be no safe fluoride levels. He noted the dangers of lead and said the EPA's stance on lead evolved to determine there were no safe levels.

Mayor Price thanked Dr. Ladipo and Dr. Malin for coming to Tavares and sharing their time.

Public Comment

Alice Hoffman, 25205 Cranes Roost Circle, Leesburg, stated she was a health educator. She said Fluoride was a natural element in groundwater and what was being added to the water system was not the same. Ms. Hoffman said Fluoride was not added to clean the water to make it safe to drink. It was added as a medical treatment for everyone, regardless of age, health, or vulnerability. Ms. Hoffman noted she did not support Fluoride in the City's drinking water and asked the Council to stop fluoridating the water in Tavares.

Dr. Maria Claus, 320 W. Burleigh Boulevard, Tavares, said she was an endodontist specializing in root canals and had practiced in Tavares for four years. Dr. Claus noted she supported Fluoride in community water due to the decay, pain, and overuse of antibiotics she had seen in her practice. Dr. Claus noted that root canals were costly, and children would be subject to losing permanent teeth with fluoride removal.

Dr. Johnny Johnson, P.O. Box 2450, Chiefland, Florida, said he was a Pediatric Dentist and supported the Council holding a workshop on the topic. He said the Cochrane Review reflected contemporary studies that showed water fluoridation was effective and, when in place, should not be stopped. He discussed various studies and noted his support for maintaining fluoride in the City water supply.

Dr. Wade Wiker, 728 Boylston Street, Leesburg, said he practiced dentistry in Eustis, Florida, for 29 years. He said he favored maintaining community water fluoridation in Tavares and that the court decision concluded that fluoride could be harmful without certainty. He said the Council should consider waiting for a response from the EPA. Dr. Wiker said he would argue that 0.7% was safe, effective, and closely monitored in Tavares. He said there were dangers with inappropriate concentrations and many health benefits at the proper levels.

Nicole King, 25822 Pinehurst Street, Sorrento, said she was a practicing nurse in Lake County. She said her duties included educating and advocating for communities and providing informed consent. Ms. King asked the Council to vote against continued fluoride in the city's public water. She said all individuals should have the right to choose what medical interventions are presented to them. She said fluoride had been deemed a medical intervention by definition and is prescribed by physicians. While fluoride is good for teeth and can decrease decay, newer data suggests there may be more harm than good as fluoride is a neurotoxin. Ms. King said repeated exposure could cause

central nervous system damage, leading to learning disabilities, memory loss, bone fractures, seizures, and dementia. She said communities must be informed about what is being put into their food and water and be agreeable to such medical interventions, noting chlorine is a treatment for water and fluoride is a treatment for people.

Karen Motley, 2445 Farringdon Drive, Tavares, said she was a registered nurse and felt fluoridation should be a choice and widely available. She said some holistic dentists do not use fluoride and listed many diseases and conditions associated with fluoride intake. Ms. Motley noted the high cost of purchasing a filtration system that would remove fluoride in the water and asked the Council to discontinue its use.

Justin Harvey, 103 S. Osceola Avenue, Orlando, asked the Council to end the practice of water fluoridation. He said it was a medicine added to water and classified as a neurotoxin. He noted several current studies reflecting there were no differences in tooth decay for communities with and without fluoridation.

Elanah Coulson, 1108 Pine Avenue, Tavares, said her granddaughter had a medical condition and could not ingest fluoride. Ms. Coulson's husband then stepped to the podium and said, as a City resident, they did not support fluoride in the City's water supply and noted fluoride was available in toothpaste.

Council Discussion

Council Member Singer thanked the audience members for their comments. He said fluoride was a sensitive topic and noted the tough and heartfelt decisions the Council sometimes had to make. Council Member Singer said he heard a lot of concerns regarding fluoride from his constituents, who view its use as government overreach. He said people were worried about the health risks, including links to cognitive decline. He noted his perspective on the issue has changed over the years, as well as those of the medical profession and government agencies. Council Member Singer said he was elected to represent the entire 20,000 population of the City and to make decisions on their behalf. He said his decision would be made for the community as a whole.

Council Member Grenier said he had been asking Tavares residents for their opinion on fluoride in the water supply for the past few weeks, and his decision would be made based on those comments.

Vice Mayor Pfister said she heard compelling arguments and professional opinions for and against fluoride in the City water. She said fluoride was easily accessible in toothpaste, mouthwash, and bottled water products. She said the Council's responsibility is to provide clean, safe water and was not qualified to make decisions on medical treatment. Vice Mayor Pfister said it was unfair to treat people who did not want to be treated with fluoride and supported removing fluoride from the City water immediately.

Council Member Gamble said that, with a population of over 20,000, he did not have enough input from the residents to decide. He recommended that the item be tabled and placed on a referendum on the November 2025 ballot for the citizens to decide.

Mayor Price said he read studies and felt the dangers of fluoride outweighed the benefits of cavity prevention. He noted that 10 Lake County cities did not use fluoride. Mayor Price said it came down to imposing a drug on citizens who did not ask for it. He discussed the hazards and damage from storing fluoride. He noted other sources to obtain fluoride and said he supported removing it from the City water immediately.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to remove fluoride from City water immediately and turn all remaining bags of fluoride over to hazard waste, seconded by Bob Grenier.

Council Member Singer said he did not disagree with the benefits of fluoride, and most residents he spoke with did not want fluoride in their water.

Council Member Grenier and Mayor Price said most or all Tavares citizens they spoke with or received emails from did not want fluoride in the City water.

The motion carried 4-1 as follows:

Walter Price:	Yes
Lori Pfister:	Yes
Sandy Gamble:	No
Bob Grenier:	Yes
Troy Singer:	Yes

Tab 6. Sister City

Mr. Drury made the following presentation:

The Sister City Horizon Team made up of Council Member Bobby Grenier and City Administrator John Drury is seeking the Council's approval to explore recommending a domestic (Within the United States) Sister City for Council's future consideration and approval.

By way of background, the City has two Sister Cities one in Taiwan and one in France. Coordinating and communicating with the sister cities in these foreign countries is challenging due to language barriers and international travel, so it is usually done by resolution and email.

Developing a sister city relationship with a domestic city could provide a more interactive and meaningful opportunity for both cities. The Horizon team seeks

approval from the Council to explore an appropriate city in the United States for the Council's consideration at a future meeting.

Mayor Price said he received one Request to Speak form from Steven Gerard Sidlovsky and invited him to the podium. Mr. Sidlovsky did not respond to the invitation or was not in the audience.

Council Member Grenier said a Tavares resident suggested creating a domestic Sister City to him and noted his support.

MOTION

Bob Grenier moved to authorize the request to explore a domestic Sister City for the Council's consideration at a future meeting, seconded by Lori Pfister.

Council Member Gamble asked if the request would eliminate the existing Sister Cities. Mr. Drury said no. He said Tavares would look for a Sister City that was not identical yet similar in size. He noted an aviation theme would be positive and that it would be with a City where each could learn and grow from the venture.

Council Member Singer noted his support.

The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 7. Water Consumptive Use Permit Update

Mr. Clark made the following presentation:

Approximately a year ago, the council was informed that the City was nearing the maximum allotment of drinking water by the SJRWMD. This was due to accelerated growth in the last 3 years. The City has hired an engineer and geologist to process and request a modification of the CUP to accommodate growth. This is typically a two-year process, which should be finalize in 2025.

Mr. Clark introduced Project Manager/Engineer Sean Chaparro of Arcadis U.S., Inc., Engineer Stephanie Bishop of Arcadis U.S. Inc., and Geologist Sara Whitaker, SMW GeoSciences, Inc.

Mr. Chaparro and Ms. Whitaker provided a PowerPoint presentation on the City's Consumptive Use Permit update with the following highlights: Existing CUP, Population Projections, Flow Demand Projections, and Next Steps.

Mr. Drury said the City would continue coordinating with the engineers and geologists to ensure the CUP was on an accelerated program. He said all hands were on deck and noted withdrawals were faster than originally predicted.

Council Member Gamble asked if the City was at its maximum water use. Mr. Clark said 2024 would end slightly under the maximum.

Council Member Gamble inquired about current and future developments. Mr. Drury said future large developments were timing their projects with the CUP permit update.

Council Member Singer thanked everyone for their hard work.

Tab 8. Award and Authorize Contract to Dale Beasley Construction for the Aesop Park Stormwater Improvement Project.

Ms. Houghton made the following presentation:

On August 3, 2022, the City Council adopted Resolution 2022-15 authorizing acceptance of grant from the Lake County Water Authority in the amount of \$162,500. The grant is a reimbursement grant whereas the grant requires a City Match of \$162,500 for an estimated project cost of \$325,000.

On August 3, 2022, the Mayor executed the agreement for the Lake County Water Authority Grant with \$162,500 in reimbursable funding and a City Match in the amount of \$162,500.

On August 7, 2024, the City Council adopted Resolution 2024-16 which increased the funding amount for the LWCA Grant from \$162,500 to \$280,000. The updated required City Match was increased from \$162,500 to \$268,970.

On September 4, 2024, the Mayor executed the agreement to amend the Lake County Water Authority Grant Amendment which increased the reimbursable funding not to exceed \$280,000, and the City Match increased to \$268,970.

On 1-11-2024, the City of Tavares issued Bid 2024-04 for the Aesop Park Stormwater Pond Improvement project. Staff received two respondents to the bid. Both bids exceeded the project funding amount (1. 974,108.20 and 2. \$679,343.20). Due to the bid amounts exceeding project funding the staff closed the bid, and additional options were explored.

After researching current bids and awards from other local jurisdictions it was found that the City is able to Piggy-Back off a current Bid with Dale Beasley Construction with the City of Winter Garden RFP 21-001 with considerable savings. Winter Garden's companion contract for the bid is valid through January 13, 2026.

The City received a quote from Dale Beasley Construction in the amount of \$387,789.62 for the project. Staff is requesting Council's authorization to award

a contract via Piggy-Back (Winter Garden RFP-21-001), and to authorize staff to negotiate and enter into a contract with Dale Beasley Construction.

Staff recommends Option 1, move to approve and authorize award and execution of Contract to Dale Beasley Construction, utilizing Piggy-Back Provision on Winter Garden RFP-21-001 and Contract for the Aesop Park Stormwater Improvement Project.

Mayor Price asked for comments from the Council.

Council Member Singer asked Ms. Houghton to describe a piggy-back contract for the audience. Ms. Houghton said some bids are deemed non-conforming and significantly above the project budget. When that happens, the Council authorizes Staff to piggyback on a contract from another jurisdiction at a better cost.

Attorney Holt confirmed that State Statutes allow the City to bypass the competitive bidding process by piggybacking on a contract that went through the bidding process by another entity.

Ms. Houghton said piggybacking was a way to save money and time and noted that the opportunity does not always present itself.

Council Member Singer thanked Ms. Houghton for her efforts to save funds. He commended Mr. Dillon and Purchasing Manager Alex Patton for their efforts to secure a piggyback contract.

Council Member Grenier noted his support for the project.

Council Member Singer noted the time savings by piggybacking a contract and asked when the project would begin. Mr. Dillon said as soon as possible if approved.

MOTION

Sandy Gamble moved to approve Option 1, authorizing the award and execution of contract to Dale Beasley Construction, utilizing piggy-back provision on Winter Garden RFP-21-001 and contract for the Aesop Park Stormwater Improvement Project. The motion was seconded by Troy Singer. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 8A. Resolution 2024-27 – Renewal of Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement (SMAA) for Emergency Management

Mr. O'Keefe made the following presentation:

The renewal of the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement (SMAA) for Emergency Management authorizes the request, provision, and receipt of inter-jurisdictional

mutual assistance among political subdivisions within the state in accordance with the Emergency Management Act, Chapter 252.

By approving Resolution 2024-27 and renewing the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement will allow the City to maximize the prompt, full, and effective use of outside resources of all participating governments in an emergency or disaster.

Staff recommends Option 1, approve Resolution 2024-27 and authorize the City Administrator to execute the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement.

Mayor Price asked for comments from the Council. There were none.

MOTION

Sandy Gamble moved to approve Resolution 2024-27 [Option 1], seconded by Bob Grenier.

Council Member Singer asked if the Mutual Aid Agreement would include situations such as when the City of Tavares Emergency Operations Center housed the Lake County Emergency Operations Center during Hurricane Debby. Mr. O’Keefe confirmed and provided the background of the storm event that created the downing of an electric grid that affected Lake County’s emergency operations. The City of Tavares was able to step in and provide support. He noted the importance of Mutual Aid agreements for the community.

The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

XII. OLD BUSINESS

XIII. AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD

Michele Pietrowski, 460 Fern Avenue, Tavares, discussed the property located at 475 Fern Avenue and asked if the City would consider creating an ordinance to speed up the removal of garbage in the City. Ms. Pietrowski said she would be willing to purchase speed bumps from Amazon for the City to install on the road to slow traffic.

Steven Gerard Sidlovsky, Lorian, Ohio, recited a bible verse, provided a handout to the City Council with a religious book mark, and discussed Tavares becoming a ‘Personhood City.’

Lois Williams, 408 Fern Avenue, Tavares, said she worked for hospice and noted her concern for trash blowing from 475 Fern Avenue into her yard, which she was then responsible for removing. She stated concern for the beautification of her community and flying debris during a storm event.

XIV. REPORTS

Tab 9. City Administrator Report

Mr. Drury said the next City Council meeting would be held on January 15, 2025, and noted a list of upcoming meetings and events was provided in the Council's packets.

Tab 10. City Council Member Reports

Vice Mayor Pfister commended the staff for their efforts on the Christmas Parade, and said the comments she witnessed reflected an appreciation for the parade being shortened.

Council Member Grenier inquired about Cookies with Santa. Mr. Dillon said the Recreation Department devised an idea for the program, and 75 children participated.

Council Member Grenier noted he spoke with a Trust for Public Lands representative and was grateful they came down from Tallahassee.

Council Member Grenier commended Solid Waste Manager Jeff Henderson for his help on a recent issue.

Council Member Grenier asked if the Mayor's Youth Council department tours had been scheduled. Ms. Novack said the tours were in the process of being scheduled and no date had been set.

Council Member Grenier said the City's Christmas lights were beautiful.

Council Member Singer said he enjoyed the Christmas parade, and everyone who attended had a great time. He thanked Mr. Clark for driving him in the Christmas parade and those who put the event together.

Council Member Singer recognized the Mayor's Youth Council members in the audience and thanked the Tavares High School Choir for their performance before the meeting.

Council Member Gamble discussed the Christmas parade and said he enjoyed the event. He commended those who trimmed the palm trees and installed the Christmas lights downtown.

The Council Members and Staff wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business, and Mayor Price adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully,

Susie Novack, MMC, FCRM
City Clerk

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
1/15/2025**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 4

SUBJECT TITLE: Approval of 2025 City Council Meeting Dates (City Administrator)

OBJECTIVE:

To provide the scheduled 2025 City Council regular meeting dates.

SUMMARY:

The following is a list of the remaining scheduled 2025 City Council regular meeting dates:

February 5, 2025
February 19, 2025
March 5, 2025
March 19, 2025
April 2, 2025
April 16, 2025
May 7, 2025
May 21, 2025
June 4, 2025
June 18, 2025
July 2, 2025
July 16, 2025
August 6, 2025
August 20, 2025
September 3, 2025
September 17, 2025
October 1, 2025
October 15, 2025
November 19, 2025
December 3, 2025
December 17, 2025

OPTIONS:

1. Approve the scheduled meeting dates as presented.
2. Approve the scheduled meeting dates with changes.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1, approve the scheduled meeting dates as presented.

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
1/15/2025**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 5

SUBJECT TITLE: Broad Budget Goals (City Administrator)

OBJECTIVE:

For the Council to develop its FY 2026 Broad Budget Priorities and provide them at the February 5th City Council meeting.

SUMMARY:

It is recommended Council members develop their three (3) to five (5) broad budget priorities over the ensuing weeks for the upcoming FY 2026 Annual Budget development and deliver those budget priorities individually to the City Administrator by the end of the month - January 31, 2025, so he can assemble them for the Council's consideration at the next meeting on February 5th, 2024.

OPTIONS:

None - no action required.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Each Council member develops its FY 25 broad budget priorities and deliver them to the City Administrator.

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
1/15/2025**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 6

SUBJECT TITLE: Seasons at Waterstone - Final Plat (Community Development)

OBJECTIVE:

To approve the Final Plat for Seasons at Waterstone subdivision located on the north side of Dead River Road and a third of a mile east of Captain Haynes Road.

SUMMARY:

Season at Waterstone is a proposed residential subdivision located on the north side of Dead River Road, approximately half of a mile west of the S. Duncan Drive (SR 19) intersection and a third of a mile east of Captain Haynes Road. The subdivision is 40.49 acres in size and consists of 93 lots for single-family dwellings as permitted under “PD” (Planned Development) zoning ordinance 18-09. On December 19, 2018, the Preliminary Plat for Waterstone Subdivision was approved by City Council. It should be noted, the Final Plat reflects the agreed upon right-of-way widening dedication on Dead River Road.

City staff has reviewed the Final Plat and determined that adopted levels of service for all regulated public facilities will be provided. Accordingly, Lake County Schools has concurrency capacity reservation for this project. The Final Plat document meets the requirements of the City of Tavares Land Development Regulations and Comprehensive Plan.

OPTIONS:

1. City Council approves the Final Plat for Seasons at Waterstone subdivision located on north side of Dead River Road and a third of a mile east of Captain Haynes Road.
2. City Council denies the Final Plat.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that City Council moves to approve the Final Plat for Seasons at Waterstone Subdivision located on the north side of Dead River Road and a third of a mile east of Captain Haynes Road.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

The Final Plat document has been reviewed by the City Attorney and approved for legal sufficiency.

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. Final Plat
2. HOA CCRs & AOI
3. Performance Bond

4. Title Opinion
5. Taxes Paid

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

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
1/15/2025**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 7

SUBJECT TITLE: Resolution 2025-01 - RAISE Grant Application (Public Works)

OBJECTIVE:

To request Council's approval for Resolution 2025-01 authorizing staff in partnership with Lake County Florida and the City of Mount Dora to submit to the Department of Transportation (DOT) a \$25 million 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application for the planned Wekiva Trail Extension Project - Segment 1 and Segment 5.

SUMMARY:

On December 4, 2024, Tavares City Council authorized staff to pursue a \$25 million RAISE grant for the planned Wekiva Trail Extension Project, specifically for Segment 1 and Segment 5. To apply for the FY-25 RAISE grant program, a new resolution is needed to officially authorize staff, in partnership with Lake County, Florida, and the City of Mount Dora, to submit a \$25 million grant application to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) initiative concerning the Wekiva Trail Extension Project.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58, November 15, 2021), authorized and appropriated \$1.5 billion annually to be awarded by the Department of Transportation ("DOT") 2022 – FY 2026 for Local and Regional Project Assistance Program Grants under National Infrastructure Investments to fund eligible surface transportation projects with significant local or regional impact. As of June 2024, the program has awarded more than \$15 billion over sixteen rounds to local governments, Tribes, transit and port authorities, states, and other entities.

OPTIONS:

Option - 1. Move to Approve Resolution No. 2025-01 to apply and accept, in partnership with Lake County Florida and City of Mount Dora to submit to the Department of Transportation (DOT) a \$25 million 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application for the planned Wekiva Trail Extension Project - Segment 1 and Segment 5.

Option - 2. Do Not Approve Resolution No. 2025-01, City Council does not authorize the City to apply and accept, in partnership with Lake County Florida and City of Mount Dora to submit to the Department of Transportation (DOT) a \$25 million 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application for the planned Wekiva Trail Extension Project - Segment 1 and Segment 5.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Option - 1. Move to Approve Resolution No. 2025-01 to apply and accept, in partnership with Lake County Florida and City of Mount Dora to submit to the Department of Transportation (DOT) a \$25 million 2025 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant

application for the planned Wekiva Trail Extension Project - Segment 1 and Segment 5.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Legally Sufficient

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. Resolution 2025-01 - 2025 RAISE Grant Resolution Wekiva Trail Extension

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

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
1/15/2025**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 8

SUBJECT TITLE: Resolution 2025-02 - Acceptance of State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection Grant for Stormwater Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment (Finance)

OBJECTIVE:

Consider approval of Resolution 2025-02 authorizing acceptance of State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection Resilient Florida Program Grant for Stormwater Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment.

SUMMARY:

The Department of Environmental Protection Resilient Florida Program has awarded the city \$160,500 to complete a Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment for Stormwater.

Details of the grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection include the following:

- Agreement Number: 25PLN26.
- DEP Grant Manager: Drew Begley
- Pass-through Entity: N/A.
- Awarding Entity: Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- Recipient: City of Tavares.
- Grant Award: \$160,500.
- No grant match required.
- Award Period: Date of Execution – to be determined.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: Move to approve resolution 2025-02 authorizing the City Administrator to accept and execute all FDEP grant agreements for the Stormwater Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment project.

Option 2: Do not approve resolution 2025-02.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1: Move to approve resolution 2025-02 authorizing the City Administrator to accept and execute all FDEP grant agreements for the Stormwater Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

\$106,500 will be budgeted in the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget.

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Legally Sufficient.

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. Resolution 2025-02

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

RESOLUTION 2025-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GRANT FROM THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO COMPLETE STORMWATER VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT.

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has awarded the City of Tavares a grant in the amount of \$160,500.

WHEREAS, the grant provides funding to complete a Stormwater Vulnerability Assessment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I. The City Administrator is hereby authorized to execute an award Agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Elements of the award include:

- Agreement Number: 25PLN26.
- DEP Grant Manager: Drew Begley
- Pass-through Entity: N/A.
- Awarding Entity: Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- Recipient: City of Tavares.
- Grant Award: \$160,500.
- No grant match required.
- Award Period: Date of Execution – to be determined.

SECTION II. If any section or portion of a section of this Resolution proves to be invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional, it shall not be held to invalidate or impair the validity, force, or effect of any other section or part of this Resolution.

SECTION III. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 15th day of January 2025, by the City Council of the City of Tavares, Florida.

Walter Price Sr., Mayor
Tavares City Council

ATTEST:

Susie Novack
City Clerk

Approved as to form:
Lindsey Holt
City Attorney

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
1/15/2025**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 9

SUBJECT TITLE: Discussion to Name new St. Clair Abrams Stormwater Pond (City Administrator)

OBJECTIVE:

To name new stormwater Pond located on St. Clair Abrams Street

SUMMARY:

In 2023, the City received 3 stormwater grants from Lake County Water Authority, Florida Legislation Appropriation, and FDEP Stormwater. The 3 grants totaled \$753,910. The project was delayed a year due to the proximity of the nesting season of a neighboring eagle. Up until now, both the Utilities Department and the Engineer have referred to the pond as Eagle Park. The Council will need to decide on a name for the pond. The Utilities Department suggests it be named Eagle Park. It's at the Council's discretion.

OPTIONS:

1. Name the pond Eagle Park.
2. Discuss options.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Name the pond Eagle Park.

FISCAL IMPACT:

none

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

none

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
1/15/2025**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 10

SUBJECT TITLE: Community Grant Awards (City Clerk)

OBJECTIVE:

To award four (4) \$500.00 community grants to Lake Cares, Inc., Educational Foundation of Lake County, Inc., Lake County Museum of Art, and Triangle Community Alliance, Inc.

SUMMARY:

The Council budgeted \$2,000 in the current Fiscal Year 2025 for community grants. The City advertised at the beginning of the fiscal year an invitation to submit community grant applications for area not-for-profit organizations with a 502C3 designation for up to \$500 in funding for community and social service projects.

The City received four grant applications (attached) as follows:

- Lake Cares, Inc.
- Educational Foundation of Lake County, Inc.
- Lake County Museum of Art
- Triangle Community Alliance, Inc.

A ranking committee consisting of the City Clerk, Finance Director, and Community Services Director met on January 6, 2025, and reviewed the applications to determine if they met the criteria for the Community Grant Program. It was determined that each request met the criteria.

OPTIONS:

1. Award \$500 Community Grants as requested to Lake Cares, Inc., Educational Foundation of Lake County, Inc., Lake County Museum of Art, and Triangle Community Alliance, Inc.
2. Award a portion of the Community Grants
3. Do not award Community Grants at this time.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1, for the Council to award \$500 Community Grants to Lake Cares, Inc., Educational Foundation of Lake County, Inc., Lake County Museum of Art, and Triangle Community Alliance, Inc.

FISCAL IMPACT:

\$2,000, leaving a -0- balance for any further grant requests in FY 2025.

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Yes.

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. FY 24-25 Lake Cares Community Grant Application
2. FY 24-25 Educational Foundation of Lake County Community Grant
3. FY 24-25 Lake Eustis Museum of Art Community Grant
4. FY 24-25 Triangle Community Alliance Community Grant

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

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
1/15/2025**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 11

SUBJECT TITLE: City Administrator Report

OBJECTIVE:

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

SUMMARY:

City Administrator will provide a summary at the meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

City Council Meeting	February 5, 2025, 4:00 p.m., Tavares City Council Chambers February 19, 2025, 4:00 p.m., Tavares City Council Chambers
Planning and Zoning Board Meeting	February 20, 2025, 3:00 p.m., Tavares City Council Chambers
Library Board Meeting	February 12, 2025, 4:00 p.m., Tavares Library Expansion Room
Code Enforcement Special Magistrate Hearing	January 28, 2025, 4:00 p.m., Tavares City Council Chambers

OUTSIDE AGENCY MEETINGS:

Lake County League of Cities Meeting	February 14, 2025, 12:00 noon, Host City to be Announced
Lake Sumter MPO Governing Board Meeting	February 26, 2025, 2:00 p.m., Suite 175, 1300 Citizens Boulevard, Leesburg
Tavares Chamber of Commerce Business Meeting	January 22, 2025, 11:30 a.m., Tavares Civic Center

CITY EVENTS:

The current 2025 City Event calendars 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_2025 Event Calendar_Rvsd 12.3.2025

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

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
1/15/2025**

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.