TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 18, 2025 – 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
Amanda Boggus, 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
Karl Grogan, Police Captain
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. 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 said staff had no changes.

MOTION

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

IV. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Tab 2. Governmental Relations Firm Selection

Mr. Drury made the following presentation:

> *On March 23, 2024, the City of Tavares advertised a Request for Proposal for a Governmental Relations Firm (RFQ) No. 2025-0003 and received three (3) submittals: The Ferguson Group (TFG), Pittman Law Group (PLG) and Sunshine Consulting Group (SCG). A selection committee was convened and ranked the firms as follows: TFG, SCG and PLG in that order. At the June 4, 2025 Council Meeting, the Council decided to hear presentations from the two highest-rated firms, TFG and SCG, at the next June 18, 2025 Council Meeting.*
>
> *It has been identified that the City's period of solicitation fell during the most critical part of the 2025 legislative session, and therefore some perspective firms could not submit (See attached email). This being the case, the Council is provided with two options below.*
>
> *There are two option before the Council, and staff recommended the Council discuss and the options and proceed accordingly.*
>
> > *1) Cancel the current RFQ 2025-003, do not hear any presentations, and after the Florida Legislative Session ends, publish a new RFQ for State and Federal Governmental Relations Firm.*
> > *2) Hear the two presentations, and award the contract to one of the presenters for RFQ2025-0003.*

Council Member Singer expressed concern about delaying a decision, referencing ongoing grant applications discussed in the previous City Council meeting. Mr. Drury clarified that the current federal grant cycle would be missed even if a firm was selected during the meeting, and the next grant opportunity in November would remain viable.

Council Member Singer raised the possibility of reducing the reserve withdrawal amount by delaying the contract. Mr. Drury confirmed that delaying would result in a shorter fiscal year commitment and a budget adjustment for the following fiscal year.

Council Members Singer and Grenier favored postponing the decision to ensure the City selects the best firm and conserves reserve funds.

Mayor Price stated that Gary Santoro completed a Request to Speak form and invited him to the podium.

Mr. Santoro said he would like to speak after presentations were made, if any.

Council Member Gamble emphasized prioritizing the City's best interests in the selection.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to approve Option 1 to cancel the Request For Qualifications (RFQ) and reissue, seconded by Bob Grenier.

Attorney Boggus said any potential changes to the RFQ should be identified.

Mayor Price requested that the reissued RFQ explicitly require bidders to detail their federal and state lobbying experience separately, anticipating the possibility of hiring separate firms for state and federal lobbying efforts.

Mr. Drury confirmed the Council's consensus to expand the scope, clarifying the distinction between state and federal lobbying expertise, and to modify the ranking committee's rating system accordingly.

The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

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

Attorney Boggus 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:

ORDINANCE 2025-03

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TAVARES AMENDING CHAPTER 15, PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT, ARTICLE IV, POLICE OFFICERS' PENSION TRUST FUND, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF TAVARES; AMENDING SECTION 15-98, DEFERRED RETIREMENT OPTION PLAN, TO PROVIDE FOR EIGHT (8) YEARS OF DROP PARTICIPATION; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE 2025-07

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE III, SECTION 2-46 RELATING TO PAYMENTS TO THE LIBRARY BOARD AND THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF THE CITY OF TAVARES CODE OF ORDINANCES; 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

Troy Singer moved to approve the Consent Agenda [Tab 3. Approval of the June 4, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes], seconded by Sandy Gamble. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 3. Approval of the June 4, 2025, City Council Meeting Minutes

Approved on the Consent Agenda.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

IX. ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING

First Reading

Tab 4. Ordinance 2025-07 to Amend Section 2-46 of City Code – Planning and Zoning Board and Library Board Reimbursement of Expenses

No discussion at First Reading.

Second Reading

Tab 5. Ordinance 2025-03 Amendment to Section 15-98 of the Police Pension Plan to Extend DROP

Ms. Houghton made the following presentation:

Ordinance 2025-03 provides changes to the Police Pension Plan to allow eligible plan members to extend the Deferred Retirement Option from 60 months to 96 months,

The Pension Plan Board Attorney, Pedro Herrera of Sugarman, Susskind, Braswell & Herrera, has prepared Ordinance 2025-03 to provide changes to Section 15-98 of the Police Pension Plan that sets for the Deferred Retirement Option Plan for eligible Police Pension Plan participants.

- *Amends Section 15-98 (b)(3)(a) and provides that any member shall be eligible to participate in DROP for a period not to exceed 96 months.*
- *Amends Section15-98 (b)(3) to add section (a)(1) which provides that a member who entered DROP prior to 6-4-2025 and has not reached their maximum DROP participation period of 60 months may elect to extend their maximum DROP participation to 96 months and sets forth conditions.*
- *Amends Section 15-98 (b)(3) to add section (b) setting forth conditions should a DROP participant fail to terminate employment at the expiration of 96 months.*

The Plan Actuaries, Foster and Foster, have provided a letter of "no-impact" to the Police Pension Plan that no formal Actuarial Impact Statement is required to support adoption. A copy of their letter detailing the Plan changes and the actuary's opinion is attached.

Ms. Houghton said the Staff recommended Option 1 for the Council to adopt Ordinance 2025-03 amending Chapter 15-98 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Tavares Police Officers' Pension Plan to extend Maximum DROP Participation from 60 months to 96 months.

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

MOTION

Sandy Gamble moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-03, seconded by Bob Grenier.

Council Member Singer asked whether the ordinance would be beneficial to the police. Ms. Houghton confirmed it was advantageous to both the police pension members and the City. Council Member Singer then inquired about the impact on the members and the City once an individual entered the DROP program. Ms. Houghton said there was no impact, as neither the employee nor the City continued making contributions at that point.

The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

X. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Tab 6. Council Annual Goals

Mr. Drury made the following presentation:

> *Each year, the City Council establishes its annual Council Goals for the City Administrator to work on as part of the annual performance evaluation process. Attached are:*
>
> *1) The current year's goals previously established for 2024/2025*
> *2) The status of each previously established goal*
> *3) A listing of projects and initiatives currently being worked on.*
> *4) The proposed new Council Goals for discussion and adoption for 2025/2026*
>
> *An opportunity is provided for the Council to discuss their new 2025/2026 goals for the City Administrator to work on over the ensuing year. As part of the performance evaluation process which each Council member is undergoing, an opportunity is provided for the Council to establish the October 1st pay raise for the City Administrator, if any, to be placed into the upcoming budget.*

Mr. Drury read the Council's goals for the 2025/2026 fiscal year into the record and asked the Council to pull any items they wished to discuss . He said he would work with directors to implement the council's goals.

2025-2026 City Council Goals

Council Member Bobby Grenier

1. Grow the Tavares Cemetery Arboretum to maintain and exceed standards of the Arboretum Accreditation standards.
2. Implement and promote the waterfront themed lands with signage reflecting Wooton Park, Pontoon Promenade East and West, Tavares Seaplane Base, Tavares Ecological Park
3. Continue to pursue improvements along highways 19, 561 and 448 that support existing businesses and residents and prevent residential sprawl.
4. Provide Police, Fire, Library and Public Works along with the other Departments with the resources they need to provide superior levels of service.
5. Continue to build Tavares based on its Historic Foundation.
6. Continue to improve streets, alleyways, and traffic signalization.
7. Maintain existing infrastructure.

Council Member Sandy Gamble

1. Deliver a Balance budget with pay increases that we can handle
2. Maintain the same level of service

3. Continue to lower the debt (pay as you go).
4. Reduce the tax rate where possible
5. Continue sidewalk and street repair as funds are available.

Council Member Lori Pfister

1. Add New 441 Golf Cart Crossing
2. Increase Commercial Growth
3. Complete the two (2) Master Plans for both Regional Park Campuses
4. Identify funding to implement both Master Plans for both Regional Park Campuses
5. Program another successful Youth Council program with the High School
6. Present a balanced annual budget

Council Member Walter Price

1. Support hometown rule as local authority continues to shift to Tallahassee.
2. Balance lowering taxes with providing city services at current levels.
3. Attract high-end/national retail/restaurants to Tavares.
4. Continue proceeding with implementation of the Tavares to Mount Dora Rails to Trails Project.
5. Continue Mayor's Youth Program in collaboration with Tavares High School.
6. Convert old public works complex into surface parking.
7. Help to provide new official city flower to residents, in collaboration with local businesses.
8. Complete West Main Street Gateway.
9. Complete Civic Signs.

Council Member Troy Singer

1. Continue to foster a supportive and welcoming environment for local businesses.
2. Ensure competitive compensation for all city staff.
3. Actively seek grants to reduce the tax burden on residents and businesses.
4. Commit to ongoing investment in our infrastructure.
5. Minimize the millage rate to best of ability to help reduce taxes on our residents and businesses while recognizing that growth contributes to this goal; without it, essential services may need to be cut, or rates may need to be raised.
6. Maintain our city's unique "close community" quality of life while continuing to pursuing smart growth strategies.
7. Ensure that reserves are kept at adequate and recommended levels to prevent over-inflation, as this can lead to increased tax rates and the potential allocation of funds for non-essential items rather than necessary ones.
8. Continue to prepare for adequate downtown parking areas before it becomes an issue.
9. Continue government transparency by staying engaged with the local community.

Council Member Grenier noted every year the Council members presented goals that were important to each member and stated his support.

MOTION

Bob Grenier moved to approve the Council Goals for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, seconded by Lori Pfister. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Council Member Singer noted that the Council was committed to taking care of all City employees and emphasized that Mr. Drury, as City Administrator, was also a City employee who had done an excellent job throughout his tenure. He recommended that the Council consider including a raise for Mr. Drury in the upcoming budget.

Vice Mayor Pfister suggested Mr. Drury receive the same raise percentage as other employees. Mr. Drury noted that the current draft budget includes a 5% raise for City employees.

Mayor Price expressed his support for including Mr. Drury in the raise allocation, consistent with the budgeted amount for staff.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to approve a 5% raise for Mr. Drury, or the same percentage as general employees in the upcoming fiscal year budget, seconded by Troy Singer. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 7. Board Appointment – Planning and Zoning Advisory Board

Mayor Price made the following presentation:

> *A vacancy has recently occurred on the Planning and Zoning Board for a term ending in June 2026. The City received two new applications from the following individuals (attached):*
>
> - *Jay Cunningham*
> - *David Harowitz*
>
> *The vacancy was publicly advertised in the Daily Commercial and on the City's website. If the Mayor makes an appointment to the Planning and Zoning Board at this time, there will be no remaining seat vacancies.*

Mayor Price asked if either of the applicants were in the audience.

Jay Cunningham, 311 Woodview Drive, came forward and introduced himself. He stated he was a local resident who installed swimming pools and was familiar with surveys, spatial planning, and mapping. Mr. Cunningham stated that he was interested in supporting responsible growth in the City and expressed his desire to serve on the board.

Mayor Price acknowledged Mr. Cunningham's comments and noted Mr. Horowitz's extensive resume, particularly his prior experience on planning and zoning boards in other cities. He expressed appreciation for both applicants.

Council Member Singer said he had known Jay Cunningham for some time, and both candidates were qualified. He emphasized the importance of a candidate's willingness to show their commitment by attending the meeting and concluded that the final decision rested with the Mayor. Council Member Singer noted his support for Mr. Cunningham to be appointed to the seat.

Council Member Gamble concurred with Council Member Singer and appreciated Mr. Cunningham's attendance at the meeting. Council Member Gamble acknowledged Mr. Horowitz's experience and emphasized the value of community engagement. Council Member Gamble suggested that Mr. Cunningham research matters such as the Bert J. Harris, Jr., Private Property Rights Protection Act, which affects property development rights.

Council Member Grenier said Mr. Cunningham showed enthusiasm, and he believed Mr. Cunningham would grow in the role and bring new ideas and research to the Planning and Zoning Board.

Council Member Singer added it was encouraging to have two applicants interested in serving.

Mayor Price said he appreciated the input from the Council and agreed with the consensus to appoint Mr. Cunningham. He recommended Jay Cunningham for appointment to the Planning and Zoning Board.

MOTION

Troy Singer moved to approve the Mayor's appointment of Jay Cunningham to the Planning and Zoning Board for the remainder of a term expiring June 2026, seconded by Lori Pfister. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Mr. Drury welcomed Mr. Cunningham to the Planning and Zoning Board.

Mayor Price welcomed Mr. Cunningham and thanked both applicants for their interest.

Tab 8. Request to Participate in Lake 100 Study

Mr. Drury made the following presentation:

At a previous Council meeting, the Council reviewed the attached letter and invitation to participate in a Lake County Cities and Lake County Government study. The Council voted not to participate financially but authorized the City Administrator to contribute as he determined. Representatives from Lake 100 did not attend the previous meeting and would like to provide additional information to the Council at this meeting including the attached new scope of work for this study.

By way of background, the study aims to answer the following four (4) questions:

a. Are Lake's cities disproportionately subsidizing county services to areas outside municipal limits – and to what extent?
b. Are specific services like law enforcement and fire duplicated or overlapping, potentially allowing for cost efficiencies?
c. Will the resulting data assist elected leaders with neutral, independent data to better educate the public on operating budgets?
d. Will the results of the study reinforce the business community's need for predictability, fairness and transparency in how growth is managed across jurisdictions?

Lake 100 Representative Amanda Wettstein would like an opportunity to address the Council and provide additional information on this request.

Mr. Drury said Staff recommended Option 1, for the Council to provide Lake 100 Representative Amanda Wettstein an opportunity to address the Council and provide additional information on this request.

Ms. Wettstein stated that 11 of the 13 cities in Lake County had committed to participating in the study, with Tavares, Fruitland Park, and Minneola being the remaining cities yet to commit.

Ms. Wettstein said city residents fund approximately 57% of the County's general revenue budget, raising questions about value and potential double taxation. She indicated the study would clarify the actual cost and distribution of services. The Lake County Board of County Commissioners agreed to fund half of the study, while cities were being asked to contribute the remainder.

Ms. Wettstein noted that while each city would receive individualized data, the study's comprehensiveness would be limited if all cities did not participate. Other cities were contributing at higher levels, and she expressed a desire for Tavares' participation, considering its size and central role in the county.

Council Member Singer asked whether the study would benefit both city and county residents. Ms. Wettstein responded that it would primarily benefit city residents across Lake County, including Tavares.

Council Member Gamble inquired about the study's scope. Ms. Wettstein acknowledged the Lake County Sheriff's Office funding would be a focus and clarified that a consultant would guide methodology in collaboration with designated city representatives.

Council Member Gamble also asked which cities had not committed. Ms. Wettstein confirmed that Fruitland Park and Minneola had yet to respond.

Vice Mayor Pfister expressed concerns about paying for data, given that the city contributes heavily by hosting county buildings and providing related services.

Mr. Drury noted the City had a monthly agreement with the County to reconcile Fire service provisions, and the study could offer more detailed answers regarding uncompensated services.

Council Member Singer supported participating, stating it would demonstrate unity with other cities and shared responsibility to the public. He suggested a conditional commitment, and Ms. Wettstein replied that the study would proceed regardless, and they were ready to move forward.

The Council took no action to fund the $2,500 request.

<u>Tab 9. Request from Tavares Chamber of Commerce to Sublease Office Space Inside Historic Train Depot</u>

Mr. Aldrich made the following presentation:

> *On January 20, 2012, the City of Tavares and Tavares Chamber of Commerce entered into a lease agreement for office rental space of approximately 1400 square feet inside the renovated historic train depot. The chamber has been a responsible tenant since the renovations were complete, and both parties have enjoyed the synergies of being located in the downtown.*
>
> *In a letter dated June 2, 2025, the chairman of the Tavares Chamber Board is seeking authorization from the City Council to sublease office space to a local business in order to increase revenue for the chamber. Per the executed lease agreement, the Chamber must receive authorization to sublease any portion of the premises from the City.*

Mr. Aldrich said the Staff recommended Option 1, for the Council to approve the request to sublease office space from the Tavares Chamber of Commerce and authorize the City Administrator to enter into a sublease agreement.

Chamber Board Member David D'Agostino stated he was available to answer questions.

Council Member Singer asked whether subleasing had been allowed in the past. Mr. Tweedie noted that the Jones Brothers had a sublease with Adventure Outdoor Paddlesports.

Mayor Price asked for comments from the Council.

Council Member Singer acknowledged the Chamber's financial struggles and asked if this sublease would help them recoup costs. Mr. D'Agostino confirmed that it would. Mr. Drury added that such subleases were subject to Council approval.

MOTION

Troy Singer made a motion to approve the sublease request [Option 1], seconded by Sandy Gamble.

Council Member Grenier opposed the request, expressing disappointment that the item was brought forward to the Council after he had noticed signage indicating an attorney's office in the depot weeks prior. He recalled the depot's dedication in 2013 and emphasized it was never intended for private law offices or similar commercial uses. The depot was meant to support tourism as part of a broader vision for the entertainment district. He said leasing space to a private attorney strayed from that vision and did not coincide with the depot's historic and economic development purpose. He added that while he might consider supporting tourism-related use, such as excursions on the Dora Canal, this particular use was not appropriate.

Vice Mayor Pfister echoed Council Member Grenier's concerns and questioned how a sign advertising the law office had already been placed without Council approval.

Mr. D'Agostino stated that there had been a misunderstanding, and the prospective tenant believed the lease did not require prior approval. The Chamber Board was working with limited resources and trying to generate income. He apologized for the premature placement of the sign.

Mr. Drury clarified that, should the request be voted down, the Council could still bring forward a future motion that would permit tourism-specific subleases.

A broader discussion ensued regarding the appropriateness of allowing subleases on city-owned property. Mr. D'Agostino reiterated the Chamber's limited Saturday visitor traffic and its financial need for the added income.

Council Member Gamble inquired about the duration of the attorney's office lease. Mr. D'Agostino responded that it was a one-year lease.

Vice Mayor Pfister said she would like the City to no longer offer sublease options in future lease agreements. She noted that there was sufficient attorney office space closer to the courthouse and that this sort of private commercial use was inconsistent with the City's identity.

The motion failed 4-1 as follows:

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

<u>Tab 10. Alfred Street/Old 441 Horizon Team Update Presentation</u>

Mr. Drury introduced the item by providing background on the City's eight Horizon Teams and noted the update was for the Alfred Street/Old 441 Horizon Team. Mr. Drury said other Horizon Team updates would be presented at future meetings.

Mr. Fabre gave a presentation summarizing the work of the Alfred Street/Old 441 Horizon Team over the past six months. Key points included:

- The corridor under review extends from downtown Tavares to the Mount Dora city limits.
- Team members: Council Member Troy Singer, City Planner Anarquís Frias, Antonio Fabre, and City Administrator John Drury.
- The team held multiple meetings, including coordination with Public Works, Utilities, and the Planning & Zoning Board. Outcomes included:
    - Establishing a common language across departments (e.g., for infrastructure mapping).
    - Support from the Planning & Zoning Board for the direction of the plan.
- Emphasis on a "Complete Streets" concept: active pedestrian walkways, bike lanes, landscaped green spaces, crosswalks, lighting, and wayfinding signage.
- Use of photos and maps to demonstrate the corridor's current condition and recent investments.
- Discussion of current and future public and private investment along the corridor, including:
    - Churchill project (renovation for office/event center).
    - Sinclair Arboretum (conversion from residential to office use).
    - Lee Humphrey building (converted to apartments).
    - Trail integration (Rails-to-Trails) and PD&E study.
- Identified areas lacking connectivity, sidewalks, and complete street elements.
- Discussion of utilities and voluntary annexation processes.
- Collaboration with Lake County on trail connectivity and potential sidewalk piggybacking near the planned traffic circle at Bay Road.

Mr. Drury concluded the presentation by recommending that the City formally plan out the full corridor from Downtown to Bay Road, including:

- Utility infrastructure (water, sewer, stormwater),
- Complete Streets improvements (sidewalks, roadways, lighting),
- Trail and gateway signage.

Mr. Drury said staff would hire a professional planning consultant to develop the full corridor plan and seek grants and other non-traditional funding for implementation. He said the budget would include costs for a study for the Council to weigh in during the budget process.

Mr. Drury requested direction from the Council on whether to proceed, including confirmation of Bay Road as the corridor endpoint.

Council Member Singer expressed his appreciation for serving on the Horizon Team and praised the collaborative effort. He supported moving forward with the project, noting that when the City invests in itself, private development often follows. He believed this initiative would attract more investment and benefit the community.

Council Member Grenier agreed, stating that the corridor has long been an “eyesore” and emphasized the need to control what the City could. He supported efforts to enhance infrastructure and aesthetics, expressing hope that existing private property owners would be motivated to improve their sites.

Mr. Drury noted that a similar approach had been taken with Alfred Street over a decade ago—successfully transforming it through strategic investment. He indicated that if there was no objection from Council, staff would begin preparing a professional plan and identify funding opportunities.

Council Member Gamble inquired about past discussions on extending improvements west toward the Mount Dora triangle area. Mr. Drury responded that an Interlocal Service Boundary Agreement (ISBA) had been negotiated between Mount Dora, Lake County, and Tavares to define annexation boundaries. Council Member Gamble cautioned that any planned signage at Bay Road should consider potential future road widening. Mr. Drury assured that the final plan would account for such possibilities and emphasized the need for careful sign placement.

Mr. Drury acknowledged that transportation impact fees had historically been spent in other parts of the county. The City would pursue creative, non-traditional funding mechanisms including grants and utility-related funding.

Council Member Gamble noted the Rails-to-Trails project may aid in acquiring a traffic light at the David Walker intersection.

The Council received the update and expressed individual support for moving forward.

Mr. Drury asked if the Council preferred to space out the Horizon Team presentations. There was a consensus from the Council to postpone Tab 11. SR19 Horizon Team Update Presentation to the July 2, 2025, City Council meeting.

Tab 11. SR19 Horizon Team Update Presentation

Presentation postponed to July 2, 2025.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

XII. OLD BUSINESS

Council Member Singer requested to agendize the topic of garage sale permits due to concerns about garage sales exceeding the allotted number. He would like to revisit the issue and explore potential solutions. Mayor Price noted that he had received citizen complaints regarding the matter and stated his support.

Council Member Gamble asked the City Attorney about the Council's authority regarding city employees, including the limits and scope of such authority.

Attorney Boggus explained that under the city charter, the City Administrator had the authority to hire and regulate staff.

The Council spoke in support of Mr. Drury and the staff. Council Member Grenier said the City team was excellent and well-regarded throughout Lake County.

Council Member Grenier asked for an update on the Splash Park. Mr. Clark reported that the Splash Park was expected to open the following Monday. Additionally, a new feature had been ordered, which would be installed in the middle of the splash park by September 2025.

XIII. AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD

Darrel Diamond, 11605 Lane Park Road, Tavares, discussed a recent meeting he attended on a proposed development at 561. He said he would monitor the development and provide the Council with information.

XIV. REPORTS

Tab 8. City Administrator Report

Tab 9. City Council Member Reports

Council Member Grenier noted that there was a designated Purple Heart parking space located at the property Mr. Cagan purchased. He asked if staff could identify another parking space for Purple Heart recipients.

Council Member Grenier discussed an upcoming Mechanized Cavalry reunion, noting that hotels and restaurants downtown were expected to be fully booked. He said everyone would notice a lot of activity in the City during the event.

Council Member Grenier expressed interest in receiving a copy of a photograph in Mr. Fabre's PowerPoint presentation of the Historic Methodist Church. He praised Mr. Smith for his excellent work on the historic Methodist Church. The church was registered for a historic marker— the first in Tavares and the twelfth in Lake County. He said there would be an unveiling of the state-issued marker in the future.

Council Member Gamble noted construction of new homes in Tavares was down 34% in 2024 compared to 2023, indicating a slowdown in housing. He referenced the Bert J. Harris Private Property Rights Protection Act, which he said limits cities' authority, and encouraged residents to contact their representatives in Tallahassee regarding this issue.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business, and Mayor Price adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully,

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Susie Novack, MMC, FCRM
City Clerk