



**TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 7, 2021 – 4:00 PM
TAVARES CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
201 EAST MAIN STREET, TAVARES**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

**Amanda Boggus, Mayor
Lou Buigas, Vice Mayor
Lori Pfister, Council Member
Walter Price, Council Member
Troy Singer, Council Member**

STAFF PRESENT

**John Drury, City Administrator
Bob Williams, City Attorney
Susie Novack, City Clerk
Mike Fitzgerald, Community Development Director
Bob Tweedie, Economic Development Director
Lori Houghton, Finance Director
Richard Keith, Fire Chief
Stoney Lubins, Police Chief
James Dillon, Public Works Director
Phil Clark, Utilities Director
Crissy Bublitz, Human Resources Director
Mark O'Keefe, Public Communications Director
Scott Aldrich, Community Services Director**

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Tab 1. Pastor Eric Filkin, Bridges Covenant Church

Pastor Eric Filkin, Bridges Covenant Church, provided the invocation and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Boggus 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 Lou Buigas. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

IV. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Tab 2. Proclamation – Water Conservation Month

Mayor Boggus made the following presentation:

Susan Davis, Intergovernmental Coordinator for the Governmental Affairs Program, St. Johns River Water Management District, has requested the City issue a proclamation declaring April 2020 as Water Conservation Month.

2021 marks the 23-year anniversary since April was first established as Water Conservation Month. The Florida Section American Water Works Association,(FSAWWA), Florida's Water Management Districts, and City of Tavares are working together to increase awareness about the importance of water conservation and encouraging businesses, industries, schools, and citizens to save water and thus promote a healthy economy and community. April has been designated as Water Conservation Month as it is typically a dry month and water demands are most acute.

Mayor Boggus read the proclamation in its entirety.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to approve the Proclamation, seconded by Troy Singer. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 3. Proclamation – Retirement of Dr. Diane Culpepper, Executive Director of Lake Technical College

Mayor Boggus made the following presentation:

Dr. Diane Culpepper, Executive Director, Lake Technical College, will be retiring in August 2021. She has served the students and community in her capacity as Executive Director since July 2010. During her tenure she has strengthened private/public partnerships through joint initiatives that have significantly improved education opportunities throughout Lake County. Some of those initiatives include the following:

- Securing millions of dollars in funding to Lake Technical School with direct benefits to the residents of Tavares, neighboring communities, and Lake County.*
- Secured over \$4.5 million dollars in funding from local and state funding sources to create the Center for Advanced Manufacturing Program.*
- Developed a medical simulation lab for practical nursing, medical assistance, and nursing assistant students.*

Before the Mayor and Council is a proclamation in honor of the retirement of Dr. Culpepper and her dedication to Lake Technical College students, the City of Tavares and its citizens, and the citizens of Lake County, by declaring April 7, 2021 as Dr. Diane Culpepper Day.

Mayor Boggus read the proclamation in its entirety.

MOTION

Lou Buigas moved to approve the Proclamation, seconded by Troy Singer. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Mr. Drury said the Mayor will present the proclamation to Dr. Culpepper during an upcoming Lake Technical College's Board meeting. Mayor Boggus said she had a scheduling conflict and could not attend. Vice Mayor Buigas said she would like to attend on the Mayor's behalf.

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

Attorney Williams said there were no quasi-judicial matters before Council.

VI. READING OF ALL ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS INTO THE RECORD

Ms. Novack read the following resolutions and ordinances by title only:

RESOLUTION 2021-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF MAYORS TO PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN THE RIGHTS OF FLORIDA CITIZENS TO GOVERN THEMSELVES UNDER MUNICIPAL HOME RULE POWERS

**CONFERRED UPON THEM BY THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION;
PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS AND AN EFFECTIVE
DATE.**

RESOLUTION 2021-06

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, ADOPTING
THE LAKE COUNTY LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY: MULTI-
JURISDICTIONAL PLAN 2021-2026 AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
DATE.**

ORDINANCE 2021-02

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TAVARES AMENDING THE
BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY BY ANNEXING APPROXIMATELY 05.74
ACRES OF LAND LOCATED EAST OF COUNTY ROAD 561, SOUTH OF
LAKE INDUSTRIAL BOULEVARD, REZONING SAID PROPERTY FROM
LAKE COUNTY HEAVY INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT (HM) TO CITY OF
TAVARES INDUSTRIAL (I); SUBJECT TO THE RULES, REGULATIONS
AND OBLIGATIONS ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TAVARES COUNCIL;
PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE
DATE.**

ORDINANCE 2021-03

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, AMENDING
THE TAVARES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE LAND USE MAP
2040, PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE OF FUTURE LAND USE
DESIGNATION ON APPROXIMATELY 05.74 ACRES OF PROPERTY
FROM COUNTY INDUSTRIAL TO CITY INDUSTRIAL (IND) FOR
PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED EAST OF COUNTY ROAD 561,
SOUTH OF LAKE INDUSTRIAL BOULEVARD; PROVIDING FOR
SEVERABILITY AND CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN
EFFECTIVE DATE.**

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Boggus asked if anyone would like to pull items on the Consent Agenda for discussion.

MOTION

Walter Price moved to approve the Consent Agenda [Tab 4. Approval of the March 17, 2021 City Council Regular Meeting; Tab 5. Resolution 2021-06 – Adoption of 2021-2025 Lake County Local Hazard Mitigation Strategy Plan; Tab 6.

Request Council Approval to Amend Purchasing Policy for Federal Grant Compliance] seconded by Lou Buigas. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 4. Approval of the March 17, 2021 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Approved on the Consent Agenda.

Tab 5. Resolution 2021-06 – Adoption of 2021-2026 Lake County Local Hazard Mitigation Strategy Plan

Approved on the Consent Agenda.

Tab 6. Request Council Approval to Amend Purchasing Policy for Federal Award Compliance

Approved on the Consent Agenda.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

Tab 7. Resolution 2021-05 – Preemption of Municipal Home Rule Powers

Mayor Boggus made the following presentation:

The Florida League of Mayors adopted a resolution on preemption of Home Rule during their March 4, 2021 Board meeting. Mayor Boggus represents District 6 on the Florida League of Mayors Board of Directors, and requested the City pass the attached companion resolution in support of Home Rule powers and opposition to preemptive legislation of those powers by the Florida Legislature. If approved, the City Administrator will forward the resolution to the Tavares legislative delegation.

Mayor Boggus asked for comments from the audience.

Vance Jochim, 12619 Milwaukee Avenue, Lake County, said he is not in support of Home Rule powers. He said people lose property rights with Home Rule, and stated the resolution is imprecise with no detail of what is or is not acceptable.

Mr. Drury provided an overview of Dillon Rule and Home Rule powers. In Dillon Rule states, the state legislature has power over all cities with no authority at the local government level. Many states in the United States operate under Dillon Rule, and Florida operates under Home Rule. Florida is a Home Rule state that operates under the presumption that local citizens know what is best for their communities and elect people that represent their communities. Home Rule is being eradicated by the state legislature from laws that stop representation at the local level. Without Home Rule powers state legislatures from Florida's panhandle, Miami, and Jacksonville would make the decisions for what is best for the City of Tavares. Each area and city is unique and Home Rule allows each City to make decisions that are best for their own communities.

Attorney Williams said Home Rule is included in the 1968 Florida constitution. He provided an example of how Home Rule can be beneficial when a past Tavares City Council passed a model ordinance for a city-wide recycling requirement that ultimately became law in the state of Florida. Home Rule allows creative ideas to move forward. Mr. Drury said under Dillon Rule the recycling ordinance would have taken a year to be voted on by people in the panhandle, Miami and Jacksonville before Tavares could have adopted it.

David Serdar, 866 Wintergreen Drive, Fruitland Park, expressed support for the Tavares City Council.

Council Member Price said in the current climate state rights are being preempted to the Federal government and local rights are being preempted to the state. He said he would like Tavares to retain its independence and do its best for its citizens. He said he is in favor of Resolution 2021-05.

MOTION

Troy Singer moved to approve [Resolution 2021-05], seconded by Walter Price. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

IX. ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING

First Reading

Tab 8. Ordinance 2021-02 – Koenke Property – Annexation and Rezoning of Approximately 5.74 Acres Located East of CR561, South of Lake Industrial Blvd

No discussion at First Reading.

Tab 9. Ordinance 2021-03 – Koenke Property – Small Scale FLUM Amendment of Approximately 5.74 Acres Located East of CR561, South of Lake Industrial Blvd

No discussion at First Reading.

Second Reading

X. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Tab 10. Board Appointment – Planning and Zoning Board

Mayor Boggus made the following presentation:

Recently Gary Koerner, Planning and Zoning Board Member, resigned from the Board. He was serving a term that expires June 2022. The City advertised the vacancy in the Daily Commercial, on the City website, and social media

platforms. Two applications were received from the following:

- Brooke Matthews
- James Cheeseman

The Planning and Zoning Board is an advisory Board to the Tavares City Council, consisting of seven members who shall be residents of the City of Tavares. Terms are three years with the exception of those appointments made to fill the remainder of a vacated term.

Vance Jochim, 12619 Milwaukee Avenue, Lake County, said noted his preference for each Council member to make board and committee nominations rather than the Mayor only as it centralizes power. He said he would like all agenda back-up material to be placed on the city website.

Mayor Boggus asked if there were additional public comment.

David Serdar, 866 Wintergreen Drive, Fruitland Park, noted his support for whomever the Council appoints to the Planning and Zoning Board.

Jim Sweeza, 1518 Ridge Road, Tavares, asked the Council to consider what youth and diversity can bring to the Planning and Zoning Board. He noted his support for Brooke Matthews.

Attorney Williams said the Mayor's power is stated in the City charter and would require a charter amendment for change. Mr. Drury noted the citizens developed and voted on the City charter by referendum. He said the Mayor, for efficiency, reviews and recommends an appointment, and the Council confirms the appointment. If the Council does not confirm a candidate the Mayor must bring another name forward. The entire Council is involved in applicant selection.

Mayor Boggus said she recommends Brook Matthews to serve on the Planning and Zoning Board.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to accept the appointment of Brooke Matthews, seconded by Lou Buigas. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Mayor Boggus congratulated Ms. Matthews.

Tab 11. Request Council's Approval to Issue Request for Proposal (RFP) for Debt Financing to Extend Water, Sewer, Reclaim Capital Lines on Woodlea Road

Ms. Houghton made the following presentation:

In order to provide utility services to the area known as the Peninsula which includes 16 developed homes and undeveloped vacant land within and abutting the Peninsula area, expansion of water and sewer capital lines are needed. These improvements will provide service availability to existing homes and also provide for economic development opportunities for the area. (The Public Works Director will provide a brief overview of the area and the Project).

The Project Costs are estimated at \$3,500,000 or less, and closing costs are estimated at \$60,000. Debt Service costs for the project will be offset by future Impact Fee payments from connections to the new capital lines.

The loan will be issued by pledge of water, wastewater, reclaim, and utility impact fees, and the debt will be subordinate to existing debt of the Water/Wastewater Utility. This project was identified in the list of projects in the September 2019 Rate Study. In addition this project was identified in the FY2021 Adopted Budget and Capital Improvement Plan.

Staff estimates that the timeline for the issuance, approval and closing for the loan to be as follows:

- Issue RFP on or before April 23, 2021*
- RFP Proposals due on June 17, 2021*
- Bring RFP award recommendations to City Council on June 23, 2021*
- Bring Loan Resolution and Loan documents to the City Council for approval on July 21, 2021*
- Loan closing 23, 2021 (pre-closing on July 21, 2021)*

This item will come back to the City Council for approval of the award of RFP and the issuance of the debt obligation with accompanying Resolution.

Ms. Houghton noted Council received an updated staff report due to a scrivener's error. She asked Mr. Clark to provide comment on the project. Mr. Clark said before Council is a capital project with a capital lift station and extension of water, sewer, and reclaimed water lines from the Woodlea plant area to the Peninsula. He said the extension would provide full build-out on the Peninsula which is estimated to include 1,500 homes.

Mayor Boggus asked for comments from the audience. There were none.

Mayor Boggus asked if the Peninsula was a planned development with phase I completed. Mr. Fitzgerald confirmed. Mayor Boggus asked if the homes on the Peninsula anticipated water being connected at some point in the future. Mr. Drury confirmed and said a previous City Council made a commitment to bring water and sewer to the Peninsula approximately 25 years ago and were unable to make the commitment due to costs and additional interest in the area. Now that other developments are coming to the community Council can fulfill its commitment to those fourteen residents who have been waiting for water and sewer.

Mayor Boggus noted phase II had been rezoned and asked if there were any plans for development in the near future. Mr. Fitzgerald said the city has received interest in development.

Council Member Pfister asked the Peninsula is the same property that requested de-annexation. Mr. Drury said no, and noted the properties abut. Council Member Pfister asked if the city can handle more growth in the area. Mr. Drury confirmed.

Attorney Williams said it is a capital line extension from a capital line map that has been approved on the city maps for approximately 30 years. He said when the city did the initial capital lines the future growth area was outlined and designated for major trunk water and sewer lines. Impact fees are used to pay for water and sewer capital lines. He said the city cannot bank impact fees and have to use and spend impact fee funds. The city has an obligation to complete the lines for extensions that are based on anticipated growth. With interest, growth and development in the area it is a reasonable expenditure.

Mr. Drury said the project will be good for the environment as many homes are on septic tanks which pollute the lakes.

Council Member Pfister asked how far the water and sewer currently extends. Attorney Williams said there are linear developments in the area with water or sewer but they are not major trunk lines. Mr. Drury said lines were put in and capped when the developments did not take off.

Vice Mayor Buigas asked for the cost the 16 existing developed homes will have to pay, or have already paid, to hook up to water and sewer. Mr. Drury said their impact fee portion was paid, and they will have to pay for the meters and hook up to the water lines. Ms. Houghton said if there is any additional capital infrastructure needed they would have to pay that as well. Attorney Williams said he believes the connection fee to the city is between \$150-\$250, a new account may require a deposit, and plumber connection would be the responsibility of the homeowner. Mr. Drury said the existing septic tanks that drain into the lake would have to be decommissioned or closed. Vice Mayor Buigas asked if septic tanks are abandoned. Mr. Clark said a septic tank bottom has to be knocked out and filled in with dirt.

Vice Mayor Buigas asked for the tax base on 1,500 homes. Ms. Houghton said she would bring the information back.

Council Member Pfister asked if the City can obtain the correct water pressure to accommodate the homes. Mr. Clark confirmed.

Council Member Singer asked why the City is doing a bank qualified loan as opposed to a SRF loan. Ms. Houghton said the SRF process is lengthy that could extend the project to the end of 2022, and a small loan that would complete with other SRF

applicants throughout the state. A bank loan allows the City to move fast and put the improvements in the ground quicker. Council Member Singer asked if the loan rate amount would come back to Council for approval. Ms. Houghton confirmed and said Request for Proposal (RFP) results with a recommendation would be brought back to Council for consideration.

Council Member Singer said he has received several questions from citizens asking why the City is moving forward and not waiting for a developer to come in and pay for the improvements. Mr. Drury said the City is bringing a capital line out to serve all properties in the area, and not just one. Developers will pay for the extension through impact fees which will pay off the loan. He said the City would get a no prepayment penalty loan. If the project is completed within 5 years, the developers impact fees will pay off the loan in 5 years. The City is putting the lines in up front and is the way governmental agencies invest in themselves through infrastructure projects such as roads, water, and sewer. He said countries who do not take out loans and invest in themselves and wait for someone to pay for public infrastructure do not grow as the cost of paying for airports, bridges, roads, and water and sewer lines is beyond what one developer can do. Governments put in the infrastructure, take out the loans, and then those who benefit pay for it.

Council Member Singer said one of the big buzz words of the day is 'debt' and citizens may misunderstand government debt by thinking of it as credit card debt. He asked Mr. Drury to explain government debt and how the city is still solvent and able to pay loans spread this out over 10-15 years so the taxpayers of the future pay rather than the citizens of today. Mr. Drury said most infrastructure including water, sewer, airports, bridges, roads, are built through low interest government loans spread out over a 15-20 year period, and those who benefit from the investment contribute their fair share through the life of the loan. To place the burden on the existing tax payers by the pay-as-you-go is not fair as citizens as the citizens of the future are benefitting from the service. He said with this project not only will the developer pay impact fees to pay off the debt within five years, which will allow the city to retire the debt early, the taxes in that area will be over \$1 million dollars per year. When the project moves forward and water and sewer is available not only will the developer be paying for the connection to the lines to pay off the debt, but the future people will be paying off the debt and offset the cost of paying for city services such as Police and Fire and other enjoyed amenities. Council Member Singer said it is important for the residents and business owners to understand the city is investing in its future and lessening the tax burden of the majority of the citizens by allowing other businesses and residents come into the community.

Council Member Price said he disagrees and believes the debt level in the City is too high and somewhere around \$75-80 million dollars. He said he does not believe the City should add more debt, and does not believe the taxpayers should ever be burdened with this infrastructure. If a developer wants to put in a project they should factor in the cost of that infrastructure in their feasibility analysis. He said there are 16 homes currently in the area that would equate to \$200,000 per house to run water and sewer lines. He said while the City would be receiving impact fees to pay for part of the

cost of the lines, he does not believe the cost and debt should be passed on to the citizens.

MOTION

Troy Singer moved to approve, seconded by Lou Buigas.

Vice Mayor Buigas said we need to invest in our future.

Council Member Pfister asked if there was the agreement to extend the services when the properties annexed into the city. She said she understands not wanting to spend money but feels the City should honor any agreement. She said water has been provided to every other citizen in the city limits, and asked if once the City brings the water to an area would the developer take it over. Mr. Drury confirmed and noted there is a pending lawsuit because the City has not brought the water to the area.

Attorney Williams said the City has is a capital line map and collects impact fees to build infrastructure to identified future growth areas. Impact fees can only be spent on that infrastructure. Every time a new home connects, the City collects \$4,600 which is placed in a special escrow account that can only be used for capital lines, facilities and wastewater plant improvements. The City has committed to the infrastructure improvements by adopting the capital line map and capital line extension policies. He said impact fees can only be used for the infrastructure and can be held for only 7 years. It is a fund collected and intended to be spent and returned to the system. Attorney William said the City's capital line extension policy does allow a developer to put in a capital line, and if they do they would get credit for it. If a developer spends \$3 million dollars for capital lines they would receive a \$3 million dollar's in impact fee credit. It is a balancing and a cash flow issue.

Council Member Price noted a concern for future traffic in the area. Mr. Drury said a traffic study is completed for every development by professional engineers who study the traffic and roads, and make recommendations to the Council when the land is developed. When a developer takes advantage of the water and sewer line, they will go through the normal planning and zoning process which will be vetted through the Planning and Zoning Board and come to Council with an engineering traffic study. If the intersections need to be improved the developer will take care of it. Council Member Price said the City of Minneola has not paid for roads, sewer lines or water lines for 3,000 to 4,000 homes and the developers have paid for those costs.

The motion carried 4-1 as follows:

Amanda Boggus:	Yes
Lou Buigas:	Yes
Lori Pfister:	Yes
Walter Price:	No
Troy Singer:	Yes

Tab 12. Discuss the FY2021 Current Year Budget Deferred Items

Mr. Drury made the following presentation:

The City Council adopted the FY 2021 current year budget on September 16th, 2020 amongst a backdrop of a full nationwide pandemic that was negatively affecting the Florida economy including travel and tourism as well as closing down businesses in Florida both small and large. The Citywide budget was reduced as was the tax rate and as were revenue projections. Estimating City revenues from traditional sources like Florida sales tax and gas tax was challenging to say the least. The Finance Department estimated a reduction in revenues based on input from economic forecasters for the ensuing Fiscal Year 2021. The Adopted Budget included a list of deferred items not to be funded at the beginning of the fiscal year and re-evaluated 1/2 way into the Fiscal Year should the estimated revenues be better than forecasted. We are now 1/2 way into the fiscal year and the Finance Department has updated its revenue projections for the General Fund which is showing an estimated increase of \$225,513 than originally budgeted.

The Deferred Items List is attached with City Administrator recommendations on how to allocate the \$225,513. The City Administrator is recommending that \$100,000 go into reserves and a \$125,513 fund those items identified on the attached list. This recommendation maintains the lower tax rate and smaller City wide budget over the prior fiscal year while attending to some of the needed deferred items.

Vance Jochim, 12619 Milwaukee Avenue, Lake County, asked for all agenda back-up material be included on the city website.

David Serdar, 866 Wintergreen Drive, Fruitland Park, noted his support for the budget and said the City is building for its future.

Mayor Boggus asked for comments from the Council.

Vice Mayor Buigas said there are many great recommendations, and the City should focus on needs rather than wants with the funds going toward a possible roll-back rate if that is Council's wish.

Council Member Singer asked if the funds could be placed in a holding account to be used toward the FY2022 budget. Ms. Houghton confirmed. Council Member Singer said Council is trying to possibly get to the roll-back rate or bring the millage rate as low as possible while providing the high level of services citizens are accustomed. He asked for a ball park figure to get to the rollback rate this budget cycle. Ms. Houghton said if all items stay the same as the prior year the estimate would be from \$300,000 to \$450,000. She said that is a high level ballpark figure based on last years numbers. Mr. Drury said the qualifier is if all things stay the same. He said the cost of electricity,

fuel, healthcare, and providing government services is going up. Council Member Singer said Council has a difficult balancing act and the desire is to keep taxes as low as possible due to the unusual year. He said the economy is rebounding and unfortunately some residents and business owners are still suffering. Council Member Singer said he would like the funds placed in a holding account and work toward trying to lower the millage rate by finding areas we can cut.

Council Member Price noted his support that Council wishes to allocate some of the funds to reserves. He said the Civic Center needs ceiling tile and grid replacement. He noted a concern for possible mold remediation which would be costly. He asked if the ceiling tiles could be checked, and some of the other monies identified for other projects could go toward mold remediation if needed. He said he would be most comfortable putting the monies in a fund to offset the tax rate, rollback rate or place in reserves.

Council Member Pfister asked for the City's reserve percentage. Mr. Drury said the City is at the lower end of the 5% to 20% recommendation for reserves. Ms. Houghton said the City is at 7%. Mr. Drury said each year more funds are placed in reserves with a goal of 8% to 9% for a relatively small city. Council Member Pfister said the Civic Center ceiling is the one item she would be interested in moving forward as there is a sense of urgency due to the high use of the building. She said she would like to see a cost estimate to remediate the ceiling. Mr. Drury said if Council wishes to allocate the dollars staff could move forward, and he believes most of the odor is due to the kitchen being used over a 35 year period. Mr. Drury said the dollars before Council can replace ceiling tiles. Council Member Pfister noted her support for no expenditures other than the Civic Center with a cost brought back to Council for consideration.

Mayor Boggus asked Mr. Dillon if he has checked into the ceiling tiles and whether they may or may not have mildew or mold. Mr. Dillon said Staff is not aware of any mold in the building and will investigate and report the findings. Council Member Pfister asked to also look into the air conditioning vents.

Mayor Boggus asked if all the money were placed into reserves would there be an opportunity to take it out if Council wished to replace the ceiling tiles later. Mr. Drury confirmed. He said when you make the request you will be asking to use reserves for an unfunded item when it was funded. He confirmed he would prefer the funds placed in a holding account because the use of reserves for unforeseen issues. He said Staff can ensure there is no mold and bring back a cost.

Council Member Singer said the cost of replacing ceiling tiles could also be placed in the upcoming budget. Mr. Drury confirmed. Council Member Pfister said she does not like taking funds out of reserves. Vice Mayor Buigas said reserves is an emergency fund and not for replacing tiles.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to keep the money in a holding account until after the Civic Center is investigated, and then bring back to Council for consideration, seconded by Lou Buigas.

Vice Mayor Buigas said she would prefer not to keep the Civic Center and place the funds to be placed back in an account that sits there until it is determined to use to achieve a rollback rate or not. Council Member Pfister said she would like to put the money in the account and sit there, and receive an investigative report. Mr. Drury said staff would bring back costs. Mayor Boggus asked for the deferred list to be placed online for the future meeting.

The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Pfister provided an update on her recent trip to Tallahassee where she met with Representative Truenow on legislative initiatives. She said she met the Florida Secretary of Transportation Kevin Tebow and discussed the golf cart crossing at US441. Mr. Drury said Council Member Pfister's meeting with Secretary Tebow resulted in a meeting with the District 5 transportation planners regarding a golf cart crossing. Council Member Pfister said she also met with Senator Baxley on city projects and felt her trip was successful.

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

XV. AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD

David Serdar, 866 Wintergreen Drive, Fruitland Park, wished those present a Happy Easter. He noted his support for Lake County Commissioner Kirby Smith.

XVI. REPORTS

Tab 13. City Administrator Report

Mr. Drury said staff will provide information on upcoming events.

Mr. Tweedie provided an update on Planes, Tunes & BBQ, and Seaplane-A-Palooza scheduled April 9 through 11, 2021 in Wooton Park. Mayor Boggus asked for the time seaplane bingo will be held. Mr. Tweedie said 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 11, 2021.

Mr. Fitzgerald noted the Community Development department has moved to their new location on the first floor of City Hall. He invited the Council to tour their offices.

Tab 14. City Council Member Reports

Council Member Pfister said she has received inquiries on the Easy Street band will be performing. Mr. Tweedie said Easy Street will be performing at 12:30 on Saturday, April 10, 2021.

Council Member Price said he was looking forward to the Planes, Tunes & BBQ event. He said he has been listening to the Easy Street blues music online.

Council Member Singer said he was looking forward to Planes, Tunes & BBQ and the twilight airshow. He thanked Mr. Tweedie and staff for making the event possible.

Vice Mayor Buigas said she received a recent commendation from a parent whose child participates in the city recreation activities. The parent commended the recreation staff with special mention Ashley Bruns. Vice Mayor Buigas said the employees go above and beyond and leave an impression on many people who live in Tavares and Lake County.

Vice Mayor Buigas provided the following positive quote of the day: "The less you respond to negative people, the more positive your life will become." ~Paulo Coelho

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and Mayor Boggus adjourned the meeting at 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully,

Susie Novack, MMC, FCRM
City Clerk