



**TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 18, 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. Dewey Smith, Retired Pastor

Pastor Smith, Retired, provided the invocation and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Drury said he would like to pull Tabs 13, 14, and 15 (marina leases) which will come back to the Council for consideration at the next meeting.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to approve, seconded by Lou Buigas. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

IV. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Tab 2. Tavares Chamber of Commerce Update

Erika Buigas noted she accepted a position offered as the President and CEO of the Tavares Chamber of Commerce. She provided an update on upcoming events and said a candidate forum would be held in person with details to be announced.

Council Member Singer congratulated Ms. Buigas on her new position.

Tab 3. Proclamation regarding the Lake County Citrus Label Tour

Mayor Boggus made the following presentation:

Formed by the Lake County Historical Society, the City of Tavares and the Tavares History Museum are proud to join the Lake County Citrus Label Tour to highlight the rich citrus industry that was an economic engine in the county for over 125 years. The Tavares History Museum is one of twelve stops on the Lake County Citrus Label Tour that serves as an informative driving trail throughout the county to showcase the history of the citrus industry in our area.

MOTION

Troy Singer moved to approve the Proclamation, seconded by Lou Buigas.

Mr. Drury invited those who wish to join the City for a ribbon-cutting event at 1:30 p.m. on August 24, 2021, at the Train Depot platform.

The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

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

Attorney Williams said there was one quasi-judicial matter before the Council [Tab 10. Ordinance 2021-08 – LSFLUM – Hammock Citrus Corporation – Approximately 16.84 Acres Located East of SR19 and 600 Feet North of Lane Park Cutoff]. He swore in who would provide testimony.

Attorney Williams asked the Council to disclose any exparte communications. There was none.

VI. READING OF ALL ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS INTO THE RECORD

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

RESOLUTION 2021-15

A RESOLUTION OF CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE USE AD VALOREM REVENUES FROM THE GENERAL FUND OF THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, FLORIDA, TO FUND TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS WITHIN THE LAKE COUNTY FIVE YEAR TRANSPORTATION CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-17

A RESOLUTION OF CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA; AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT FROM THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA); AND THE GRANT REPRESENTS AN ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS AWARD to PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC AND FIREFIGHTING PERSONNEL AGAINST FIRE-RELATED HAZARDS; AND PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 2021-18

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING LAKE COUNTY'S PURCHASE OF THE RAILROAD RIGHTS OF WAY FROM TAVARES TO MOUNT DORA AND OUT TO SORRENTO FOR USE AS A UTILITY CORRIDOR FOR WATER, WASTEWATER STORMWATER AND A RECREATIONAL TRAIL

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-15

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 15-76, BENEFIT AMOUNTS AND ELIGIBILITY; AMENDING SECTION 15-77, PRERETIREMENT DEATH; AMENDING SECTION 15-80, OPTIONAL FORMS O BENEFITS; AMENDING SECTION 15-86, MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-16

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TAVARES AMENDING CHAPTER 15, PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT, ARTICLE V, FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION TRUST FUND, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF TAVARES; AMENDING SECTION 15-106, BENEFIT AMOUNTS AND ELIGIBILITY; AMENDING SECTION 15-107, PRERETIREMENT DEATH; AMENDING SECTION 15-110, OPTIONAL FORMS OF BENEFITS; AMENDING SECTION 15-116, MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE 2021-08

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 16.84 ACRES OF LAND GENERALLY LOCATED EAST OF STATE ROAD 19, APPROXIMATELY 600 FEET NORTH OF LANE PARK CUTOFF, FROM COMMERCIAL (COM) TO INDUSTRIAL (IND); PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Boggus asked if anyone wished to pull an item from the Consent Agenda.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to approve the Consent Agenda [Tab 4. Approval of the July 21, 2021 City Council Regular and Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes], seconded by Lou Buigas. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 4. Approval of the July 21, 2021 City Council Regular and Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes

Approved on the Consent Agenda.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

Tab 5. Resolution 2021-15 – Road Funding Support Resolution

Mr. Drury made the following presentation:

Lake 100 group made a presentation to the Lake County League of Cities and requested that each city consider issuing a resolution in support of Lake County funding roads with property taxes. Attached is a Resolution for the Council's consideration.

Mayor Boggus asked for comments from the audience.

Kyle Tetzlaff, Realtors Association and Lake 100 Member, asked the Council for their support for the resolution requesting 2% in funding from the County's General Revenue Fund for roads in Lake County. He said Lake County is the 4th fastest growing county in Florida and 54th in transportation spending per capita.

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

Mayor Boggus asked for comments from the Council.

Council Member Price noted his support for road repair and repaving. He said it should not be the business of the City of Tavares to tell Lake County how they should do their tax policy and is not in favor of the resolution.

Council Member Singer said he is in favor of road repairs. He asked if the resolution obligates the city in any way. Mr. Drury said the resolution supports Lake 100's position to encourage the Board of County Commission to spend more funds on roads. Dead River Road is a county road that needs upgrading from sidewalks, width, and intersections. Lake 100 asks to use property taxes for those repairs, and improving roads in Lake County improves roads in the City of Tavares. Council Member Singer asked if the County requested City support. Mr. Drury said the request did not come from Lake County.

Council Member Pfister said she travels extensively and throughout the country and state. She said the roads in Lake County are not bad compared to other communities and does not wish the Council to tell the county how to spend their tax dollars. She said she is not in favor of the resolution.

Vice Mayor Buigas asked Mr. Tetzloff if Lake 100 believes the dollars are there and not being identified properly for roads or wants to increase property taxes for roads. She noted impact fees pay for roads. Mr. Tetzloff said there would not be an additional tax.

He said road funding was removed from the General Revenue Fund in 1988, and Lake 100 stance is roads are in dire need. He said 2% of the General Revenue Funds would hopefully go toward roads.

Mayor Boggus asked Mr. Tetzloff if he is following federal legislation regarding infrastructure and allocated funds to states and smaller cities. He said no.

Council Member Pfister said if taxes are not raised, then funding would have to be pulled from other projects. She said she spoke with County Commissioners who indicated road improvements are a high priority. She asked if the County is sure they would not raise taxes. Mr. Tetzloff said he presented the request to the County Commission during their July meeting and they discussed diverting funds from other projects.

Council Member Singer said Council would need more information before making a decision.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to not approve the resolution, seconded by Walter Price. The motion carried 4-1 as follows:

Vice Mayor Buigas said she would like to see the resolution come back to Council with additional information on where the funds would come from as many residents express frustration regarding roads.

Mayor Boggus concurred and said the request may be premature due to pending federal infrastructure bills.

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

Tab 6. Resolution 2021-17 – Authorizing Acceptance fo FY2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant – EWW-2020-FG-12621

Ms. Houghton provided the following presentation:

The City of Tavares has been awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant Programs Directorate and Region IV. The Grant is a direct Federal funded grant to the City of Tavares through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grants Programs Directorate.

The grant awards the City of Tavares \$48,485.71 in Federal Funding for "source capture exhaust system modifications to City of Tavares Fire Station No. 29." As a condition of the Grant, the City is required to contribute non-Federal funds equal to or greater than 5% of the Federal funds awarded, or \$2,424.29 for a total project budget of \$50,910.00

The purpose of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program is to protect the health and safety of the public and firefighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards.

Various details of the grant include the following:

- *Grant Agreement Number: EMW-2020-FG-12621*
- *Grant Scope/Project: Source Capture Exhaust System Modifications*
- *Award Performance Period: 07-14-2021 to 07-13-2023*
- *Grant Award: \$48,485.71*
- *Grant Match: \$ 2,424.29 (2% of total project costs of \$50,910.*
- *This is a direct Federal Grant*
- *The grant is subject to Federal and State Single Audit Requirements.*
- *The grant is subject to Uniform Administrative Requirements of 2 C.F.R. Part 200.*

Chief Keith provided a PowerPoint presentation and said the system removes diesel exhaust from the fire stations. He said it is a FEMA firefighter grant that is highly competitive to obtain, and the City has applied for the past five years. The grant would provide the system installation at Station 29 on Lane Park Road.

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

Mayor Boggus asked for comments from the Council.

Vice Mayor Buigas asked if \$50,910 would cover the cost of the entire system, including installation. Chief Keith confirmed. He noted the company is honoring a year-old quote.

MOTION

Lou Buigas moved to approve Option 1 [Approve Resolution 2021-17 authorizing the City Administrator or his Designee to Accept Assistance to Firefighters FEMA Grant Agreement EMW-2020-FG-12621 in the amount of \$48,485.71 with City match of \$2,424.29], seconded by Walter Price. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 7. Resolution 2021-18 – Supporting Lake County’s Purchase of the Rail Road Rights of Way

Mr. Drury made the following presentation:

Lake County plans to pursue the acquisition of the Rail Road Rights of Way from downtown Tavares to Mount Dora and out to Sorrento so that a Utility Corridor can be established along with a trail. Tavares supports this to extend its utility services of Water, Waste Water, Storm Water to Bay Road and the placement of a recreational trail.

Mr. Drury said the City partnered with the City of Mount Dora and Lake County to build a trail and submit a grant application to the Federal Government. He said this resolution would assist in getting the project completed. Lake County requested support from Tavares and Mount Dora; Mount Dora issued their support, and Lake County is now asking for support from Tavares.

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

Mayor Boggus asked for comments from the Council.

Council Member Singer asked if the resolution would go toward the RAISE grant. Mr. Drury confirmed. Council Member Singer noted his support and said it is a great project.

MOTION

Lou Buigas moved to approve Resolution 2021-18, seconded by Troy Singer. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

IX. ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING

First Reading

Tab 8. Ordinance 2021-15 – Amendment to Police Officers Pension Plan Amending Sections 15-76, 15-77, 15-80, and 15-86, as it relates to Required Age Distribution of Benefits

No Discussion at First Reading.

Tab 9. Ordinance 2021-16 – Amendment to Firefighter Pension Plan Amending Sections 15-106, 15-107, 15-110, and 15-116, Minimum Age Distribution of Benefits

No Discussion at First Reading.

Second Reading

Tab 10. Ordinance 2021-08 – LSFLUM – Hammock Citrus Corporation – Approximately 16.84 Acres Located East of SR19 and 600 Feet North of Lane Park Cutoff

Mr. Fitzgerald made the following presentation:

Ordinance 2021-08 proposes a large-scale amendment to the Future Land Use Map 2040 of the Comprehensive Plan.

The subject property (Parcel Alternate Key Number 3925309) is 16.84 acres in size, located at east of State Road 19, approximately 600 feet north of Lane Park Cutoff. This ordinance would amend the current Future Land Use Designation from Commercial (COM) to Industrial (IND).

The city is required to place a future land use designation on annexed property. The subject property is currently designated City Commercial (COM). A City Industrial (IND) designation is compatible with surrounding property.

Lands surrounding this property are industrial and commercial in nature.

The property is currently vacant. Prior to any development, an approved site plan will be required. All applicable surveying, environmental assessments, and permitting must be in place before the site plan is approved. Any proposed development project will be required to connect to city water and wastewater utilities.

The subject property is located in the City's Utility Service Area. The City of Tavares has municipal water and sewer services available to the subject parcel and any new development on this property must connect to city utilities. The City's Concurrency Management System will ensure that Levels of Service (LOS) will not be degraded beyond the adopted levels of service for all regulated public facilities. Adverse impacts on Levels of Service are not implicated.

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity had no comment regarding the proposed amendment, and staff received no comments from other governmental agencies regarding the proposed amendment.

This amendment request is considered to be in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan Goals, Objectives and Policies with the following findings:

- 1. An Industrial Future Land Use designation would serve as the most appropriate land use for the subject property in accordance with Future Land Use policy 1-1.1.*
- 2. Impacts of the proposed development of the subject property shall be monitored through the City's Concurrency Management System. (Comp Plan, Chapter 8)*

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

Mayor Boggus asked for comments from the Council.

Mayor Boggus asked if the industrial park is full. Mr. Fitzgerald said there is vacant property in the City's industrial park in addition to county industrial property in the area. He said industrial interest in Tavares is growing.

MOTION

Lou Buigas moved to approve Option 1 [Approve Ordinance 2021-08 Future Land Use Map amendment from Commercial (COM) to Industrial (IND) for 16.84 acres of property located east of SR19, approximately 600 feet north of Lane Park Cutoff], seconded by Walter Price. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

X. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Tab 11. City Attorney Contract

Attorney Williams said he is proud to bring forward a contract for Attorney Holt's legal services as requested by the Council upon his retirement announcement. He noted Attorney Holt was present in the audience. Attorney Williams said the contract is similar to his, with the exception of names. No term is included, and either party can cancel the contract with a seven-day notice. The billing rate is the same. He said Attorney Holt provided a resume and letters of recommendation in the agenda packet. Attorney Williams said the Council made an excellent choice, and he is proud to recommend his friend and associate to be the next City Attorney.

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

Mayor Boggus asked for comments from the Council.

Vice Mayor Buigas asked who would act as a backup attorney. Attorney Williams said Attorney Holt is a partner in the Law Firm Crawford, Modica & Holt, including five attorneys. He said he plans to continue to practice real estate and maintain an office in the firm's building. He is available at any time and could cover during vacations.

Vice Mayor Buigas noted one attorney in the firm has taken planning and zoning cases and asked for confirmation that would not happen in the future due to conflict. Attorney Holt confirmed. Attorney Williams said the Florida Bar rules stipulate any conflict with an attorney in a firm would apply to all members. He said that is why he conducted no land use development work in the City.

Council Member Price asked if the hourly rate and base salary are typical. Attorney Williams said the rates remain the same and are low for private practice and government attorneys.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to accept the contract with Lindsay Holt, seconded by Walter Price. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Mayor Boggus congratulated Attorney Holt.

Attorney Holt said she is honored and looks forward to working with the Council, Directors, and Staff.

Tab 12. Revocable Exclusive Right-of-Way Utilization Agreement Baytree HOA

Mr. Dillon made the following presentation:

Baytree Villas Homeowners' Association, Inc. (Baytree HOA) is the homeowners association for the development known as Baytree of Tavares. Historically, Baytree HOA has maintained the curbed, landscaped median which is the main entrance into Baytree of Tavares, located within the westernmost 100 feet of Baytree Boulevard. Baytree HOA desires to improve and continue to preserve and maintain the landscaping and related structures median.

A Revocable Exclusive Right-of-Way Utilization Agreement between the City of Tavares and Baytree Villas Homeowners' Association, Inc. has been drafted that will authorize the HOA to improve and continue to preserve and maintain the landscaping and related structures in the curbed, landscaped median at the main entrance into Baytree of Tavares at the HOA's expense, on a temporary and consensual basis subject to the terms and conditions of the agreement.

The City shall have the unilateral right, upon giving ninety (90) days notice, to terminate the permit at any time, if necessary for municipal purposes. Baytree HOA shall agree, at its expense, to restore the median to its original condition at the expiration or cancellation of this permit within ninety (90) days of receipt of said notice.

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

Mayor Boggus asked for comments from the Council.

Mayor Boggus asked if Baytree wished to maintain the development entrance and for confirmation that the City is not giving away easement rights. Attorney Williams confirmed and said the City holds similar agreements, including one with Imperial Terrace.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to approve Option 1 [Approve the issuance of a Revocable Exclusive Right-of-Way Utilization Agreement to Baytree Villas Homeowners' Association, Inc. (Baytree HOA) to improve and continue to preserve and maintain the landscaping and related structures in the curbed, landscaped median at the main entrance into Baytree of Tavares at Baytree HOA's expense, on a temporary and consensual basis subject to the terms and conditions of the agreement], seconded by Lou Buigas. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 13. Freedom Boat Club Commercial Lease Agreement, Tavares Marina

Pulled during Approval of the Agenda.

Tab 14. Lake Adventures LLC Lease Agreement, Tavares Marina

Pulled during Approval of the Agenda.

Tab 15. Salt Therapy INC Lease Agreement, Carefree Boat Club

Pulled during Approval of the Agenda.

Mr. Drury said new residents who relocated to Tavares during the pandemic have asked about seaplane events usually held when there is no pandemic. He said the United States Aircraft Association came to Tavares and filmed one of the events. He said their YouTube video provides insight into the Tavares event experience pre-Covid and the events after post-Covid. He presented the following video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAbHr9Yg2LU>

Mayor Boggus inquired about the upcoming Monster Splash Fly-In. Mr. Tweedie confirmed the Monster Splash Fly-In would be included with the Roctoberfest and the Marina ribbon-cutting event on October 17, 2021.

XI. BUDGET WORKSHOP

Tab 16. Budget Workshop

Lori Houghton provided a PowerPoint presentation on proposed budget adjustments, and made the following presentation:

Previously, the City Council has reviewed and discussed the Fiscal Year 2022 Proposed Budgets as follows:

- *7/1/2021 – General Fund Budget.*
- *7/21/2021 – Utility and Special Revenue Fund Budgets.*
- *7/21/2020 – Established a lower millage rate of 6.8500, and a lower Voted Debt Service Millage Rate of .2391.*
- *8/4/2021 – Capital Improvement Program.*

City staff has updated the Fiscal Year 2022 Proposed Budget as described in Exhibit A. Updates to the proposed budget have resulted in a General Fund budget decrease of \$79,680 (from \$20,680,860 to \$20,601,180). Appropriations for General Fund reserves have increased by \$333,033 (from \$332,841 to \$665,874).

After Council finalizes the budgets, they will be brought back to Council along with supporting resolutions at the two upcoming Public Hearings in September (September 8 and September 22) for further public input and Council consideration. Any changes today and at the first public hearing will be included in the TRIM notice advertisement for the September 22, 2021 budget hearing.

Ms. Houghton said the changes to the budget keep the Council's broad-based budget goals intact by increasing reserves, fairly compensating employees, maintaining a similar level of service, and lowering the millage rate from the prior year.

Mr. Drury said the budget is balanced with increased Reserves, a lowered millage rate, an increase to road paving, with a similar level of service across the board while maintaining auditor recommendations. He said many of the Council's goals in January had been accomplished, and Tavares continues to run a fiscally conservative budget that addresses stability for the City's future. He said the budget is strong to weather all storms, up or down, as it has been for the last decade. The auditors have advised the City to continue to increase reserves. He said the Department Directors working under the Council's guidance had done a great job working with him to meet the Council's goals.

Mayor Boggus asked for comments from the audience.

Vance Jochim, 12619 Milwaukee Avenue, Lake County, said Lake County discounted road impact fees by 25% and is only collecting 75%. He said the County Commissioners eliminated impact fees for schools several years ago, resulting in a \$30 million dollar loss to school revenues. He believes the country is in a pandemic and inflationary period, and cautioned the Council to monitor expenses, inflation, and hyperinflation. He noted his support for the City to take over county roads. He commended the Finance Department and said Tavares is a well-run city.

Mayor Boggus asked for comments from the Council.

Council Member Pfister asked for the amount needed to get to a rollback rate and for the rollback rate. Mr. Drury said \$404,393 with a rollback rate of 6.4948.

Council Member Price asked if Tavares would receive additional Cares Act monies. Mr. Drury said the American Rescue Plan funds would be around \$9 million dollars. Ms. Houghton said staff received notice from the state and would bring information back to the Council. Mr. Drury confirmed the funding would not affect the FY 2021 budget and

would affect the FY 2022 budget. Council Member Price said he is a proponent of getting to the rollback rate. He said a rollback rate could be achieved by not moving forward with the trail reroute (\$333,000), using insurance savings (\$78,000), and using Reserves (\$5,000). Mr. Drury said he could not make that recommendation as those funds would be a one-time revenue to fund a continuing cost, and the next fiscal year would begin with a \$404,000 deficit. Using revenues that continue to offset expenses that continue is easy to sustain fiscally. Using a one-time payment from a seaplane base insurance proceed that will not come back the following year for a continuous bill impacts the next fiscal year. Mr. Drury noted the \$9 million dollars American Rescue Act funds cannot be used for the General Fund and can only be used for water, sewer, and stormwater.

Council Member Pfister asked if there are any funds in the Utility department that could be utilized to get to the rollback rate and pay for those items with the \$9 million dollar American Rescue Act Funds. Mr. Drury said you could not use enterprise funds to pay for the General Fund beyond what you currently do. He said a proportionate fair share of the General Fund expenses comes out of the enterprise funds and is at its maximum. Each year he works with the Finance Director and Utility Director to maximize utilities for General Fund items such as the amount of time the City Administrator and Finance Director spends on managing the Utility Fund. Ms. Houghton said American Rescue Act Funds (ARPA) can only be used for capital projects and cannot be used for operational type expenditures. Mr. Drury confirmed there are capital project items, and the Council will see a recommendation that ARPA funds for water, sewer, and stormwater capital projects.

Council Member Singer asked Mr. Drury to elaborate on the trail reroute project and its safety aspect. Mr. Drury said the Tav-Lee Trail runs along the waterfront of Tavares and bisects the seaplane ramp. He said pedestrians and bicycles maneuver through a hot aircraft ramp with moving propellers. The Staff separates airplanes and pedestrians for safe operations. Tavares has grown, resulting in more seaplane and pedestrian traffic. Two years ago, the Staff planned to begin the process of rerouting a portion of the trail behind the seaplane ramp so pedestrians would never walk into an aircraft with a turning propeller. As the waterfront has grown, personnel has not due to tight budgets and lower millage rates. A new boat ramp, restrooms, marina, and park have been built on the west end with no additional staffing. It is getting challenging to maintain a distance between seaplanes and pedestrians. It is a simple fix in the amount of \$300,000 to relocate a small portion of the trail, so if an aircraft is entering the ramp, pedestrians will walk behind the ramp at a safe distance. The trail reroute is a safety project that Staff recommends addressing, and it takes years to complete a project in government. More people will continue to use the trail in the next few years, and more seaplanes will come. Mr. Drury said he is mindful of adding personnel because the highest cost to the government is personnel. Instead of adding additional staff, it is a one-time \$300,000 cost. Council Member Singer asked how long the project had been planned. Mr. Tweedie said the 2017 Master Plan formally identified the project. Prior to the Master Plan, it was a priority project for Staff. Council Member Singer said he is in favor of getting the lowest millage rate and is not in support of sacrificing a safety issue.

He said if Council had to postpone the project, he would hope it would be a number one priority the following year.

Council Member Singer said in 2015 Council health insurance cost the City \$161,000. He said the cost in the FY22 budget was approximately \$47,000. He asked Mr. Drury if it is legal not to offer the Council health insurance. Mr. Drury said the City Attorney issued a legal opinion that the City has to offer health insurance to City Council members. He confirmed it is an optional decision for each Council member to take health insurance or not. Council Member Singer inquired about options if Council wished to remove the health insurance option to get the millage rate as low as possible. Mr. Drury said that if Council members did not take health insurance, there would be \$47,866 in savings for the City's portion. Council Member Singer asked if the Council would take a pledge to not take health insurance for the upcoming year. Council Member Pfister and Council Member Price said they do not support removing the option for health insurance. Mayor Boggus, Vice Mayor Buigas, and Council Member Singer said they do not take health insurance. Council Member Singer said two Council members take health insurance and three do not and asked if there would be a reduction to the current amount budgeted. Mr. Houghton said the reduction would be approximately \$16,000.

Vice Mayor Buigas asked for confirmation the City currently has the highest dollar amount in Reserves over the past ten years. Ms. Houghton confirmed.

Vice Mayor Buigas asked if the items she brought up at the last meeting would be addressed at a future meeting.

A discussion was held, and there was a consensus from the Council to address items previously identified as possible cuts from the budget during the September 8, 2021, City Council meeting.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

XIV. AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD

David Serdar, 66 Wintergreen Drive, Fruitland Park, said businesses relocate to the City because life is good in Tavares.

Vance Jochim, 12619 Milwaukee Avenue, Lake County, noted his concern that other cities have restricted voter registration opportunities during their events. He said city broadband utility infrastructure is being federally funded and may be an option for Tavares. Mr. Jochim asked for the status of improving the Tavares Nature Park walkway. Mr. Drury said staff will look into the status of the walkway and send an email to Mr. Jochim, with a copy to the Council.

XV. REPORTS

Tab 17. City Administrator Report

Mr. Drury noted an August 2021 MPO meeting had been canceled. He said a summary was provided for a PD&E study for the trail includes the trail's status from downtown Tavares to downtown Mount Dora to Sorrento. The County held a kick-off meeting including Mount Dora, Tavares, and the consultant to begin the PD&E study to design and engineer the trail. Lake County has the funding lined up to purchase the railroad right of way and a grant to build. He said the trail would be premier along the waterfront and a gamechanger for the City and the Old US441 corridor.

Mr. Tweedie said August 19 is National Aviation Day and encouraged those present to stop by the seaplane base and take a seaplane ride.

Chief Keith provided information on a brotherhood ride coming to the Elks Lodge in Tavares on August 23, 2021. He said the bicycle ride is in honor of public safety professionals who passed away the previous year. The ride will end in New York City in remembrance of the 20th anniversary of 9/11.

Mr. Fitzgerald said construction would begin on the post-acute medical rehabilitation center on Nightingale Lane and Mayo Drive. He said it is a 48,000 square foot in-patient center and a tremendous project for the medical village.

Tab 18. City Council Member Reports

Council Member Singer said he enjoyed attending the Florida League of Cities conference the previous weekend. He thanked Mr. Dillon for attending and working on partnerships.

Vice Mayor Buigas provided the following positive quote of the day: "There is more to life than being a passenger." ~Amelia Earhart

Mayor Boggus said she attended the Florida League of Mayor's conference and Florida League of Cities conference. She noted she was on the Board of Directors of the Florida League of Mayors and was nominated to serve another term representing District 6. She said both conferences were wonderful and encouraged each Council member to attend future League of Cities conferences.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and Mayor Boggus adjourned the meeting at 5:41 p.m.

Respectfully,

Susie Novack, MMC, FCRM
City Clerk