



**TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 2, 2022 – 4:00 PM
TAVARES CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
201 EAST MAIN STREET, TAVARES**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

**Lori Pfister, Mayor
Walter Price, Vice Mayor
Amanda Boggus, Council Member
Sandy Gamble, Council Member
Troy Singer, Council Member**

STAFF PRESENT

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Tab 1. Pastor Mike Ellis, Umatilla Baptist Church

Pastor Mike Ellis, Umatilla Baptist Church, provided the invocation and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pfister recognized former Council Member and current Lake County Commissioner Kirby Smith in the audience.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pfister asked for changes to the Agenda. There were none.

MOTION

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

IV. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

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

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

VI. READING OF ALL ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS INTO THE RECORD

Ms. Roberts read the following resolutions and ordinance by title only:

RESOLUTION 2022-01

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, TO VACATE A PORTION OF AN EASEMENT LOCATED AT 719 DOLPHIN DRIVE TAVARES, FL 32778, LOT 40 IN IMPERIAL MOBILE TERRACE 5TH ADDITION ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 23, PAGE 46, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUBJECT TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TAVARES COUNCIL; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-02

A RESOLUTION OF CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA; RELATING TO THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING; FURTHER KNOWN As CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS (SLFRF); AUTHORIZING THE SELECTION OF THE STANDARD ALLOWANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,889,651; THE CITY OF TAVARES FULL SLFRF FUNDING ALLOWANCE; AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE DOCUMENTS WITH THE STATE OF

FLORIDA OR the US TREASURY AS MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE STANDARD ALLOWANCE REVENUE LOSS SELECTION; AND PROVIDING FOR A SPEND PLAN WITHIN THE REVENUE LOSS PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE 2022-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA AMENDING PLANNED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE 2006-43 AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE 2009-35 OF THE CITY OF TAVARES BY AMENDING SECTION 2.2, LAND USES; AMENDING EXHIBIT "A", CONCEPTUAL PLAN; SUBJECT TO THE RULES, REGULATIONS AND OBLIGATIONS ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TAVARES COUNCIL; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Pfister asked if anyone wished to pull the Consent Agenda item for discussion.

MOTION

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

Tab 2. Approval of the January 19, 2022 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Approved on the Consent Agenda.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

Tab 3. Resolution 2022-01 – Badeau Property – Vacate a Portion of an Easement located at 719 Dolphin Drive

Mr. Fitzgerald made the following presentation:

This is a request to vacate a portion of platted easement lying across the property located at 719 Dolphin Drive Tavares, Florida 32778. As a stipulation of the proposed sale of the property, the mortgage company issuing the buyer's mortgage is requiring the current owner of the property to petition to vacate a portion of an existing easement where the rear of the existing mobile home encroaches. City staff reviewed the vacate request and determined no conflicts in the vacation with regard to drainage, utilities, health, safety, or welfare of the Public. This vacate will remove the city's public interest in this land, thus allowing the applicant to eliminate any perceived exception to clear title of this property.

At their January 20th meeting, the Planning & Zoning Board voted unanimously to recommend approval of Resolution 2022-01.

Staff recommends Option 1, that City Council moves to approve Resolution 2022-01 partial vacation of an easement located at 719 Dolphin Drive, Lot 40 in Imperial Mobile Terrace 5th Addition as recorded in Plat Book 23, Page 46.

Council Member Singer inquired about the original easement. Mr. Fitzgerald said the original easement was a drainage and utility easement. The City is vacating the portion of the easement where a home encroaches, and there remains enough easement left to allow for drainage and utility service.

MOTION

Troy Singer moved to approve [Resolution 2022-01], seconded by Sandy Gamble. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 4. Resolution 2022-02 – American Rescue Plan (SLFRF) Standard Allowance Revenue Loss Selection and Spend Plan Approval

Mr. Drury made the following presentation:

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provides funds for municipalities, counties, states, tribal governments, and territories to respond to the Covid-19 emergency, and related public health and economic challenges. The City of Tavares has been awarded \$8,889,651 in ARPA funding. Disbursements will be made to the City from the State of Florida in two installments. The City received the first installment on October 7, 2021 in the amount of \$4,444,825.

ARPA funds have several uses and many restrictions enumerated in the U.S. Department of Treasury's final rule. Previously, within the eligibility guidelines of the U.S. Treasury's Interim Rule, the City Council at their September 8th 2021 meeting designated ARPA funds for the following categories of project types:

- 1. Drinking Water Improvements.*
- 2. Wastewater Improvements.*
- 3. Stormwater Improvements.*
- 4. Improving air quality of Public Buildings*

After the Council set the above four (4) categories on September 8th, 2021 based on the "Interim Rules", the Department of Treasury issued a "final rule" in January 2022 which expanded ARPA eligible items as long as the City elects the "Standard Allowance" option for revenue loss.

Resolution 2022-02 authorizes the election of the "Standard Allowance" option provision for Revenue Loss identified in the American Recovery Plan Act Final

Rule for expenditures of governmental services, and to further authorize specific eligible projects as identified in the attached ARPA Spend Plan (Draft Exhibit A). Onetime non-reoccurring capital expense items are identified for this onetime non-reoccurring ARPA revenue in Draft Exhibit A.

The City Council may wish to modify Draft Exhibit A by swapping out capital items from the list of prior identified unfunded capital items from the FY 2022 Adopted Budget cut list which has been provided and is identified as (Exhibit B).

All of the projects and capital items identified in Draft Exhibit A and Exhibit B are eligible for ARPA funding within the expanded guidelines. It is recommended that 10% of ARPA funds, or \$888,965, remain unallocated and available for cost escalations during the bidding process for the selected capital items.

The following uses of ARPA funds are prohibited:

- 1. Deposits into pension funds.*
- 2. Debt service*
- 3. Replenishing financial reserves*
- 4. Satisfaction of settlements and judgements.*
- 5. Any projects that conflict with or contravene the purpose of the American Rescue Plan Act Statute.*

Any misappropriation of ARPA funds, as deemed by the U.S. Treasury department, must be paid back.

Mr. Drury reviewed the ARPA Spend Plan (Draft Exhibit A) and Prior Identified Unfunded Capital Items cut list (Exhibit B). He noted the following project areas included in the ARPA Spend Plan:

- 4 Air Quality Improvement Projects
- 5 Stormwater Infrastructure Projects
- 2 New Broad-Based Budget Projects
- 2 Public Safety and Sanitation Items

Mr. Drury said the projects included in the ARPA spend plan total \$8,889,651. He said unfunded capital items on the cut list were provided to the Council and included projects eligible for ARPA funding. He asked the Council to review the projects, develop Exhibit A, and adopt Resolution 2022-02. Once adopted, staff would begin the procurement process.

Council Member Gamble

Council Member Gamble inquired about the air quality projects. Jerad Purvis, Facilities Manager, said Fire Station 29 includes a diesel exhaust system. He said the Civic Center would consist of a new system with ductwork and a separate unit for the kitchen.

Council Member Gamble asked if the City has investigated mini split systems to eliminate the cost for ductwork in the ceiling. Mr. Purvis said the building is approximately 10,000 square feet and would utilize an extensive system with many refrigerant lines. Council Member Gamble noted his support for a mini-split in the kitchen area. Mr. Drury said the City could obtain two bids; a mini split system and a regular plan. He said staff could explore and advise if it is worth designing and bidding out two systems to determine the least expensive. Council Member Gamble said a mini-split would eliminate condensation issues in the ceiling with less need to replace ceiling tiles around vents.

Council Member Gamble inquired about the City Hall air quality project. Mr. Purvis said City Hall has seven (7) air handler units that need replacement. The ductwork would be reviewed to ensure it meets test and balance requirements. He said all water lines that run the chilled water to the units and all controls would be replaced. Council Member Gamble asked if an ionization system is included in the estimate. Mr. Purvis confirmed.

Council Member Gamble said he would like to pull the historic fire station from the list of projects and repurpose the funds toward \$2,000 employee bonuses. He discussed employee pay and benefits and noted a concern of attrition due to lower wages.

Council Member Gamble asked if the stormwater projects were necessary at present and noted his support for the Tavares Nature Park dock replacement and road paving. He said he would like to add the fireboat replacement from the cut list.

Council Member Singer

Council Member Singer asked if the \$2,000 one-time bonus would be eligible for ARPA funding. Ms. Houghton and Mr. Drury confirmed. Attorney Holt said a bonus would fall under General Government Services and includes general administration and staff. Council Member Singer said he would be in agreeance.

Council Member Singer inquired about the air quality improvements for the Historic Fire Station. Mr. Drury said the Historic Fire Station has been on the rental market for several years. The feedback staff received is that it is not rentable until HVAC and electrical have been upgraded. If the City replaced the air conditioner, ceilings, drywall, HVAC, and electrical, the building would be rentable, and the person who rents it out will have to finish the renovations. For example, if a brewery with a restaurant goes into the building, the business owner would have to build a kitchen. Mr. Drury noted that when a building is renovated by more than 50%, the building will fall under new code standards, and the windows may have to be replaced. If the air conditioning system is replaced, it will address most electrical, ceiling, and drywall issues and needs. Council Member Singer said he would like to leave the Historic Fire Station in the plan.

Council Member Singer said he supports the stormwater infrastructure and road repaving projects. He noted concern regarding the Tavares Nature Park pier replacement cost and said he is unsure how to make it ADA compliant. Council Member Singer stated at \$800,000 plus a 10% contingency, the cost of the pier would be close to \$900,000, and few residents would utilize it. He said other items on the cut list, including ball fields, would be more beneficial and help out the community more. He said he would like the Tavares Nature Park pier replacement funds diverted to some of the cut list projects or items.

Council Member Singer noted his support for the following projects for \$487,000:

- Resurfacing the Building Department parking lot
- Two (2) police explorers
- Garbage truck
- Three (3) sidewalk projects
- Woodlea Sports Complex upgrades, including bleachers and ballfield lighting
- Fred Stover ballfield lighting
- Replacement of the TORO sand pro
- Resurfacing shuffleboard courts
- Painting the exterior of the Civic Center, Library, and TRA room
- Ingraham Center parking lot

Council Member Singer said if the pier is removed from the plan, there would still be \$400,000 for other cut list items or more road paving. He said he would like staff to continue to seek grants to renovate the pier.

Council Member Boggus

Council Member Boggus asked if anyone was currently interested in renting the fire station. Mr. Tweedie said yes.

Council Member Boggus asked for the rental impediment. Mr. Tweedie said the biggest obstacle is nonrevenue generating costs incurred by a renter. Improvements such as kitchens and dining areas are a revenue-producing investment.

Council Member Boggus asked what the City could expect to receive if the Historic Fire Station was rented at market value. Mr. Tweedie said market value would be based on the level of investment that someone is willing to put into it. For example, if the fair market value is \$18 a square foot for commercial buildings. A business invests \$500,000 in hard costs and produces jobs and a viable business that enhances the entertainment district with more visitors and a more vital and robust atmosphere. In that case, they could potentially receive a discount from 30% to 40%.

Council Member Boggus asked if any savings from the projects or contingencies could go into Reserves to address some of the projects Council Member Singer identified. Mr. Drury said the funds could not be placed in Reserves and could instead be allocated for

other ARPA eligible items. Council Member Boggus asked if allocations would need to be identified during the meeting. Mr. Drury said once projects are bid, there has been an award of contracts, and the projects are within budget and completed, the Council to appropriate whatever funding is left.

Council Member Boggus asked if the identified amount for the Tavares Nature Park pier included the parking and boardwalk to the dock. Mr. Drury said no. He said it is for the replacement of the existing dock. Accessibility from the dirt parking lot and the dirt trail would be a separate cost and design. The Tavares Nature Park is a preserve area, and staff would have to look at the rules to put in a boardwalk. Currently, the preserve consists of dirt paths. He said the Council could shorten the fishing pier, and staff could provide alternatives.

Council Member Boggus asked Chief Keith for the status of the fire rescue boat. Chief Keith said the fireboat is unusable. He provided a history of the boat's service and said it has been on the capital list for a while. Mayor Pfister asked how often the City performs fire rescues. Chief Keith said the boat was used during events and had helped maintain exclusion zones around fireworks. The Fire Department used the boat to search for a missing boater in Lake Apopka, and the Tavares Fire Department found the missing boater alive.

Council Member Boggus asked for the status of the transfers of Woodlea Sports Complex to Lake County as part of their regional park system and Fred Stover Fields to the Lake County School Board. Mr. Drury said he does not see the Lake County School Board taking over Fred Stover Fields. He said the City and School Board had had a great working arrangement for many years. The City is currently working with Lake County and the YMCA on an agreement regarding the Woodlea Sports Complex. Mr. Drury said negotiations should be completed within a year, and an agreement would go back to each Board for consideration. He said the regional park project looks positive and is moving forward.

Council Member Boggus inquired about the Police vehicles. Chief Lubins said the Police Department is transitioning from sedans to Explorers due to the added room and versatility.

Vice Mayor Price

Vice Mayor Price asked if the Public Works Complex stormwater improvements were considered in the original bid to construct the building and parking lot. Mr. Drury noted the City received a \$6 million dollar grant. Mr. Dillon is seeking additional grant funding for the complex, including added space for Lake Tech and a diesel mechanic and automotive school. The idea was to do the entire site, including all site work and stormwater, which increases the budget for the whole project. Rather than going to the City Council to expand the current loan to handle the entire site, staff looked at ARPA funding. ARPA funding is eligible for the whole site and stormwater and would not require any loans. Vice Mayor Price asked for confirmation the improvements were

primarily based on the addition of the school and not initially considered. Mr. Drury confirmed.

Vice Mayor Price asked if many people have indicated they would like to rent the Historic Train Station and opted not to due to its current condition. Mr. Tweedie confirmed. He said the condition of the facility was a significant impediment to the brewery, who indicated they would have been more inclined without some of the hard costs. Vice Mayor Price said he understands the air conditioning system is not a tenant's responsibility.

Vice Mayor Price said he would like to reduce the Tavares Nature Park dock length to the water with a pier on the end so people can fish. He said he would like to invest those savings in some of the cut list projects, such as the fireboat and ballfield improvements. He noted his support for an additional volleyball court and upgraded lighting. Mr. Drury said staff would bring back the design, and Council would ultimately approve shortening the dock or adding an ADA component.

Mayor Pfister

Mayor Pfister noted her support for the air quality projects and is pondering the Fire Station upgrade. Mayor Pfister said she would like to identify projects eligible for grant funding.

Mayor Pfister supported an additional volleyball court and upgraded lighting to attract tournaments and more visitors to the City. She noted the positive economic impact of the project on the City.

Mayor Pfister stated the importance of lighting downtown for safety and said she would like to add downtown lighting to the safety component. She noted her support to replace the fireboat.

Mayor Pfister said Woodlea Sports Complex should be taken into consideration as is a family-oriented component that provides recreation for the citizens and children.

Mayor Pfister said she would like to address or start the West Main Street project. She noted West Main Street cuts from the budget each year and its importance.

Mayor Pfister noted her support for the employees and would like to take more time to consider a bonus. She stressed the Council's dedication to the employees through many downturns and providing raises each year when other agencies in the area do not.

Mayor Pfister noted her support for air quality initiatives and said City Hall is hot for the employees during the summer. She said a dock at the Tavares Nature Park out to the water should be sufficient. Mr. Drury said the dock is currently open to the water, and people can fish.

Council Member Boggus said the Tavares Nature Park falls under Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). She said she is unsure whether the Fire Station or West Main Street would fall under that same grant. Mr. Drury said you could apply for grants for anything, and the odds of being awarded a grant for the Tavares Nature Park would be the highest. He said the City received a grant to build the dock, and the dock is past its useful life. Staff could apply again for a CDBG. Grants are available for some of your stormwater projects. Ms. Houghton stated the ARPA funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026.

Mayor Pfister asked the Council if they would like agendaize the funding discussion at the next meeting to provide an opportunity to further research and time consider all comments.

Council Member Gamble asked for the dollar amount the City would have received for the Historic Fire Station rental. Mr. Tweedie said staff had not gotten to the point of negotiating a lease. While the revenue would not have been substantial, the economic impact of adding another element and additional vibrancy to the downtown entertainment district in the transitional zone toward Alfred Street would be in the millions.

Council Member Gamble said he would support the fire station upgrades once someone comes forward with an idea of the layout so the City would not be liable to go back and complete repairs. Mr. Drury said if the Council reserves the dollars necessary for air quality issues, a negotiated package could be brought back to the Council for consideration.

Mayor Pfister said she would like to see project percentages placed in Exhibit A for the project types.

Council Member Singer asked if the Council could get a consensus on the Tavares Nature Park dock.

Vice Mayor Price asked for the cost of a shorter and redesigned dock. Mr. Drury said the options are to fund the whole thing with ARPA grant funds at \$800,000, fund a smaller dock system around \$500,000, or do not do the dock this year and apply for a different grant the following year.

Council Member Gamble said a dock design would be required to apply for a grant. Mr. Drury said if the City pursues grant funding, it would be a grant to replace the entire dock. Mr. Drury said the City could apply for a CDBG grant, and if that is Council's direction, the dock would be pulled, and staff will come back with an Exhibit A based on Council's discussion.

Mayor Pfister asked the Council if they wished to leave the air quality projects, and set aside the Historic Fire Station funds. Mr. Drury noted until a lease has been approved.

Mr. Drury noted the Tav Lee Trail stormwater project would be categorized as a safety project. He said he would put together a new Exhibit A based on the Council's comments and bring it back to the Council at the next meeting.

There was a consensus from the Council to table Tab 4 [Resolution 2022-02 – American Rescue Plan (SLFRF) Standard Allowance Revenue Loss Selection and Spend Plan Approval] to February 16, 2022, City Council Regular Meeting, and bring back a new Exhibit A per discussion.

IX. ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING

First Reading

Tab 5. Ordinance 2022-+01 – Trzaskoma Property – Planned Development Amendment for Approximately 3 Acres of Property Located at the Northeast Corner of Ann Rou Road and Lake Eustis Drive

No discussion at first reading.

Second Reading

X. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Tab 6. Lake County Opioid Interlocal Agreement

Attorney Holt made the following presentation:

The State of Florida filed a lawsuit against several opioid manufacturers and distributors in 2018. Lake County filed suit in 2019. Since that time, the parties have engaged in settlement negotiations which will result in a fund that will be made available to counties and municipalities to abate the effects of opioid usage, including opioid and substance abuse education. To receive money from this fund, however, Lake County must be designated as a "Qualified County" under the Florida Opioid Allocation Agreement.

The City of Tavares adopted Resolution 2021-22 on September 8, 2021, supporting a proposed Memorandum of Understanding for ongoing opioid litigation, along with 100 political subdivisions within the State of Florida, the State of Florida, and Lake County. Attached is an interlocal agreement between Lake County and participating Lake County cities designating Lake County as a "Qualified County" for Lake County Regional Opioid Settlement Funds.

Attorney Holt provided information on the requirements for Lake County to be deemed a 'Qualified County', including the participation of over 50% of the municipalities. She said most cities in Lake County have approved and signed the Interlocal Agreement. She provided the funding allocation process between the State, County, and each municipality to pool into a regional fund. Lake County would oversee the use of the

funds, reporting, and auditing. A task force has been identified and will use the funds required by the State. She said one of the projects the County has earmarked the funds is for a unified drug court for Lake County.

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

MOTION

Sandy Gamble moved to approve, seconded by Amanda Boggus. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 7. Tavares 5th Annual Arbor Day Celebration Update

Traci Anderson, Parks Supervisor, made the following presentation:

The City of Tavares is proud to be recognized as a Tree City USA participant since 2018. Each year, the City honors this recognition by celebrating Arbor Day. This annual event, in its 5th successful year, was held in Wootton Park on Saturday, January 15th. The City had the support of six dedicated sponsors, and all six have supported this exceptional celebration since our 1st annual Arbor Day event. We greatly appreciate the vision and support of each of these agencies and would like to recognize the following:

- 1. Lake Soil & Water Conservation District*
- 2. University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension Lake County*
- 3. Duke Energy*
- 4. SECO Energy*
- 5. Florida Forest Service*
- 6. Cherry Lake Tree Farm and Nursery*

This year approximately 500 people attended, providing a new home for 1034 one-gallon potted trees a place to take root in this vibrant community. They included these native species:

- 1. Live Oak*
- 2. Shumard Oak*
- 3. Pecan*
- 4. Winged Elm*
- 5. Sycamore*
- 6. Red Maple*
- 7. Sweet Bay Magnolia*
- 8. Longleaf Pine*
- 9. River Birch*
- 10. Pond Cypress*
- 11. Bald Cypress*

12. Dahoon Holly

And, flowering and fruiting varieties including:

- 1. Crape Myrtle*
- 2. Pink Tabebuia*
- 3. Yellow Tabebuia*
- 4. Brown Turkey Fig*

We had 9 agencies that participated this year by greeting attendees and sharing the benefits of their services and facilities throughout Lake County. The City would like to recognize the following:

- 1. Lake County Office of Emergency Management*
- 2. Lake County Parks & Trails*
- 3. Lake County Water Authority*
- 4. Keep Lake Beautiful*
- 5. FWC Fisheries Division*
- 6. FWC Wildlife Division*
- 7. Trout Lake Nature Center*
- 8. Florida Native Plant Society Beautyberry Chapter*
- 9. University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Lake County 4-H*

And a special thank you to University of Florida/IFAS Residential Horticulture Agent II and ISA Certified Arborist, Jamielyn Daugherty for creating our tree information cards and facilitating a program on “Right Tree, Right Place” to ensure that planting sites are properly selected and the trees planted correctly so that they may thrive. A special thank you to the Florida Forest Service for handling Smokey Bear and to the Orianne Center for Indigo Conservation, a program of the Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens, who educated us and shared an Indigo Snake and Gopher Tortoise to the delight of the audience. We would also like to recognize our volunteers this year, Kellie Singer and Christopher Evans who worked tirelessly to help individuals choose the best tree for their conditions.

This event has flourished in the past 5 years, allowing us to share 5774 trees to date with attendees and we thank our Council for their support and our community for caring for the environment and attending. We look forward to seeing you again next year.

Mayor Pfister commended Ms. Anderson and her team.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Pfister said she recently met with the Director-General Amino C.Y. Chi of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Miami (TECO) and his representatives. She

said many cities have multiple sister cities and asked the Council if they were interested in reaching out to Biscarrosse, France, as a possible sister city. Biscarrosse is the same size as Tavares, is located on the water, and is a seaplane city. She said Tavares has a lot in common with Viscarone and could also maintain a sister city relationship with New Taipei, Taiwan.

Discussion was held and there was a consensus from the Council for staff to contact the City Mayor, City Manager, and City staff to build a relationship.

Mr. Drury said he would provide information on Biscarrosse, France including similarities and differences at a future meeting.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

XIII. AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD

XIV. REPORTS

Tab 8. City Administrator Report

Mr. Drury noted an upcoming Joint Planning Workshop with Lake County, scheduled for February 7, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the Leesburg Venitian Gardens Center. He said it was a public meeting and invited those present to attend. The workshop will discuss how and where to grow over the next 10 to 20 years.

Mr. Clark said the City recently had a sewer main failure that staff resolved swiftly and economically. He commended his staff.

Mr. Clark said the Council previously approved a budget to rehabilitate and upgrade the Royal Harbor Pump Station. The upgrades have been completed, on time, and within budget.

Mr. Fitzgerald said the City's Smart Growth Horizon Team would like to host an educational and discussion workshop on growth in the area and City. It would be a public workshop, and all Council members may attend. The workshop would be held in the evening from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mr. Fitzgerald said he provided proposed dates to the Council. A discussion was held regarding the Council's availability, and Mr. Fitzgerald was asked to bring back alternate dates for consideration.

Tab 9. City Council Member Reports

Council Member Boggus commended Ms. Anderson and said she does a wonderful job with Arbor Day each year. She enjoyed the tree reveal each day leading up to the event.

Vice Mayor Price said he would not be available to attend the Lake County Smart Growth workshop. He said he would be representing and lobbying on behalf of the City in Tallahassee with the Florida League of Cities.

Mayor Pfister said she continues to hear great comments about the Arbor Day event and tree give-away. She said the team did a great job on the event.

Mayor Pfister thanked the Planning and Zoning Board and noted their help to the City Council. She thanked those Board members in attendance for their hard work.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and Mayor Pfister adjourned the meeting at 5:29 p.m.

Respectfully,

Susie Novack, MMC, FCRM
City Clerk