



**TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 5, 2020 – 4:00 PM
TAVARES CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
201 EAST MAIN STREET, TAVARES**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

**Amanda Boggus, Mayor
Lori Pfister, Vice Mayor
Lou Buigas, Council Member
Troy Singer, Council Member
Roy Stevenson, 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
Tamera Rogers, Community Services 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**

TAVARES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Betty Burleigh, Librarian/Historian and Board Member

TAVARES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

J. Scott Berry, Executive Director

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Tab 1. Justin Berger, Youth Pastor, First Baptist Church of Tavares

Justin Berger, Youth Pastor, First Baptist Church of Tavares, provided the invocation and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Drury said staff had no changes to the Agenda.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to approve the Agenda, seconded by Roy Stevenson. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

IV. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Tab 2. Tavares Chamber of Commerce Update

Mr. Berry noted a correction to the Chamber report submitted to Council noting the Chamber received six (6) new members in December 2019. Mr. Berry highlighted upcoming events including the Monthly Business Luncheon scheduled February 26, 2020 with the Lake County Supervisor of Elections as guest speaker. Mr. Berry said the January Business Luncheon experienced its highest participation with 151 attendees. He noted Mr. Drury was guest speaker. Mr. Berry said tickets to the upcoming Legislative Wrap-up Breakfast are available on the Chamber website.

Council Member Buigas asked for visitor numbers in 2019. Mr. Berry said visitor totals were in the process of being calculated and would be included in his next monthly report.

Mr. Berry said the Chamber is extending Saturday hours during event season beginning with the Trains, Planes & BBQ event.

Tab 3. Quilts of Honor Presentation

Chief Keith made the following presentation:

Mrs. Judy Grow is part of a group of American citizens who create hand-made quilts, and present these quilts to veterans of the American military in recognition of that military service. Mrs. Grow would like to present eight quilts to members of Tavares Police Department and Tavares Fire Department, who

are veterans of the American military. Contributing to this project, and attending Council Meeting with Mrs. Grow, are Lisa Mongiovi and Pam Leese.

Ms. Grow, Quilts of Valor, introduced Lisa Mongiovi as her fellow member of the Lake County Quilt Guild. Ms. Grow said Ms. Mongiovi has a son, son-in-law, and husband who are currently serving in the military. She said Ms. Mongiovi, Pam Lease, and Marylin Finnigan give their time and expertise to make the quilts. Ms. Grow said the Quilts of Valor Foundation was established in 2003 by Katherine Roberts in order to comfort, thank and honor veterans. Since the foundation's inception over 240,000 quilts of valor have been awarded. Ms. Grow said she has made 150 quilts of valor and the quilts being awarded to the Tavares Police and Fire veterans were pieced and assembled by hand and sewing machine. Ms. Grow said the Tavares recipients continue to serve in their current positions in the Police and Fire Departments. She noted each quilt includes a remembrance to Major Steven Reich, Commander of Operation Redwings, depicted in the book Lone Survivor, who made the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan in 2005. Ms. Grow presented eight quilts to Fire Chief Keith and Police Chief Lubins.

Mr. Drury noted the recipients have requested to receive the quilts during a private ceremony be held at the Public Safety Complex.

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

Attorney Williams stated there were two quasi-judicial matters before Council at second reading [Tab 6 – Ordinance 2020-01 – Annexation and Rezoning of 1.50 Acres Located at 12549 Lane Park Cutoff; and, Tab 7 – Ordinance 2020-02 – SSFLUM of 1.50 Acres Located at 12549 Lane Park Cutoff] He gave the oath to those who wished to provide testimony.

Attorney Williams asked Council if they had any exparte communications to disclose. There were none.

VI. READING OF ALL ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS INTO THE RECORD

Ms. Novack read the following Resolution and Ordinances at second reading by title only:

RESOLUTION 2020-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE 2020 FISCAL YEAR ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF TAVARES, REPRESENTING THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE ADOPTED BUDGET, AND PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE 2020-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TAVARES AMENDING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY BY ANNEXING APPROXIMATELY 1.50 ACRES OF LAND LOCATED AT 12549 LANE PARK CUTOFF, REZONING SAID PROPERTY FROM LAKE COUNTY LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT (LM) 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 2020-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE TAVARES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE LAND USE MAP 2020, PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE OF FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION ON APPROXIMATELY 1.50 ACRES OF LAND LOCATED AT 12549 LANE PARK CUTOFF; FROM COUNTY URBAN LOW DENSITY TO CITY INDUSTRIAL (IND); PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Buigas said she would like to pull Tab 5 [Resolution 2020-03 – First Budget Amendment] for discussion.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to approve the Consent Agenda with Tab 5 pulled for discussion [Tab 4 – Approval of the January 15, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes], seconded by Troy Singer. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 4. Approval of the January 15, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

Approved on the Consent Agenda.

Tab 5. Resolution 2020-03 – First Budget Amendment for FY2020

Council Member Buigas inquired about \$638,816.00 reflected in line item 1501-515-64-25. Ms. Houghton said it is a Community Development Department line item for future projects that represents the project carry forward for the Comprehensive Plan Study, and rehab renovations for the Building Department. Ms. Houghton said staff will be coming back to Council with a second budget amendment with adjustments. She anticipated the amount will go down before the next amendment. Ms. Houghton confirmed the line item is for a cluster of projects.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved for approval [Resolution 2020-03], seconded by Lou Buigas. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

None.

IX. ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING

First Reading

None.

Second Reading

Tab 6. Ordinance 2020-01 – Annexation & Rezoning of 1.50 Acres Located at 12549 Lane Park Cutoff

Mr. Fitzgerald made the following presentation:

The subject property is located at 12549 Lane Park Cutoff and is approximately 1.50 acres in size. The land is presently zoned as County Light Industrial District (LM), and the applicant is proposing that the property be annexed and rezoned to City Industrial (I).

The proposed zoning of Industrial (I) is compatible with the surrounding zoning and the existing industrial use of the property.

The annexation of this property has been reviewed per the City's Annexation Policy. It has been determined by City staff that the property may be properly serviced by the City without undue hardship or significant negative fiscal impact to the City.

The owner is concurrently seeking a Future Land Use Map amendment to Industrial (IND) to be compatible with the proposed Industrial zoning.

At their December 19th meeting the Planning & Zoning Board voted unanimously to recommend approval of Ordinance 2020-01.

Staff recommends that City Council moves to approve Ordinance 2020-01, the annexation and rezoning to Industrial (I) of approximately 1.50 acres of property located at 12549 Lane Park Cutoff, Tavares, FL.

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

Mayor Boggus asked for comments from Council. There were none.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved for approval [Ordinance 2020-01 – Annexation and Rezoning of 1.50 Acres Located at 12549 Lane Park Cutoff], seconded by Lou Buigas. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 7. Ordinance 2020-02 – SSFLUM of 1.50 Acres Located at 12549 Lane Park Cutoff

Mr. Fitzgerald made the following presentation:

The subject property is located at 12549 Lane Park Cutoff, and is approximately 1.50 acres in size. The land presently has a land use designation of County Urban Low Density, and the property owner is requesting an amendment to the Tavares Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map 2020 to change the designation of said property from Lake County Urban Low Density to City of Tavares Industrial (IND).

Ordinance 2020-02 proposes a small scale amendment to the Future Land Use Map 2020 of the Comprehensive Plan from County Urban Low Density to City Industrial (IND).

MOTION

Lou Buigas moved for approval [Ordinance 2020-02 – SSFLUM of 1.50 Acres Located at 12549 Lane Park Cutoff], seconded by Roy Stevenson. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

X. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Tab 8. Tavares Historical Society Transition Plan Agreement

Ms. Rogers made the following presentation:

Previously, City Council approved the idea for the City to take over the management and operations of the Tavares History Museum. A Transition Plan Agreement has been developed between the Historical Board members and City staff with review by the City attorney. A memorandum of understanding is before Council for consideration. Ms. Smith reviewed and executed the memorandum. Highlights of the Agreement are as such:

- *Lease agreement made on April 17, 2013 giving train station to Historical Board (HB) terminated resulting from HB turning over operation to city*

- *Transfer of historical artifacts to the city once the rehabilitation of the fire/train station project is funded and city has issued Certificate of Occupancy (CO)*
- *HB continues to operate in current location; to care for inventory; and to accept any new items*
- *City will provide some annual funding support*
- *City will not accept new donations until inventory is transferred to city*
- *Once CO is issued, City will own, operate, and manage museum and historical inventory and HB will serve as advisors*
- *Old museum will serve as long term storage*
- *Once CO is issued, the Society will reconstitute itself as an Advisory Board to the City*

Mayor Boggus asked for comments from the audience.

Diana Aten, Tavares Historical Society Board Member, thanked the city and residents for taking over the project.

Mayor Boggus asked for comments from Council.

Council Member Singer said he would like to see the concept plan before moving forward.

Council Member Buigas, said she previously served on the Tavares Historical Society Board as Treasurer. She noted her preference for the Historical Society Museum to be moved to the new train depot in Wooton Park beside the Tavares Chamber of Commerce. She noted a concern for the cost, time constraints and commitment to move the museum to the historical Train Station on Old US 441. Council Member Buigas said she would like to explore alternate site locations.

Ms. Rogers said the Tavares Historical Society Board toured the train depot at Wooton Park in the past and they were not interested in the site at the time. She said the train depot in Wooton Park is move-in ready and smaller than the historic train station.

Vice Mayor Pfister asked if the Tavares Historical Society is still in existence. Ms. Rogers said the Society still has a Board with membership who do not wish to operate a museum any longer. Vice Mayor Pfister said she is concerned about the cost and noted her support for the museum to relocate to the Wooton Park train depot.

Council Member Singer asked if the concept plan is to renovate the historic Fire Station. Ms. Rogers confirmed. He asked if a cost has been determined to relocate the museum to the Wooton Park train depot. Ms. Rogers no, and estimated a cost of \$100,000 for vignettes, presentation, and lighting to upgrade the Wooton Park train depot. Ms.

Rogers noted an upcoming presentation on February 19, 2020 to Council that will include the cost to renovate the historic Train Station. Mr. Drury said costs to renovate both buildings would be provided to Council. Vice Mayor Pfister asked how much money has currently been invested in the project. Mr. Drury said Council budgeted \$12,500 to complete a concept plan on renovating the historic Train Station (Fire Department) for a history museum.

Mayor Boggus said she was previously the Council liaison to the Historical Museum Horizon Team. She suggested the Wooton Park train station as a possible temporary location until funds could be raised through donations or proceeds through a gift shop to renovate the historic Trian Station. She said the Historic Society voted against the Wooton Park train depot.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to table the item until the concept plan costs have been provided to Council, seconded by Troy Singer. The motion carried 5-0.

Tab 9. Economic Development Strategy 2020 Update

Mr. Tweedie made the following presentation:

The City's Economic Development team has developed a long term economic development strategy, which is updated each year. The plan is both geographical and component specific focusing on twelve (12) specific Economic Development focus components throughout five (5) City geographical quadrants. Although the overall vision and objectives remain focused in the same direction, it is prudent to update the plan on a regular basis to expand upon successes and milestones achieved and seek opportunities for new ones. The Economic Development Horizon Team has met recently to discuss, review and update the plan for 2020.

Mr. Tweedie provided a high-level overview PowerPoint presentation on the Economic Development Strategy 2020 Update in growth areas including the following highlights:

- AdventHealth Waterman campus expansion with a new four story building completed in 2019 which includes a new emergency department, and expanded women and infant department.
- Atwater Apartments expansion resulting in doubling size. Permits have been acquired and the expansion will begin in the next few months.
- Avalon Park Group Project has begun construction on the charter school, residential and commercial development soon to follow.
- Lakeview Center Medical Village has experienced continued growth and 2-3 new practices have opened in the last year with more in pre-development and construction phases.

- Downtown professional services have expanded with builders, realtors, and travel agents.
- Downtown entertainment district has expanded. Only one vacant property currently available for rent.
- Arts & Culture scene has expanded with the arrival of the Lake County Museum of Arts.
- Commerce Park is full. Six 5000 square feet industrial buildings are in use with the exception of one building.
- Sunday Cool niche apparel company includes over 60 full time positions.
- Jones Brothers Seaplane's & Adventures has expanded to five aircraft for charters, tours, and flight training.
- First phase of seaplane base reconstruction is underway.
- Special events are thriving with over 20 events in the downtown.
- Quick Service and Casual Dining on CR19 corridor include business in Tavares Crossroads and adjacent outparcels.
- Bike Trail Project connecting Tavares and Mount Dora is moving forward.
- Sunset Cruises on Dora Queen will begin operations in March.

Mr. Tweedie said it is not the role, responsibility, or function of government to create, maintain, and expand businesses. It is the city's role to create the fertile ground, atmosphere, and environment where the private sector can do what they do best. All private sector development, and investment continue to grow. He said the Council and Leadership team creates the infrastructure, policies, and services that attracts businesses and allows them to grow.

Mayor Boggus asked for comments from Council.

Council Member Buigas commended Mr. Tweedie's on his work.

Council Member Singer said it is wonderful to see the businesses coming to the community ultimately lowering the tax rate for citizens.

Council Member Stevenson asked if the Dora Queen is in operation. Mr. Tweedie said the owners have indicated an opening in mid-March 2020. He said final construction and Coast Guard approvals are pending. Council Member Stevenson inquired about the Seaplane Base & Marina pilings. Mr. Tweedie said the pilings have been removed and the design build team is moving forward with permitting. He noted the insurance company is reviewing the Guaranteed Maximum Price package and design. It will take five months to complete the fabrication of docs and pilings and construction will begin mid-June with a six month build.

Each Council member thanked Mr. Tweedie.

Tab 10. Prescription Burn of Tavares Nature Park

Chief Keith made the following presentation:

An important part of responsible and effective land management in Florida is the Prescription burn. Prescription burns are conducted on wild land. These burns will thin out fuel load from the affected area, which decreases the chance of uncontrolled wild fire, while creating a healthier growing medium for the remaining indigenous plants.

City of Tavares Public Works and Fire Departments are working the Florida Forest Service, to conduct a prescription burn on the Tavares Nature Park area and surrounding property. The Florida Forest Service will take the lead on this prescription burn. They will be assisted by Tavares Public Works and Fire Departments. Additionally, this prescription burn will be further useful as a wildland firefighting training platform for Tavares and Eustis Fire Departments.

A prescription burn of the Tavares Nature Park has a added benefit of clearing out the underbrush in that area that screens and hides homeless camps and other inappropriate or illegal activities.

The greatest, and most visible nuisance to the public is the smoke created by the prescription burn. The Forest Service work diligently to inform the public of the prescription burn through a variety of mediums, including site signs, pre-burn notices, and social media notifications.

Florida Forest Service is also coordinating with Far Reach Ranch (the blueberry farm) to also conduct prescription burn on portions of the Far Reach Ranch property that have direct border with Tavares Nature Park.

The prescription burn can only take place when certain weather conditions, including wind directions and speeds and humidity levels, are within acceptable limits. For that reason, a long-range declaration of a date or dates for the prescription burn, is not possible. It might be the case that very little advance and specific notice can be published, because the conditions for a premium burn may appear suddenly, and the burn takes place with little notice or fanfare. The Forest Service will do our best to get the appropriate notifications out as early as possible.

Roy Cribb, Florida Forest Service, said the Forest Service will be completing a joint agency mitigation burn with minimal associated risk. He said the cost of the burn is funded by federal grants.

Vance Jochim, 12619 Milwaukee Avenue, noted his concern about displaced wildlife and possible homeless persons living in the park. He asked if a policy is in place to address his concerns.

Chief Keith said the purpose of the mitigation burn is to thin out underbrush and remove non-indigenous plant species. He said the Forest Service and City have mitigation plans including signage for area residents along with other measures to distribute scheduled burn information.

Mr. Cribb noted the burn was weather dependent and includes 100 acres. He said the Forest Service has received approval to include a portion of the Far Reach Ranch and fire lines will be established to control the burn. Mr. Cribb said that animals move deeper into woods during burns and once the mitigation is completed fresh growth provides nutrients for the animals who normally return within weeks.

Mr. Drury said the City is working with Lake County and the Forestry Service to enhance public outreach including strategically located signage, message boards, door to door contact within 500 feet, phone call-in information, social media and the city website. He said the City is planning ahead and will ensure residents are aware of the controlled burn. The mitigation is a coordinated effort and will occur at the end of February or beginning of March 2020. Mr. Drury said if a controlled burn is not conducted then there is a risk of an uncontrolled burn from vegetative overgrowth.

Council Member Buigas asked if the burn will be delayed to accommodate upcoming events in the downtown. Mr. Cribb said the burn will be completed within a couple of hours and should not affect the downtown. Mr. Drury said a delay could cause the city to lose the grant opportunity for the controlled mitigation burn.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to approve Option 1 [Approve the prescription burn of Tavares Nature Park area.], seconded by Lou Buigas.

Council Member Stevenson said the mitigation burn will make the park healthier.

The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 11. Bid Award for Lake Francis Estates Water and Sewer Replacement Project

Mr. Clark made the following presentation:

This project is to replace all the water and sewer piping in the Lake Francis distribution and collection systems as well as make improvements to Lift Station 49. The piping that will be replaced is some of the oldest in the City and has outlived its life expectancy and is failing. Over the years, the City has incurred a high number of call-outs due to infrastructure failing; and the City replacing individual lines to "limp" the system along.

Previously, the City Council approved documents related to this project. the timeline is as such:

- *April 14, 2016 - Executed Loan 350950 for preliminary planning of the project.*
- *October 18, 2017 - Amendment 1 was approved for additional time to complete the activities funded by the loan.*
- *November 1, 2017 - City Council approved Resolution 2017-11 authorizing a loan application to FDEP for the Lake Frances / LS 49 Project.*
- *November 1, 2018 - City Council approved Resolution 2018-24, authorizing SRF Loan 350351 for Lake Frances and Liftstation 49 improvements with the FDEP for construction, oversight, and contingency activities.*
- *November 1, 2018 - City Council approved Resolution 2018-25, authorizing SRF Loan 350360 for Lake Francis Water Distribution Piping Design.*
- *December 19, 2019 - City Council approved Resolution 2018-28 authorizing execution of loan 350361 with the FDEP.*

The recommended bid of \$6,719,405 is \$735,724 less than the approved State Revolving loan amount of (\$6,624,350 + \$829,780) for construction and technical services.

Staff recommends Option 1 - Award the bid and execute a contract for the project to PCW Joint Venture in the amount of \$6,718,402.15.

Mr. Drury said 7 bids were received and the low bidder visited the city several times, knows the project well, and has a sharp pencil. Mr. Clark said the low bidder was the most involved bidder and visited with staff and reviewed the project.

Mayor Boggus asked for comments from Council.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved for approval, seconded by Roy Stevenson.

Council Member Singer said the residents are excited to move forward. He asked if stormwater will be addressed in the project. Mr. Clark said no. He said the road and curb improvements should help with stormwater runoff.

Council Member Buigas asked if the company has done work for the city in the past and if there will be a resident engineer on the property. Mr. Clark said PCW Joint Venture has not done work for the city in the past and there will be a resident engineer and full-time resident city inspector.

Mayor Boggus noted the bid came in under the approved SRF loan amount. She asked if the City can use the remaining funds for contingencies. Ms. Houghton said the state will review the bid and may or may not adjust the approved loan. She said the amount quoted includes contingencies as well as regular construction costs, and the final review and loan amount will be brought back before Council once the state has completed a review.

The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 12. Establishment FY 2021 Broad Budget Priorities

Mr. Drury made the following presentation:

It has been the practice of the Council to set the broad budget priorities for the City Administrator to use as guiding principles in developing a budget that is commensurate with the Council's overall budgetary goals.

By way of background, the City operates six (6) governmental operations as follows:

- 1. General Government (revenues derived by property taxes, other taxes and fees)*
- 2. Utilities - Water, Waste Water (Sewer), Reclaimed Water, Stormwater (Revenues derived by fees – no property taxes)*
- 3. Solid Waste (Garbage Collection) (revenues derived from fees – no property taxes)*
- 4. Seaplane and Marina Enterprise (revenues derived from fuel sales, prop shop sales, rental income from seaplane operator and others, general fund (taxes) and CRA TIF Fund (Incremental property tax revenues within the CRA District).*
- 5. Pavilion on the Lake. (revenues derived from rental income and general fund taxes)*
- 6. Capital Projects. (revenues are derived from grants, impact fees, special tax revenues like "Infrastructure Sales Tax" and property taxes).*

(Note: in addition to the above are debt service costs associated with prior capital projects)

Mr. Drury said he provided Council with three exhibits including historical background of the city budget, the future of the city budget, and current projects underway. Mr. Drury read the following excerpt from Exhibit A:

...when benchmarked against other communities of similar size in Florida, Tavares comes out on top in terms of efficiencies including number of employees per capita for various services offered like police and fire protection which make up the most costly part of any municipal budget.

The positive economic conditions that Tavares is beginning to enjoy today did not materialize without hard work by the City Council, all of its employees and a civic entrepreneurial approach to governing, taking calculated risks, being creativity and overcoming fiscal challenges.

Mr. Drury said he is proud to be a part of visioning process and resulting renaissance of Tavares. Mr. Drury identified future budgetary highlights and top twenty-five projects and top twenty-five initiatives currently underway and going into the next year or more. He said revenues (property values, growth) and expenses will increase and impact the next year's budget.

Council identified their next fiscal year (2020-2021) broad budget priorities as follows:

Mayor Boggus

- Increase Reserves
- Provide same level of service
- Lower millage rate if possible
- Finish the Public Works project and getting it organized and find funding
- Continue road paving and increase if possible
- Complete marina
- Have pavilion earn money
- Wooton Park playground

Council Member Buigas

Council Member Buigas said she would like the west end of Main Street receive attention as it is a gateway into the city. She noted her agreement with all of Mayor Boggus' priorities including increasing Reserves.

Council Member Singer

- Keep millage rate low
- Increase road resurfacing at least 30%, if not 50%
- Keep Reserves healthy
- Continue to protect the environment with grants including stormwater improvements
- Keep small town feel
- Tweak and inventory events and see if there are places to cut or find sponsors
- Take care of employees who do a lot with fewer people than most cities
- Keep improving overall appearance of the city
- Support partnerships - continue to support Public Works and Lake Tech initiative as well as others
- Tava Dora trail – continue to support

- Complete a majority of current projects
- Continue to look at the possibility of videotaping Council meetings
- Continue economic diversity to bring businesses into the community

Council Member Stevenson

- Agree with all previously stated priorities
- Protect our water quality and in particular Lake Dora
- Streets are a concern and support pavement preservation to save money
- Would like Gateways to be attractive, beautiful, clean, and nice.
- Communication is important to let the public know what is going on and possibly an electronic sign on the catwalk between the Lake County Judicial Center and jail, communication in innovative ways.
- Would like more progress in the Commerce park with fresh and unique businesses such as craft beer

Vice Mayor Pfister

- Agree with all previously stated priorities
- Move forward with trail
- Finish the Comprehensive Plan 2040
- Continue to support special events and would like more focus on summer and down periods.
- Complete the Marina
- Economic development – include a lighted fountain in Tavares Square with a seaplane operating year-round that plays music including all holidays; and, a pocket RV park with short term rentals. The city has property that could be utilized with space for fifty RV's
- Move forward with transitioning remaining employees and Council into the SRF Retirement Plan.

Mr. Drury said he received all of Council's budget priorities. He said he will work with the Leadership Team and bring back to Council in June. He said budget meetings will be held June through September including eight public meetings.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Singer noted the county has eliminated their business tax receipt program. He asked if staff could bring back the pros and cons of eliminating the Tavares business tax receipt program. Mr. Drury confirmed.

Council Member Buigas asked if a schedule could be created so each Council member could rotate attending events to ensure a Council presence. Mr. Drury said staff will bring back the annual calendar for upcoming events for discussion.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

XIII. HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Tab 13. Tavares Historical Society

Ms. Burleigh said Nilda Comas, Master Sculptor and creator of the Mary McLeod Bethune statue, was scheduled to speak at the Lake County Historical Museum on February 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Burleigh continued a city timeline she presented in October 2019 to Council with the following highlights:

- 1925 – Kiwanis Club was chartered, City Attorney abolished the Offices of the Tax Collector, Tax Assessor, and Town Treasurer and redistributed the duties to the Town Clerk
- 1926 – Tavares High School was built on N. New Hampshire Avenue and final link of the Tavares/Leesburg federal road was awarded
- 1927 – Tavares population was 1,617 and Tavares Schools opened with 214 pupils
- 1929 – Stock market crashed and the Osceola Hotel closed
- 1930 – Tavares population was 1,090 and Harry Johnson was re-elected Mayor
- 1931 – St. Clair Abrams passed away and the Mount Dora to Tavares road was under construction
- 1934 – Alfred Street widened to 29.5 feet

XIV. AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD

Gary Santoro, Royal Harbor, said no one addressed who would be responsible for removing any homeless persons in Tavares Nature Park prior to the prescribed burn.

Michael Watkins, 805 Sumerall, asked who would be responsible for street lighting on Slim Haywood Road. He said there is no lighting at night. He noted his support the enhancement and beautification of West Main Street.

Vance Jochim, 12619 Milwaukee Avenue, asked if a fence could be placed along Milwaukee Avenue by the Tavares Nature Park to prevent bears from intruding into his neighborhood. He said the city should subsidize lake county resident's bear proof trash cans. He noted support for meeting videos, suggested a three-year benchmarking trend be included in each department budget, and moving away from city subsidized events.

Vice Mayor Pfister left the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

XV. REPORTS

Tab 14. City Administrator Report

Mr. Drury said an updated meeting list had been provided to Council. He said the Lake County League of Cities moved their monthly meeting location to the Mount Dora Golf Club off Highland Avenue.

Mr. O'Keefe said Lake County Publix Safety implemented a new 911 system where 911 emergency calls can either be phoned or texted.

Mr. Tweedie said Planes, Trains & BBQ is scheduled Saturday, February 29, 2020.

Ms. Rogers said the Tavares Rec Rover was scheduled to make an appearance at Lake Idemere Park on Saturday, February 8, 2020. She invited those present to attend a free classical guitar concert at the Library on February 13, 2020 at 12:30 p.m. She noted the upcoming Father – Daughter Dance.

Attorney Williams said he has enjoyed visiting municipal RV parks throughout the country.

Tab 15. City Council Member Reports

Council Member Stevenson

Council Member Stevenson said he enjoyed the Quilts of Valor presentation and thanked Chief Keith for his service.

Council Member Buigas

Council Member Buigas said she enjoyed each Department Tour and thanked the Directors.

Quote of the Day: "Limitations live only in our minds. But if we use our imaginations, our possibilities become limitless." ~Jamie Paolinetti

Council Member Singer

Council Member Singer said he is sorry to have missed the African American Heritage Festival. He said he enjoyed attending the Senior Shakedown held at the Civic Center. He said the city has programs for everyone no matter age.

Mayor Boggus

Mayor Boggus thanked Pastor Watkins.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and Mayor Bogus adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

Respectfully,

Susie Novack, MMC/FCRM