



**TAVARES CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 19, 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**

**Brenda Smith, President, Tavares Historical Society**

**TAVARES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**J. Scott Berry, Executive Director**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

Pastor Justin Berger, 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 would like to add Tab 9A [Seaplane Base, Marina Reconstruction Budget Allocation] to the Agenda. He said a summary was provided to Council and the audience.

**MOTION**

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

**IV. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**Tab 2. Proclamation – March 2020 Problem Gambling Awareness Month**

Mayor Boggus made the following presentation:

*The city received a request from the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling (FCCG) to pass a proclamation declaring March 2020 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month for its 'Problem Gambling Keeping You from Your Goals?' awareness campaign. The campaign helps bring public awareness not only to problem gambling, but also awareness of the help, resources and treatment available through the FCCG to anyone negatively affected.*

**MOTION**

**Roy Stevenson moved to approve the Proclamation, seconded by Troy Singer. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

Mayor Boggus read a Proclamation declaring March 2020 as Problem Gambling Awareness Month in its entirety.

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

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

## **VI. READING OF ALL ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS INTO THE RECORD**

Ms. Novack stated there were no Ordinances or Resolutions before Council for consideration.

## **VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

Lou Buigas said she would like to pull Tab 4 from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

### **MOTION**

**Lori Pfister moved to approve the Consent Agenda with Tab 4 pulled for discussion [Tab 3. Approval of the February 5, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes], seconded by Lou Buigas. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

### **Tab 3. Approval of the February 5, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes**

*Approved on the Consent Agenda.*

### **Tab 4. Avalon Park Tavares Phase 1 – Preliminary Plat**

Council Member Buigas said she would like to declare a Conflict of Interest as she has a close relative that is employed by Avalon Park Tavares. Attorney Williams said he spoke with Council Member Buigas prior to the meeting and recommended she declare a Conflict of Interest. He said Council Member Buigas will file a Conflict of Interest form with the City Clerk.

### **MOTION**

**Troy Singer moved to approve [Tab 4 – Avalon Park Tavares Phase 1 – Preliminary Plat], seconded by Roy Stevenson. The motion carried unanimously 4-0, with Lou Buigas abstaining.**

## **VIII. RESOLUTIONS**

## **IX. ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING**

### **First Reading**

### **Second Reading**

## **X. GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

### **Tab 5. Concept Plan for Tavares History Museum**

Ms. Rogers made the following presentation:

*By way of background, the City Council approved and entered into an agreement with the Historical Society seven (7) years ago wherein the Historical Society would lease the Alfred Street Train Station, renovate it and run the Tavares History Museum once the Fire Department vacated the building. Two years ago, the Historical Society effectively cancelled the agreement advising it was not able to fund the renovation or run the museum and asked the City Council to consider taking over the project.. The City Council accepted the request and began the due-diligent process of investigating the cost of adding this new city program by budgeting in 2020 \$12,500 to hire an Architectural firm to determine the full cost to properly renovate the Alfred Street Train Station into a History Museum.*

*After conducting a full inspection of the current condition of the Alfred Street Train Station, meeting with the Historical Society (President, Brenda Smith, and Board Member, Diana Aten) as well as City staff, the Architectural firm, developed a draft plan for both the Historical Society and City Council's review.*

*It should be noted that this building was constructed in 1925 and the inspection revealed that extensive renovations would be required to make it viable as a Public History Museum. The heating and air conditioning, the plumbing, and the electrical systems, along with a fire sprinkler system, ADA bathrooms and door jams and Hurricane code compliance, windows and vapor barrier walls all need extensive work to address mold, wind loads, safety and adequate conditioned space for fragile paperwork, clothing and other historical artifacts that are to be accepted. Site work would need to include ADA parking and include rebuilding the passenger loading platform so that train guests can visit.*

*Additionally, there is a costs for the construction of displays, casework, and lighting for the historical displays.*

*There are two options being presented. The first option is at a higher cost and includes flex space for expanded programming. Also, this option allows for protective areas for delicate objects, a loading platform, quality lighting and furnishings and several additional amenities.*

*The second option includes rehabilitation of the building with lower-end furnishings, flooring, ceiling treatments, lighting, and it does not include site improvements, such as paved perimeter walkways, outdoor lighting, outdoor performance space, landscaping, outdoor seating, and paved parking lot.*

*As additional information, the Historical Board President, Brenda Smith, along with other members of the Historical Society, met with city staff on February 11, 2020 to explore an alternative possibility of opening a History Museum in the Wootton Park train station in the space currently occupied by Polar Express train excursions next to the Chamber.*

*After a comprehensive walk-through of the Wooton park train station space, it was determined that the current inventory of historical artifacts held by the Society in addition to a large donation of a train village, could be accommodated in the already renovated Wooton Park train station. The cost to retrofit that portion of the Wooton Park Train Station occupied by Polar Express into a History Museum is estimated at \$125,000.00 and would take just a few month to do.*

*Also, attached is the agenda summary from the previous council meeting whereby the related item was tabled to allow City Council to hear of the cost to renovate the old fire station.*

*If, after hearing the presentation from the design Architects to renovate the Alfred Street Train station, as well as hearing input from representatives from the Historical Society, the City Council selects the option to pursue a History Museum in the Wooton Park already renovated train station then the following schedule of events would follow:*

- 1. The Polar Express train operator would move out of their current leased space and into the Train platform Air-conditioned ticket booth to sell their tickets. (many of their tickets are sold on line).*
- 2. Staff would budget \$125,000 to retrofit the vacated space in next years FY 2021 budget which begins this October for Council to consider along with all the other budgeted items.*
- 3. The Alfred Street Train Station would be placed into the commercial real-estate market for lease by a commercial enterprise who would be responsible for paying for and renovating the building so that it looks like a historic train station on the outside but the inside would be renovated for legitimate commercial business purposes that are viable and complement the down town business environment. (Council would approve the renovation plan and use of the building at such time as an entrepreneur provided their proposal to the Council).*

*Staff recommends Option 1 - Hear the two "History Museum" options for the Alfred Street Train Station and then discuss those two options as well as the Wooton Park Train Station option.*

Tom Gallagher, Lead Designer and Principal, DLR Group, introduced his team including Vanessa Kassabian, Lead Designer, and Mark Kirby, Lead Engineer. He provided a PowerPoint presentation on two scopes of work with price options. The top tier scope of work included museum standard construction and design at a cost of \$1.85 million dollars or \$250.00 per square foot with a gallery center and outdoor stage for performances. The lower cost option was presented at \$850,000 with no insulation, mechanical system upgrades, finishes or outdoor amenities.

Mayor Boggus asked for questions from Council.

Council Member Buigas inquired about structural components such as ceiling drywall and sound barriers. Mr. Gallagher said the higher cost option includes insulation between the truss holders under existing exposed wood and painted drywall. He said a thermally enclosed environment must be created. Mr. Gallagher noted costs are reflected per square foot and not individually itemized. Council Member Buigas asked for provisions for structural components such as footers or pads. Mr. Gallagher identified a wall with structural elements and noted a truss that is reinforced with a column preserved in the design to preserve the original truss.

Council Member Singer thanked the DLR team for their presentation. He said the City has a responsibility to preserve history and noted his preference to move the museum to the Wooton Park Train Station for greater foot traffic and less financial burden to the citizens.

Mayor Boggus noted her support for moving the museum to the Wooton Park Train Station. She noted support for raising monies for future renovation of the Alfred Street Train Station if private industry does not lease and renovate the building.

Council Member Buigas noted the importance of preserving the city's history. She stated her support for moving the museum to the Wooton Park Train Station so visitors could have quick and easy access.

Council Member Stevenson said he is the Council liaison to the Tavares Historical Society. He noted his support to move the museum to the Wooton Park Train Station for quick access at a reduced cost. He asked if the Historical Society would like to speak on the matter.

Brenda Smith, President, Tavares Historical Society, said she is in support of moving the museum to the Wooton Park Train Station. She thanked Council for their consideration.

## **MOTION**

**Troy Singer moved to no longer consider the Alfred Street Train Station as a location for the Tavares Historical Museum; and, put out a Request for Proposals for highest and best use for the Alfred Street Train Station; and, look at relocating the historical museum to the Wooton Park Train Station, seconded by Lori Pfister.**

Council Member Buigas said that she would like the concept plan as a testament of how the city would like the building to look for a lessee.

**Troy Singer amended his motion to include the RFP will include renovations. The amended motion was seconded by Lori Pfister.**

Council Member Stevenson noted a concern that the city may restrict a commercial business by making them comply with the city's vision for the building. Mr. Drury said a commercial business would get extra points the closer any renovation and design follows the concept plan.

**The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

**Tab 6. Master Plan Ridge Park**

Ms. Rogers said Tab 6 and Tab 7 were being presented together as the DLR Group was presenting the Ridge Park Master Plan that includes a conceptual plan reflecting both the Library Expansion Plan and Senior Center to be built in Ridge Park.

Ms. Rogers made the following presentation:

*In fiscal year 2020, a budget was approved to contract with an architectural firm to develop a Master Plan of Ridge Park that would reveal the placement and massing of proposed future amenities (library expansion, senior center, bocce and pickle ball courts.). Also, in fiscal year 2020, a budget was approved to contract with an architectural firm to develop a Conceptual Plan and estimated cost to build a Senior Center that would include both Bocce and Pickleball courts in Ridge Park.*

*The Master Plan being delivered is the culmination of meetings with the consulting firm, the DLR Group, city staff, members of the Library Advisory Board, members of the Friends of the Library, the Lake County Library System Director, and the Project Liaison, Vice-Mayor Pfister.*

*The premise behind this exercise is to develop Ridge Park in such a way that the proposed future amenities will be in close synchronization with each other to create optimum programming efficiencies and benefits. To seek the guidance of the local senior community, City staff members have distributed a programming survey to the community (attached) and quickly received responses from 174 local seniors requesting a variety of programming if a senior center would be built.*

*Also attached is a petition from 64 local seniors requesting that Bocce Ball courts be constructed at Ridge Park.*

*City staff, along with members of the senior community and consultants, the DLR Group, worked together to develop a conceptual plan for this project.*

*It should be noted that this Senior Center could be built in tandem with the library expansion if funding is secured. City staff will be submitting a Community Development Block Grant in the upcoming funding cycle,*

*requesting \$600,000.00 for this project. A total cost for the proposed Senior Center will be delivered at this City Council meeting.*

*In the future, a future approach to naming a Senior Center co-located with sports, courts, and a library may be appropriate to incorporate the intergenerational laboratory of learning aspect of the project.*

*Parking is currently insufficient and staff has identified two vacant lots located in close proximity to the project site that the Impact Fee program will provide a funding source to purchase the land and to create the needed parking.*

*Some may wonder why the library expansion is not planned to be larger. The intent is to design and build within the City's budget set at \$1,000,000.00, and it could become \$1.5 million if the state construction grant is awarded in the amount of \$500,000. The library expansion will allow the City to not only create a teen area and conference rooms, but install movable walls so that the areas can be multi-purposed for other groups. The design that you will see illustrates the possibility to move a wall to expand the library conference room into the senior center conference room.*

*The original scope of the library a few years ago was planned to double the size by 9000 square feet, which would have increased construction, operations, and staffing budgets significantly. Since this project is being funded through the Impact Fee Program, staff met with the Director of Lake County Library Services, George Taylor, to learn how to proceed with making this change so that this reduced scope would not adversely impact the impact fee award. Mr. Taylor has advised that no amendment to the agreement would be necessary.*

*Why we would build a senior center along with a library? Why not just build a large library? Through research, by meeting with Tavares seniors and through survey results, the following highlights have been determined:*

- Senior Centers are recognized by the Older Americans Act (OAA) as a community focal point. They have become one of the most widely used services among America's older adults. Today, almos 10,000 senior centers serve more than 1 million older adults every single day.*
- Senior centers offer everything from trips and special events to fine arts and crafts, music and dance, lifelong learning, and fitness and health programs.*
- In a quick survey (which is included in your packet) 174 of our Tavares seniors want a center with programming*

- *The median age for Tavares citizens is 52.7. Denny's restaurant offers a senior discount menu for people age 55 and over. So, accordingly, one could say that this city has a predominant senior population*
- *Learning comes in all environments and all shapes and sizes. Learning happens at our library now, but it also happens at the shuffleboard courts, at the TRA room, at the civic center, and it will happen at the senior center.*

*Other points of interest are as follows:*

- *If the center is built, then 3 rec staffers will move to the property and manage the center, eliminating the need to hire a large number of additional staff members (only 1 is anticipated for the senior center and 1 for the library expansion)*
- *Grants can be obtained to assist with the cost of a senior center whereby the available grants to expand the library have already been secured*
- *The library and rec staff already have overlap in programming duties (the recreation summer camp pairs with the library's summer reading program)*
- *If the center is built, then we believe that library circulation numbers could increase significantly*
- *There is a current international initiative called, "Let's move in libraries," and it is based on getting people of all ages and abilities to move. It aims to support healthy communities*
- *If this project moves forward, the Tavares Public Library will purchase and circulate shuffle board kits, pickle ball kits, and bocce ball kits to all Lake County Library Card Holders and they would become part of this international initiative. For every item circulated, the city receives \$1.00. In America's Seaplane City, where all things are possible and they beg to be Niche and Wow with*
  - *The pairing of recreation staff with library staff;*
  - *Sports courts along with books,*
  - *And teens engaging with seniors.*

Vanessa Kassabian, Lead Designer, DLR Group, presented a PowerPoint presentation of the Ridge Park Master Plan conceptual design including a Senior Center. She said her team worked within a \$1 million dollar budget to determine a square foot target (2600 sq. ft. Library addition; 3650 sq. ft. Senior Center; 6500 sq. ft. Outdoor Spaces) including a café, moveable partition walls, teaching kitchen and multi-purpose theatre.

Mark Kirby, Lead Engineer, DLR Group, noted air conditioner condensers would need to be relocated.

Mayor Boggus asked for questions from Council.

Mayor Boggus asked if the Tavares Historical Society would keep their current building. Mr. Drury said the Tavares Historical Society will continue to operate at their current location and move the museum to the Wootton Park Train Station. He said if the Historical Society vacates the building in the future Council may wish to designate the building as a used book store for the library.

Council Member Singer inquired about the Pickle Ball court. Ms. Kassabian said the concept design reflects one Pickle Ball court, Four Bocce Ball courts, and one Horseshoe court. Council Member Singer said Pickle Ball is a popular activity and asked if there is room to add more courts. Ms. Kassabian confirmed and said the Senior Center, Library, and exterior court elements can programmatically change in the future. She said they would take general direction provided and incorporate in the square footage of the courtyard.

Council Member Buigas said people want activity and noted her support for the concept of a centralized area. She asked if a transportation component could be incorporated to other local amenities such as the YMCA. Ms. Rogers confirmed and said the design is in a conceptual phase. Council Member Buigas said she wants to ensure city residents can enjoy the facility and activities.

Vice Mayor Pfister said she would like to attract visitors from outside of Tavares to also visit the downtown.

### **MOTION**

**Lori Pfister moved to adopt the plan, seconded by Roy Stevenson. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

### **Tab 7. Concept Plan for Senior Center**

Mayor Boggus asked for questions from Council.

Vice Mayor Pfister said the city could offer exercise programs to residents who are not members of the YMCA. Council Member Buigas noted the YMCA has a Silver Sneaker Program that the city can partner at no cost to residents.

### **MOTION**

**Lori Pfister moved to accept the Senior Center conceptual plan, seconded by Roy Stevenson.**

Mayor Boggus inquired about the teaching kitchen. Ms. Rogers said residents have indicated they would enjoy a teaching kitchen and the idea is to have learning for the entire compound in all buildings.

**The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

## **Tab 8. Community Grant Policy**

Ms. Novack made the following presentation:

*Council received the current Administrative Policy staff uses to guide, review and make recommendations to Council for Community Grant awards when the program is funded during the budget process. During the January 15, 2020 City Council meeting, Council asked that the policy be brought back for review and possible revision. Discussion by Council included removing the closing date for application's and awarding grants throughout the year as submitted.*

Council Member Singer noted he is not in support of a application submittal deadline. Mr. Drury said a motion could be made to accept a rolling application process so funding could be awarded throughout the year until funds are exhausted.

### **MOTION**

**Lori Pfister moved to remove application deadlines on the Community Grant Policy, to be awarded until there are no funds available, seconded by Troy Singer. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

## **Tab 9. Rails to Trails Update**

Mr. Drury said the City formed a partnership with Lake County, City of Tavares, and City of Mount Dora to complete a Rails to Trails project. He said the Horizon Team includes Council Member Buigas, City Administrator, Public Works Director, Economic Development Director, and Communications Director. He said the three entities have partnered to secure grant funding. Mr. Drury provided a PowerPoint Presentation overview of the project with the following highlights:

- Coast to Coast Trail begins in St. Petersburg, Florida to Cape Canaveral, Florida by way of Central Florida
- Most of the Coast to Coast Trail has been completed
- The Heart of Florida trail loop is located in Lake County with the middle of the heart its main artery which is this project and a feeder and receiver for the Coast to Coast recreation trail system
- Communities across the state are funding the project
- The Rails to Trail from Tavares to Mount Dora is the main artery of the loop connecting to the Coast to Coast Rail system
- The main railroad line from Umatilla to Eustis through Tavares to Plymouth to Orlando will remain for current train excursions, freight, storage, and future growth of passenger rail to Orlando
- The goal is to secure a Build Grant from the United States Department of Transportation

- Build Grants are awarded in \$20-25 million dollar increments and the project is approximately \$25 million dollars to purchase the railroad from CSX and build a 14-foot-wide recreational paved trail from Tavares to Mount Dora, Sorrento and Wekiva
- The grant application has a 90 day window and a team has been created including Lake County to submit a competitive application
- The team will meet with state representatives in Washington D.C.
- The following team members are traveling to Washington D.C. to meet with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Secretary Chao and her team and introduce the project showing support between three governmental agencies:
  - Mayor and City Manager of Mount Dora
  - Mayor, City Administrator, and Public Works Director of Tavares
  - Chairman of the County Commission and County Manager
- The Governmental Liaison Team the City hired two years ago in anticipation of the project has been working on the City's behalf to set the meetings up. Mount Dora and Lake County also have teams in Washington D.C. who will also be assisting in making the project a high priority for our Congressmen, Senators, Secretary Chao and her team.

Mr. Drury said Council Member Buigas is the Council liaison for the project and has attended many meetings with the Florida Secretary of Transportation and District 5 representatives. The City has secured a \$430,000 grant to complete preliminary studies and a PD&E for the portion to Sorrento. He said FDOT is funding the Wekiva portion of the project.

Mayor Boggus asked for questions from Council.

Council Member Buigas said she would like to attend the Washington D.C. meetings on behalf of the Mayor if she has a scheduling conflict. Mayor Boggus said if there is a second meeting, and if she is unable to attend, she will ask Council Member Buigas to attend on her behalf.

#### **Tab 9A. Seaplane Base, Marina Reconstruction Budget Allocation**

Mr. Tweedie made the following presentation:

*On December 18, 2019 the City Council approved a GMP contract amount of \$8,169,300 with Haskell Corporation to rebuild the Seaplane Base and Marina subject to insurance coverage for this cost. Staff submitted the approved GMP package to the insurance carriers. The Insurance carriers have indicated that an approval is forthcoming for 96% of the GMP (\$7.8 million) leaving 4% (\$369,100) for the city to cover. The goal is to reduce that 4% number to 2% or less. The insurance carriers have indicated that they will require additional support information to cover the 4% amount. Once the insurance carrier provides the city with the specific information on which components of the 96% are being covered vs. which components of the 4% not covered, staff will work*

*with the Haskell team and their engineers to provide that additional information to the insurance carriers and pursue coverage on the remaining 4%.*

*In the meantime, since no “notice to proceed” has been issued, the bids are becoming dated and there is a concern that if the City does not issue a notice to proceed soon, the project bids will need to be updated and the cost will go up. Additionally, the project schedule will be delayed and therefore completion will be delayed.*

*It is therefore recommended that the City issue a notice to proceed now in the full amount of the approved GMP to lock in the bids and get the project built sooner rather than later.*

*Previously the City budgeted \$360,000 for this project out of infrastructure sales tax to be used as Insurance match dollars and reserves for unforeseen items during construction phase.*

*It is recommended that the city appropriate this previously budgeted amount of \$360,000 for this unforeseen need plus an additional \$9,300 along with the insurance amount of \$7.8 million to total the full amount of the approved GMP of \$8,169,300 so that the construction bids are locked in and a notice to proceed can be issued immediately.*

*Staff recommends approval of Option 1 - Approve the appropriation of the budgeted \$360,000 plus an additional \$9,300 along with the insurance amount of \$7.8 million to total the full amount of the approved GMP of \$8,169,300 in order to issue a notice to proceed immediately.*

Mayor Boggus asked for questions from Council.

Council Member Singer asked why the city's portion increased from 2% to 4%. Mr. Tweedie said the insurance company provided an undisputed amount where the GMP amount was reviewed by 7-8 insurers and approved at \$7.8 million dollars. Mr. Drury said the city's requirement remains 2% of the insurance carrier coverage. The insurance carriers have asked for additional information on items that increase the difference to 4%. Attorney Williams said the city does not agree with the insurance carrier's final numbers. Mr. Drury said funds are allocated for the project and the city's goal was to not use the money and instead place back into reserves. Staff is requesting authorization to use the monies as intended, knowing that the dollars have not been finalized. He said he would normally wait until there is final resolution but due to the GMP that Haskell has agreed becoming stale, waiting longer may require the project to be rebid and delay completion. Council Member Singer said he would like the project to move forward and have staff continue to pursue and recoup the cost.

## **MOTION**

Lori Pfister moved to approve Option 1 [Appropriate the previously budgeted amount of \$360,000 for this unforeseen need plus an additional \$9,300 along with the insurance amount of \$7.8 million to total the full amount of the approved GMP of \$8,169,300 so that the construction bids are locked in and a notice to proceed can be issued immediately], seconded by Roy Stevenson. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

**XII. OLD BUSINESS**

**XIII. HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

**Tab 10. Tavares Historical Society**

Brenda Smith, President, Tavares Historical Society, noted the Tavares Museum was the first museum in the state to have a timeline. She provided the following timeline:

- 1875 Major St. Clair Abrams founded Tavares
- 1876 The James Smith Conner homestead was established
- 1883 Post Office established at Lane Park
- 1884 Major St. Clair Abrams laid out the Town of Tavares and built a hotel, three stores, a sawmill, and eight cottages
- 1885 The Union Congregational Church was built
- 1888 The business section was destroyed by a fire that was started from the fire box on a train.
- 1890 The Opera House was built
- 1893 The County Commission built roads connecting Tavares to surrounding communities
- 1898 First telephone connecting Tavares with Eustis was strung on Western Union poles
- 1912 First Boy Scout Troop founded
- 1913 Bank of Tavares was organized and built (current Tavares Square location)
- 1916 Opera House burned, Tavares Mason Lodge 234 was chartered, elementary school was built
- 1919 Tavares was incorporated

David Serdar, Fruitland Park, noted his support for museums.

**XIV. AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD**

**XV. REPORTS**

**Tab 11. City Administrator Report**

Mr. Drury said another date could be added to Tavares history; Tony Jannus landed the first seaplane off the shores of Tavares in 1914. He noted Mr. Jannus was the first pilot and his aircraft was the first airliner.

Mr. Drury said a notice to proceed will be issued to rebuild the storm damaged Seaplane Base and Marina and thanked Council for supporting staff's request. He said staff will work hard to get full insurance coverage as the city deserves.

## **Tab 12. City Council Member Reports**

### **Council Member Buigas**

Council Member Buigas provided a quote of the day: "Life is about accepting the challenges along the way, choosing to keep moving forward, and savoring the journey."  
~ Roy T. Bennett

### **Council Member Singer**

Council Member Singer congratulated Battalion Chief Eric Wages for his 27 years of service with the Tavares Fire Department, and being awarded Person of the Year by the American Legion Post 76. He thanked the audience for attending the meeting.

### **Mayor Boggus**

Mayor Boggus stated upcoming events including Planes, Trains & BBQ on February 29, 2020.

## **XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business and Mayor Boggus adjourned the meeting at 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully,

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Susie Novack, MMC/FCRM  
City Clerk