



**TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 18, 2023 – 4:00 PM
TAVARES CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
201 EAST MAIN STREET, TAVARES**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

**Walter Price, Mayor
Sandy Gamble, Vice Mayor
Bob Grenier, Council Member
Lori Pfister, Council Member
Troy Singer, Council Member**

STAFF PRESENT

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Price called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. He asked those who wished to speak on an agenda item to complete and submit a Request to Speak form.

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Tab 1. Pastor Brooks Braswell, Umatilla Baptist Church

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

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Price asked for any changes to the Agenda. Ms. Houghton said staff had no changes.

MOTION

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

IV. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Tab 2. Tavares Chamber of Commerce Update

Erika Buigas, President/CEO of the Tavares Chamber of Commerce, provided an update on Chamber activities. She said a full list of 2023 Chamber events would be forthcoming.

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

Attorney Holt stated there were no quasi-judicial matters before the Council for consideration.

VI. READING OF ALL ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS INTO THE RECORD

Ms. Novack read the following Resolution by title only:

RESOLUTION 2023-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE 2023 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.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Price asked if anyone wished to pull an item from the Consent Agenda for discussion. There were no requests.

MOTION

Troy Singer moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Bob Grenier. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Mayor Price noted budget priorities would be discussed at the February 1, 2023, City Council meeting.

Tab 3. Approval of the December 21, 2022, City Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Approved on the Consent Agenda.

Tab 4. Broad Budget Priorities

Approved on the Consent Agenda.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

Tab 5. Resolution 2023-01 - First Budget Amendment for FY 2023

Ms. Houghton made the following presentation:

Resolution 2023-01 represents increases and/or decreases to the Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2023. Appropriation increases represent capital projects, ARPA expenditures, and prior year/project encumbrance rollovers. In addition, the Resolution also reflects transfers between individual accounts within adopted budgets for all departments.

This resolution represents the first amendment to the Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Vance Jochim, 12619 Milwaukee Avenue, Lake County, inquired about the difference in the budget balance before and after the amendment.

Ms. Houghton said the balance includes all funds, including General, Water, Operating, Impact, Grant, ARPA, Sales Tax, and Debt Service. She noted encumbrances were brought forward into the new year and projects in process, such as ARPA, Lake Francis, Peninsula, and Public Works Facility.

MOTION

Bob Grenier moved to approve Resolution 2023-01, seconded by Troy Singer. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

IX. ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING

First Reading

Second Reading

X. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Tab 6. Naming the Downtown Waterfront Area

Council Member Pfister provided the following presentation:

The Downtown Waterfront area consists of many activities, including Wooton Wonderland, Wooton Park, the Special Events Staging area, the Seaplane Tour Operator, Seaplane Flight Training, KaKayakental Operator, Seaplane Base, the Marina, the Dora Queen operator, the Volleyball Courts and the Boat ramps. Previously, Council member Lori Pfister asked the City Council to consider designating a name for this destination area and the Council directed the City Administrator to work with Council member Lori Pfister to receive names, sort through them ,and report back to Council. Some names were received, including Pontoon Park, Land & See Park, Seaplane City Park ,and Pontoon Promenade.

The name Pontoon Promenade is recommended for the Council's consideration. Webster defines Promenade as "a place for strolling" and . "A leisurely walk or ride, especially in a public place". Seaplanes with pontoons and Pontoon boats frequent this promenade area, making it a fitting name for consideration.

Council Member Pfister said 'Pontoon Promenade' is a name the City could grow into and emphasizes the waterfront applying to seaplane and boat pontoons.

Council Member Singer noted his preference to refer to the waterfront as the 'Waterfront District' and felt there was no need to name the area.

Council Member Grenier noted his support for the name 'Pontoon Promenade.' He said the waterfront is one of the City's greatest assets and felt the name was artistic and dramatic. He said the Wooton Park area should be separate.

Vice Mayor Gamble noted his support and said he would like to ensure the City chooses a name that would remain the same as there are associated costs, including signage.

Mayor Price noted his support for the name 'Tavares Landing.'

Terrell Bounds, 1550 Peninsula Drive, Tavares, recommended lighting in areas of Wooton Park and said some paths needed to be better lit. He said he does not support naming the waterfront area.

Council Member Pfister said 'Pontoon Promenade' was an interesting name that would draw visitors and take the City into the future.

MOTION

Bob Grenier moved to rename the park waterfront to ‘Pontoon Promenade,’ seconded by Lori Pfister. The motion carried 3-2 as follows:

Walter Price:	No
Sandy Gamble:	Yes
Bob Grenier:	Yes
Lori Pfister:	Yes
Troy Singer:	No

Tab 7. Discussion on Naming the Softball Field at Fred Stover Sports Complex in Memory of Coach Robin Ross

Mr. Aldrich made the following presentation:

A request was brought to the city from Bud Hart to recognize and honor the memory of local youth softball coach Robin Ross. Coach Ross lost her battle with a rare form of cancer this past September. For more than a decade, she served as a youth softball coach in the Tavares Babe Ruth League and other programs around the area, coaching teams of all ages. She went on to create the travel softball team, Tavares Boomers, which competed nationally in tournaments all over the country. Her dedicated time and mentorship was felt by countless girls in the Tavares area, leading many of them on to prominent high school and collegiate softball careers.

As a point of reference, the City of Tavares has nine (9) total baseball and softball fields at both the Fred Stover and Woodlea Sports Complexes. At the September 16, 2020 City Council meeting, council voted to name one of the youth baseball fields at the Woodlea Sports Complex after local baseball stand-out and major league player Brady Singer. Currently, all the other fields are not named or dedicated to anyone. However, there are two memory plaques on the wall of the press box at Fred Stover Sports Complex to memorialize two former youth coaches that have passed away as a means to recognize their contributions to our local youth league.

Mr. Hart said the loss of Coach Robin Ross was tragic for the family and community and asked the Council to consider naming one Fred Stover Field in her honor. He noted Coach Ross mentored many students and assisted in obtaining college scholarships through softball programs. He said she was a mentor both on and off the field.

Vice Mayor Gamble noted Fred Stover Field was in negotiations to be sold, and a memorial plaque might be more feasible at the field. He suggested Woodlea Sports Complex as a more permanent location.

Council Member Singer inquired about existing dedication plaques located at Stover Field. Mr. Aldrich noted memorial plaques were placed on a wall at the Stover Field press box honoring youth baseball coaches. Council Member Singer stated his support for a plaque and said naming a field may not be appropriate due to the sale of the property. He asked if it would be possible to direct staff to come up with criteria to name an item or field in honor of an individual.

Council Member Pfister noted her support in recognizing those who give their time and effort to the community. She said a dedication wall recognizing those who have contributed and their stories would be an excellent way to honor those citizens. Council Member Pfister said a field dedication would be more appropriate at Woodlea Sports Complex.

Council Member Singer noted his concern that the dedication would get lost at Stover Field, and Woodlea Sports Complex would be a better location to honor Coach Ross' memory.

Council Member Grenier said the Woodlea Sports Complex is the City's future, and any honor would remain perpetually.

Mayor Price said he concurred with the Council's comments and Woodlea Sports Complex would be an appropriate and permanent place for honoring citizens.

Ms. Houghton said staff could bring back recommendations for memorials at Woodlea Sports Complex.

Mr. Hart noted his support for a commemoration wall that could recognize many people. He asked the Council if he could research opportunities to memorialize and honor citizens, including costs and funding sources, so the community volunteers and donators could help fund the project rather than the City or taxpayers. He said community recognition on the waterfront might also be a more appropriate location.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to not proceed at this time, seconded by Bob Grenier.

Ms. Houghton asked Mr. Hart to contact Mr. Drury. She said staff would explore options and bring them back to the Council.

Council Member Singer thanked Mr. Hart for bringing the dedication to the City's attention. He said he would like to ensure the Council directs staff to look into ways to memorialize those deserving and naming criteria. Ms. Houghton said staff could bring options back to the Council for consideration.

The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 8. 2023 City Council Regular Meeting Dates

Ms. Houghton said a list of remaining 2023 City Council meeting dates was provided to the Council:

The following is a list of the remaining scheduled 2023 City Council regular meeting dates:

*February 1, 2023
February 15, 2023
March 1, 2023
March 15, 2023
April 5, 2023
April 19, 2023
May 3, 2023
May 17, 2023
June 7, 2023
June 21, 2023
July 5, 2023
July 19, 2023
August 2, 2023
August 16, 2023
September 6, 2023
September 20, 2023
October 4, 2023
October 18, 2023
November 1, 2023
December 6, 2023*

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to approve the 2023 City Council meeting dates, seconded by Bob Grenier.

Mayor Price asked if the dates would coincide with the budget workshops and hearings. Ms. Houghton said the dates would meet the budgetary and TRIM calendar requirements.

The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 9. Community Grant Awards

Ms. Novack made the following presentation:

The Council budgeted \$2,000 in the current Fiscal Year 2023 for community grants. The City advertised at the beginning of the fiscal year an invitation to

submit community grant applications for area not-for-profit organizations with a 501C3 designation for up to \$500 in funding for community and social service projects.

The City received three grant applications (attached) as follows:

Tavares Theater Application - \$500 Request - For capital items that would support the arts.

Union Congregational Church Application - \$500 Request (Not a 501C3 organization, however, it is a 509A1, which is a status recognized by the IRS as a qualified entity to receive tax-exempt donations similar to a 501C3) - For a food pantry.

Friends of the Tavares Library Application - \$350 Request - To purchase books for the Little Free Library in Ingraham Park.

A ranking committee consisting of the City Clerk, Finance Director, and Community Services Director met on January 6, 2023, and reviewed the applications to determine if they met the criteria for the Community Grant Program. It was determined that each request met the criteria with a minor exception noted in (parenthesis) above.

Staff recommends Option 1, for the Council to award the Community Grants as requested to the Tavares Theater, Union Congregational Church, and Friends of the Tavares Library.

There is currently a \$2,000 balance in the Community Grant account. If the three grants were awarded there would be a remaining balance of \$650 that would be considered by the Council on a first come first serve basis as the City receives additional applications.

Vice Mayor Gamble asked for confirmation that more applications could be received and awarded with the remaining balance. Ms. Novack confirmed and said the grants awards could continue throughout the year until all funds were dispersed.

Council Member Singer asked the City Attorney if the 509A1 designation was legally sufficient. Attorney Holt said the Charter did not prohibit the award and noted it is a similar tax-exempt status as a 501c3.

Ms. Houghton said the entity provided a copy of its IRS determination letter to support that they met the charitable organization and tax-exempt status.

Council Member Grenier said the National procedure for the Little Free Library is to take a book and replace it with another one. He said he and the Tavares Library frequently restock the Little Free Libraries and noted three locations at Aesop's Park, Wooton

Park, and Ingraham Park. Council Member Grenier stated his support for awarding the grant.

Mayor Price noted his support for the three requests.

MOTION

Sandy Gamble moved to award the Community Grants as requested to the Tavares Theater, Union Congregation Church, and Friends of the Tavares Library. The motion was seconded by Troy Singer. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 10. Award of Bid for Lakeview Drive Drainage, Phase 2

Mr. Clark made the following presentation:

This project is phase 2 of a planned capital project. This will complete phase 2 of one of the City's most problematic area related to stormwater. Brooks Company was the contractor that completed Phase 1 of the project. They have completed numerous projects to the City's satisfaction. Per the below and attached, it is recommended that the bid be awarded to the low bidder.

1. The Brooks Company - \$146,856
2. Cathcard Construction Company - Florida LLC - \$198,000
3. Estep Construction - \$198,888
4. Garcia Civil Contractors - \$192,000
5. DB Civil Construction Inc - \$224,950

Staff recommends Option 1, award the bid to Brooks Company, Inc.

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

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to approve [Option 1, award bid to the Books Company, Inc.], seconded by Bob Grenier. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 11. Tavares Square Request for Proposals (RFP) Presentation & Selection

Mr. Tweedie made the following presentation:

Previously, Council approved staff to conduct a Request for Proposals (RFP) process to recruit private sector developers to purchase and develop the presently vacant City-owned downtown parcel of property known as Tavares Square, located on East Main Street diagonally across the street from City Hall. The City purchased this property from Lake County in 2015 with the intent of fulfilling the vision of the Downtown Tavares Redevelopment Master Plan,

which conceptualized a mixed-use development consisting of commercial, residential, and open public spaces.

RFP # 2022-0014 was solicited and Four (4) proposals were received by the deadline of 08/31/2022. A selection committee consisting of the City Administrator, Economic Development Director, and Community Development Director was convened to review, score and rank the proposals and provide a recommendation to Council. The result was a tie score between Cagan Management and G3 Development. On this basis, it was the consensus of the committee that the Council receive a presentation from both firms for the Council to make a decision on a preferred firm for an award of RFP 2022-0014.

Both firms will be present to provide Council with a full presentation of their proposals which have been included as backup material in the agenda packet.

Staff recommended Option 1, for Council to receive presentations from Cagan Management and G3 Development and select from the two proposals/presentations a firm for staff to negotiate a purchase & sale agreement for the property and proposed development to bring back to council for approval.

Jeff Cagan, Cagan Management, provided a PowerPoint presentation including some of the following highlights:

- Goal of creating a communal focal point for the City and anchor for downtown.
- The project will also incorporate many 'green' building and design concepts.
- Centered around a communal fountain/park on the corner of Main Street and Rockingham Avenue that will enhance and promote the downtown experience for residents, visitors, and the community
- Design fosters a classic 'Main Street' look and feel by creating a unique elevation with various reveals to appear as many smaller buildings.
- Tavares Square will be a mix of residential, commercial, and retail, providing produce a high-quality and affordable living option.
- Building One: Three-story mixed-use building with retail/commercial on the ground level floor and two levels of residential above. Retail Commercial 10,900 square feet, residential 22 units
- Building Two: Three-story building with all residential. Residential 15 units
- Between the two buildings the planned unit mix of residential will be 37 residential units.
- 75 parking spaces
- Followed existing zoning codes for the site

Austin Gunther, G3 Development, made a PowerPoint presentation and video including some of the following highlights:

- Mixed-use building

- 11,500 square feet of retail/commercial space
- 3,000 square feet of professional office space
- Approximately 60 residential units
- Potential 4-story parking structure containing up to 415 spaces completed in one phase
- Creation of an open-air pedestrian plaza at the corner of Ruby Street and South Rockingham Avenue, including fountains, public art, and public restrooms

Mayor Price asked for comments from the public.

Ralph Smith, 111 Lakeview Lane, Mount Dora, said he had known the owners of G3 Development for a long time and emphasized their good character and reputation.

Council Member Pfister said she would like to receive additional financial information and felt it was a significant component of the selection process.

Council Member Grenier said he would like a further review of the proposals and an opportunity to visit some of their completed projects. He said he would also like additional financial information, including costs.

Council Member Singer noted that both developers had completed many projects throughout the community, and it was difficult to choose between them. He inquired about the \$1.835 million dollar purchase price and leasing of the parking garage and park to the City. Mr. Gunther said the price was based on getting the density of the apartments. He said they had negotiated redevelopment deals in the past where they paid for a garage upfront and then sold or leased it back to a City. He said additional direction would be needed from the City to determine costs.

Council Member Singer asked if the Cagan plan included a parking garage. Mr. Cagan said he followed zoning requirements, which required 25 units per acre, providing enough parking behind the buildings for 74 cars in their design at two spaces per unit. He said they were not planning on building a parking garage.

Vice Mayor Gamble inquired about the diagonal building depicted in the PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Cagan said one building would be situated on Main Street, one on Rockingham Avenue, and one on Ruby Street. Ruby Street would be only residential units. Any restaurant would be located in a separate building.

Mayor Price inquired about the price. Mr. Cagan said they would pay a current appraisal amount. He said the site had little or no value except for value added to the site. The idea of the site was to bring apartments to the downtown and income to the area. In return, they would not ask the City for any monies. It was his understanding the City was not interested in investing in the property, including a parking garage.

Mayor Price asked G3 for the 18 million dollar site purchase multiplier. Mr. Gunther said the cost was based on receiving approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000 per unit for each residential unit.

Mayor Price said the G3 proposal includes a lease back for a parking garage and asked for an estimate of a lease cost. Mr. Gunther said the lease would be based on the price, the number of spaces utilized by the City or apartments, and financing costs. Mayor Price said he would be hesitant to commit the City to a lease when the costs are not identified and how it would affect the City's budget. Mr. Gunther said they were not asking the City to commit to a lease and are asking the Council to choose their firm to work with staff for the right solution. He said the Council might wish for something other than a parking garage.

Mr. Tweedie said the City was looking at selecting a firm for staff to negotiate. All issues, including pricing and a parking garage, would be negotiated and brought back to the Council with an agreement for future consideration.

Council Member Grenier asked if Council could direct staff to negotiate with both firms. Mr. Tweedie confirmed and noted the price would have to be fair-market value for the sale of the property per Florida Statutes. A current market appraisal would be completed before a purchase and sale agreement commitment.

Mr. Cagan said he wanted the property to be self-contained and include parking, and his plan did not have a parking garage.

Mayor Price said this is an exciting project the downtown needs and was only comfortable deciding on one firm or another with additional financial details. He said he would also like public input on the citizens' wishes.

Ms. Houghton said the City issued an RFP (Request for Proposals) and asked the City Attorney how the Boards desire for additional information to evaluate would impact the RFP process. Attorney Holt said the Council could ask for additional information and the item could be tabled and brought back at a later date. Mr. Tweedie said staff would need direction from Council in what they would be looking for to move forward.

Vice Mayor Gamble said he enjoyed both presentations and liked utilizing brick to match City Hall's façade.

Council Member Grenier said he would like to determine building levels, architectural design, and parking.

Council Member Singer asked the Council if they wished for a parking garage as G3 would be the only company to provide a garage.

Council Member Pfister said she did not support a parking garage on the property. Council Member Grenier concurred. Mayor Price said he did not wish to incur future

debt or lease payments for a parking garage and felt the development should be self-contained.

Council Member Pfister said she would like a discussion placed on the next agenda as the Council needs to provide input on what they wish to be placed on the site.

Ms. Houghton said the staff would provide the Council with copies of bids and proposals. Mr. Tweedie confirmed a discussion would be placed on the February 1, 2023, City Council agenda to refine the development criteria.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to table discussion to the February 1, 2023 City Council regular meeting, seconded by Bob Grenier. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 12. 2023 Projects and Initiatives Underway

Ms. Houghton made the following presentation:

A list including 14 pages of projects and initiatives currently underway was provided to the Council. No action is required. After reviewing the list, if there are any questions, the Council can contact the City Administrator or the project lead person.

Vice Mayor Gamble said he would like to schedule a West Main Street Gateway Horizon Team meeting as they had not met to date.

Vice Mayor Gamble asked if an arch design was approved for the Cemetery Gate Partnership Project. Ms. Houghton said Lake Tech Institute was conducting a project for the City to install the archway, and funding was included in the budget. She said the arch still needs to be completed and may still be in the design phase to come before the Board.

Vice Mayor Gamble asked for an update on the three shade structures at Woodlea Sports Complex. Mr. Aldrich said the structures would be completed during the summer of 2023, including bleacher concrete pads. He said lighting is in progress and would be installed throughout spring; infrastructure was scheduled to be delivered the second week of March 2023. Vice Mayor Gamble said the structures and pads might need to be reviewed due to the County Regional Park renovations. Mr. Aldrich said the pads would be placed at the upper fields and would not be affected by the County's design or construction. Mr. Aldrich said he would ensure the canopies could be relocated.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

XII. OLD BUSINESS

Tab 13. Update on Sister City Invitation, 2023 Taipei Taiwan Smart Cities Summit & Exposition

Mr. Tweedie made the following presentation:

At the previous City Council meeting, the Council was presented with an invitation (attached) from the City's Sister City, Taipei Taiwan for the Mayor and a delegation to attend the 2023 Smart City Summit & Expo to be held in Taiwan March 28th to April 1st, 2023.

As the Mayor and Council members are not available for attendance during this timeframe, the Council directed staff to pursue other delegation opportunities, including the City management team, business, and civic organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and/or Rotary Club etc. The City Administrator is available and will attend along with the Economic Development Director as official City representatives and invitations have been extended to the Presidents of both the Tavares Chamber of Commerce and Golden Triangle Rotary Club to participate in the delegation.

The invitation includes re-imbursement of expenses for hotel, conference registration for the delegation and flight expenses of \$1,000 for the delegation leader. Sufficient funds are available in the FY2023 travel expense budget for the remaining non-reimbursed staff travel (flight) expense portion. The Chamber and Rotary would be responsible for flight expenses for their participating delegation member(s).

Vice Mayor Gamble inquired about funding that would be reimbursed. Mr. Tweedie said reimbursement would apply to the Mayor or designee for a portion of their flight. The hotel in Taipei and conference fees were complimentary for all attendees. Ms. Houghton said travel budgets could support the remaining travel expenses.

Vance Jochim, 12619 Milwaukee Avenue, Lake County, recommended obtaining travel insurance and checking with the state department for travel warnings. He suggested the Lake County Economic Development be invited and said he would like to have been provided the unfunded transportation costs.

Mayor Price asked if the cost absorbed by the City were included in the budget. Ms. Houghton confirmed.

MOTION

Lori Pfister moved to approve sending John Drury and Bob Tweedie to attend the 2023 Taipei Taiwan Smart Cities Summit & Exposition, seconded by Troy Singer. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

XIII. AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD

Ralph Smith, 111 Lakeview Lane, Mount Dora, owner of Lake Tire and Auto, said he was disappointed with the appearance of US 441 and concerned about the number of gaming facilities located in the area. He noted he owns the debt on one of the gaming facility properties and said he did not support gaming facilities. He asked for the costs of opening a gaming facility in Tavares.

Attorney Holt said the ordinance passed by the Council requires a \$25,000 initial permit fee for electronic game rooms, with a \$10,000 annual renewal fee.

Mayor Price said it was his understanding that gaming establishments could not be outlawed. Attorney Holt said Florida had not prohibited gaming establishments as gambling is not illegal in the state.

Mayor Price asked the Police department for an update on gaming establishments. Captain Grogan provided information on Police issues within the past six-month period. A discussion was held on Police monitoring of the facilities. Attorney Holt said a Code Enforcement action would be initiated if there were any City ordinance violations for game room facilities. Attorney Holt noted four establishments remaining in the City. Ms. Houghton said staff could work with the City Attorney to provide a report and legal update on gaming facilities.

Vance Jochim, 12619 Milwaukee Avenue, Lake County, commended Mr. Drury on the Projects and Initiatives list included in the agenda packet.

XIV. REPORTS

Tab 15. City Administrator Report

City Administrator

Ms. Houghton said a list of upcoming meetings was provided to the Council.

Department Directors

Chief Keith noted Arbor Day events would be held on Saturday, January 21, 2023. He said a Food Drive benefiting Lake Cares Food Pantry was also being held in conjunction with the Golden Triangle Rotary Club. The Tavares Public Safety Complex was one of the donation sites.

Mr. Aldrich said citizens would be provided tax assistance through AARP at the Tavares Library beginning the first Friday in February. He noted the service was free to the public.

Tab 16. City Council Member Reports

Council Member Grenier

- Thanked James Dillon, Traci Anderson, and Matt Ryan for landscaping around the Tavares History Research Center after they heard he would be conducting a meeting at the location.
- Said he recently retired from Disney after 33 years, and it was a proud part of his life.

Council Member Singer

- Said he attended the Oysters with Officers event at Tiki West. He said it was a great community event and noted Police Captain Jon Hall won the oyster eating contest.

Vice Mayor Gamble

- Asked staff to ensure the Wooton Park sidewalks were well-lit. Mr. Tweedie said the ARPA-funded lighting project was complete at the west end and along the marina, and staff would look at other sections to see if any additional enhancements were needed.
- Thanked Mr. Dillon for repaving around a utility hole so that it was not elevated and impacting traffic.
- Commended the Fire Department for responding to a scene before Lake EMS and being trained in ALS.

Mayor Price said he was looking forward to the Arbor Day and Food Drive events.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and Mayor Price adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully,

Susie Novack, MMC, FCRM
City Clerk