MINUTES
OCOEE CITY COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING

- **CALL TO ORDER** 6:15 PM

Mayor Johnson called the regular session to order at 6:15 PM in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. The invocation was led by **Commissioner Hart**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by **Mayor Johnson**. **City Clerk Sibbitt** called the roll and declared a quorum present.
Present: Mayor Johnson, Commissioner Kennedy, Commissioner Wilsen, Commissioner Firstner, Commissioner Hart
Also Present: City Manager Frank, City Attorney Cookson, City Clerk Sibbitt

- **PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS** 6:16 PM

Proclamation for September 2023 - 2023 Hispanic Heritage Month, proclaimed by **Mayor Johnson.**

Fire Chief Jim White, *Program Manager, Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI),* introduced himself and presented the Ocoee Fire Department with an Accreditation Plaque from the CFAI. He detailed the criteria linked to achieving this recognition. **Ocoee Fire Chief Smoother** expressed gratitude to the Elected Officials and Management for granting them the chance to complete the accreditation process and recognized several City Staff members for their diligent efforts to secure this award. The Commission applauded them for their outstanding achievement.

- **STAFF REPORTS AND AGENDA REVIEW** - *None*

- **PUBLIC COMMENTS** 6:22 PM

The following persons addressed the City Commission:

- **Jim Moyer**, *Ocoee Resident*, **1)** Provided feedback on the modification of wording on Charter Review question #3, **2)** Pointed out the absence of signage in the northern part of Ocoee, expressing concerns that visitors might not recognize they are in Ocoee, **3)** Mentioned his recent appointment as Chair of the Human Relations Diversity Board (HRDB), **4)** Expressed disagreement with the chosen date for celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, and **5)** Expressed a wish to see the City commemorate Veteran's Day on the actual day, not a weekday, to ensure a larger turnout. **Mayor Johnson** requested for the City to tackle the issue of signage citywide. **Commissioner Hart** stated that he had conversations with City staff concerning the Hispanic Heritage Month Event and emphasized that they are actively addressing this issue. **Mayor Johnson** expressed that the Community Relations Department should adopt a more proactive approach in planning upcoming events to ensure the City's proper celebration of them. **Commissioner Kennedy** conveyed a proposal to allocate additional funds in the Parks & Recreation budget for a Community Event Coordinator, which is to be voted on at the Final Budget Hearing. **Commissioner Wilsen** requested a copy of the HRDB guidelines to better understand the Board's role. **Mayor Johnson** addressed her request.

- **Bill Maxwell,** *Ocoee Resident*, recalled a request he made about the waiving of the residency requirement for the Ocoee Police Officer's and Fire Fighter's Retirement Board. **City Attorney Geller** outlined the request and read Florida Statute 185.05 which prohibits the City from accommodating the request. Discussion ensued and **City Attorney Geller** addressed any further questions.

- **CONSENT AGENDA** 6:35 PM

Consent Agenda Motion

Motion: Move to adopt the Consent Agenda Item #1-13.

Moved by Commissioner Firstner, seconded by Commissioner Hart; Motion carried 5-0.

1. Approval of Minutes from the Regular City Commission Meeting held August 15, 2023, and Budget Workshop Meeting held August 16, 2023. **(City Clerk Sibbitt)**
2. Approval of Ratification of the Ocoee Professional Firefighters Union, I.A.F.F. Local 3623 Collective Bargaining Agreements with the City. **(Assistant City Manager Shadrix)**
3. Approval of Foreclosure of 1 Taylor Street Code Enforcement Lien. **(Attorney Solik)**
4. Approval of Fourth Amendment to the Development Agreement and Amended Escrow Agreement for Arden Park to Provide Funding for Lennar Homes to Facilitate the Widening of Clarke Road. **(Development Services Director Rumer)**
5. Approval of Two-Year Warranty Surety and Maintenance, Materials, and Workmanship Escrow Agreement with Heartland Dental. **(Development Engineer Keaton)**
6. Approval of Fountains West Commons Replat (LS-2023-002). **(Development Engineer Keaton)**
7. Approval of Retirement and Transfer of Ownership of Canine Nitro. **(Police Chief Plasencia)**
8. Approval of Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. **(Police Chief Plasencia)**
9. Approval of Victims of Crime Act Grant; VOCA-C-2023-Ocoee Police Department - 00247. **(Police Chief Plasencia)**
10. Approval to Donate State Forfeiture Monies to Organizations Supporting Law Enforcement. **(Police Chief Plasencia)**
11. Approval to Install a Backup Electrical Feed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Approve Duke Energy as the Sole Source for Electrical Service. **(Utilities Director Croteau)**
12. Approval of Amendment No. 1 for CPH to Provide Design Services for the Ocoee Wastewater Plant Electrical Upgrade. **(Utilities Director Croteau)**

13. Notification of Emergency Increase to Purchase Order for Engineered Spray Solutions per Emergency Notification – Section 21.6, Chapter 21, City of Ocoee Code of Ordinances. **(Utilities Director Croteau)**

- **FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE** - *None*

- **SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE – PUBLIC HEARING** - *None*

- **PUBLIC HEARING** 6:36 PM

14. Howard Meadows Large Scale Preliminary Subdivision Plan (PSP) LS-2023-016. **(Zoning Manager Whitfield)**

Zoning Manager Whitfield presented a brief overview of the subject property which is located at 8708 A. D. Mims Road, on the south side, beginning approximately 160 feet west of Prairie Lake Boulevard. The property is approximately 2.25 acres, is currently vacant, and was recently annexed into the City and rezoned to City R-1AA. The applicant is proposing a six (6) lot residential subdivision on quarter (1/4) acre lots with one (1) stormwater tract and two (2) open space tracts.

Zoning Manager Whitfield stated the Development Review Committee (DRC) reviewed this item and made a recommendation of approval subject to the following conditions:

1. Continuation of the utility easement along all lot fronts, and
2. Relocation of the water line from the utility easement within the lots to within the ROW between the sidewalk and roadway, and
3. Creation of open space tracts between Lots 1 and 6 (these tracts will also allow for utility, landscaping, and signage), and
4. Revision to Landscape Note that lot tree selection shall be from the Arbor Code.

The public hearing was opened.

Kim Fisher, *attorney representing the applicant,* introduced herself and expressed gratitude to the Staff for their cooperation. She offered to address any questions the Commission had. *No questions were received.*

The public hearing was closed.

Motion: Move to Approve the Howard Meadows Large Scale Preliminary Subdivision Plan (PSP)(LS-2023-016), subject to the resolution of the DRC and staff comments; Moved by Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Hart; Motion carried 5-0.

• REGULAR AGENDA 6:41 PM

15. Discussion on Road Closures in the Downtown for Special Events Due to Downtown Infrastructure Work. **(Development Services Director Rumer)**

Development Services Director Rumer detailed two significant projects scheduled to begin in October 2023 and continue until June 2024, which are aimed at enhancing the downtown infrastructure. He expressed apprehensions about these projects potentially leaving McKey Street as the sole east/west route connecting businesses at the heart of downtown; and further, requested that the Commission refrain from allowing any non-City-sponsored special events in the downtown area that necessitate road closures during the construction period.

Development Services Director Rumer also disclosed a road closure request associated with an annual Christmas Party held in the Sleepy Harbour Subdivision which will be presented for their approval in the near future.

Commissioner Kennedy inquired if staff had any knowledge of any requests for road closures in the affected area. **Development Services Director Rumer** addressed his question.

Consensus of the City Commission was to approve a temporary hold on all Non-City Sponsored Special Event Permits that would require street closures in the Downtown Area.

• COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS 6:45 PM

Commissioner Kennedy – Commented on the following:

1) Announced that he is filing his Commissioner Report which will be available to the public.

Commissioner Wilsen – Commented on the following:

1) Announced the transition of Spring Fling, into a new event called Spring into Conservation.

2) Acknowledged the success of the recent Shred-It event and shared plans to host the next Shred-It event in April 2024.

3) Inquired about celebrating the Town's 100th Anniversary during the Grand Opening of Unity Park. Additionally, she suggested that the City begin planning for the City's 100th Anniversary which is slated for 2025. **Commissioner Kennedy** conveyed his sentiments regarding the importance of not diminishing the current Unity Park Grand Opening Agenda. Discussion ensued about the tight schedule and the goal to recognize both the 100th Town Anniversary and the 100th City Anniversary. **Consensus of the City Commission was to move forward with combining the Grand Opening of Unity Park with the Town's 100th Anniversary celebration.**

4) Noted a prior discussion they had regarding the inclusion of a report on discretionary funds on the Consent Agenda each month. **City Manager Frank** recalled the discussion and summarized its content. **Commissioner Wilsen** requested for the item to be presented before the Commission as a separate Agenda Item after the final budget has been officially approved.

5) Asked about the available options for residents residing on Floral Street concerning the obligatory $7,500.00 sewer line connection fee. **City Manager Frank** outlined potential options. **Commissioner Hart** emphasized the importance of developing a plan for addressing such situations in the future. **Mayor Johnson** inquired about the authorization of the $7,500 fee. **City Manager Frank** clarified that it was established based on an approved Ordinance. **Consensus of the City Commission was to have staff bring back a plan to address the required sewer line connection fees.**

Commissioner Firstner – Commented on the following:

1) Congratulated the Fire Department for their CFAI accreditation.
2) Applauded the Fire Union Leadership and City staff for successfully negotiating the Union contract in a timely and professional manner.

Commissioner Hart – Commented on the following:

1) Reiterated Commissioner Firstner's comments on the Union negotiations.
2) Encouraged patience within the community as the City continues to grow.
3) Pleaded with citizens to support and recognize our veterans.

Mayor Johnson – Commented on the following:

1) Announced the Final Budget Hearing date, time, and location.
2) Provided a brief overview on the establishment of the Commission's discretionary funds, and the justification behind his distribution decisions.
3) Spoke about a new scholarship program that is being established for the Ocoee Youth Council members.
4) Spoke about the phone calls that he receives from residents.
5) Noted that the City has multiple job openings and encouraged interested parties to contact the City.

- **ADJOURNMENT** 7:08 PM

APPROVED:

Attest: | **City of Ocoee**

Amber Landry

~~**Melanie Sibbitt, City Clerk**~~
Amber Landry, Acting City Clerk

Rusty Johnson, Mayor