The following person(s) addressed the City Commission:

- **Chris Adkins**, *Ocoee Resident*, commented on Item #11, noting that he was unaware the public hearing had been opened for that item. He agreed with Commissioner Kennedy's remarks for that item, and also expressed that the Charter Review Commission should have conducted further research on the validity of the residency requirements.

The public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Kennedy noted that the Charter Review Commission met multiple times with the City Attorney, who is certified in government law, and he believes a thorough due diligence process was followed. He added that concerns about the residency requirement were not raised during that time, and any challenges to decisions made by the Charter Review Commission can be addressed if they arise. He also thanked Mr. Adkins for his comment.

City Attorney Geller reread the title of the ordinance, as requested by the Mayor.

Motion: Move to approve Ordinance No. 2024-33, Amending Section 11-1 of the Code of Ordinances for Regular City Commission Meetings; moved by Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Firstner;

Commissioner Oliver voiced concerns about the wording in the ordinance that grants the City Commission the ability to exercise any power for municipal purposes, except as prohibited by law. **City Attorney Geller** responded, explaining that this is a common phrase used in many ordinances and carries no harmful intent.

Following discussion; Motion carried 3-1 with Commissioner Oliver opposing and Commissioner Wilsen absent.

- **PUBLIC HEARING** 7:05 PM

13. Approval of Land Agreement to Sell City-Owned Property. **(Assistant City Manager Rumer)**

Assistant City Manager Rumer provided a summary of the proposed Land Agreement for the sale of City-owned property, which was also presented to the City Commission on July 16, 2024. He noted that the Commission unanimously voted to authorize staff to proceed with drafting a contract for approval. **Assistant City Manager Rumer** explained the details of the land agreement process and the necessary right-of-way improvements. He also submitted the appraisal report, boundary survey, and the legal advertisement affidavit from West Orange Times to the City Clerk for public record.

The public hearing was opened.

The following person(s) addressed the City Commission:

- **Stephen Tilton**, *Ocoee Resident*, thanked staff for summarizing the details of the land agreement process and asked why the property was not advertised through a competitive bid process. **City Manager Shadrix** addressed his question, explaining that the City has a history of using both RFPs for property sales and considering unsolicited offers. In this instance, an unsolicited offer was deemed significant enough to present to the Commission. **Mr. Tilton** commented on the recent charter amendment to allow the exchange of property, but noted the City has the power to proceed regardless, even though the voters expressed their opposition. **City Manager Shadrix** responded to his concern, explaining that the exchange had been reviewed by legal counsel before it was presented to the City Commission. **City Attorney Geller** clarified that the Charter also addresses the alienation of properties, which encompasses the transfer of property.
- **Chris Adkins,** *Ocoee Resident*, expressed concerns about eminent domain, which he noted he had previously expressed during discussions on the Downtown Masterplan many years ago. He also commented on the charter amendment regarding the exchange of land that voters had opposed and urged the City Commission to honor those obligations.

The public hearing was closed.

Mayor Johnson addressed the misinformation circulating on social media and encouraged citizens to engage with City staff to discuss City matters. Discussion ensued.

Motion: Move to approve the Land Agreement to sell City-owned property located at 1 Taylor Street, subject to staff's recommendation; moved by Commissioner Firstner, seconded by Commissioner Kennedy;

Commissioner Kennedy addressed the misinformation on social media.

Commissioner Oliver asked if an appraisal was done on the properties related to the sale agreement. **Assistant City Manager Rumer** addressed his question. **Commissioner Oliver** further stated that there are instances when citizens may be incorrect, but they still have the right to express their concerns. He urged anyone sharing information to ensure that it is accurate and factual.

Mayor Johnson addressed the social media concerns related to his campaign contributions.

Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Wilsen absent.

- **REGULAR AGENDA** - None

- **COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS** 7:30 PM

Commissioner Oliver – Commented on the following:

1) Discussed the Intersection of Clarke Road and Clarcona Ocoee Rd and correspondence being sent to the County regarding the left turn signal. **City Manager Shadrix** stated that he has the letter, but it has not yet been sent out; however, it will go out with 'copy to' the Commission.

2) Referenced Florida Statute 553 regarding the city waiving building permit fees as it pertains to storm damage. He requested that fees be waived to allow residents to recover from the recent hurricane.

Motion: Move to approve under F.S. 553.7922 for the City to waive building permit fees for a period of 90 days to alleviate the burden on residents needing to make storm damage repairs; moved by Commissioner Oliver, seconded by Commissioner Kennedy; Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Wilsen absent.

City Manager Shadrix updated the City Commission on the hurricane debris removal and asked the community for their patience.

Commissioner Firstner – Commented on the following:

1) Thanked City staff for all their hard work leading up to and cleanup after Hurricane Milton, and acknowledged the City's Emergency Management System.

Commissioner Kennedy – Commented on the following:

1) Echoed Commissioner Firstner's comments about staff and stated that he has already seen significant changes and vast improvements in day to day processes, procedures, and outcomes within the City since City Manager Shadrix began his administration.

2) Requested the City Attorney to read the policy requiring City Commissioners to review the agenda and ask any related questions prior to attending the meeting. **City Attorney Geller** read Section 3.6.2 of the policy.

3) Requested that the City Attorney read the policy regarding Commissioners using the City Chambers for unofficial or campaign activities. **City Attorney Geller** confirmed that there is a provision prohibiting the chambers from being used for political or campaign purposes. **Commissioner Kennedy** added that while disagreements among Commissioners are acceptable, slandering one another is not and should never be done.

City Attorney Geller gave further details on the residency requirement of candidate qualification for elections, quoting previous case law.

Mayor Johnson – Commented on the following:

1) Suggested that the City explore the possibility of implementing underground powerlines for future developments. **City Manager Shadrix** assured that options for underground powerlines will be incorporated into the amended Land Development Code.

2) Addressed comments on social media about power restoration following the storm and urged everyone to be more mindful of what is posted online.

- **ADJOURNMENT** 7:56 PM

APPROVED:

Attest:

Melanie Sibbitt, City Clerk

City of Ocoee

Rusty Johnson, Mayor