



OCOEE CITY COMMISSION

Ocoee Commission Chambers
1 N. Bluford Avenue
Ocoee, Florida

January 7, 2025

MINUTES

6:15 PM

REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING

- **STATE OF THE CITY - 5:45 PM – Video Presentation**

- **CALL TO ORDER 6:16 PM**

Mayor Johnson called the regular session to order at 6:16 PM in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. The invocation was led by **Ages Hart**, *Ocoee Resident*, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by **Commissioner Wilsen**. **City Clerk Sibbitt** called the roll and declared a quorum present.

Present: Mayor Johnson, Commissioner Kennedy, Commissioner Wilsen, Commissioner Firstner, Commissioner Oliver

Also Present: City Manager Shadrix, City Attorney Geller, City Clerk Sibbitt

- **PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS 6:18 PM**

Legacy Events for Education Scholarship Recipient Update - **David Terry, President** provided an overview of Legacy Academy and the scholarships awarded to students who give back to the community. The Academy currently offers sixteen classes annually and have plans for 2025 to offer eight additional classes in the City of Ocoee. Legacy Academy would like to partner with the Parks and Leisure Services Department to offer classes at the Lakeshore Center, where their largest fundraiser, Central Florida Chili Cookoff, is held. They are currently soliciting community support to help fund this year's event. **Mayor Johnson** inquired if the City has donated funds to the program yet and asked David Terry to leave his business card for Commissioners to reach out to him, if they have the desire to donate funds, from their discretionary funds.

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

- **PUBLIC COMMENTS 6:24 PM**

The following persons addressed the City Commission:

- **Pam Jones**, *Community Relations Representative for Congressman Webster*, brought greetings from Congressman Webster's office and expressed that she enjoyed the State of the City address. She encouraged anyone with questions pertaining to the federal government agency to contact their office, located in Clermont, FL.
- **Hector Corrales**, *Small Business Administration*, provided a PowerPoint that covered programs and loans that will assist with any damages from hurricanes for businesses, homeowners, and renters.

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- **Jim Moyer**, *Ocoee Resident*, gave kudos for a great State of the City presentation. He also reminded everyone of the upcoming swearing in of newly elected officials in state and county offices, including himself. He also shared that, in the future, he would like the opportunity to give a presentation on soil and conservation and ended with a quote the importance of healthy soil and water.
- **Cortney Jones** and **Stephanie Smith**, *Community Legal Services – Pro Bono Unit*, gave a presentation explaining the services their office offers and emphasized on the importance of sealing/expunging criminal records.
- **Kellie Beck**, *HRDB Chair*, presented a brochure that was previously presented before the City Commission and received funding approval for mailing last fiscal year. The board missed the mailing deadline for last fiscal year; therefore, they are requesting \$1,800 from the City Commission to mail out the brochures this fiscal year, and to have extra copies in City Hall. **Commissioner Wilsen** asked to see the brochure again. **Mayor Johnson** asked which budget the funds would come from; **City Manager Shadrix** suggested taking it out of the contingency fund.

Motion: Move to approve \$1,800 to come out of the contingency fund for the mailing and copying of the HRDB information brochures; Moved by Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Wilsen; Motion carried 5-0.

- **Sue Lowrie** and **Cathy Sills**, *Woman's Club of Ocoee*, requested the approval for use of the Commission Chambers for Wednesday, February 12, 2025, starting at 7:00 PM, as the date and time for the political forum. They will arrive for setup at 6:30 PM. **Commissioner Wilsen** questioned if they are requesting the forum to be televised, and **Ms. Lowrie** stated they would like the same accommodations as they have had in the past. **Consensus of the City Commission was to televise and allow use of the Commission Chambers for the Political Forum on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 7:00 PM.**

- **Brad Lomneck**, *Ocoee Resident*, shared that Orange County is moving to two additional districts, with that they will be developing a citizen's redistricting panel, and each Commissioner will choose two positions for that panel. He does not believe that Ocoee will have a voice on the panel, so he requested that the City Commission send a letter to Mayor Demings requesting one of his three positions. **Commissioner Wilsen** suggested sending a letter to County Commissioner Christine Moore as well. **Mayor Johnson** stated that he has already spoken to Commissioner Moore and she has already named two individuals, neither of whom live in the City of Ocoee. He agreed to have a letter sent to Mayor Demings requesting that at least one representative from Ocoee to be on the panel. **Brad Lomneck** went on to give praise to Legacy Academy and the work they do with the citizens in the community and urged the Commission to donate \$500 to the Chili Cookoff fundraiser.

• **CONSENT AGENDA 6:47 PM**

Consent Agenda Motion

Motion: Move to adopt the Consent Agenda Items #1-5; Moved by Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Oliver; Motion carried 5-0.

1. Approval of Minutes from the Regular City Commission Meeting held December 17, 2024. (City Clerk Sibbitt)

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2. Approval of Elections Services Contract with the Orange County Supervisor of Elections and Allow Them to Open and Run Unquestionable Vote-By-Mail Ballots for the March 2025 General Municipal Election Utilizing the Orange County Canvassing Board Criteria. **(City Clerk Sibbitt)**
3. Approval of Authorization to Terminate Negotiations with Fortress Secured LLC for the Construction of a New Fire Station #38. **(Finance Director Roberts)**
4. Approval of Municipal Interlocal Voluntary Cooperation Mutual Aid Agreement. **(Police Chief Ogburn)**
5. Approval of Utility Easement Agreements for Rewis Street Properties. **(Engineering Manager Tomlinson)**

• **FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 6:47 PM**

6. First Reading of Ordinance Updating Chapter 45, Arbor Code, Code of Ordinances, Regarding Tree Removal Process. **(Development Services Director Corless)**

City Manager Shadrix stated that this was an issue that had arisen previously, and staff was asked to come back with a new ordinance to address several concerns mentioned by the City Commission. Staff anticipates having the second reading at the February 18, 2025 Commission Meeting.

City Attorney Geller read the title of the ordinance, and it was announced this will be presented as a second reading and public hearing at the City Commission meeting scheduled for February 18, 2025, at 6:15 PM or soon thereafter.

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

• **PUBLIC HEARING – None**

• **REGULAR AGENDA - None**

• **COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS 6:50 PM**

Commissioner Kennedy – No further comment.

Commissioner Wilsen – No further comment.

Commissioner Firstner – No further comment

Commissioner Oliver – Commented on the following:

- 1) Announced that he has Legacy Academy on his list for donating funds; he is in support of the program and the children.
- 2) Gave kudos for the State of the City address, opining that it was phenomenal.
- 3) Stated that Congressman Daniel Webster's office is very receptive and responsive and encouraged residents to reach out his office if they encounter any issues within the district.
- 4) Encouraged residents to contact Community Legal Services and utilize their free legal services, if need be.

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- 5) Read an inspirational quote.

Mayor Johnson – Commented on the following:

- 1) Announced registration dates for upcoming youth sports.
- 2) Announced the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. parade and post-parade celebration will be held on Monday, January 20, 2025; information can be found on the City's website.
- 3) Announced HAPCO – Ocoee Jazz Fest 2025 will be held on Friday, January 31, 2025 at the Ocoee Lakeshore Center.
- 4) Announced that City Hall and all City Administration Offices will be closed on Monday, January 20, 2025 in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- 5) Announced the January 21, 2025 City Commission Meeting is canceled
- 6) Addressed installing lights on Kissimmee Ave and the south end of Maguire Road; **City Manager Shadrix** responded that he and staff will look into this and bring forth information to a future Commission Meeting.
- 7) Thanked staff for a great State of the City address and for all that staff does.

• **ADJOURNMENT 6:55 PM**

APPROVED:

Attest:



Melanie Sibbitt, City Clerk

City of Ocoee



Rusty Johnson, Mayor