Ocala
City Council
Minutes

110 SE Watula Avenue
Ocala, FL 34471

www.ocalafl.org

Tuesday, November 15, 2022 **4:00 PM**

1. Call to Order

a. Opening Ceremony

1. Invocation - Chaplain Gene Kenney

2. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Welcome and Roll Call

Present: Mayor Reuben Kent Guinn
Pro Tem James P. Hilty Sr
Council Member Kristen M. Dreyer
Council Member Barry Mansfield
Council Member Jay A. Musleh
Council President Ire J. Bethea Sr

Municipal Officers/Others Present: The meeting was also attended by City Manager Pete Lee, City Attorney William Sexton, Assistant City Manager Ken Whitehead, City Clerk Angel Jacobs, Deputy City Clerk Pamela Omichinski, Fire Chief Clint Welborn, Police Chief Michael Balken, Director of Electric Utility Doug Peebles, IT Auditor Vincent Iovino, Growth Management Director Tye Chighizola, Multimedia & Comm Coord Danielle Dyals, Community Outreach Manager Rachel Fautch, Budget Director Tammi Haslam, Planning Director Patricia Hitchcock, HR/Risk Management Director Devan Kikendall, Director of Facilities & Fleet Management John King, City Engineer & Director of Water Resources Sean Lanier, Director of Public Works Darren Park, Director of Telecommunications Mel Poole, Director of Parks & Recreation Preston Pooser, Director of Finance Emory Roberts, Contracting Officer Daphne Robinson, Chief of Staff Chris Watt, and other interested parties.

c. New Employees

- Adam Sines - CSO
- Kim McConnell - CSO
- Bryson Jones - Electric
- Garrett Lindsey - Electric
- Jose Colon - Fiber Network
- Edwin Altieri - Fiber Network
- Brittany Iverson - Procurement
- Clifford King - Sanitation
- Kevin McQueeny - Water Resources

2. Public Notice

Public Notice for the November 15, 2022 City Council Regular Meeting was posted on October 5, 2022

3. Proclamations & Awards

3a. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Day Proclamation presented to IT GIS Coordinator, Melissa Northey, and citywide GIS Technicians

Mayor Guinn presented a proclamation for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Day. The City proclaims November 16, 2022 as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Day.

IT GIS Coordinator Melissa Northey thanked Mayor Guinn and City Council for their support.

3b. Service Award - Jose Casillas - Ocala Electric Utility Department - 25 Years of Service

City Manager Pete Lee and Mayor Guinn presented a service award to Jose Casillas in appreciation of his 25 years of service to the City of Ocala. He started his career with the City of Ocala in 1997.

Jose Casillas thanked the City for the opportunity to serve the public.

3c. Service Award - Harry Lovell - Ocala Electric Utility Department - 25 Years of Service

City Manager Pete Lee and Mayor Guinn presented a service award to Harry Lovell in appreciation of his 25 years of service to the City of Ocala. He started his career with the City of Ocala in 1997.

Harry Lovell thanked the City for the opportunity to serve the public.

3d. Service Award - Julie Pache - Ocala Police Department - 30 Years of Service

City Manager Pete Lee and Mayor Guinn presented a service award to Julie Pache in appreciation of her 30 years of service to the City of Ocala. She enjoys giving back to the community and training new employees.

Julie Pache thanked the City for the opportunity to serve the public.

4. Presentations

a. Stephen Shiver and Sarah Suskey (The Advocacy Group at Cardenas Partners) will be presenting a 2022 state legislative session recap, November 8 Florida election updates, and discuss 2023 session priorities

Sarah Suskey, The Advocacy Group at Cardenas Partners, provided a brief overview of the 2022 state legislative session recap. The state budget totals $112 billion, and the Governor vetoed Senate Bill 620. The City's delegation was able to secure funding for the 44th Avenue extension and exfiltration project. The November 8th election showed a Republican majority, and the delegation for Marion County has changed. Senator Dennis Baxley will be serving as the Senate President Pro Tem, and Representative McClain will no longer represent the City of Ocala.

A special session is scheduled on December 12, 2022, to discuss property insurance, and the legislative session will start on March 7, 2023, to May 2023. She noted they will continue working with City staff and the Legislative Delegation to prioritize and accomplish City goals.

Stephen Shiver, The Advocacy Group at Cardenas Partners, echoed Ms. Suskey's comments and thanked Council for their support.

5. Public Comments

Brian Creekbaum, 103 NE 31st Terrace, commented on animal control services

Brian Creekbaum, 103 NE 31st Terrace, expressed concern regarding Marion County's management of animal control services in the City. He agrees with past comments by Mayor Guinn and Council President Bethea regarding the County's poor management of staff. He noted the proclamation Mayor Guinn presented at a recent council meeting states animal control is a duty of Code Enforcement Officers. He requested Council remedy the animal control issues in the City.

Glenn Fiorello, 838 SE 3rd Street, requested an update on a code enforcement case

Glenn Fiorello, 838 SE 3rd Street, requested an update regarding an outstanding code enforcement case. City staff has not responded to his request, and he asked Council when the case will be resolved.

City Manager Pete Lee stated he will contact him directly to discuss the matter.

6. Public Hearings

7. Second and Final Reading of Ordinances

(All are Public Hearings)

7a. Adopt Ordinance 2023-10 amending Chapter 62 of the Code of Ordinances of City of Ocala allowing for an additional homestead exemption for certain senior citizens

Introduced By: Jay A. Musleh

The City Clerk filed proof of publication for Ordinances 2023-10 - 2023-16 (Legal Ad 8007053 - 11/4/22 and Annexation Ordinance 2023-12 (Legal Ad 8007076 - 11/4/22 & 11/11/22). The City Clerk read the ordinance titles into the record.

Budget Director Tammi Haslam commented the City may adopt an ordinance to allow additional homestead exemptions for certain senior citizens aged 65+. On April 19, 2022, City Council requested City staff draft Ordinance 2023-10. She summarized the senior qualifications, and staff recommends adoption of the ordinance.

Council Member Dreyer asked if the 25-year requirement can be reduced or removed. Ms. Haslam responded the 25-year requirement is considered a State requirement, which cannot be reduced. Two options were presented to Council; however, Council chose to proceed with Option 2, which included the 25-year requirement. The City must submit information to the property appraiser by December 1, 2022.

Council Member Musleh asked if Council can repeal the ordinance next year and choose Option 1. Ms. Haslam responded yes, Council can repeal the ordinance and modify the $50,000 requirement. She noted seniors will not pay ad valorem taxes, if the assessed value is below $250,000.

Ms. Haslam noted Option 2 will impact ad valorem taxes by $31,000.

Council Member Dreyer asked if Option 1 has a 25-years requirement. City Attorney Sexton responded Option 1 does not have a 25-years requirement; and includes a $50,000 exemption.

Council Member Dreyer stated she will vote in favor of adopting the presented ordinance; however, she would like to amend the ordinance next year.

There being no further discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Jay A. Musleh
SECONDER:	Kristen M. Dreyer
AYE:	Hilty Sr, Dreyer, Mansfield, Musleh, and Bethea Sr

7b. Adopt Ordinance 2023-11 concerning a rezoning from M-1, Light Industrial, to M-2, Medium Industrial, for property located along the west side of NE 19th Avenue in the 2000 block adjacent to CSX Railroad (portion of parcel #26500-002-00), approximately 13.17 acres (Case ZON22-44951) (Quasi-Judical)

Introduced By: Barry Mansfield

Growth Management Director Tye Chighizola commented the applicant is requesting to change the zoning from M-1 to M-2, for 13.17 acres. He provided a brief overview of the property's rezoning history. The applicant requested M-2 zoning to allow outdoor storage for their business operations. The City recommended a 100' buffer along the north side of the property, which will remain M-1 zoning. He noted staff recommends approval.

Rodney Rogers, Interstate Trailers, LLC, 1105 SE 3rd Avenue, requested Council consider rezoning the south side of the property to M-2, to allow additional outdoor storage. He noted they agree with staff's recommendation; and will comply with City requirements.

Council Member Dreyer requested more information regarding M-1 zoning. Mr. Chighizola responded 20% of the entire site requires a public hearing; and the applicant can use 30% of the building for outdoor storage. The applicant is requesting a large outdoor storage use, and the M-2 zoning is compatible with the site. He noted M-1 zoning does allow storage, and the applicant must maintain compliance with the open space requirement. Furthermore, the applicant submitted a conceptual plan to the City.

Council Member Dreyer asked how far the driveway is from the north property line. Mr. Chighizola responded 150'.

Council Member Dreyer expressed concern regarding the residential zoning surrounding the property.

Planning Director Patricia Hitchcock commented the storage limit for M-1 zoning is 10,000 square feet, or 30% of a building. A public hearing is required to use 20% of the site for outdoor storage. The Planning & Zoning Commission evaluated the different uses allowed by M-1 and M-2 zoning. The M-1 zoning has restrictions to protect residential uses surrounding the north side of the property. She requested Council consider staff's recommendation.

Council Member Dreyer asked what the distance requirement is for a transfer facility located near residential. Ms. Hitchcock responded 250'.

Council Member Dreyer expressed concern rezoning the property near a highly residential area.

Council President Bethea asked if the Francis Marion property was located on the site.

Mr. Chighizola responded they previously planned to relocate from the college to the subject property.

There being no further discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Barry Mansfield
SECONDER:	James P. Hilty Sr
AYE:	Hilty Sr, Mansfield, Musleh, and Bethea Sr
NAY:	Dreyer

7c. Adopt Ordinance 2023-12 annexing property located at the northeast corner of West Highway 40 and NW 52nd Avenue (Parcel # 23180-000-00), approximately 27.27 acres. (ANX22-44952) (Quasi-Judicial)

Introduced By: James P. Hilty Sr

Council President Bethea opened a public hearing for items 7c and 7d.

Growth Management Director Tye Chighizola commented the plan is to create a PD with a combination of uses (commercial, industrial, and residential). The Employment Center land use is appropriate for the subject property, and staff recommends approval.

There being no further discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	James P. Hilty Sr
SECONDER:	Kristen M. Dreyer
AYE:	Hilty Sr, Dreyer, Mansfield, Musleh, and Bethea Sr

7d. Adopt Ordinance 2023-13 amending the future land use designation from Employment Center (County) to Employment Center (City) for property located at the northeast corner of West Highway 40 and NW 52nd Avenue (Parcel # 23180-000-00), approximately 27.27 acres (LUC22-44953)

Introduced By: Barry Mansfield

There being no further discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Barry Mansfield
SECONDER:	Kristen M. Dreyer
AYE:	Hilty Sr, Dreyer, Mansfield, Musleh, and Bethea Sr

7e. Adopt Ordinance 2023-14 concerning a zoning change from B-2, Community Business, and OP, Office Park, to R-3, Multi-family Residential, for property located northwest of the intersection of SW 48th Avenue and SW 48th Road in the Fore Ranch development, approximately 18.24 acres (Case ZON22-44855) (Quasi-Judicial)

Introduced By: Kristen M. Dreyer

Council President Bethea opened a public hearing for items 7e and 7f at 4:51pm.

Growth Management Director Tye Chighizola commented the policy was presented to Council for transmittal in August. The City is requesting approval of the transmittal with the rezoning request. To note, the first phase of the apartment complex (300+ units) was rezoned to R-3; and the applicant is requesting approval for an additional phase (246 units). The policy prohibits the use of retail and addresses road improvements, including making a permanent road between 48th Avenue and the Fire Station.

Fred Roberts, 40 SE 11th Avenue, provided a brief history of the property's land use policy adoption. He discussed the multifamily/office mixed-use trend in the northwest.

There being no further discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

RESULT: ADOPTED
MOVER: Kristen M. Dreyer
SECONDER: Barry Mansfield
AYE: Hilty Sr, Dreyer, Mansfield, Musleh, and Bethea Sr

7f. Adopt Ordinance 2023-15 amending the future land use policy (18.21) for property located northwest of the intersection of SW 48 Avenue and SW 48 Road, approximately 18.24 acres. (Case FLUP22-44857)

Introduced By: Barry Mansfield

There being no further discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

RESULT: ADOPTED
MOVER: Barry Mansfield
SECONDER: Kristen M. Dreyer
AYE: Hilty Sr, Dreyer, Mansfield, Musleh, and Bethea Sr

7g. Adopt Ordinance 2023-16 revising Section 66-193 concerning the operation of golf carts and Section 66-194 concerning the operation of low-speed vehicles and mini trucks (COD22-45018)

Introduced By: Jay A. Musleh

Growth Management Director Tye Chighizola commented this ordinance proposes strengthen the requirements for golf cart drivers. All golf cart operators must have a driver's license, and the ordinance was amended to prohibit low-speed vehicles from following the golf cart map. Last week, Council denied expanding the golf cart map.

Brian Creekbaum, 103 NE 31st Terrace, asked if low speed vehicles use the golf cart map. Mr. Chighizola responded no.
Mr. Creekbaum expressed concern regarding reckless golf cart driving in the neighborhood.

Council Member Musleh requested information regarding the City's community outreach plan for the new golf cart requirements. Mr. Chighizola responded the City started an outreach campaign, and they plan on hosting a public workshop. The City has approximately 200 registered golf cart owners.

City Manager Pete Lee stated the City will mail a notice to registered golf cart owners.

Council Member Musleh questioned how to educate people about the driving restrictions concerning teenagers. Mr. Chighizola discussed the education campaign and signage provided after the original ordinance was adopted. Police Chief Balken explained the citing process for teenagers, noting if a 14-year-old is cited for driving underage it could affect their ability to get a driver's license at 16.

Council Member Musleh encouraged the public to safely operate golf carts.

Council Member Hilty spoke on reckless driving behaviors of citizens. He expressed the importance of offering safe driving education classes to the public.

Chief Balken commented the Police Department is working hard to educate the public on safe driving. He agrees with Council's comments regarding the need for educational classes.

Mr. Chighizola commented the City has seen a decrease in youth operating golf carts since the enforcement of the Golf Cart Ordinance. The City plans on hosting another education class to promote safe driving.

Council Member Hilty reiterated the importance of promoting public safety.

Mr. Lee stated the City will utilize mailers and social media platforms to educate the public on safe driving, and perform community outreach.

There being no further discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Jay A. Musleh
SECONDER:	Kristen M. Dreyer
AYE:	Hilty Sr, Dreyer, Mansfield, Musleh, and Bethea Sr

8. General Business

8a. Approve the purchase of three LIFEPAK defibrillators from Stryker Sales Corporation in the amount of $106,440

There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Jay A. Musleh
SECONDER:	Barry Mansfield
AYE:	Hilty Sr, Dreyer, Mansfield, Musleh, and Bethea Sr

8b. Adopt Budget Resolution 2023-105 amending the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget to appropriate funds to support expenditures incurred because of Hurricane Ian in the amount of $455,452

There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED

MOVER: Kristen M. Dreyer

SECONDER: Barry Mansfield

AYE: Dreyer, Mansfield, Musleh, and Bethea Sr

ABSENT: Hilty Sr

8c. Adopt Budget Resolution 2023-106 amending the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget to appropriate State Housing Initiatives Partnership grant funding in the amount of $178,450

There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

RESULT: ADOPTED

MOVER: Kristen M. Dreyer

SECONDER: Barry Mansfield

AYE: Hilty Sr, Dreyer, Mansfield, Musleh, and Bethea Sr

8d. Approve one-year renewal with Top Quality Lawn Maintenance, LLC, for stormwater grounds maintenance services for southeast and southwest retention areas with an estimated annual expenditure of $197,274

Mayor Guinn asked how many DRAs are included. Director of Public Works Darren Park responded the contract includes 136 DRA's, and the City maintains 400 DRA's. The agreement does not include the cemetery, which is a separate agreement.

Council President Bethea asked if the City is responsible for maintaining the Chestnut and Tucker Hill cemeteries. Mr. Park responded yes, the City maintains the two cemeteries. The City recently hired a DSBE vendor to maintain all City cemeteries.

There being no further discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Barry Mansfield

SECONDER: James P. Hilty Sr

AYE: Hilty Sr, Dreyer, Mansfield, Musleh, and Bethea Sr

8e. Approve annual expenditure for cellular endpoint services for Badger water meters under cooperative purchasing agreement with Badger Meter, Inc. d/b/a National Meter & Automation in the amount of $172,636

There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Jay A. Musleh

SECONDER: Kristen M. Dreyer

AYE: Hilty Sr, Dreyer, Mansfield, Musleh, and Bethea Sr

8f. Approve the continued use of State of Florida Department of Management Services alternate source agreement for radio equipment purchases with an estimated additional expenditure amount of $174,908

There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Barry Mansfield
SECONDER:	Kristen M. Dreyer
AYE:	Hilty Sr, Dreyer, Mansfield, Musleh, and Bethea Sr

8g. Approve a two-year contract for the provision of concert series production and management services with Dillon Video and Film Productions, Inc., in an amount not to exceed $190,000

There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	James P. Hilty Sr
SECONDER:	Barry Mansfield
AYE:	Hilty Sr, Dreyer, Mansfield, Musleh, and Bethea Sr

8h. Approve additional expenditures for the annual Cogsdale Customer Service Management System maintenance and modifications for an increased estimated total contract expenditure of $1,065,972

There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Kristen M. Dreyer
SECONDER:	Jay A. Musleh
AYE:	Hilty Sr, Dreyer, Mansfield, Musleh, and Bethea Sr

8i. Approve the purchase of various construction material inventory items for the Electric Department from multiple vendors with an estimated expenditure of $954,017

There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Barry Mansfield
SECONDER:	James P. Hilty Sr
AYE:	Hilty Sr, Dreyer, Mansfield, Musleh, and Bethea Sr

8j. Approve the purchase of emergency audio/visual warning devices from East Coast Emergency, Inc. for the Ocala Police Department in the amount of $278,000

There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Jay A. Musleh

SECONDER: James P. Hilty Sr

AYE: Hilty Sr, Dreyer, Mansfield, Musleh, and Bethea Sr

8k. Approve first amendment to Rental Car Concession Agreement and Lease with Enterprise Leasing Company of Florida, LLC

There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Barry Mansfield

SECONDER: Jay A. Musleh

AYE: Hilty Sr, Dreyer, Mansfield, Musleh, and Bethea Sr

8l. Approve additional expenditures under three-year contracts with UniFirst Corporation and Cintas Corporation for citywide uniform services for an increased total contract expenditure amount of $250,515

There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Barry Mansfield

SECONDER: James P. Hilty Sr

AYE: Hilty Sr, Dreyer, Mansfield, Musleh, and Bethea Sr

9. Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda items are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless members of Council or the public request specific items to be removed for separate discussion and action.

RESULT: APPROVED THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOVER: Kristen M. Dreyer

SECONDER: Barry Mansfield

AYE: Hilty Sr, Dreyer, Mansfield, Musleh, and Bethea Sr

9a. Approval of Purchase and Sale Agreement for a land swap with Lake Louise, LLC

9b. Adopt Resolution 2023-8 accepting a donation of tools and supplies to Ocala Fire Rescue from the Lowe’s Hometown Community Project totaling $2,500

9c. Approve Task Work Order #22 with Kimley-Horn & Associates Inc. for the Pistol Range Tower Site design for $60,700

9d. Approve five-year renewal of a cooperation agreement with Fine Arts for Ocala, Inc., for the Ocala Arts Festival in downtown Ocala with an estimated cost of $65,000

9e. Approve Task Work Order #1 with Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering, PLLC for the Airport Layout Plan "pen-and-ink" update and Taxiway C justification in the amount of $74,128

9f. Adopt Budget Resolution 2023-107 amending the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget to transfer funds from the Airport Reserve for Contingency account for the Airport Layout

Plan "pen-and-ink" update and Taxiway-C justification in the amount of $74,128

9g. See Item 10

9h. See Item 10

9i. October 2022 city attorney invoices for general city business legal services in the amount of $19,713.06 and for risk management-related legal services in the amount of $23,930.50

9j. Approve Regular Meeting City Council Minutes from November 1, 2022

10. Consent Agenda Items Held for Discussion

Should any items be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion, they will be discussed at this time.

9g. Approve first amendment to the ground lease with OCF Midfield Hangars, LLC, increasing monthly rent to $581.72

Council Member Mansfield recused himself.

Airport Director Matthew Grow explained the ground rent calculation. The amendment addresses changes made during construction and rent increase. He noted staff recommends approval.

There being no further discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

RESULT: APPROVED
MOVER: Kristen M. Dreyer
SECONDER: James P. Hilty Sr
AYE: Hilty Sr, Dreyer, Musleh, and Bethea Sr
ABSTAIN: Mansfield

9h. Consent to the assignment of the ground lease with OCF Midfield Hangars, LLC, to OCF Midfield Hangars Condominium Association, Inc.

Council Member Mansfield recused himself.

There being no further discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

RESULT: APPROVED
MOVER: Jay A. Musleh
SECONDER: Kristen M. Dreyer
AYE: Hilty Sr, Dreyer, Musleh, and Bethea Sr
ABSTAIN: Mansfield

11. Introduction and First Reading of Ordinances

(Second and Final Reading - December 6, 2022)

11a. Introduce Ordinance 2023-17 redesignating the boundaries of City Council Districts (Two, Three, Four, and Five) as required by Section 2.01 of the City of Ocala Charter

Introduced By: James P. Hilty Sr

Council Member Musleh questioned if the ordinance includes the new district map. Council President Bethea responded no.

Growth Management Director Tye Chighizola noted both options were included in the PowerPoint.

RESULT: INTRODUCED

11b. Introduce Ordinance 2023-18 repealing no alcohol sales on Christmas Day

Introduced By: Kristen M. Dreyer

Council Member Musleh suggested Council repeal the "no alcohol sales".

Growth Management Director Tye Chighizola noted the City expressed concern regarding 11c. He recommended Council repeal the ordinance or keep it the same.

Council Member Musleh asked if items 11c and 11d are needed, if Council chooses to introduce 11b. Mr. Chighizola responded 11d is a separate matter.

Council agreed to introduce 11b.

RESULT: INTRODUCED

11c. Introduce Ordinance 2023-19 revising alcohol requirements on Christmas Day

RESULT: NOT INTRODUCED

11d. Introduce Ordinance 2023-20 concerning alcohol location and procedure requirements

Introduced By: Jay A. Musleh

RESULT: INTRODUCED

12. Internal Auditor's Report - None

13. City Manager's Report

Ocala International Airport passed FAA certification inspection

City Manager Pete Lee congratulated the Ocala Airport, Sheltair, and Ocala Fire Rescue for passing the FAA certification inspection.

City Staff well prepared for Tropical Storm Nicole

City Manager Pete Lee congratulated City staff for their emergency efforts during the storm. The City restored power for 9,700 customers after the storm, and placed 2,000 sandbags around the City.

Animal Control Service Update

City Manager Pete Lee provided a brief overview of the proposed Marion County Animal

Services agreement. The agreement states the City will pay 15.3% of the total cost, which amounts to $288,581 annually. The City will pay $144,290 for the first year, and $216,436 for the second year. To note, the payments do not include shelter cost. The County added an enhanced control services option to address animal control service issues.

Currently, the City does not pay shelter service fees. The City proposed a 10% ($188,655) Interlocal Agreement to dedicate two officers to provide services, to two zones within the City, and no cost shelter services. An in-house approach will cost the City $850,000 the first year. The in-house budget consists of the following: five (5) employees, four (4) animal control trucks, no shelter costs, veterinarian services, and salary wages. The County stated they will not guarantee a level of service.

Council President Bethea questioned if the City should test out option 2.

Council Member Musleh stated he does not favor option 1 or 2.

Mayor Guinn asked how many City calls the County receives. Mr. Lee stated the City makes up 10% of the service calls to the County.

Council Member Dreyer questioned how the County will be able to fulfill the agreement or enhanced option with only five (5) employees. Mr. Lee responded the County has a large team that provides animal control services. He discussed the County's emergency operation procedures. The City will evaluate the County's staffing challenges and ability to terminate the contract if necessary (either party can terminate the contract within 90 days).

Council Member Musleh suggested the City choose an option, and not perform a trial.

Council Member Hilty spoke in favor of option 3; however, he questioned how the City will overcome staffing challenges.

Mayor Guinn expressed concern regarding the in-house cost for the first year.

Council Member Musleh stated the in-house approach will benefit the City over the years.

Mayor Guinn asked about the perpetuity. Mr. Lee responded the perpetuity was open-ended in the original contract.

Mr. Lee stated his concern for the City is maintaining ongoing access to a no kill shelter.

Council Member Dreyer expressed concern the County is double taxing City residents. She suggested the County utilize the General Fund to pay for shelter services.

Council Member Musleh spoke on the importance of reuniting pets with their owners to avoid shelter costs.

Assistant City Manager Ken Whitehead commented the recurring in-house cost amounts to $550,000 annually.

Mayor Guinn asked how much it would cost the City to have a judge decide. City Attorney Sexton explained the judge will determine if the County is required to provide animal control services to the City regardless of the perpetual contract.

Mr. Lee reiterated the proposal includes a 90-day termination deadline for both parties. He noted the no-kill shelter expense greatly burdens the County.

Council Member Musleh stated litigation is not a smart approach.

Council Member Hilty stated he favors option 3; however, he expressed concern regarding securing animal control officers.

Mr. Lee noted the City has highly experienced employees with an animal control services background. The City will evaluate ways to decrease costs.

Mayor Guinn noted the County is short three employees.

Council Member Musleh suggested Council consider option 3.

Council President Bethea stated Council agrees with option 3. He requested the City address shelter access issues. Mr. Lee responded the City will draft an agreement with the County regarding shelter access.

14. Police and Fire Department Report

Police Chief Mike Balken – Public Safety Opioid Response Efforts

Police Chief Balken discussed the public safety Opioid response efforts for October 31, 2022 to November 13, 2022. The Police Department's Opioid response efforts 8, overdose deaths 0, Narcan leave behind 3 and Amnesty participation 2. He shared a video of the SWAT team's annual training. The Department of Justice is trying to restrict the use of 1033 surplus vehicles, which will leave the SWAT team without armored vehicles.

President Bethea asked why the DOJ wants to limit the use of armored vehicles. Police Chief Balken responded the Administration is trying to move away from the military look of law enforcement. He suggested investing in a BearCat (costs $400,000).

Council Member Musleh expressed concern regarding the repossession cost if Chief Balken does not sign the agreement by January 1 to restrict the use of their armored vehicles.

Council Member Dreyer asked if the department reached out to neighboring communities. Police Chief Balken responded he reached out to the Sherriff's Office to discuss the matter.

Police Chief Balken discussed the increase in car burglaries, and shared a video regarding intelligence-led policing. Furthermore, he provided a brief overview of traffic-related fatalities, which are at their highest level since 2016.

Fire Chief Clint Welborn – Public Safety Opioid Response Efforts & Community Paramedicine

Fire Chief Welborn discussed the public safety Opioid response efforts and community paramedicine program. The overdose response efforts 8, overdose deaths 0 and Narcan leave behind 3. For the month of November, 404 people have enrolled in the Opioid Recovery Project and they had a total of 213 community paramedicine graduates. The Narcan leave behind for the OD2A Program amounts to 70 participants, and 1,022 service calls were responded to in the past two (2) weeks. He congratulated the ARF team and Ocala Airport for passing the FAA certification inspection. The Florida Fallen Firefighter Memorial is scheduled on November 17, 2022, and the Florida Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service & Breakfast is scheduled on November 18, 2022; location Florida State Fire College.

15. Mayor's Report

Mayor Guinn commented on loaning shared artifacts from USS Ocala Victory with Veteran's Memorial Park

Mayor Guinn stated he is working on executing an agreement to loan shared artifacts from USS Ocala Victory with Veteran's Memorial Park.

16. City Attorney's Report

17. Informational Items

a. Calendaring Items

- Light Up Ocala - Saturday November 19th - 4pm - Downtown Square

- Thanksgiving Holiday - City Offices closed - Thursday, November 24 & Friday, November 25

b. Comments by Mayor

c. Comments by Council Members

Council President Bethea encouraged the public to attend the Light Up Ocala event this weekend

d. Informational

17d1. Monthly Budget to Actual Report as of September 30, 2022 and Capital Improvement Project Status Report

17d2. Executed Contracts Under $50,000

18. Adjournment

Adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Minutes

Ire Bethea Sr.
Council President

Angel B. Jacobs
City Clerk