



Ocala

City Council

Minutes

110 SE Watula Avenue
Ocala, FL 34471

www.ocalafl.gov

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

4:00 PM

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

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

Municipal Officers/Others Present: The meeting was also attended by City Manager Peter 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, Internal Auditor Randall Bridgeman, Finance Director Peter Brill, City Projects Director Tye Chighizola, Planning Director Aubrey Hale, Budget Director Tammi Haslam, Community Development Services Director James Haynes, Director of Parks & Recreation Julie Johnson, City Engineer & Director of Water Resources Sean Lanier, Chief Financial Officer Janice Mitchell, Director of Public Works Darren Park, Director of Electric Utility Doug Peebles, Director of Ocala Fiber Network Mel Poole, IT Director Christopher Ramos, Strategic & Legislative Affairs Administrator Jeannine Robbins, Procurement & Contracting Officer Daphne Robinson, Growth Management Director Jeff Shrum, Chief of Staff Chris Watt, Ocala Police Dept Representative, IT Representative, The Press and other interested parties.

- a. New Employees
- Carey Hamilton, Facilities Management
 - Savanna Rodriguez, Facilities Management
 - Zachary Glover, Public Works
 - Carlos Torres, Public Works

3. Public Notice

- **Public Notice for the January 7, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting was posted on December 3, 2024**

4. Proclamations and Awards

- 4a.** Presentation of the National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month Proclamation to Ocala Police Department Detective Crystal Blanton and Advocate Donna Guinn, and to Marion County Sheriff's Office Detectives Osthed Henrik and Nicholas Sutliff

Mayor Marciano presented a proclamation for National Slavery and Human Trafficking

Prevention Month. The City proclaims the month of January 2025, as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

Detective Crystal Blanton invited the public to the quarterly Task Force meeting on February 12, 2025, from 2pm to 3pm at the OPD Community Center to learn about what the Task Force has been doing in the community to bring awareness to the issue and teach local businesses to spot and recognize human trafficking.

4b. Presentation of the National Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists' Week Proclamation to Ocala CRNA and resident Donna Varadin

Mayor Marciano presented a proclamation for National Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists' Week. The City proclaims January 19, 2025 to January 25, 2025, as National Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists' Week.

4c. Presentation of the Marion County's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Day Proclamation to Dwanette Dilworth and Paola Leaman

Mayor Marciano presented a proclamation for Marion County's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Day. The City proclaims the month of January 2025, as Marion County's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Day. Dr. Dwanette Dilworth thanked the mayor for the proclamation and invited everyone to the events taking place January 18 to 20, 2025.

5. Presentations

6. 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: Ire J. Bethea Sr

SECONDER: Barry Mansfield

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

6a. Approve additional expenditures under the agreement for city-wide printer and copier services in the estimated amount of \$90,000

6b. Approve a five-year contract with five one-year renewals to provide network services to the School Board of Marion County with revenue in the amount of \$6,960,000

6c. Approve the administrative costs for SunTran's Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget as required by Section 341.071 of the Florida Statutes

6d. Approve November 2024 outside counsel invoices for general city business legal services in the amount of \$648

6e. Approval of and authorization to execute First Amendment to Developer's Agreement between the City of Ocala, Florida and Sunbelt Land Fund I-Ocala South, LLC

- 6f. Approve appointment of Rick Gullett to the Utility Advisory Board for the remainder of an unexpired four-year term ending March 1, 2026
- 6g. Approve appointment of Joshua DeMonte to the Ocala Historic Preservation Advisory Board for the remainder of an unexpired three-year term ending March 1, 2026
- 6h. Approve City Council meeting minutes from December 17, 2024

7. Consent Agenda Items Held for Discussion

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

8. Introduction and First Readings of Ordinances

(Second and Final Reading - January 21, 2025)

- 8a. Introduce Ordinance 2025-15 to rezone 1.14 acres from R-2, Two-Family Residential, to R-3, Multi-Family Residential, for property located in the 700 block of SW Third Street (Parcel 2848-002-001) (Case: ZON24-0003) (Quasi-Judicial)

Introduced By: Jay A. Musleh

9. Public Hearings / Second and Final Readings / Adoption of Ordinances

- 9a. Adopt Resolution 2025-9 to amend the Florida Professional Park (formerly known as Shady Road) Planned Unit Development, to amend a note prohibiting parking in the front yard along SW 34th Street Road (also known as SW 24th Avenue) relating to a 2.78-acre property located northwest of intersection at SW 32nd Place and SW 24th Avenue (Case No. PH24-0001) (Quasi-Judicial)

Council President Dreyer opened the public hearing.

Senior Planner Endira Madraveren discussed the adoption of Resolution 2025-9. The applicant requested to amend a note prohibiting parking in the front yard. She reviewed the property's history and noted a 17-foot slope on the existing topography creates a challenge to abide by the parking restriction. The applicant is requesting an exception to Lots 3, 4 and 5 within Block A. The Planning & Zoning Commission and staff recommend approval.

Doug Iannarelli, Moorhead Engineering, stated he is speaking on behalf of the applicant, and agrees with the City's recommendation for approval.

No public comment.

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

RESULT: ADOPTED

MOVER: James P. Hilty Sr

SECONDER: Ire J. Bethea Sr

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

10. General Business

- 10a.** Approve Task Work Order #39 with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., for the provision of engineering services related to the update of the City's Wastewater Master Plan in the amount of \$117,000

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

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Ire J. Bethea Sr

SECONDER: Jay A. Musleh

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

- 10b.** Approve award of a five-year contract to A.C.M.S., Inc. d/b/a Heart of Florida Environmental for the disposal of City wastewater treatment plant biosolids in their landfill with an aggregate expenditure of \$2,867,850

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

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: James P. Hilty Sr

SECONDER: Ire J. Bethea Sr

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

- 10c.** Approve one-year renewal of Construction Services Agreement with Miller Pipeline, LLC, for Water Resources Improvement Program Projects in the amount of \$2,000,000

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

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Ire J. Bethea Sr

SECONDER: Barry Mansfield

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

- 10d.** Approve a six-month contract with Marcum Enterprises, LLC, for sidewalk maintenance and repair projects with a maximum expenditure of \$236,012

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

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Barry Mansfield

SECONDER: James P. Hilty Sr

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

- 10e.** Approve the purchase of 14 R-Mag circuit breakers for various substations from WESCO Distribution in the amount of \$608,153

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

- RESULT:** APPROVED
MOVER: James P. Hilty Sr
SECONDER: Jay A. Musleh
AYE: Bethea Sr, Hilty Sr, Mansfield, Musleh, and Dreyer
- 10f.** Approve a professional services agreement with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., for the provision of design services for SunTran transit facility site and building improvements in the amount of \$368,247
- There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.
- RESULT:** APPROVED
MOVER: Barry Mansfield
SECONDER: Ire J. Bethea Sr
AYE: Bethea Sr, Hilty Sr, Mansfield, Musleh, and Dreyer
- 10g.** Approve the award of a piggyback agreement to Ring Power Corporation for the purchase of a National 20-ton boom crane truck in the amount of \$302,069
- There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.
- RESULT:** APPROVED
MOVER: James P. Hilty Sr
SECONDER: Barry Mansfield
AYE: Bethea Sr, Hilty Sr, Mansfield, Musleh, and Dreyer
- 10h.** Approve the purchase of emergency audio/visual warning devices utilizing a Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Agreement with East Coast Emergency, Inc., with an aggregate expenditure of \$300,000
- There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.
- RESULT:** APPROVED
MOVER: James P. Hilty Sr
SECONDER: Barry Mansfield
AYE: Bethea Sr, Hilty Sr, Mansfield, Musleh, and Dreyer
- 10i.** Approve a two-year contract award to American Cable Electric, LLC, for the provision of underground conduit installation services in the aggregate amount of \$1,600,000
- There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.
- RESULT:** APPROVED
MOVER: James P. Hilty Sr
SECONDER: Ire J. Bethea Sr
AYE: Bethea Sr, Hilty Sr, Mansfield, Musleh, and Dreyer
- 10j.** Adopt Budget Resolution 2025-124 amending the Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget to

appropriate the City of Ocala's Community Development Block Grant allocation totaling \$501,396

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

RESULT: ADOPTED

MOVER: Barry Mansfield

SECONDER: Ire J. Bethea Sr

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

11. Internal Auditor's Report

12. City Manager's Report

- **Sanitation Work Session rescheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2025**
- **Council Member board appointments will remain unchanged**
- **Drone show update**

City Manager Pete Lee reported the City will present a recommendation at a future City Council meeting. Mr. Lee noted Sky Elements has not yet been paid.

13. Ocala Police Department Report

- **Police Department Year in Review**

Police Chief Mike Balken presented the Police Departments efforts for year 2024. Year-to-date, dispatch calls for service 65,640, self-initiated calls 102,554, homicides 5, traffic fatalities 14, traffic crashes 3,665, Baker Acts 683.

- **Overview of Crime and Traffic Stops**

Police Chief Mike Balken provided a brief overview of the department's efforts regarding crime and traffic stops. He noted crime activity was more active on the west side of Ocala over this period; however, it tends to fluctuate. The department has conducted 832 traffic stops during a four-week period.

- **Berkeley Pointe update**

Police Chief Mike Balken reported on community policing efforts. The department conducted a pilot program at the Berkeley Pointe apartment complex. The data shows the calls for service dropped for year 2024 compared to year 2023.

14. Ocala Fire Rescue Department Report

- **Ocala Fire Rescue update**

Fire Chief Clint Welborn presented the unit responses data for December 22, 2024 to January 5, 2025.

- **Unit Responses**

Fire Chief Clint Welborn reported Fire Rescue Three had the most unit responses during the two-week period. The addition of Fire Rescue Six has helped reduce the call load for Fire Rescue Four.

- **Call Type Spotlights**

Fire Chief Clint Welborn reported on call type spotlights: motor vehicle accidents 51, structure fires 4, and community paramedicine/core 40. The department received 857 calls for service from December 22, 2024 to January 5, 2025, and 339 calls for service from January 1, 2025 to January 6, 2025.

- **Department Highlights**

Fire Chief Clint Welborn reported for the year, the department received 25,000 calls and 14,000 public education contacts. The department had several retirements and promotions last year. The highlight of the New Year, the department had a successful baby delivery on January 2, 2025.

Council President Dreyer shared her wonderful experience at Fire Rescue Three.

15. City Attorney's Report

- **Attorney-client shade meeting scheduled for January 21, 2025, at 3:15 pm**

City Attorney Sexton reported the attorney-client shade meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2025. The meeting is regarding negotiations for the pending litigation regarding case #2412634, Rojas v. City of Ocala.

16. Public Comments

- **Manny Camps commented on actions by Ocala Police Officers**

Manny Camps expressed concern regarding the Ocala Police Department's actions for harassment and his arrest. He requested to meet with Mayor Marciano to discuss the urgent matter. He submitted a letter and copy of a public records request email to City Council.

- **Rock Gibboney commented on human trafficking prevention**

Rock Gibboney spoke on human trafficking prevention efforts. He stated 800,000 people are considered missing annually. Laws enacted during Donald Trump's presidency, to support human trafficking prevention efforts, have resulted in many executive resignations in the United States and helped with efforts in Saudi Arabia. Currently, over 23 million undocumented illegal immigrants have crossed into the United States; a public safety concern.

17. Informational Items and Calendaring Items

- Monday, January 20, 2025 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - City offices closed
- Tuesday, January 21, 2025 - City Council meeting - 4:00 pm - Council Chambers
- Thursday February 13, 2025 - City Council Workshop: Sanitation - 12:00 pm, Council Chambers

17a. Power Cost Adjustment Report - November 2024

17b. Executed Contracts Under \$50,000

18. Comments by Mayor**- Healthy Ocala Step Challenge**

Mayor Marciano reported the Healthy Ocala Step Challenge launched for the New Year! Council President Dreyer and Council Member Hilty have the highest number of participants. His team, along with Council Member Musleh's team, are in first place.

19. Comments by City Council Members**20. Adjournment**

Adjourned at 4:52 pm

Minutes

Kristen M. Dreyer
Council President

Angel B. Jacobs
City Clerk