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**CITY OF TAVARES  
MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 16, 2005  
TAVARES CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Mayor Ted Wicks called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT**

**ABSENT**

Ted Wicks, Mayor  
Nancy Clutts, Vice Mayor  
Sandy Gamble, Councilmember  
Robert Speaks, Councilmember  
Dennis Wilson, Councilmember

**STAFF PRESENT**

Dorothy A. Keedy, City Administrator  
Robert Q. Williams, City Attorney  
Nancy Barnett, City Clerk  
Lori Tucker, Director of Human Resources  
Susan Jackson, Director of Community Development  
Emory Kendrick, Fire Chief  
Stoney Lubins, Police Chief  
Donna Saladin, Director of Community Services

Councilmember Speaks gave the invocation and those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the City Council Workshop of February 23, 2004 and the Regular Meeting of March 2, 2005 were approved as submitted.

**PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Wicks recognized Ralph Smith, President, Tavares Athletic Boosters.

Mr. Smith thanked the City of Tavares for its support of the high school and the Boosters in their fundraising efforts. He said he was present to recognize a person who had been a previous Booster president for approximately seven years. He said this person had also been a

1 volunteer in many other venues. Mr. Smith and Sandra Stevens, the Vice President of the  
2 Boosters, then presented a plaque to Councilmember Gamble and thanked him for many years  
3 of volunteer service to the youth of the community.

4  
5 Mayor Wicks commented that this kind of volunteer activity takes a tremendous amount of  
6 energy and commitment and congratulated Councilmember Gamble for this recognition. He  
7 also thanked Mr. Smith for his presentation and stated he hoped that the City would be able to  
8 continue to support the athletic programs.

9  
10 **Government Finance Officers Association – Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in**  
11 **Financial Reporting**

12  
13 Mayor Wicks stated the City had received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in  
14 Financial Reporting. He presented the plaque to Lori Houghton, Finance Director. He  
15 commended the City's financial staff. Ms. Houghton noted that the award was the result of  
16 teamwork between the finance staff, other departments and the City Administrator.

17  
18 **Lake County Public School District Educational Foundation – Renaissance Faire**

19  
20 Mayor Wicks acknowledged Ms. Cullen, Executive Director, Lake County Educational  
21 Foundation. Ms. Cullen said the Educational Foundation is a direct support organization for  
22 the Lake County Public School District K-12. She said funds are raised for various projects  
23 and programs including grants for the teachers. She said they also provide 18% of the school  
24 population with back to school supplies. She said the Foundation was approached by PALS  
25 (Performing Arts of Lake and Sumter), who has hosted the Renaissance Faire for the past  
26 three years, to take over the fair. The event has historically been held in February however  
27 due to FCATS, the School District has asked that the event be moved to November and it has  
28 been scheduled for November 3-5, 2005 at Hickory Pointe. For the past three years the City of  
29 Tavares has been a partner and a supporter. She said the Foundation is requesting the City to  
30 remain in that capacity for the November 2005 Fair.

31  
32 Vice Mayor Clutts stated she wished to declare a conflict, as she is a member of the Board of  
33 Directors for PALS. Councilmember Speaks stated he also has a conflict as he is on the Board  
34 of Directors for the Lake County Education Association.

35  
36 Mayor Wicks asked for more specifics on the financial assistance being requested.

37  
38 Ms. Keedy said in the past the City has provided \$500 cash and in-kind services of traffic  
39 control by the Police Department at SR 19. Ms. Cullen stated the request this year is for  
40 \$5,000 in sponsorship, and assist with logistics for security and traffic control, staging,  
41 lighting, insurance, and port a potties. She said in exchange for that, the Foundation would be

1 prepared to do a three way split for the first \$15,000 with Lake Institute, City of Tavares, and  
2 the Educational Foundation. She said last year the profit was \$16,000; the year prior it was  
3 \$11,000. She said they are also partnering with the TDC and have requests in to various  
4 media outlets. Their goal is to increase the attendance from 4,000 to 7,000. She said she had  
5 included a proposed budget which shows a goal of making \$43,000 in profit. Mayor Wicks  
6 asked if that would be for cost recovery with the balance going back to the organization after  
7 expenses? Ms. Cullen answered in the affirmative.

8  
9 Councilmember Wilson asked for clarification of the amount being requested and the issue of  
10 insurance. Ms. Cullen asked that the City list the event under its insurance if it is possible.  
11 Mayor Wicks said he thought the request was for \$5,000 of financial support. He said he  
12 assumed the expenses would be paid and if the profit was not there the City would pay the  
13 difference. Ms. Cullen said the request is for the \$5,000 up front to help cover up front costs  
14 and then once the profits were determined, it would be a three way split up to \$15,000.

15  
16 Ms. Keedy said Ms. Cullen is requesting that the City be a major sponsor along with Lake  
17 Institute and the Education Foundation. Ms. Cullen said the Institute is voting on this tonight.  
18 She said the Lake County Tourism Development Council is also providing a sponsorship in  
19 the amount of \$9500 to promote the event.

20  
21 Ms. Keedy asked when the contribution would be needed. Ms. Cullen said it would be needed  
22 in late October or early November. Ms. Keedy said the City should be able to budget the  
23 donation and also budget the anticipated revenue.

24  
25 Councilmember Wilson said he supported it but wanted to hear from Chief Lubins. Chief  
26 Lubins responded that the officers would be scheduled as has been done previously.

27  
28 **MOTION**

29  
30 **Sandy Gamble moved to support the donation of \$5,000, seconded by Dennis Wilson.**  
31 **The motion carried 3-0 with Robert Speaks and Nancy Clutts abstaining.**

32  
33 Mayor Wicks noted that Jimmy Conner, Lake County School Board representative, was in  
34 attendance.

35  
36 Mr. Conners thanked Council for their support and noted that the City Administrator and staff  
37 had been very helpful

38  
39 **AGENDA REVIEW**

1 **PUBLIC HEARINGS/ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

2  
3 **Resolution #2005-07 – Request for Variance to Landscape Requirements, Lot 81, Lake**  
4 **Saunders Pointe**

5  
6 Mayor Wicks stated there was a request for a continuance on this resolution. He asked if there  
7 was anyone in the audience present who had an interest in this resolution.

8  
9 **MOTION**

10  
11 Nancy Clutts moved to continue Resolution 2005-07 to the next regular Council  
12 Meeting, April 6, 2005, seconded by Robert Speaks. The motion carried unanimously, 5-  
13 0.

14  
15 **CONSENT AGENDA**

16  
17 **MOTION**

18  
19 Nancy Clutts moved for approval of the Consent Agenda (CDBG 05/06 Grant Proposal),  
20 seconded by Robert Speaks. The motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

21  
22 **AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD**

23  
24 Liz Eginton, CDBG Director with the Lake County Department of Community Services,  
25 stood to speak. She thanked Council for approving the CDBG proposal and stated she wished  
26 to present the Mayor and Ms. Jackson with posters that commemorate Community  
27 Development Week in Lake County which is March 28 through April 3, 2005.

28  
29 Ms. Eginton stated that the Board of County Commissioners has drafted a resolution to  
30 submit to the legislators in support of the CDBG as there has been a proposal to eliminate the  
31 program. She said if the City would be interested in participating she would forward the  
32 resolution to the City. Mayor Wicks asked Ms. Eginton to send the resolution to staff.

33  
34 **DEPARTMENTAL TOPICS FOR COUNCIL ACTION OR DISCUSSION**

35  
36 **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

37  
38 **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

39  
40 **POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
41

1 **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

2  
3 **PUBLIC WORKS/GENERAL SERVICES**

4  
5 **FINANCE**

6  
7 **ADMINISTRATION**

8  
9 **Resolution #2005-09 – Proposed CRA Legislation**

10  
11 Ms. Keedy stated that staff has prepared a resolution to ask the legislators to not support the  
12 proposed CRA bills. She stated she had prepared information to go with the resolution that  
13 included a draft letter that will be sent to the Lake County legislators. She said there was also  
14 information attached from the Florida Redevelopment Association of which the City is a  
15 member. It explains the issue and why this proposed legislation would be detrimental to the  
16 City's redevelopment efforts.

17  
18 Ms. Barnett read the resolution by title only:

19  
20 **RESOLUTION #2005-09**

21  
22 **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, URGING**  
23 **THE LEGISLATURE TO VOTE AGAINST HB 1521 AND SB 2060, IN**  
24 **THAT THIS LEGISLATION WOULD AMEND PART III, CHAPTER**  
25 **163, FLORIDA STATUTES, WITH THE EFFECT OF SEVERELY**  
26 **REDUCING THE ABILITY OF COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT**  
27 **AGENCIES TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR STATUTORY**  
28 **REDEVELOPMENT TASKS.**

29  
30 Mayor Wicks stated that this had been discussed at the League of Cities meeting and that it  
31 would affect the City's ability to manage its tax monies.

32  
33 Vice Mayor Clutts stated she agreed with the resolution and said she had been lobbying  
34 against the legislation.

35  
36 **MOTION**

37  
38 **Nancy Clutts moved for the approval of Resolution #2005-09, seconded by Sandy**  
39 **Gamble.**

40  
41 Councilmember Speaks noted that the letter to Senator Carey should have the address

1 corrected and that a letter should also be sent to Mr. Sorenson as co-sponsor of the bill.

2  
3 **The motion carried unanimously 5-0.**

4  
5 **REPORTS**

6  
7 **Councilmember Gamble**

8  
9 Councilmember Gamble brought a t-shirt from the African American Heritage Festival to  
10 present to the Mayor. Mayor Wicks thanked Councilmember Gamble for attending in his  
11 place. Councilmember Gamble said it was a successful event with a good attendance.

12  
13 Councilmember Gamble said he had had to miss opening day at the ballfield. He  
14 complimented the staff on the field preparations and said he had received many compliments  
15 from visiting coaches and teams.

16  
17 Councilmember Gamble expressed appreciation for the street signs being repaired.

18  
19 **Councilmember Wilson**

20  
21 Councilmember Wilson said he agreed with Councilmember Gamble about the conditions of  
22 the ballfield and knew the work that went into maintaining it from his own experience. He  
23 said he had recently attended a game between Tavares and Eustis and there was no  
24 scoreboard. He said the next day he spoke to Darryl Brooker in Parks and Recreation, who  
25 explained that the scoreboard had been removed for repair at the request of the teams.  
26 Subsequently it was found that that the scoreboard could not be repaired so a new scoreboard  
27 has been ordered. (Ms. Keedy said the School Board has agreed to pay half the costs.)  
28 Councilmember Wilson said Mr. Brooker had been very helpful in explaining what had  
29 happened.

30  
31 **Councilmember Clutts**

32  
33 Vice Mayor Clutts commended Ms. Keedy for bringing SB 2060 to the forefront in Lake  
34 County. She said she had researched and found not one other City Administrator who saw the  
35 negative implications of these bills and had communicated accordingly. She said she thought  
36 if Ms. Keedy had not taken the lead in this, the City would have suffered from the outcome.

37  
38 **Councilmember Speaks**

39  
40 Councilmember Speaks said he had concerns regarding the increase in the cost of fuel and  
41 wondered if a budget amendment would be needed.

1  
2 Ms. Houghton answered that the City had budgeted very conservatively and did not expect to  
3 have to do an amendment as yet.

4  
5 **City Administrator**

6  
7 Ms. Keedy stated Mr. Conner had emailed her earlier in the week and offered to take the  
8 Council on a tour of the high school facility. She said she would get back with him on the  
9 time and date and have Ms. Barnett coordinate with Council.

10  
11 Ms. Keedy said the Community Service Awards are April 6, 2005. Individual invitations are  
12 being sent. She said the next Council meeting agenda will be kept light so that those who  
13 want to attend the Awards can do so.

14  
15 Parks and Recreation Funding: Ms. Keedy said she had attended a presentation by the County  
16 regarding its Master Park and Recreation Plan which they have adopted. She said the City's  
17 Babe Ruth program has 340 participants, 60 of which are Tavares residents. She said the  
18 County does minimal funding based on participants-- usually only a few thousand dollars a  
19 year. She said the County has not increased their grant amount funding in eight years. They  
20 provide \$40,000 per commission district. There is also a \$150,000 countywide grant however  
21 it requires a \$150,000 match which means usually only one city is funded county-wide. She  
22 said since they are programming money into parks and programs for county residents that it  
23 might be a good time to request an increase in the grant amounts to help the city offset its  
24 costs in providing programs to county residents. She said she would send a letter to the  
25 Commission and copy to the other cities if Council wished her to do so.

26  
27 Councilmember Clutts said she had discussed this at the last League meeting but it was not  
28 well received. She said she did not understand the response. She said she supported Ms.  
29 Keedy writing a letter.

30  
31 Ms. Keedy noted the grants have to go towards capital purchases and no fees can be charged  
32 to county residents. She said five years ago the City received \$95,000 for the skate park  
33 through the regional grant. Since then the city has received some smaller grants in the  
34 neighborhood of \$10,000 to \$12,000. She said she had spoken to Commissioner Stivender  
35 about getting some funding for the additional ballfields that have been brought forward under  
36 the Woodlea Master Plan. She said Commissioner Stivender has been very supportive and  
37 understands the costs to the cities.

38  
39 Mayor Wicks asked if the County has a recreational impact fee. Ms. Saladin confirmed that  
40 they have just adopted a fee. Ms. Keedy said she has asked Ms. Saladin to put on the agenda a  
41 request to advertise for an RFP to consider a recreation fee for the City as well.

1  
2 Mayor Wicks said he did not have a problem funding recreation programs but that he would  
3 like a more equitable relationship between the City and the County.  
4

5 Councilmember Gamble asked if the City would be applying for a regional grant for the  
6 Woodlea ballfields. Ms. Keedy said if the City could match the grant that might be possible  
7 but she did not know if those funds would be available.  
8

9 Councilmember Gamble discussed the possibility of selling the Stover property. Mayor Wicks  
10 asked if there were any restrictions to the City based on how the property was acquired.  
11 Councilmember Gamble discussed the history of the property transaction.  
12

### 13 **Tri-City Fire Response Agreement**

14  
15 Ms. Keedy said the water tower is scheduled to be removed. The City's antenna is on the  
16 tower and dispatching is provided through Lake Sumter Communications. She said Chief  
17 Kendrick has been working with the chiefs of Mt. Dora and Eustis and EMS staff on options  
18 as to where the antenna will be relocated and also on the possibility of going to one channel.  
19 Ms. Keedy said Attorney Duncan, the EMS attorney, has drafted an interlocal agreement  
20 under which the City would participate in the funding to locate an antenna and build the  
21 needed equipment in the City of Eustis. Ms. Keedy said the City of Eustis cancelled the  
22 interlocal agreement for fire response several years back without giving a good explanation.  
23 She said she wanted to discuss with Council whether to move forward with the  
24 communications agreement given the fact that Tavares does not have an interlocal with  
25 Eustis. She said she had suggested that the Mayor write a letter to the Mayor of Eustis to try  
26 to re-open that dialogue.  
27

28 Mayor Wicks said he had concerns that this agreement might be broken if the response  
29 agreement was broken. He asked if there was an alternative site to Eustis.  
30

31 Ms. Saladin said there would be an alternative site at the Sprint tower in Eustis but there  
32 would be a monthly fee. If the City went alone the water tower could stay up or there was a  
33 possibility of using Florida Hospital. Ms. Keedy said the problem with the water tower is that  
34 it is expensive to maintain.  
35

36 Mayor Wicks said he would like to try to get the interlocal established again.  
37

38 Attorney Williams said there was no problem with Council contacting their counterparts in  
39 Eustis. He said he had spoken with Attorney Lewis Stone in Eustis. He said Mr. Stone had  
40 suggested setting up a meeting with Ms. Keedy, himself, Mr. Stone and Mr. Stearman to  
41 address the questions. He said Mr. Kendrick's memo well documents the contrast between the

1 city's fire services in 2001 and the present.

2

3 Councilmember Speaks asked about considering a taller antenna and working with a  
4 communications company. Ms. Saladin said the city has not been approached about having an  
5 antenna for sometime.

6

7 Chief Kendrick said the problem with going alone is that the other Fire Departments may not  
8 be able to hear the calls that their counterparts are involved with.

9

10 **Consensus for staff to meet with the City of Eustis as suggested by Attorney Williams.**

11

12 **Mayor Wicks**

13

14 Mr. Wicks recognized Mr. Baki who was present in the audience. He said a meeting is being  
15 arranged with the Tavares Chamber and Mr. Baki. He thanked Mr. Baki for his attendance.

16

17 **Adjournment**

18

19 There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

20

21 Respectfully submitted,

22

23

24

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy A. Barnett

26 City Clerk