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3 **CITY OF TAVARES**  
4 **MINUTES OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
5 **JUNE 1, 2005**  
6 **CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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

8  
9 **COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT**

**ABSENT**

10  
11 Ted Wicks, Mayor

Dennis Wilson, Councilmember

12 Nancy Clutts, Vice Mayor

13 Sandy Gamble, Councilmember

14 Robert Speaks, Councilmember

15  
16 **STAFF PRESENT**

17  
18 Dorothy A. Keedy, City Administrator

19 Robert Q. Williams, City Attorney

20 Nancy A. Barnett, City Clerk

21 Donna Saladin, Director of Community Services

22 Susan Jackson, Director of Community Development

23 Lori Houghton, Finance Director

24 Stoney Lubins, Police Chief

25 Lori Tucker, Human Resources Director

26 Emory Kendrick, Fire Chief

27  
28 Councilmember Gamble gave the invocation and those present recited the pledge of  
29 allegiance.

30  
31 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

32  
33 The minutes of the regular meeting of May 18, 2005 were approved as submitted.

34  
35 **PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

36  
37 It was noted that the Affordable Housing presentation would be postponed to the first meeting  
38 in July.

39  
40 **AGENDA REVIEW**

1 Mayor Wicks stated that he would be declaring a conflict on Items 3 (Ordinance #2005-18);  
2 Item 4 (Ordinance #2005-19); Item 5 (Ordinance #2005-20); and Item 6 (Ordinance #2005-  
3 21), and would be asking Vice Mayor Clutts to preside during those proceedings.

4  
5 He asked if any councilmember wished to pull an item under the Consent Agenda for  
6 discussion. Councilmember Gamble asked to pull Item #10, Agreement for Dispatch Services.

7  
8 Mayor Wicks asked if anyone in the audience wished to discuss Items #10, 11, 12, or 13.  
9

10 **MOTION**

11  
12 **Robert Speaks moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Items #11, 12, and 13**  
13 **[Agreement with UCF for Data Consortium; Award of Bid for Well No. 8; and Baytree**  
14 **III – Acceptance of Infrastructure]. The motion was seconded by Sandy Gamble. The**  
15 **motion carried 4-0.**

16  
17 **PUBLIC HEARINGS/ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS**

18  
19 **TEFRA PUBLIC HEARING**

20  
21 Mayor Wicks called the TEFRA Public Hearing to order at 5:05 p.m. He said the purpose of  
22 the meeting includes conducting the Public Hearing pursuant to the published notice. He  
23 asked for confirmation from the City Clerk that the notice was published. Ms. Barnett  
24 answered that the notice had been published as required. He said that public notice was  
25 required by law pursuant to Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.  
26 He said that the proposed issuance of the Highlands County Health Facilities Authority which  
27 will be the insurer on the subordinated Hospital Revenue Bonds (Florida Hospital Waterman),  
28 will be in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 in one or more series of  
29 the bonds. He said the proceeds of these bonds will be loaned to Florida Hospital Waterman,  
30 Inc., a Florida not-for-profit corporation and the proceeds of these bonds will be used for the  
31 purposes described in the notice that was published. Mayor Wicks said the bonds will be  
32 issued for the benefit of the health care facilities as described in the notice. These facilities are  
33 located within the geographic limits of the City of Tavares. The bonds will be issued by the  
34 insurer pursuant to the Interlocal Agreement that was signed between the City and the Insurer  
35 in accordance with the Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act of 1969, Section 163.01, Part I,  
36 Chapter 163, Florida Statutes. He said due notice of the Public Hearing was published on May  
37 10, 2005 in the Orlando Lake Sentinel. He said the Public Hearing is now open to anyone who  
38 would like to address Council on this proposal. Mayor Wicks asked Attorney Williams if any  
39 written comments were received. Attorney Williams responded that there were no written  
40 comments received by his office pursuant to the notice. He noted that the bond and hospital

1 counsel was in the audience. Mayor Wicks asked the hospital representatives if they wished to  
2 provide further information. No further information was presented.

3  
4 **Resolution #2005-15 – TEFRA Public Hearing – Approval of Issuance of Bonds for**  
5 **Florida Hospital**

6  
7 Ms. Barnett read the resolution by title only:

8  
9 **RESOLUTION #2005-15**

10  
11 **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF**  
12 **TAVARES, FLORIDA approving the issuance by the Highlands County**  
13 **Health Facilities Authority of its subordinated Hospital Revenue Bonds**  
14 **(Florida Hospital Waterman, Inc. Project) in an aggregate principal**  
15 **amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 in one or more series over the longest**  
16 **period permitted by law for the benefit of Florida Hospital Waterman,**  
17 **Inc., a Florida not-for-profit corporation.**

18  
19 Mayor Wicks asked if Council had any additional comments or questions.

20  
21 **MOTION**

22  
23 **Sandy Gamble moved to approve Resolution #2005-15, seconded by Nancy Clutts. The**  
24 **motion carried 4-0.**

25  
26 **The TEFRA Public Hearing was closed at 5:10 p.m.**

27  
28 **Mayor Wicks passed the gavel to Vice Mayor Clutts to conduct the hearings for the**  
29 **ordinances under Items 3, 4, and 5. He stated his conflict was due to his having**  
30 **performed services for the applicants.**

31  
32 **Ordinance #2005-18 – Annexation – Newman – 5.09 Acres North side of CR 448, East of**  
33 **CR 561 – Second Reading**

34  
35 Ms. Barnett read the ordinance by title only:

36  
37 **ORDINANCE #2005-18**

38  
39 **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF**  
40 **TAVARES BY ANNEXING APPROXIMATELY 5.09 ACRES**  
41 **LOCATED ON THE NORTHERN SIDE OF COUNTY ROAD 448,**



1 Center to City of Tavares Industrial. Staff recommended approval, Planning & Zoning  
2 recommended approval and City Council voted approval on first reading, 4-0.

3  
4 Mr. Green stated he wanted to clarify that the ordinance was being changed on line 24, page  
5 one, to indicate that the request is for City of Tavares Planned Industrial rather than straight  
6 Industrial. Ms. Jackson stated it had been changed in the ordinance.

7  
8 Vice Mayor Clutts asked for comment from the audience.

9  
10 The Public Hearing was closed.

11  
12 **MOTION**

13  
14 **Sandy Gamble moved to approve Ordinance #2005-19, seconded by Robert Speaks. The**  
15 **motion carried 3-0 with Ted Wicks abstaining.**

16  
17 **Ordinance #2005-20 – Annexation & Rezoning – Mikary 9.91 acres south of Mansfield**  
18 **Road and west of Lake Dora – Second Reading**

19  
20 Ms. Barnett read the ordinance by title only:

21  
22 **ORDINANCE #2005-20**

23  
24 **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF**  
25 **TAVARES BY ANNEXING APPROXIMATELY 9.91 ACRES**  
26 **LOCATED SOUTH OF MANSFIELD ROAD AND WEST OF LAKE**  
27 **DORA; REZONING THE PROPERTY FROM LAKE COUNTY A**  
28 **(AGRICULTURE) TO CITY OF TAVARES RMF-2 (RESIDENTIAL**  
29 **MULTI FAMILY); SUBJECT TO THE RULES, REGULATIONS AND**  
30 **OBLIGATIONS ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TAVARES COUNCIL;**  
31 **PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

32  
33 Ms. Jackson noted that this is second reading for the annexation of this 9.9 one-acre parcel. It  
34 meets all statutory requirements for annexation and the applicant is requesting to rezone the  
35 property from the current Lake County Agricultural designation to the City of Tavares RMF-  
36 2. Planning & Zoning Board recommended approval and City Council approved on first  
37 reading 4-0.

38  
39 Vice Mayor Clutts invited the applicant's representative to address Council.

1 Sharon Farrell of Wicks Consulting came forward. She said she had no further information to  
2 present.

3  
4 Vice Mayor Clutts asked for input from the audience.

5  
6 The Public Hearing was closed.

7  
8 Councilmember Gamble mentioned the discussion at the last meeting regarding an eagle's  
9 nest. He asked Ms. Farrell if that had been researched. Ms. Farrell answered that at this stage  
10 of the permitting process the data base was checked which showed no active eagle's nest,  
11 however, as part of the permitting through the Planning & Zoning Department a full  
12 environmental assessment will be required. Any environmental impacts would be addressed  
13 through the state agencies.

14  
15 **MOTION**

16  
17 **Robert Speaks moved for approval of Ordinance #2005-20, seconded by Sandy Gamble.**  
18 **The motion carried 3-0 with Mayor Wicks abstaining.**

19  
20 **Ordinance #2005-21 –Small Scale Future Land Use Amendment – Mikary -**  
21 **Recommendation to Council**

22  
23 Ms. Barnett read the ordinance by title only:

24  
25  
26  
27 **ORDINANCE 2005-21**

28  
29 **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA,**  
30 **AMENDING THE TAVARES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE**  
31 **LAND USE MAP 2010, PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE OF FUTURE**  
32 **LAND USE DESIGNATION FROM LAKE COUNTY URBAN TO CITY**  
33 **OF TAVARES LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL FOR PROPERTY**  
34 **LOCATED SOUTH OF MANSFIELD ROAD AND WEST OF LAKE**  
35 **DORA; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND CONFLICTS;**  
36 **PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN**  
37 **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

38  
39 Ms. Jackson reported that this was second reading of the Future Land Use Amendment from  
40 Lake County Urban to City of Tavares Low Density Residential. Planning & Zoning Board  
41 recommended approval, the Local Planning Agency recommended approval, and the City  
42 Council voted to approve on first reading 4-0.

1  
2 Vice Mayor Clutts asked Ms. Farrell if she wished to speak and Ms. Farrell indicated she had  
3 no further information. Vice Mayor Clutts asked for comment from the audience.

4  
5 **MOTION**

6  
7 **Sandy Gamble moved to approve Ordinance #2005-21, seconded by Robert Speaks. The**  
8 **motion carried 3-0 with Ted Wicks abstaining.**

9  
10 Vice Mayor Clutts passed the gavel back to Mayor Wicks.

11  
12 **Ordinance #2005-22 – Annexation & Rezoning – Tolbert, .9 acres, 38231 Lake Eustis**  
13 **Drive – Second Reading**

14  
15 Ms. Barnett read the ordinance by title only:

16  
17 **ORDINANCE #2005-22**

18  
19 **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF**  
20 **TAVARES BY ANNEXING APPROXIMATELY 0.9 ACRES LOCATED**  
21 **AT 32831 LAKE EUSTIS DRIVE; REZONING THE PROPERTY**  
22 **FROM LAKE COUNTY R-6 (URBAN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT) TO**  
23 **CITY OF TAVARES RSF-1 (RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY);**  
24 **SUBJECT TO THE RULES, REGULATIONS AND OBLIGATIONS**  
25 **ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TAVARES COUNCIL; PROVIDING**  
26 **AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

27  
28 Ms. Jackson said this was second reading of this .9 acre parcel, annexing it into the City and  
29 rezoning it from Lake County R-6 to City RSF-1. Planning & Zoning Board recommended  
30 approval and City Council voted to approve on first reading 5-0.

31  
32 Mayor Wicks asked if the applicant wished to address Council. He then asked if anyone in the  
33 audience had comments.

34  
35 The Public Hearing was closed.

36  
37 **MOTION**

38  
39 **Nancy Clutts moved for approval of Ordinance #2005-22, seconded by Robert Speaks.**  
40 **The motion carried 4-0.**

1 **Ordinance #2005-23 – Small Scale Future Land Use Amendment – Tolbert – 32831 Lake**  
2 **Eustis Drive – Second Reading**

3  
4 Ms. Barnett read the ordinance by title only:

5  
6 **ORDINANCE #2005-23**

7  
8 **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, AMENDING**  
9 **THE TAVARES COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE LAND USE MAP 2010,**  
10 **PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE OF FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION**  
11 **FROM LAKE COUNTY URBAN TO CITY OF TAVARES LOW DENSITY**  
12 **RESIDENTIAL FOR 32831 LAKE EUSTIS DRIVE; PROVIDING FOR**  
13 **SEVERABILITY AND CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL;**  
14 **AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

15  
16 Ms. Jackson stated that this is the Future Land Use Amendment for the previous property  
17 which is from Lake County Urban to City of Tavares Low Density Residential. The Planning  
18 & Zoning Board recommended approval, the Local Planning Agency recommended approval,  
19 and City Council voted to approve on first reading, 5-0.

20  
21 Mayor Wicks asked for comment from the audience. The Public Hearing was closed.

22  
23 **MOTION**

24  
25 Nancy Clutts moved for approval of Ordinance #2005-23, seconded by Sandy Gamble.  
26 The motion carried 4-0.

27  
28 **Ordinance #2005-24 – PUD Text Amendment – Amendment to Ordinance #2005-37 –**  
29 **Adjustments to Height – Landings at Etowah – Second Reading**

30  
31 Ms. Barnett read the ordinance by title only:

32  
33 **ORDINANCE 2005-24**

34  
35 **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 94-12 AS AMENDED BY**  
36 **2004-19, AS AMENDED BY 2004-37 OF THE CITY OF TAVARES,**  
37 **FLORIDA, AFFECTING PROPERTY NORTH OF FLORIDA**  
38 **HOSPITAL WATERMAN; AMENDING SECTION 2.3 (D),**  
39 **PROVIDING FOR ADJUSTMENTS TO HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS;**  
40 **PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

1 Ms. Jackson advised that this was the second reading of a text amendment to the Etowah  
2 PUB. The applicant is requesting an increase in height from 60 feet to 64 feet for their multi-  
3 family district and the ability to have a decorative cupola on the top of the multi-family  
4 structures not to exceed 10 feet above the ridge roofline. Planning & Zoning Board  
5 recommended approval and the City Council voted in favor on first reading 5-0.

6  
7 Attorney Campione said she was available if Council had further questions.

8  
9 Mayor Wicks asked for comment from the audience. He noted there was a thorough  
10 discussion on this issue at the previous Council meeting. The Public Hearing was closed.

11  
12 **MOTION**

13  
14 **Nancy Clutts moved for approval of Ordinance #2005-24, seconded by Robert Speaks.**  
15 **The motion carried 4-0.**

16  
17 **CONSENT AGENDA**

18  
19 **Agreement for Dispatch Services – Lake County Sheriff**

20  
21 Councilmember Gamble said he had had a situation where he had to contact dispatch and it  
22 took him five minutes to communicate with the dispatcher regarding the address for which he  
23 needed assistance. He asked Chief Lubins if there had been many other similar problems.  
24 Chief Lubins answered that there have been a few instances but not a lot of problems overall.  
25 He said when they have contacted the sheriff's office they have been very cooperative about  
26 correcting the problem. He said if there are any issues like this that he should be contacted  
27 and he will have the dispatch tape pulled to investigate the issue. He said he has received very  
28 few complaints about dispatch.

29  
30 Chief Kendrick added that any calls that come into 911 show the location of the call on the  
31 computer. If the non-emergency number is called there can be several streets with the same  
32 name in the county overall.

33  
34 Ms. Saladin noted that the least experienced staff are usually put on the non-emergency lines  
35 for training.

36  
37 Mayor Wicks said he was glad to see that the costs have gone down.

38  
39 Mayor Wicks asked if anyone in the audience had comments.

40  
41 Ms. Keedy noted last year the contract was for \$140,000 and the new contract is for \$100,000.

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**MOTION**

**Sandy Gamble moved to accept the agreement with the Lake County Sheriff’s Department for dispatch services, seconded by Nancy Clutts. The motion carried 4-0.**

**AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD**

Mayor Wicks asked if anyone in the audience wished to address Council.

**DEPARTMENTAL TOPICS FOR COUNCIL ACTION OR DISCUSSION**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**Request for FTE for Parks and Recreation**

Ms. Saladin explained that this position was planned to be requested in next fiscal year’s budget because of the increase in the participants in the city’s programs and events. Due to the upcoming absence of an employee on leave, there is a need to fill this position with a full time employee (rather than a temporary employee) because of the need for training and continuity. The funds are available between the Library and Parks and Recreation Department to cover the position this current year. Staff did a survey to compare staffing with other cities. She pointed out that there was an error on the survey provided to Council. The survey stated there are 21 employees in the Parks Department in Eustis, however, the correct number is 9 in their parks and recreation department. The other 12 employees do maintenance for their fields alone. She said, however, she did not want to base her request on the numbers in the other cities. The survey information was provided to demonstrate the efficiency of the Tavares Parks and Recreation Department. She said the Babe Ruth program has more participants than any of the other cities. She said the only way was to continue providing services for this program is fund the additional position.

Councilmember Speaks pointed out that the amount being requested just applies to the current budget. Ms. Keedy noted that the request is for a permanent employee however.

Councilmember Speaks said the staff report did not clarify that it was for a permanent position.

Mayor Wicks said he had spoken to Ms. Keedy about reviewing the recreation fee structure and that he would like to look at some means of recouping for services that are being provided

1 to residents outside the city limits. Ms. Keedy said 80% of the participants are from the  
2 county. She said this is consistent with the other cities. Ms. Saladin said the fee for the Babe  
3 Ruth program covers the operational costs of the program but do not cover salaries. Mayor  
4 Wicks said the city is therefore subsidizing the program to a great extent.

5  
6 Councilmember Speaks noted that the County also provides funding. Ms. Keedy said it is  
7 minimal. Ms. Saladin said it is under \$10,000 every year, sometimes as little as under \$5,000.

8  
9 Ms. Keedy stated that the grant agreement requires the city to charge the same fee to non-  
10 residents. However she said there had been discussions at the City Manager meetings  
11 regarding having that provision eliminated and they have had discussions with Ms. Hall, [the  
12 new county manager]. She suggested that this is something the League of Cities could discuss  
13 with the county.

14  
15 Ms. Keedy said this was not a request that would normally have been brought to Council just  
16 before the budgeting process, however, with the staff member being on leave, the Babe Ruth  
17 program would not be able to be offered.

18  
19 Vice Mayor Clutts said she was in support of this position because it is an amenity to the city  
20 residents. She said she has heard positive comments from the community regarding the  
21 operation of the city's recreation program.

22  
23 **MOTION**

24  
25 **Nancy Clutts moved to approve the request for the Parks and Recreation Assistant**  
26 **position, seconded by Sandy Gamble. The motion carried 4-0.**

27  
28 **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

29  
30 **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

31  
32 **PUBLIC WORKS/GENERAL SERVICES**

33  
34 **FINANCE**

35  
36 **ADMINISTRATION**

37  
38 **Tree Removal in Canals**

39  
40 Ms. Keedy said the city has received requests form the Homeowners Association at Fox Run  
41 to maintain the canal that runs between the Fox Run Subdivision and the property that the city

1 recently purchased south of that subdivision. The city has in the past been able to get the Lake  
2 County Water Authority to assist the city in clearing canals that the city owns property  
3 adjacent to. However, after the first call out to that canal, the Water Authority indicated it was  
4 too difficult, costly and time consuming and that they would not be able to maintain that canal  
5 on a regular basis. Staff has looked into the cost. Dimensional Contracting out of Tavares has  
6 given a quote of \$400 for each call out and then anywhere from \$400 to \$1200 for each tree  
7 removed depending on the size of the tree. She said she is concerned about setting a precedent  
8 because there are a number of canals in the city. She said she has told the residents that  
9 currently the city does not have the capability in-house to do tree removal and canal  
10 maintenance and does not have a budget to contract the service.

11  
12 Mayor Wicks asked if this was a public safety issue. Chief Lubins said the access is not  
13 needed in general but it would be more of an issue of a navigational hazard. Ms. Keedy said  
14 the canal is about a ¼ mile and is rather narrow and only serves the residents of Fox Run.  
15 Mayor Wicks noted he did not think it was a publicly dedicated canal. Ms. Clutts asked how  
16 Dora Canal was managed after the hurricane. Ms. Keedy said that is a navigable waterway  
17 and was managed by the Water Authority. Vice Mayor Clutts said she had heard individuals  
18 had assisted with removal of trees after the hurricane. Ms. Keedy said that may have occurred  
19 after the storms but was not a common practice. She said she thought the Water Authority  
20 maintains all of the canals that connect the Chain of Lakes.

21  
22 Vice Mayor Clutts asked if the residents were stating there is one tree obstructing the canal.  
23 Ms. Keedy said there had been a specific tree obstructing but she thought trees were still  
24 falling occasionally and the residents are concerned about the upcoming hurricane season.  
25 Vice Mayor Clutts asked if the trees that are falling are currently on city property. Ms. Keedy  
26 said some of the trees are on city property. Vice Mayor Clutts asked if there was a way to go  
27 onto the area and if there are trees that are on the verge of falling to facilitate their removal.  
28 Ms. Keedy said there is a bridge that was built across the canal but it is very unstable and  
29 needs to be removed for liability reasons. It leads to a walkway that has been damaged by  
30 trees. She said staff has walked out as far as possible on the walkway but she did not think  
31 there was a way to get from the upland property to trees on the shore adjacent to the canal.

32  
33 Councilmember Speaks asked who dug the canal originally. Ms. Keedy said she did not know  
34 if the developer had had it dug. Mayor Wicks stated he thought the Fox Run canal was  
35 probably privately dug when permits were not required. Councilmember Speaks said there is  
36 a similar situation at Banning Beach. Their canal was dug by the Army Corp of Engineers,  
37 however it is an overflow canal, not meant to be navigable. He said various agencies have  
38 looked at it but won't open it up to navigation. They will only help with planting vegetation  
39 and cleaning it out. He suggested that a phone call be made to DEP or the Army Corp of  
40 Engineers to ask them to look at the Fox Run canal.

41

1 Mayor Wicks said he would not support using taxpayer funds to maintain the canal. He said  
2 there might be some inherent liability because of the city owning the property but that he did  
3 not think the city had a responsibility to maintain navigation as it is not a canal that is open to  
4 the public.

5  
6 Councilmember Gamble asked Attorney Williams if the city was responsible if a tree fell  
7 from its property. Attorney Williams answered that it would not necessarily be the city's  
8 responsibility.

9  
10 Mayor Wicks said he was concerned about the costs of long term preventative maintenance.

11  
12 Vice Mayor Clutts said she agreed with Councilmember Speaks regarding contacting the  
13 Department of Environmental Protection.

14  
15 Attorney Williams said that the city acquired the property because the city needed to acquire  
16 some upland property owned by the developer of Fox Run that is adjacent to the Woodlea  
17 property. Along with that purchase came this property which the city does not necessarily  
18 need other than for wetland banking purposes. He said there may be other entities that bank  
19 wetlands that would be interested in it. He said that he thought staff had determined that it is  
20 not needed for passive recreation and not very usable.

21  
22 Councilmember Speaks asked who removed the trees before the city owned it. Ms. Keedy  
23 answered that they were removed by the developer. She said now the homeowners association  
24 has taken over from the developer and owns the park and the common areas.

25  
26 Mayor Wicks asked that staff contact the state agencies to see if there is any assistance  
27 available and that he would also like to follow up with Attorney Williams' comments on  
28 mitigation issues. He said it is a valuable property because it is part of the floodplain of Lake  
29 Harris and has a lot of wetland value. He said he could provide information as to mitigation  
30 contacts. He said it could also be donated to the Lake County Water Authority, the Water  
31 Management District, or the homeowners association. He asked that a report be brought back  
32 when staff have been able to gather the information.

33  
34 He asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to address Council on this issue.

35  
36 **Election Costs**

37  
38 Ms. Keedy stated that staff is looking for direction from Council on whether to offer early  
39 voting for the upcoming municipal election. This is the first municipal election where the city  
40 will not be part of a county-wide election and there are significant costs (approximately  
41 \$7400) to offer the early voting. There are also additional costs for the regular election,

1 higher than in previous years. She said some cities have opted out to provide the early voting.  
2 Absentee ballot will continue to be available. Ms. Barnett noted that she had asked the  
3 Elections Office to look at the city hall space and it was possible Council Chambers might  
4 have to be utilized for the early voting. She said since 1999 the most that had been spent on  
5 election costs was \$2600, however the 2005 election costs are projected to be around \$9000  
6 because of the increased election staffing requirements and the growth in population, etc.

7  
8 Ms. Keedy noted that an ordinance would have to be brought back if Council decided to opt  
9 out.

10  
11 Councilmember Gamble questioned the difference in costs for the election when the city  
12 election is concurrent with the general election. Ms. Barnett said Ms. Stegall provides the  
13 early voting in the general election years and they are held at the County administration  
14 building and the city is not charged for that. Councilmember Gamble asked about the costs  
15 when the city is on the general election ballot. Ms. Barnett answered that the costs have been  
16 very low for the last three years when the city has been on the county-wide ballot. She said  
17 the costs passed on to the city vary depending on the Supervisor's costs. Councilmember  
18 Gamble said he was suggesting that the city consider going to four year terms and make them  
19 congruent with either the governor's election or the presidential election and this would save  
20 the taxpayers money. He asked if this was made a charter revision and it was approved by the  
21 public how would that affect the current terms? Attorney Williams responded that there would  
22 need to be a transition provision in the charter amendment that addresses the officials  
23 currently in office.

24  
25 Ms. Barnett noted that the deadline for submitting a referendum to Ms. Stegall is sometime in  
26 July. Mayor Wicks said there are some other issues in the charter that need to be addressed as  
27 well. Attorney Williams said that to address the charter, a committee needed to be started  
28 around the first of the year. An ordinance has to be adopted to amend the charter and then the  
29 ordinance only becomes effective upon the referendum.

30  
31 Vice Mayor Clutts said she thought that needed to be looked at this fall or during the budget  
32 discussions and anticipate it for the next year. She said she thought Councilmember Gamble's  
33 idea had merit and would provide continuity with council's goals and objectives. She said she  
34 thought the frequent turnover in officials has made it difficult for continuity.

35  
36 Councilmember Speaks said that he thought costs for a charter committee should be included  
37 in the budget. He said the city may want to look at precincts as well.

38  
39 **MOTION**

40  
41 **Councilmember Gamble moved to bypass the early voting for the municipal elections**

1 **when they are held separately from the general election (based on the costs that would**  
2 **be incurred to offer early voting), seconded by Robert Speaks.**

3  
4 Mayor Wicks asked if anyone in the audience had comments.

5  
6 **The motion carried unanimously 4-0.**

7  
8 **Staff will bring back the opt out ordinance to the next Council Meeting**

9  
10 **CRA Committee**

11  
12 Ms. Keedy said the first Advisory Committee was held. She said there was discussion  
13 regarding the role of the committee. She said Paul Gross was elected the chair and that he was  
14 in the audience. She said he had suggested that Council give direction to the committee on  
15 what role they would like them to fulfill. She referred to page 5 in the CRA minutes that  
16 referenced the discussion on the CRA function. She invited Mr. Gross to speak.

17  
18 Paul Gross said that he felt the members that Council had appointed were dedicated and  
19 sincerely interested in helping the community by aiding in the redevelopment efforts. He said  
20 if Council gave some expression of direction to the Committee it would helpful to aid the  
21 Committee in setting priorities.

22  
23 Mayor Wicks said he appreciated the committee members taking on this responsibility and  
24 that there had been a number of discussions regarding downtown development. He agreed it  
25 would be helpful for Council to develop their thoughts and put them in writing.

26  
27 Vice Mayor Clutts then distributed the goals and objectives she had formulated for the CRA  
28 Committee. She said she had done research and come up with some ideas based on what other  
29 cities are doing. She summarized her overall goal which was to encourage local initiatives in  
30 the downtown and neighborhood revitalization areas in order to provide maximum  
31 opportunities for private enterprises to participate in the redevelopment and revitalization of  
32 the designated areas. She invited Council to review her draft and add to it or revise  
33 accordingly.

34  
35 Mayor Wicks said he appreciated the information Ms. Clutts had developed. He said he would  
36 like to review it and have the matter brought back at the next meeting for further discussion.  
37 Vice Mayor Clutts added she had reviewed the CRA minutes and noted that this is a board  
38 that wants to be active and she appreciated their position.

39  
40 Ms. Keedy stated that Greg Williams was also present from the CRA Committee.

41

1 Mayor Wicks stated a resignation was received from Edd Holder from the CRA Committee  
2 due to his concerns about conflict, and that he regretted his resignation. Mayor Wicks said he  
3 has two other applications that he is considering. Mayor Wicks asked when staff would need  
4 Council's comments on the information Vice Mayor Clutts had submitted. Ms. Keedy  
5 responded the Wednesday or Thursday before the next Council meeting. Ms. Keedy asked  
6 that Council's comments be emailed to herself or Ms. Barnett. Ms. Barnett will forward Ms.  
7 Clutts' list by email to Council for comments.

8  
9 Mr. Gross added that he would like to see Mr. Holder remain on the Board. He said Attorney  
10 Williams had made the point that as long as conflicts are declared that these individuals  
11 should be able to serve their community on the board.

12  
13 Vice Mayor Clutts said she understood the concern expressed by Mr. Holder, but that the  
14 CRA members are stakeholders in the future of Tavares which she felt was of benefit to the  
15 City and there is a procedure to handle potential concerns regarding conflict. Mayor Wicks  
16 said he would discuss this further with Mr. Holder but he felt he had made his decision.

17  
18 **REPORTS**

19  
20 **Attorney Williams**

21  
22 No report.

23  
24 **Councilmember Gamble**

25  
26 Councilmember Gamble asked about the [code enforcement] issue on the mobile home that  
27 was in the newspaper. Ms. Keedy said they have pulled a demolition permit.

28  
29 Councilmember Gamble said he is still being contacted by his colleagues about a sewer odor  
30 problem at Caroline St. He asked that a staff member go there to meet with them.

31  
32 Councilmember Gamble referred to the letter of appreciation in Council's mail sent from a  
33 resident regarding the recent Hurricane Academy. He commended Chief Kendrick and Lt.  
34 Luckock on this project. Chief Kendrick said that Lt. Luckock is an excellent instructor and  
35 that he would not have been able to put on this program without him. Mayor Wicks said he  
36 appreciated staff's work on this project.

37  
38 **Vice Mayor Clutts**

39  
40 No report.

1 **Councilmember Speaks**

2  
3 Councilmember Speaks said staff had been out to fill in the hole behind Prosperity Bank on  
4 New Hampshire but that the last two rains had washed it out again. Ms. Keedy said Mr.  
5 Mercer has contacted FDOT and there is a problem with an underlying structure that is  
6 washing away. She said she thinks FDOT is trying to do a superficial repair and there is  
7 probably a more significant construction issue that that they need to address.

8  
9 Councilmember Speaks said he would not be able to be in the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade this year. He  
10 said his son would be coming home for leave from Iraq in a few weeks.

11  
12 **City Administrator**

13  
14 **Mayor Wicks**

15  
16 **Adjournment**

17  
18 There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

19  
20 Respectfully submitted,

21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 Nancy A. Barnett  
City Clerk