



## REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION

MARCH 15, 2011

Pursuant to due notice, a regular meeting of the Commission of the City of Altamonte Springs, Seminole County, was held at 225 Newburyport Avenue, in said City on March 15, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT WERE:** Commissioners Batman, Reece, Hussey and Vice-Mayor Wolfram

**ABSENT:** Mayor Bates

**ALSO PRESENT WERE:** Frank Martz - City Manager  
Skip Fowler - City Attorney  
Linda Sundvall - City Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Mayor Wolfram.

**INVOCATION:** Vice-Mayor Wolfram called for a moment of silent prayer.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** Moved by Commissioner Batman, seconded by Commissioner Hussey, to approve the minutes of the regular commission meeting of March 1, 2011, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

\*\*\*\*\*

**INFORMAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE FLOOR:** None

\*\*\*\*\*

1. **PRESENTATION:** Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Year ended September 30, 2010

Mark DeBord introduced Dan O’Keefe of the accounting firm Moore, Stephens, Lovelace, P.A., who presented the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended September 30, 2010.

Mr. O’Keefe reported that the City has no material weaknesses and no significant deficiencies unlike some other communities who are going through some tough times.

Mr. O’Keefe gave a brief overview of the City’s financial position today, stating that the City has an equity position unrestricted in governmental activities of \$24 million and business-type activities of \$17 million, for a total equity of \$41 million. He added that one thing that jumps out is that the City has very negligible debt, which puts it into a position to ride out the storm, while many communities are still struggling.

Mr. O’Keefe advised that the City’s unreserved fund balance is \$24.7 million, which represents 79% as a ratio to its expenditures. He added that he had studied the past five or six years of the City’s financial statements, and that when the markets were trending up the City wasn’t out spending wildly, but was basically still managing costs and being very fiscally conservative in its approach, enabling it to reduce costs and still give the services the community needs. He further added that the revenues for 2010 were below the 2005 revenues, but the 2010 expenditures were below the 2004 levels, which is good. He advised that the City is moving in the right direction and is exactly where it needs to be.

He further advised that the City shows a really strong liquidity, looking at current assets next to current liabilities. He noted that the City’s water and sewer fund has \$22.8 million in current assets and current liability is only \$2 million. He stated that again, the City does not have debt holding it down. He added that because it does not have debt, the City is not subject to a 1.25 debt coverage, which means it would have to have that much more revenue to cover the debt, and as a result the City is not in a position where it has to raise its rates and increase revenues. He added that the City is in a strong position even in enterprise funds.

Mr. O’Keefe concluded by stating that overall he couldn’t compliment the City enough and the City is in wonderful shape. He commended the staff for the great job providing them what they needed to do the audit.

Commissioner Batman questioned how the City compares to others on catastrophic fund availability. Mr. O’Keefe responded that the City is in much better shape and the unreserved fund balance of 79% is much higher than virtually every other entity that they have audited or monitored. He stated the City has a lot more flexibility, and if a storm hit today, the City would be ready for it.

**Motion:** Moved by Commissioner Hussey, seconded by Commissioner Batman, to accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

\*\*\*\*\*

**2. PUBLIC HEARING**

**2nd READING:**

**Ordinance No. 1631-11** – Comprehensive Plan Amendment to assign a future land use designation of City Gateway Center of property located at the south portion of the former Forest City Cove right-of-way, adjacent to South State Road 434  
(Gray Robinson – Applicant)

City Attorney Skip Fowler read the ordinance title for the record.

**Motion:**

Moved by Commissioner Reece, seconded by Commissioner Hussey, to pass and adopt on Ordinance No. 1631-11 on second and final reading. Commissioner Batman - yes; Commissioner Reece – yes; Commissioner Hussey – yes; Vice-Mayor Wolfram – yes. Motion carried 4-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**2nd READING:**

**Ordinance No. 1632-11** – Zoning of Multi-Use Development (MUD) of property located at the south portion of the former Forest City Cove right-of-way, adjacent to South State Road 434

City Attorney Skip Fowler read the ordinance title for the record.

**Motion:**

Moved by Commissioner Reece, seconded by Commissioner Hussey, to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 1632-11 on second and final reading. Commissioner Batman - yes; Commissioner Reece – yes; Commissioner Hussey – yes; Vice-Mayor Wolfram – yes. Motion carried 4-0.

\*\*\*\*\*

**3. PUBLIC HEARING**

**2nd READING:**

**Ordinance No. 1633-11** – Amending the Comprehensive Plan of the City by changing the future land use designation of Lots 42, 43 and 44, a replat of Winwood Park, as recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 30, Public Records of Seminole County, Florida, and a portion of the vacated George Street located North of East Altamonte Drive (SR 436) and west of Leon Street from County Medium Density to City East Town Center (Fragomeni Engineering, Inc. – Applicant)

City Attorney Skip Fowler read the ordinance title for the record.

**Motion:** Moved by Commissioner Hussey, seconded by Commissioner Reece, to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 1633-11 on second and final reading. Commissioner Batman - yes; Commissioner Reece – yes; Commissioner Hussey – yes; Vice-Mayor Wolfram – yes. Motion carried 4-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**2nd READING:** **Ordinance No. 1634-11** – Rezoning of Lots 42, 43 and 44, a replat of Winwood Park, as recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 30, Public Records of Seminole County, Florida, and a portion of the vacated George Street located North of East Altamonte Drive, (SR 436) and West of Leon Street from County R-1 Single Family to City MOC-2 – Mixed Office Commercial District

City Attorney Skip Fowler read the ordinance title for the record.

**Motion:** Moved by Commissioner Hussey, seconded by Commissioner Batman, to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 1634-11 on second and final reading. Commissioner Batman - yes; Commissioner Reece – yes; Commissioner Hussey – yes; Vice-Mayor Wolfram – yes. Motion carried 4-0.

\*\*\*\*\*

**4. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL:** Release and Abandonment of Utility Easement – 803 Glenarden Way

**Motion:** Moved by Commissioner Hussey, seconded by Commissioner Batman, to approve the release and abandonment of the City Utility Easement recorded in Official Record Book 1630, Page 224 of the Public Records of Seminole County, Florida and authorize the Mayor to sign the associated Release and Abandonment of Easement to be recorded in the Public Records of Seminole County, Florida. Motion carried unanimously.

\*\*\*\*\*

**6. DISCUSSION:** Citizen Board Appointment

Commissioner Reece reappointed Tobborah Cottingham to the Code Enforcement Board.

Vice-Mayor Wolfram appointed Bob O'Malley to the Code Enforcement Board, replacing Max Stewart who resigned.

\*\*\*\*\*

**INFORMAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE FLOOR:** None

\*\*\*\*\*

**REPORTS:**

**CITY ATTORNEY** - None

**CITY CLERK** - None

**CITY MANAGER**

Reported that this morning he had attended the Seminole County Mayors and Managers meeting and wished to highlight two things from that meeting. He stated that the first was that a lot of other cities are in very, very desperate financial straits and it is largely because they haven't done what we have done, by spending money the right way and being conservative when necessary.

He stated that the second thing that came up, which was the purpose of the meeting, is the of a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation sales tax. He noted that there are some very conflicting ideas about it. He explained that the Seminole County School Board, which has great needs, went out for a tax which was narrowly defeated. He added that there were some who want to do a Seminole County 3<sup>rd</sup> generation capital only sales tax, which we participated in the first two. He explained that some people think that's a good idea, but he does not. He further explained that there are some who believe we need operational money to help support Sun Rail if that occurs or any regional transit if that occurs, or Flex Bus, if that occurs and he does believe that's important.

Mr. Martz further explained that during the meeting they described something that the Commission as a group is going to be facing. He stated his belief that there are cities that need the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation sales tax simply because they have no ability to run their city otherwise and there are others like us who've been a little bit more conservative. He expressed that his concern about the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation sales tax is that the School District at this time claims they're going to have to cut \$44 million dollars this upcoming year after cutting \$97 million this year over the last two and he is not sure that we want to be in the position of building pedestrian overpasses when school rooms are in peril.

He explained that while he believes that the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation sales tax may have some merit for something, he believes that if Sun Rail really happens, at some point we're all going to have to pay for it, and that can only be paid for through the Charter County Transit Surtax. He further explained that this is a perpetual tax that can be used for both operation and capital and without that tax, we cannot operate Sun Rail at all, or light rail on I-4. He added that if he had to make a recommendation today about supporting the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation sales tax, he would recommend against it. He added that he does not think there's support on the Seminole County Commission for it, and it would need County approval to be placed on the ballot. He stated he just wanted the Commission to be aware that there are some cities that will say the world as they know it may end if they

don't get this thing passed, and that may be true. However, he stated that we did not do the things they did and he does not know that we want to be in the position that might put us in, particularly in a city like ours where transit is part of our future.

In response to questions from the Commission, Mr. Martz explained that the tax would have to be on the ballot and would need to be approved by the Seminole County Commission and subject to an interlocal agreement with all who would benefit from the tax. He added that over the years it has been all the cities, the County, plus the School Board. He went on to say that the School Board has desperate needs and he believes we all agree that education is being short shrifted in the worst possible way in this state. He added that maybe the only way to get that message across is for the School Board to close a couple of middle schools so the PTA members in Seminole County actually see what this looks like and they can make some choices.

He stated that it was still not a reason to approve a capital sales tax when the broader issues are flatline revenues and the specter of a transit system that will take millions and millions of dollars to operate every year. He reiterated that he felt it would not be the best thing to do. He stated that he does not think the County Commission is of one mind and the majority right now is against it. He felt it would not be for us, despite how attractive it might be in some ways and despite how much there may be needs in other places for it.

Mr. Martz also praised Mark DeBord and Dan O'Keefe for their excellent accounting for the City's present and future.

#### **COMMISSIONER BATMAN**

Complimented everyone involved in the presentation last night to the residents of Oakland Estates about the construction on the pipes, sidewalks and streets. He stated his only concern was the water pressure going back to the homes with dated pipes.

Mr. Torres advised it would not be an issue.

#### **COMMISSIONER REECE**

Commended the Department Heads for their efforts on managing the City's finances, pointing out that they have had to cut the budget for the past few years, but have been able to maintain services and the City's beauty. She expressed appreciation for the way the City has been run allowing it to maintain a good financial condition.

Mr. Martz added that he had recently spoken with the employees, passing along the Commission's appreciation for them. He stated that the efforts have not been just on the part of the Department Directors, but really all the employees, for buying into the current economic experience. He stated the employees have been very willing to explore their jobs and new ideas and he related to them the Commission's support. He stressed that simply saying thank you to the employees has had a significant impact, and advised the Commission to keep it up, as it really matters to the employees.

**COMMISSIONER HUSSEY**

Stated he concurred with Commissioner Reece's and Mr. Martz's comments and he really appreciates the employees for all they do and commended them for a job well done.

Stated he attended the Buddy Ball game and had an opportunity to be a Buddy. He added that it was a great experience. He stated it has grown from two teams to four, and he thanked Commissioner Reece for her efforts.

**VICE-MAYOR WOLFRAM**

Expressed his appreciation for the employees who do the Spring Cleanup, noting they are enthusiastic and are doing a great job.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
VICE-MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK