



**CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA
OCTOBER 17, 2023, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MEETING MINUTES**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Watford called the regular meeting of the City Council for the City of Okeechobee to order on October 17, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, located at 55 Southeast (SE) 3rd Avenue (AVE), Room 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The invocation was offered by Pastor Matt Bowen, Christ Fellowship Church/Police Department Chaplain; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Jarriel.

II. ATTENDANCE

City Clerk Lane Gamiotea called the roll. Members present to establish a quorum: Mayor Dowling R. Watford, Jr., and Council Members Noel A. Chandler, Robert "Bob" J. Jarriel, and David R. McAuley. Vice Mayor Monica M. Clark attended electronically via Zoom.

III. AGENDA AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. New Business, item VII.A, Exhibit 3, was withdrawn by Administrator Gary Ritter.

B. Motion and second by Council Members Jarriel and Chandler to approve the agenda as amended.
Motion Carried Unanimously.

C. There were no comment cards submitted for public participation for issues not on the agenda.

IV. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

A. Mayor Watford and Public Works Director Allen recognized Ms. Kay Matchett, Public Works Administrative Secretary, for her years of service. The presentation included an engraved pen and a framed Certificate of Appreciation read into the record as follows: **"Longevity Service Certificate presented to Kay Matchett in Recognition of your 5 Years of Service, Hard Work, and Dedication to the City, its citizens, and your fellow employees from October 1, 2018, through October 1, 2023."**

B. Chief Hagan honored the memory of Jason Chapman by presenting his family members with a shadow box displaying his issued Police badge, duty weapon, handcuffs, and patches. Officer Chapman, employed since September 10, 2021, tragically lost his life in an off-duty accident on September 26, 2023.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion and second by Council Members Jarriel and Chandler to:

A. Dispense with the reading and approve the Minutes for September 14, 2023, September 25, 2023, and October 3, 2023 [as presented]; and

B. Approve the September 2023 Warrant Register [in the amounts: General Fund, \$491,208.74; Public Facilities Improvement Fund, \$46,897.42; Capital Improvement Projects Fund, \$1,897.42; Industrial Development Fund, \$985,961.00 and Appropriations Grant Fund, \$5,454.00, as presented]; and

C. Temporarily close a portion of Southwest 4th Street (ST) between 5th and 6th AVE from 5:00 to 9:00 P.M. on October 31, 2023, for the Fall Festival as submitted by First Baptist Church [as presented in **Exhibit 1**].

Motion Carried Unanimously.

VI. MAYOR WATFORD OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR FINAL PLAT ADOPTION POSTPONED FROM SEPTEMBER 14, 2023, AT 6:12 P.M.

A. Motion and second by Council Members Chandler and Jarriel to postpone to November 7, 2023, the motion to approve or deny with or without contingencies, Final Plat Application No. 23-003-TRC/FP, proposed development is a 16.2+/- acres commercial subdivision, to be titled: PARK ST COMMERCE CENTER, located in the 1100 to 1200 blocks along the North (N) side of N Park ST/State Road 70 East (E), just West of the eastern City Limits/Northeast (NE) 13th AVE. The newly platted subdivision will consist of five lots for future commercial development, two master stormwater tracts, rights-of-way NE 3rd ST and NE 13th AVE, and an abandonment of the unimproved and unutilized portion of NE 12th AVE, formerly Mobley ST, submitted by Adam Ramsey, Registered Agent for Park ST Okeechobee, LLC; property owner William R. Grigsby, Jr., **Exhibit 2**.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

MAYOR WATFORD CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:13 P.M.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Withdrawn from Agenda: Motion to read by title only, proposed Ordinance No. 1275, Land Development Text Amendment Application No. 23-002-TA, revamping the Stormwater Management regulations within Chapter 78 of the Code of Ordinances. **Exhibit 3, Revised Exhibit 3, Second Revised Exhibit 3.**
- B. Consider moving an Alternate and appointing a new Member to three Citizen Boards [as presented in **Exhibit 4**].

Motion and second by Council Members McAuley and Jarriel to move Mr. James Shaw from an Alternate to Regular Member to the Planning Board, the Board of Adjustment, and the Design Review Board, with a term of October 18, 2023, through April 30, 2025 [replacing Mr. Rick Chartier].

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Motion and second by Council Members McAuley and Jarriel to appoint Mr. J. Dean Murray as an Alternate Member to the Planning Board, Board of Adjustment, and the Design Review Board, with a term of October 18, 2023, through April 30, 2024 [replacing Mr. Shaw].

Motion Carried Unanimously.

- C. Motion and second by Council Members Jarriel and McAuley to approve Amendment No. 3 to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Grant Agreement No. LPQ0007 for the Taylor Creek SE 4th ST Stormwater Project, amending Section 2.d. of and adding Section 8.f. to Attachment 1; amending Section 4 in Attachment 2; and amending Attachment 3 Project Timeline and Budget Detail, and adding Task 2 to Attachment 3 [as presented in **Exhibit 5**].

Motion Carried Unanimously.

- D. Motion and second by Council Members Chandler and McAuley to approve an Agreement [under Awarded Contract RFQ No. ADM-01-23-07-21] in the amount of \$19,210.00 to Kimley-Horn and Associates for engineering services for the NE 4th ST drainage ditch, E of 6th AVE [as presented in **Exhibit 6**].

Motion Carried, Jarriel voted No.

- E. Motion and second by Council Members Jarriel and McAuley to [waive the formal bidding procedures and] approve contracting with Newman's Power Systems to [purchase and] install a new generator at the City Police Department in the amount of \$67,654.00 [as presented in **Exhibit 7**].

Motion Carried Unanimously.

- F. Motion and second by Council Members Jarriel and Chandler to approve the Police Department's purchase of five 2023 Dodge Chargers, at \$38,000.00 each, from Woody Folsom Automotive Group of Douglas, Georgia.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

- G. Motion and second by Council Members Jarriel and McAuley to approve the request made by Mr. Gregg Maynard, representing the local Veterans organizations, to add Red Cross emblems to the helicopter in Veterans' Memorial Park.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

VIII. CITY ATTORNEY UPDATE

- Work is progressing on ordinances to prohibit the operation of medical marijuana dispensaries, make public parks smoke free, broaden the membership to certain Citizen Boards, and amend stormwater regulations.
- Continuing to review options for on-line public notices.
- Addressing Code Enforcement issues related to fireworks and storm shutters.
- Working on density amendments to the Land Development Regulations.
- Memorandum of Understanding allowing Freedom Baptist Church to use the parking area at Primitive Baptist Church completed.

IX. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

- The business owner whose interest in purchasing property within the Commerce Center for a biomedical waste facility was previously rejected by the Council, requested to address them to respond to concerns and explain his process. Mayor Watford stated any citizen has the privilege of requesting to be on the agenda and address the Council.
- Will be making a presentation on the City at the Economic Council luncheon on November 1, 2023.
- Add to your calendars to attend: Veterans' Day ceremony, November 11, 2023 [flyer with time and location distributed at the meeting]; Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony, City Hall Park, November 28, 2023, 5:00 P.M.; and Lighted Christmas Parade, December 9, 2023, 6:00 P.M.

X. COUNCIL COMMENTS

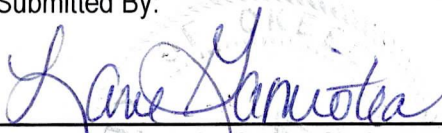
Council Member Chandler complimented Mayor Watford and Council Member McAuley on their presentations to the Legislative Delegation on October 4, 2023.

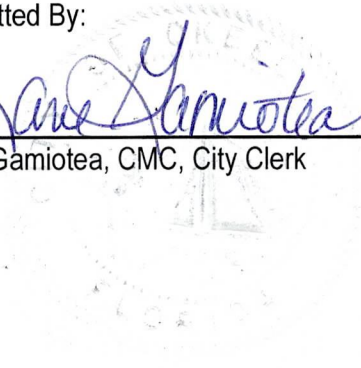
Council Member Jarriel shared his positive experience with applying for a building permit in the City.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of discussion, Mayor Watford adjourned the meeting at 7:01 P.M.

Submitted By:


Lane Gamiotea, CMC, City Clerk



Please take notice and be advised that when a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, s/he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. City Clerk media are for the sole purpose of backup for official records of the Clerk.