



CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA
NOVEMBER 21, 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 November 21, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, located at 55 Southeast 3rd Avenue (AVE), Room 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The invocation was offered by Pastor Don Hanna, First United Methodist Church; 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., Vice Mayor Monica M. Clark, and Council Members Noel A. Chandler, Robert "Bob" J. Jarriel, and David R. McAuley.

III. AGENDA AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Changes to the agenda were as follows: withdraw item IV. Presentations and Proclamations. For clarification, the Exhibit materials for Consent item V.C. is labeled as number 4, and the motion is corrected to read, "Motion to approve the purchase of a new Spillman CAD/Records server at a cost of \$11,900.00 from ICS Computers"; and for item V.D. the Exhibit materials is labeled as number 3. Add New Business, item VIII.C., Exhibit 7.

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

C. One comment card was submitted for public participation for issues not on the agenda, by Mr. Gregg Maynard expressing on behalf of the local Veterans, their disappointment in the short time the Hometown Hero banners were displayed throughout the downtown area in honor of Veterans Day in November. Mayor Watford, Administrator Ritter, and Public Works Director Allen offered assurance the City and Okeechobee Main Street (OKMS), who sponsors this program, will coordinate together to keep this from happening in the future.

IV. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS, item withdrawn.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Jarriel, second by Vice Mayor Clark to:

A. Approve the October 2023 Warrant Register [in the amounts: General Fund, \$733,369.39; Public Facilities Improvement Fund, \$106,401.08; Capital Improvement Projects Fund, \$7,015.29; Community Development Block Grant Fund, \$6,883.31; and Appropriations Grant Fund, \$32,948.50; as presented in **Exhibit 1**]; and

B. Approve the disposal of obsolete police body armor [as presented in **Exhibit 2**]; and

C. Approve the purchase of a new Spillman CAD/Records server at a cost of \$11,900.00 from ICS Computers [as presented in **Exhibit 4**]; and

D. Approve the purchase of Migration Software for the new Spillman server at a cost of \$7,785.87 [as presented in **Exhibit 3**].

Motion Carried Unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Motion by Council Member Jarriel, second by Vice Mayor Clark, to approve end of year Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year 2022-23 [as presented in **Exhibit 5**].

Motion Carried Unanimously.

B. Motion by Vice Mayor Clark, second by Council Member McAuley to approve the Roadway Transfer Agreement of the Northeast 13th AVE road segment between Okeechobee County and the City [in relation to the OKEECHOBEE COMMERCE CENTER plat project, as presented in **Revised Exhibit 6**].
Motion Carried Unanimously.

C. Added Item: Motion and second by Council Members McAuley and Jarriel to approve the Public Works Department's purchase of a 2024 Ford-F250, single cab truck from Duval Motor Company in the amount of \$45,439.83, under the current Florida Sheriff's Association Contract [as presented in **Exhibit 7**].
Motion Carried Unanimously.

VII. CITY ATTORNEY UPDATE

- Completed the review of the Roadway Transfer Agreement approved tonight.
- Continue work on the City-wide smoke-free ordinance.
- Completed the review of the Amended School Resource Officers Agreement with the Okeechobee School Board that was adopted.
- Submitted comments to Mr. Jeff Sumner regarding the proposed Stormwater Management Ordinance, the issue is still pending.

VIII. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

- **Council agreed by consensus** to cancel the December 19, 2023, regular meeting. **[This will be presented as an agenda item for official action as per the new Charter.]**
- **Council agreed by consensus** to authorize OKMS to proceed with purchasing/constructing covers/shade over the picnic tables/seating areas within Cattlemen's Square (Block L/Park No. 5 of FLAGER PARK).
- Encouraged the Council to tour the remodeled areas of the downstairs of the Public Safety Building by the Public Works staff. Director Allen has moved his office to the area, the new Human Resources employee will have an office in the building, and there is now a conference area.

IX. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Jarriel wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, confirmed there is a Council meeting before the Annual Christmas Parade, and announced that several local Future Farmer of American students will be recognized at the next meeting.

Council Member McAuley wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, and to remember the reason for the upcoming holiday seasons.

Vice Mayor Clark asked and received confirmation that the Annual Employee Christmas Luncheon is on Tuesday, December 12th and not Wednesday the 13th.

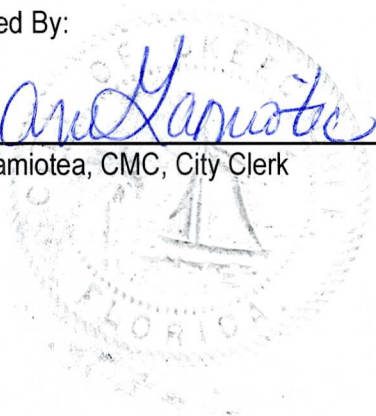
X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of discussion, Mayor Watford adjourned the meeting at 6:24 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.