



CITY OF OKEECHOBEE

55 SE THIRD AVENUE
OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974

FEBRUARY 6, 2024

6:00 PM

**REGULAR MEETING OFFICIAL
AGENDA**

Mayor

Dowling R. Watford, Jr.

Vice Mayor

Monica Clark

Council Members

Noel Chandler

Bob Jarriel

David McAuley

Mission Statement:	The mission of the City of Okeechobee is to provide accommodating services that enhance the quality of life for our citizens and businesses in a fiscally sound manner.
Vision Statement:	The City of Okeechobee will maintain a vibrant and prosperous community built on our heritage, history, unique character, and small-town atmosphere.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ATTENDANCE

III. AGENDA AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. Requests for any modifications to the agenda.
- B. Motion to adopt the agenda as published and amended.
- C. Public participation for any issues not on the agenda requires an Agenda Item Form or Comment Card. Citizen comments are limited to 3 minutes per speaker unless otherwise approved by the Mayor.

IV. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- A. Presentation honoring Police Lt. Belen Reyna for 20 years of service.
- B. Recognition of Luke Larson, Lilly Maxwell, Paisley Norman and Tess D'Ariano for receiving a South Florida Fair Scholarship.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Motion to dispense with the reading and approve the Minutes for January 16, 2024 (**Exhibit 1**).
- B. Motion to temporarily close a portion of SE 2nd Avenue between SE 6th and 7th Streets from 8:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. on March 8, 2024, for a field day as submitted by Okeechobee Christian Academy (**Exhibit 2**).
- C. Motion to temporarily close a portion of SW 2nd, 3rd and 4th Avenues between North and South Park Streets from 5:00 P.M. on March 8, 2024, to 6:00 P.M. on March 10, 2024, for the Speckled Perch Festival as submitted by Okeechobee Main Street (**Exhibit 3**).
- D. Motion to approve sale of Police Vehicles through Insight Auctioneers (**Exhibit 4**).

VI. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

- A. Motion to read by title only and adopt proposed Ordinance No. 1284, amending the Optional Forms of Benefits for the General Employees Retirement System (**Exhibit 5**).
- B. Motion to read by title only and adopt proposed Ordinance No. 1285 amending Section 2-131 of the Code of Ordinances removing the Personnel Administrator duties from the City Clerk (**Exhibit 6**).

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A.** Motion to approve the designation of India Riedel as the City's Representative and Board Member and Heather Prince as Alternate to the Public Risk Management Group Health Trust.
- B.** Motion to read by title only and set March 5, 2024, as a final Public Hearing date for proposed Ordinance No. 1286, merging the Police Officer's and Firefighters Pension Funds and providing for a retired firefighter medical stipend **(Exhibit to follow)**.
- C.** Motion to approve the amendments to the Personnel Policies and Procedures related to transferring personnel duties from the Finance Department and City Clerk's Office to Human Resources staff within the Administration Department and revising the Education Reimbursement Policy to coordinate with the Education Reimbursement Agreement as amended by City Council on February 2, 2022 **(Exhibit 7)**.
- D.** Motion to adopt proposed Resolution No. 2024-01, amending the duties of the City Clerk in previously adopted Resolution No. 2022-11 **(Exhibit 8)**.
- E.** Motion to approve the Grant Agreement with the State of Florida Department of Commerce in the amount of \$1,200,000 for City Hall Hardening **(Exhibit 9)**.
- F.** Discussion of longevity awards **(Exhibit 10)**.
- G.** Discussion of raising the helicopter in Veteran's Square.

VIII. CITY ATTORNEY UPDATE

IX. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

X. COUNCIL COMMENTS

XI. ADJOURN MEETING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that if any person desires to appeal any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at this proceeding, such an interested person will need a record of the proceeding, and for such purpose may need to ensure 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 recordings are for the sole purpose of backup for official records of the Clerk. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Clerk's Office in person or call 863-763-9814, Hearing Impaired: Florida Relay 7-1-1 no later than four business days prior to proceeding.

BE ADVISED that should you intend to show any document, picture, video, or item to the Council in support of or opposition to any item on the agenda; a copy of the document, picture, video, or item must be provided to the City Clerk for the City's records.