



**CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA
DECEMBER 1, 2020, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Watford called the regular meeting of the City Council for the City of Okeechobee to order on Tuesday, December 1, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, located at 55 Southeast 3rd Avenue, Room 200, Okeechobee, Florida. The invocation was offered by Mayor Watford, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by Council Member Keefe.

II. ATTENDANCE

To establish a quorum, roll was taken by City Clerk Lane Gamiotea. Members present: Mayor Dowling R. Watford, Jr., Council Members Wes Abney, Bob Jarriel, and Bobby Keefe. Council Member Monica Clark was in attendance via Zoom.com.

III. AGENDA AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. A revised proposed Resolution No. 2020-20, Exhibit 2 was distributed together with a newly proposed Resolution No. 2020-21, all related to New Business Item VI.A.
- B. Motion by Council Member Jarriel, seconded by Council Member Keefe 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. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Abney, seconded by Council Member Jarriel to approve consent agenda item A, November 5, 2020 Town Hall Meeting and Regular Meeting minutes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

V. MAYOR WATFORD OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:04 P.M.

- A. Motion by Council Member Jarriel, seconded by Council Member Keefe to read proposed Ordinance No. 1220 by title only, regarding Abandonment of Right-of-Way Petition No. 20-002-SC. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Attorney Fumero read proposed Ordinance No. 1220 by title only as follows: "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA; VACATING AND ABANDONING A PORTION OF SOUTHWEST 4TH STREET (f/k/a FIFTH AVENUE) AND A PORTION OF SOUTHWEST 5TH STREET (f/k/a FOURTH STREET) MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREIN, LYING WITHIN THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 5, PAGE 5, PUBLIC RECORDS OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA (PETITION NO. 20-002-SC); RESERVING UNTO THE CITY, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS A NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENT FOR PUBLIC UTILITIES PURPOSES; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO RECORD THE ORDINANCE IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR OKEECHOBEE COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

Mr. Steve Dobbs noted his attendance on behalf of the applicant. No other public comments were noted. Motion by Council Member Keefe, seconded by Council Member Jarriel to adopt proposed Ordinance No. 1220. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

MAYOR WATFORD CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:09 P.M.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Motion by Council Member Keefe, seconded by Council Member Jarriel to adopt [revised] proposed Resolution No. 2020-20 regarding the 2020 General Election and Terms of Office for City Council Member Monica Clark.

VI. NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

ITEM A. CONTINUED: Attorney Fumero read revised proposed Resolution No. 2020-20 by title only as follows: "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA; ACCEPTING THE OFFICIAL RESULTS FOR THE 2020 GENERAL CITY ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR TERMS OF OFFICE TO BE HELD BY MONICA McCARTHY CLARK, AS AN ELECTED CITY COUNCIL MEMBER; PROVIDING FOR THE CITY CLERK TO ISSUE A CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

Motion by Council Member Keefe, seconded by Council Member Jarriel to adopt proposed Resolution No. 2020-21 accepting the unconditional resignation of Council Member Elect Russ Cale.

Attorney Fumero read proposed Resolution No. 2020-21 by title only as follows: "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA; ACCEPTING THE UNCONDITIONAL RESIGNATION OF RUSS CALE FROM THE OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

Motion Carried Unanimously.

- B. Motion by Council Member Jarriel, seconded by Council Member Keefe to approve an agreement for services with eSCRIBE Software Ltd. [in the amount of \$16,668.00] for webcasting and automated closed captioning. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**
- C. Motion by Council Member Abney, seconded by Council Member Keefe to award Bid No. PW 05-10-09-20 Southeast 3rd Avenue Pavement Improvements to C.W. Roberts Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$139,848.50. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**
- D. Motion by Council Member Abney, seconded by Council Member Jarriel to approve Centennial Park Pavilion Rules and Reservation Fee Application. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**
- E. Motion by Council Member Jarriel, seconded by Council Member Keefe to ratify the Interlocal Agreement for Fire Services between Okeechobee County and the City of Okeechobee, including all exhibits. **Motion Carried Four to One.**

VII. CITY ATTORNEY UPDATE

City Attorney Fumero reported he will be working with City Clerk Gamiotea on the Special Election to replace Mr. Cale; and on updating the City's public records policy to give specific procedures for retaining electronic records and researching possible technology applications to assist the City Council in retaining their public records.

VIII. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Jarriel welcomed citizens to be present at meetings and voice their opinions and/or concerns. His comments were echoed by Council Member Keefe. Council Member Clark explained her intent for limiting public attendance to the tree lighting ceremony.

- IX. Mayor Watford adjourned the meeting at 6:54 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, he/she 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.