

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2020**

The City of Leesburg Commission held a regular meeting Monday, October 26, 2020, at the Venetian Center. Mayor Dennison called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the following members present:

Commissioner Jay Hurley
Commissioner Mike Pederson
Commissioner Dan Robuck
Mayor Elise Dennison

Commissioner John Christian arrived at 5:33 p.m. Also present were City Manager (CM) Al Minner, City Clerk (CC) J. Andi Purvis, City Attorney (CA) Fred Morrison, the news media, and others.

City Clerk Andi Purvis gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

PROCLAMATIONS: None

PRESENTATIONS:

Award Recognition for Lt. Gary Barrett from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation's Assessor of the Year for 2019.

Robert Hicks, Chief of Police, stated in 2018 the Leesburg Police Department, not only achieved its first ever accreditation, but accomplished it in half the time most agencies take and with overwhelming praise from the Florida Commission of Accreditation. This accomplishment would not have been possible without our accreditation manager, Lt. Gary Barrett. His hard work and dedication to the process was nothing short of spectacular. Shortly after LPD's successful accreditation, Lt. Barrett was asked by the Commission to become a statewide assessor; an honor in itself. His proficiency in the areas of policy research, development, and implementation were recognized as second to none. As an assessor he brings technical skills to the table, at each agency he visits; where others might overlook concerns or fail to observe an issue because it is buried in the department's protocols, in such a manner that is difficult to spot, Lt. Barrett will see it, mark it, and provide guidance for correction. There are currently over 250 law enforcement agencies in the state that are accredited by the commission. Out of 150 accreditation assessors, statewide, Lt. Barrett was selected as the 2019 Assessor of the Year by the Florida Commission. Lt. Barrett, you have bought great credit upon yourself, the Leesburg Police Department, and the City of Leesburg; Congratulations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Tracy Samples, Downtown Leesburg Business Association President, thanked the City's Public Works Department for all the flowers, lakes, and cuttings on the side streets that have been missed lately. Leesburg Police Department is always responsive and helpful to any issues that the Downtown may have; we are grateful to them. Also, again, thank you

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resolve the issues with their subdivision. The reason for that is if their request is denied they must start over and there are fees associated with that. We have been successful in the past with being able to bring, before the commission, good sound subdivisions. He went on to state his dislike for the new Venetian Gardens. He stated that the kids love Rogers Park and the Splash Park and the Ski Beach area is fantastic. Next, he expressed his dislike with not being reappointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission. He stated the balance on the that board should be experience and age.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Items pulled for discussion:

5.B.2 - Amendment 2 to an existing Task Order 6 with GAI Consultants for bidding and construction phase services on the US Customs and Border Protection Facility Renovation;

5.C.2 - Reinstatement and extension of Memorandum of Understanding, between the City of Leesburg and the Civil Air Patrol;

5.C.3 - Civic Organization Funding Agreements for Fiscal Year 2020-21; and

5.C.6 - Amendment to the Lease between the City of Leesburg ("Landlord"), and RT Orlando Franchise, LP ("Tenant"), related to the location at 9616 US Highway 441.

Commissioner Hurley moved to adopt the Consent Agenda except for 5.B.2, 5.C.2, 5.C.3, and 5.C.6 and Commissioner Christian seconded the motion.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Pederson	Yes
Commissioner Robuck	Yes
Commissioner Hurley	Yes
Commissioner Christian	Yes
Mayor Dennison	Yes

Five yeas, no nays, the Commission adopted the Consent Agenda, as follows:

CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES:

Regular meeting held September 28, 2020

RESOLUTION 10,739

Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Leesburg, Florida authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a Fixed Unit Price Agreement with Danus Utilities, Inc. to provide lift station repair and rehabilitation services on an as needed basis.

RESOLUTION 10,740

Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Leesburg, Florida authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a Fixed Unit Price Agreement with Utility Technicians, Inc. to provide lift station repair and rehabilitation services on an as needed basis.

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RESOLUTION 10,741

Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Leesburg, Florida authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an Amended Fourth Amendment to Site Agreement for Water Tower Lease with T-Mobile South, LLC; and providing an effective date

RESOLUTION 10,742

Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Leesburg, Florida accepting a Utility Easement to the City of Leesburg from Dominick J. Durante, Jr., and Patricia A. Durante, his wife, for the purpose of granting the City an Easement over the property described therein; and providing an effective date.

RESOLUTION 10,743

Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Leesburg, Florida authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute Amendment 1 to Public Transportation Grant Agreement, (PTGA) (Financial Project No. 446990-1-94-01) with The Florida Department of Transportation, to amend the project description, to add additional equipment to the project scope at the Leesburg International Airport.

TABLED RESOLUTION 10,744 TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT 2 TO AN EXISTING TASK ORDER 6 WITH GAI CONSULTANTS FOR BIDDING AND CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES ON THE US CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION FACILITY RENOVATION

Commissioner Robuck introduced the resolution to be read by title only. CC Purvis read the resolution by title only, as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT 2 TO AN EXISTING TASK ORDER 6 WITH GAI CONSULTANTS FOR BIDDING AND CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES ON THE US CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION FACILITY RENOVATION FOR AN AMOUNT OF \$55,610.00; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Robuck moved to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Christian seconded the motion.

Mayor Dennison requested comments from the Commission and the audience.

Commissioner Robuck stated he thinks it is nonsense that we have a construction manager on a remodel, but understands that it is FAA regulations, requiring us to do so. However, he believes GAI is taking advantage of the fact that we have to have one. They are up to \$90,000 for basically design and management on a \$200,000 remodel. That to him is excessive and he would like to see us kick it back and say 'we would like to see you do better and we will be remembering how you treated us on this when the big FAA projects come up.'

Commissioner Hurley agrees.

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Commissioner Pederson	Yes
Commissioner Robuck	Yes
Mayor Dennison	Yes

Five yeas, no nays, the Commission adopted the resolution.

ADOPTED RESOLUTION 10,746 TO EXECUTE CIVIC ORGANIZATION FUNDING AGREEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-21

Commissioner Hurley introduced the resolution to be read by title only. CC Purvis read the resolution by title only, as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LEESBURG, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE CIVIC ORGANIZATION FUNDING AGREEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 WITH BAND PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF LEESBURG HIGH SCHOOL, INC., BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC., COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF LEESBURG, INC., DOWNTOWN LEESBURG BUSINESS ASSOCIATION, INC., LEESBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INC., LEESBURG ARTS FESTIVAL DBA LEESBURG CENTER FOR THE ARTS, LEESBURG PARTNERSHIP, INC., MELON PATCH PLAYERS, INC. AND WEST LEESBURG COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, INC.; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Robuck moved to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Pederson seconded the motion.

Mayor Dennison requested comments from the Commission and the audience.

Commissioner Christian must abstain from the vote.

Commissioner Robuck stated that we have had much discussion on this, so if anyone is curious please feel free to go back and look at the prior meetings.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Pederson	Yes
Commissioner Robuck	Yes
Commissioner Hurley	Yes
Commissioner Christian	Abstain
Mayor Dennison	Yes

Four yeas, one abstain, no nays, the Commission adopted the resolution.

ADOPTED RESOLUTION 10,747 TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE LEASE BETWEEN THE CITY OF LEESBURG ("LANDLORD"), AND RT ORLANDO FRANCHISE, LP ("TENANT"), RELATED TO THE LOCATION AT 9616 US HIGHWAY 441

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Commissioner Christian moved to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Pederson seconded the motion.

Mayor Dennison requested comments from the Commission and the audience.

Commissioner Robuck stated that the headline number is 3%, but the paramedics are actually getting 5-6% and a 1/3 of them are getting a significantly bigger bump. He went on to ask Chief Johnson about the shift time and how they can request to move things around; he wants to make sure he is okay with all of that.

Fire Chief (FC) David Johnson stated that he is okay with it; it is an industry standard.

Commissioner Robuck stated that he is okay with is, overall, he is going to vote against it because he does not believe in the defined benefit pension.

The roll call vote was:

Commissioner Hurley	Yes
Commissioner Christian	Yes
Commissioner Pederson	Yes
Commissioner Robuck	No
Mayor Dennison	Yes

Four yeas, one nay, the Commission adopted the resolution.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS: None

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS: None

CITY MANAGER ITEMS:

COVID Update

CM Minner stated he had a lengthy conversation with County Manager Jeff Cole and the County looks like they will be getting some short-term financing to issue the city a check for the \$1.2 million approximately; CARES Act money. We are hopeful to get that check sometime before November 6th. Having said that, we have been working with IT for the past couple weeks to put together our CARES application, and staff is targeting to get those up on the website by the 28th. We will target November 13th to be the close date of the initial application period. He asked for an authorization to create a \$1.2 million fund to start cutting checks. He thinks it is best to transfer those funds and then get reimbursed.

Commissioner Pederson stated he thought the County had the money. **CM Minner** responded not yet; they are doing a short term note for the balance of the \$48 million and they are closing on that eminently.

Category One is the mall grant - \$500,000;

Category Two is \$250,000 earmarked to property owners in the downtown;

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ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Christian stated that this weekend we had a statewide event; Souls to the Poles, and he commended the Library staff for a job well done.

Commissioner Robuck stated we all received an email about the Library hours and asked the City Manager for an update. **CM Minner** stated he will get with Lucy and follow up with an email. **Commissioner Robuck** went on to encourage everyone to get out and vote.

Commissioner Hurley asked CM Minner for an update on getting the grass mowed. **CM Minner** asked to follow up on that after the meeting. **CA Morrison** stated we have two options; one is the old version of the mowing ordinance that says you can mow it and place a lien on it and the second is highly procedural and includes notice and hearings and ultimately results in a special assessment on their tax bill every year for whatever it cost to maintain it. There is a nuisance ordinance but it is geared toward other things besides overgrowth.

Commissioner Pederson recognized and thanked Maria and the Center for the Arts for the Beast Feast this weekend.

Mayor Dennison reminded everyone to vote. We also heard on the news and from Chief Hicks that the Ocala Police Chief was killed yesterday, and she would like to send out best wishes to the family of this individual. She also recognized the Beast Feast and the Art Festival.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.


Elise A. Dennison, Mayor

ATTEST:


J. Andi Purvis
City Clerk