CITY OF MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION
MEETING MINUTES

January 7, 2025. 6:00 p.m.
Mount Dora City Hall
510 North Baker Street, Mount Dora, Florida 32757

CALL TO ORDER

Having been duly advertised as required by law, at 6:00 p.m., Mayor James L. Homich called to order the Regular Session of the Mount Dora City Council in the City Hall Council Chamber.

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance were led by Mayor Homich.

ROLL CALL

Members Present	Also Present
James L. Homich, Mayor	Vince Sandersfeld, City Manager
Cal Rolfson, District 2	Patrick Brackins, City Attorney
Dennis Dawson, District 3	Jeanann Hand, City Clerk
Marc Crail, District 5	
Nate Walker, District 5	
Doug Bryant, At-large	

Members Not Present
John Cataldo, Vice-mayor

PRESENTATIONS

1. Resolution Recognizing Outgoing Mayor Crissy Stile

   Councilmember Nate Walker read Resolution No. 2025-04, Honoring Mayor Crissy Stile for Her Service to the City.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MOUNT DORA, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR RECOGNITION AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO FORMER CITY COUNCILMEMBER AND FORMER MAYOR CRISSY STILE FOR HER DEDICATED SERVICE AS AN ELECTED MUNICIPAL OFFICIAL FOR FIVE YEARS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Crissy Stile served the citizens of Mount Dora as City Councilmember At-large from November 6, 2018 through November 3, 2020, and as Mayor from November

2, 2021 through November 5, 2024; and.

WHEREAS, as a longtime resident and small business owner, Crissy Stile served the City of Mount Dora with unparalleled passion, embracing her role as both a leader and a neighbor, always prioritizing the well-being and progress of the community she holds dear; and

WHEREAS, Crissy's journey from bookstore owner to public servant reflects her dedication to the values of knowledge, literacy, and education, as she continues to inspire others through her love of books and her belief in the power of learning to transform lives; and

WHEREAS, as Mayor, Crissy Stile has been a staunch advocate for open communication and transparency, frequently engaging with residents through meetings, community events, and one-on-one conversations to ensure every voice is heard; and

WHEREAS, Crissy's leadership extends far beyond policy, as she is a visible and active participant in Mount Dora's cherished events, from the bustling Mount Dora Arts Festival to the magical Christmas Lights displays, always promoting the city's cultural richness and vibrant traditions; and

WHEREAS, Crissy's vision for Mount Dora balances a respect for the city's historic charm with a commitment to responsible growth, ensuring that the qualities that make Mount Dora unique are preserved while planning for a prosperous future; and

WHEREAS, her tireless work in championing small businesses and her own experience as a business owner have positioned her as a vital supporter of Mount Dora's local economy, creating opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Crissy Stile is known not only for her leadership but also for her warmth, kindness, and unwavering belief in the power of community, fostering an atmosphere of inclusivity, trust, and cooperation among residents; and

WHEREAS, through her dedicated efforts and commitment, Mayor Stile's independent recycling initiative collected more than 12,000 pounds of metal cans, cardboard and paper for recycling that resulted in a nearly $3,000 donation to the Lake Cares Food Pantry.

WHEREAS, under her stewardship, the City of Mount Dora continues to thrive as a shining example of civic pride, cultural enrichment, and collective progress;

NOW THEREFORE, I, James L. Homich, Mayor of the City of Mount Dora, on behalf of the City Council of the City of Mount Dora, do hereby issue Resolution No. 2025-04, expressing a deep appreciation for the dedicated service and contributions Ms. Stile has made through her service on the City Council. On behalf of the citizens of Mount Dora, I hereby extend heartfelt gratitude and best wishes for continued success and happiness in the future.

Mayor Stile was present to receive the resolution.

2. Proclamation Recognizing Florida Arbor Day
   Mayor Homich read the proclamation into the record.

3. Proclamation Recognizing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
   Mayor Homich read the proclamation into the record.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Homich opened public comment,

Nan Cobb, State Representative for District 26, told those present that someone from her office would attend a Council meeting each month. She introduced her staff.

Michel Middleton, 112 East Fifth Avenue, spoke about the Rotary food drive.

Lynn O' Connor, 1605 Crestview Drive, spoke about a speed-related sign that had been posted in her neighborhood.

Mike Caldwell, 1620 Crestview Drive, spoke about the sign on their street.

Michael Price, 1625 Crestview Drive, spoke about the petition that may have led to the sign.

Councilmember Dawson spoke about the issue and the reason for the measures that had been taken. City staff told those present they would further research the matter.

Mayor Homich closed public comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Approval of Agenda
   MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA; COUNCILMEMBER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

2. City Clerk Summary of Randomized Voting Options
   The City Clerk described several methods for randomized voting at City Council meetings. Council favored the use of the randomizer app to create random voting patterns at future meetings.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER DAWSON TO ADOPT RANDOMIZED VOTING; COUNCILMEMBER CRAIL SECONDED THE MOTION.

Mayor Homich opened public comment. An unidentified member of the public spoke from their seat. Mayor Homich closed public comment.

MOTION PASSED WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1. Advisory Board and Committee Appointments and Reappointments

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER DAWSON TO APPOINT JUAN CARLOS DIAZ TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD, AND TO APPOINT PATRICK MURRAY TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD, AND TO APPOINT JUAN PEREZ TO THE NORTHEAST CRA ADVISORY BOARD, AND TO APPOINT MARCIA FORD TO THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD, AND TO APPOINT JANET SLIVKA TO THE PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION; COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER BRYANT TO APPOINT DANIEL WICK TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD; COUNCILMEMBER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. In Absentia Proposed Policy Definition (Discussion)

Mr. Brackins provided background information on the topic, relating statutes and definitions relevant to the topic. Council discussed drafting a policy to clarify the City's stance on voting in absentia. They discussed the conflict between the requirement to vote when participating in a meeting, and being forced to abstain from voting if attending by electronic communication technology. Councilmembers asked about a provision for council being unable to meet physically. Mr. Brackins said a quorum must be present physically in order for the quorum requirement to be satisfied. Mr. Brackins said he would bring back an ordinance to change the code and give the public the opportunity to comment on it twice.

Council and Mr. Brackins spoke about the portion of the charter allowing Council to act in the event they find the allowance being abused.

2. Strategic Plan Update

Mr. Sandersfeld suggested options for ways to proceed with an update of the City's Strategic Plan. Council discussed ways to pace the process and whether a facilitator is necessary. They discussed whether a workshop or a series of agenda items over several regular meetings would be most productive.

Council would select dates to hold a workshop to begin the update process.

PRIORITY PROJECT UPDATES

1. Donnelly Street Boardwalk Replacement

Public Works Director George Marek provided an update on the construction of the temporary sidewalk along Donnelly Street. The contractor will begin controlling traffic on Thursday morning of this week. The City is still waiting for the grant award status from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA.)

Mayor Homich spoke of concerns about the Limit and 441 traffic light. Mr. Marek told Council the City will work on that.

The City does not have the contractor bid yet. Competitive bidding will reveal the true cost.

2. Odor Issues

Utility Director Andrew Marsian spoke about the draft of the 4th quarter report from Kimley-Horn (KMH) regarding the odor study. The report suggests outside sources should be investigated. Waste Water Treatment Plant 2 (WWTP2) is not the source of the hydrogen sulfide odor. The City is seeking a resource that would be able to determine where the odor is coming from. Additional data supports the finding that the source is not the City facility. Numbers show the City's processes are working. The City will continue working to identify the source of the offending odors.

Mayor Homich opened public comment.

Mandy Richardson, 30313 Gidran Terrace, thanked Council for what they've done so far.

Vicki Hillier, Summerbrooke, spoke about the odor.

Kitty Breed, Tangerine, questions the transparency of the odor study.

Steve Hilliard, Summerbrooke, spoke about the odor.

Mr. Sandersfeld told Mr. Hilliard that the City will use Halff Engineering to assist with determining the source of the odor. The initial purpose of the Kimley-Horn report was to address the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) concerns related to the consent order. The KMH reports show the City's plant is functioning as it should.

Councilmember Walker asked if Kimley-Horn was supposed to determine the source of the odor. Mr. Brackins responded, reviewing the chain of events through which the City hired Kimley-Horn and their purpose for the City. The consent order did not require the City to find the source of the odor.

Council discussed the responsibility of nearby parties also affected by the odor to contribute to funding identification and improvement efforts.

Halff was not one of the consultant services at the time Kimley-Horn was chosen. FDEP wouldn't delay the consent order to let the City go out to bid.

The landfill's consent order was discussed.

Mayor Homich spoke about his interpretation of the draft report.

Ms. Sokali, Seasons at Wekiva, spoke about the timeline.

Councilmember Crail suggested the City needs partners in working through this issue, and that the citizens of Mount Dora should not be the only ones paying to address this problem. The City should seek financial support. The City has begun doing this.

Mayor Homich closed public comment.

Mayor Homich adjourned for a break at 7:29 p.m.

Mayor Homich called the meeting back to order at 7:44 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Request Issuance of a Purchase Order to Upgrade the City's Current Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Software to the Latest Cloud-based Solution. Associated Agenda Documents and Attachments are Confidential and Exempt Under Florida Statute 119.0725(b) and/or (d).
2. Request Approval of Task Authorization with Cathcart Construction Company - Florida, LLC for Construction of Paving and Drainage Improvements at E. 9th Avenue and Forres Park
3. Request Approval of Professional Grounds and Landscaping Services Agreements with Dora Landscaping, LLC and Yardnique, Inc.
4. Request Approval of Operational Assistance and Voluntary Cooperation Mutual Aid Agreement Between the Orange County Sheriff's Office and the City of Mount Dora and the Mount Dora Police Department
5. Request Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Mid-Florida SWAT Team Task Force
6. Request Ratification of the Tenth Extension of Resolution 2024-40, Local State of Emergency Related to Hurricane Milton
7. Approval of Piggyback Agreement with Atlantic Pipe Services LLC, Hinterland Group Inc., and Vortex Services LLC for Storm Pipe Inspections, Cleaning and Repairs

8. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA;
COUNCILMEMBER DAWSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED BY A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Request Approval of the Agreement Between Forvis Mazars, LLP and the City of Mount Dora for Annual Audit Services

Mr. Sandersfeld explained the purpose of the item. On November 1, 2024, Forvis Mazars, LLP acquired certain assets of MSL, P.A. and a number of the MSL team members joined Forvis Mazars, LLP. Due to the acquisition, a new agreement between the City of Mount Dora and Forvis Mazars, LLP for audit services is needed. The fees of the original contract remain the same and the same audit team will be working with the City. Staff recommends approval.

Mr. Homich asked whether the City shopped prices. The City was still under contract with this entity, even under the acquisition.

Mayor Homich opened public comment. No one spoke. Mayor Homich closed public comment.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN FORVIS, MAZARS, LLP AND THE CITY OF MOUNT DORA FOR ANNUAL AUDIT SERVICES; COUNCILMEMBER DAWSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A 6-0 ROLL CALL VOTE.

YES ***Rolfson***
Dawson
Crail
Walker
Bryant
Homich

NO ***None***

PUBLIC HEARINGS - RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES

1. Request adoption of **Resolution No. 2025-01,** Federal RAISE Grant Application for the Wekiva Trail Extension

Mr. Brackins read Resolution No. 2025-01 by title only.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA, PERTAINING TO THE 2025 REBUILDING AMERICA INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) GRANT FOR THE WEKIVA TRAIL EXTENSION PROJECT (SEGMENT 1 AND SEGMENT 5); PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT; PROVIDING FOR COMMITMENT TO SHARE IN FEES AND EXPENSES; PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS; PROVIDING A SA VIN GS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Economic Development Director Misty Sommer spoke to Council about the grant opportunity. The application is for a $25 million for the Wekiva Trail Extension (Segments 1 and 5). Similar applications were submitted in 2020, 2021, and 2022 for this project under the same program, though they were not included among the final approved grant recipients. Council spoke about lobbyist involvement in the past and at this time. Ms. Sommer spoke about the project sparking redevelopment.

Mayor Homich opened public comment. No one spoke. Mayor Homich closed public comment.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER BRYANT TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01, FEDERAL RAISE GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE WEKIVA TRAIL EXTENSION; COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A 6-0 ROLL CALL VOTE.

Yes Bryant
Rolfson
Dawson
Crail
Walker
Homich

No None

2. Request Adoption of **Resolution No. 2025-02,** Approving the Master Fee Schedule

Mr. Brackins read Resolution No. 2025-02 by title only.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA, PERTAINING TO THE MASTER FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS

AND INTENT; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF PRIOR FEE RESOLUTION; PROVIDING FOR APPROVAL OF MASTER FEE SCHEDULE; PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Budget Officer Matt Dodson spoke to Council about changes in this fee schedule in comparison to the previous schedule.

Mayor Homich asked whether the changes are included in the approved budget. They were. He spoke of his concerns on government spending. Council discussed the effects of inflation. They reminded those present the millage rate does not fund enterprise funds. The City previously found itself near bankruptcy because it did not raise water utility rates for a number of years. Council spoke about their avid concern for responsible spending and budgeting while working on each year's budget.

Mr. Sandersfeld and Mr. Walker spoke about the fairness of meter testing and customer charges and reimbursements.

Mayor Homich opened public comment. No one spoke. Mayor Homich closed public comment.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Sandersfeld directed attention to a report attached to the agenda (attached to these minutes as Exhibit A) and requested permission to be absent from the January 21, 2025 meeting. Council had no issue with his absence.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No report.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Councilmember Rolfson directed attention to the Florida League of Cities legislative flyer.

Mayor Homich reminded those present about the upcoming Parking Workshop. He thanked the Police and Parks and Recreation Departments for the New Year's Eve event.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER WALKER TO ADJOURN; COUNCILMEMBER CRAIL SECONDED THE MOTION.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:12 p.m.

JAMES L. HOMICH, MAYOR
City of Mount Dora

JEANANN HAND, CITY CLERK
City of Mount Dora