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

February 4, 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 February 4, 2025 Regular Session of City Council in the City Hall Council Chamber.

MOMENT OF SILENCE & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Homich led a Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Members Present	Also Present
James L. Homich, Mayor	Vince Sandersfeld, City Manager
John Cataldo, Vice-mayor	Patrick Brackins, City Attorney
Cal Rolfson, District 2	Jeanann Hand, City Clerk
Dennis Dawson, District 3	
Marc Crail, District 4	
Nate Walker, District 5	
Doug Bryant, At-large	

PRESENTATIONS

1. Project (Construction and Others) Updates
   Economic Development and Public Information Director Misty Sommer presented an update to Council that included the library, the Building Division expansion, the 4th Avenue docks restoration, information kiosk updates, the Fire Station 34 renovations, Police Department vehicle, barrier, weapon, and signboard messaging updates, CRA, Parks and Recreation, Electric Utility, Public Works, Water and Wastewater Utility improvements. The presentation also listed accomplishments across all departments.

2. Proclamation Recognizing Black History Month
   Mayor Homich read the proclamation into the record. It was noted that Communications Coordinator Brittany Haller revised the proclamation into its presented version, greatly improving the original draft. Related special events in the City were mentioned.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH CONSENT AGENDA ITEM 5, APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES, MOVED TO A DISCUSSION ITEM; COUNCILMEMBER DAWSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Request Authorization to Accept the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) for the Procurement of Less Lethal Shotguns for Law Enforcement Officers
2. Request Approval of Mutual Aid Agreement Between the Lake County Sheriff's Office and the City of Mount Dora
3. Approval of Change Order No. 1 to Purchase Order 25-01407 for Cathcart Construction Company Florida, LLC for Changes to the Original Scope of Work for the Temporary Sidewalk on North Donnelly Street
4. Request Approval of Task Authorization with Bellmore Enterprises Inc. for Underground Electrical Conduit Installation in The Yardley at Mount Dora Groves South
5. ~~Request Approval of Meeting Minutes: January 13, 2025 Parking Workshop~~
   Moved to Action Item One

DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Request Approval of Meeting Minutes: January 13, 2025 Parking Workshop
**** Moved from Consent Agenda Item Five***

Councilmember Bryant requested the minutes be corrected to add three points discussed at the workshop that were not noted in the minutes:

1. the adjustment of hours on No Parking signs.
2. more attention to enforcement of parking restrictions
3. expansion of the City's shuttle service to serve areas outside of the CRA

It was decided the Clerk would make those corrections and present the revised minutes for approval at an upcoming meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS - RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES

1. Request Approval of Final Reading and Adoption of **Ordinance No. 2025-01**, Amendment to Chapter 42, Traffic and Vehicles of the Mount Dora Code of Ordinances for School Zone Child Safety Initiative

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

ORDINANCE 2025-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY CODE BY ESTABLISHING THE "SCHOOL ZONE CHILD SAFETY INITIATIVE"; CREATING CHAPTER 42, ARTICLE I, SECTION 42-4; PROVIDING THE AUTHORIZATION TO USE SPEED DETECTION SYSTEMS WITHIN THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR PROGRAM

IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING FOR DESIGNATION OF SCHOOL ZONES; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES; PROVIDING FOR COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE, PUBLIC RECORDS, AND RETENTION REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING FOR ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING FOR THE REMITTANCE OF COLLECTED FINES AND COSTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Sandersfeld summarized the purpose of the ordinance and the required steps that have been taken to properly notice the public and prepare for the implementation of the program. Police Department records clerks would process the citations. The cameras functioning for this program will function during school zone hours. During times that are not designated school speed zones, the speed limits will revert to the normal speed posted for the area.

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

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON TO APPROVE THE SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01, AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 42, TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES OF THE MOUNT DORA CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR SCHOOL ZONE CHILD SAFETY INITIATIVE; COUNCILMEMBER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A 7-0 ROLL CALL VOTE.

YES ***Rolfson***
Walker
Dawson
Crail
Homich
Cataldo
Bryant
NO ***None***

2. Request Approval of Piggyback Agreement with Altumint for the School Zone Child Safety Initiative

Mr. Sandersfeld explained this is the initiative implementation contract for the contractor to set up the camera, set up the equipment, set up the software for the School Zone Safety Program. Existing staff will be performing the administrative work. There is no contract cost to the City. Mr. Sandersfeld emphasized the safety benefit.

Sergeant Elizabeth was present to answer questions. She provided the breakdown of citation fines as far as how much each involved party receive: the City receives 38%, the crossing guard receives five percent, the state receives 23%, the district receives 12% and the vendor receives 22%. Mr. Sandersfeld said the PowerPoint provided by Sergeant Krueger would be incorporated into the record. The PowerPoint is attached to the minutes as Exhibit A.

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

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CRAIL TO APPROVE THE PIGGYBACK AGREEMENT WITH ALTUMINT FOR THE SCHOOL ZONE CHILD SAFETY INITIATIVE; COUNCILMEMBER BRYANT SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A 7-0 ROLL CALL VOTE.

YES ***Crail***
Bryant
Walker
Cataldo
Dawson
Rolfson
Homich
NO ***None***

PRIORITY PROJECT UPDATES

1. Odor Issues

Wastewater Utility Director Andrew Marsian reported that the 4th Quarter Report from Kimley-Horn has been received and sent to Council and released to the public. It will take about 30 days to finalize the draft of the final report. The City will then ensure it has done all it needs to do to remove the FDEP consent order. The City's actions have been exceeded FDEP's requests and recommendations at this time. City staff will be meeting with a consultant who may be contracted to identify the actual source of the problematic odor. Mr. Marsian spoke about an estimated timeline. Council and staff discussed the financial burden placed upon the City to address a condition it did not precipitate. Council and staff discussed the possibility of Lake County assisting with the expense of the odor identification process. An encouraging letter was received from Commissioner Campione. Council discussed requesting assistance from other interested parties. The City has shouldered unwarranted blame and financial exertion.

Mayor Homich opened public comment.

Cheri Pivowar, Sullivan Ranches, spoke about theories of chemical distribution and dispersion. She spoke about her conversations with Dr. Phil Kane.

The City confirmed sensors remain deployed. Mr. Marsian explained the current use of sensors and the measured results. Mr. Marsian would discuss drop structure with Kimley-Horn.

Dan Demingware, 30325 Lara Court, Sullivan Ranch, recommended the City employ a citizen panel to help design the study.

DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Witherspoon Lodge

Mr. Brackins reviewed the path of this project. His office is in contact with the counsel for the Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge. The legal state of the land is with a trustee that no longer exists. They discussed the process and the lodge indicated they might be willing to negotiate a voluntary acquisition of the Witherspoon Lodge. They asked the City to engage in an appraisal of the lodge. Mr. Brackins requested Council authorize his office to continue discussions with them about a voluntary acquisition of the property. Mr. Brackins recommended that the City authorize staff to undertake an appraisal and allow Shepard Firm to work with the Grand Lodge to discern the path forward. Council expressed a consensus to proceed with appraisals for the site.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

There was an information item providing data from Hurricane Milton emergency purchases. Mr. Sandersfeld proposed adding the Witherspoon Lodge to Priority Project items.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT.

Mr. Brackins updated Council on the status of the AMCO case.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Councilmember Bryant expressed delight about the $1.3 million grant for the work on Donnelly, and spoke about the pickleball courts ribbon-cutting, and the courts themselves, the ongoing historic plaque dedications, the 4th quarter Kimley-Horn report, the tree-watering volunteers and the City's tree programs, the parking workshop and proposed solutions, and City staff.

Councilmember Rolfson provided an update on the county charter issue.

Councilmember Dawson spoke about the security barricades at the Arts Festival.

Councilmember Crail agreed with Mr. Dawson about the well-executed security at the event.

Vice-mayor Cataldo spoke about economic development and fear of stagnation. He requested further information about the change order on the Consent Agenda. Mr. Sandersfeld provided further information about the reasons for the changes.

Mayor Homich commented on the Arbor Day and Arts Festival events.

Mr. Brackins emphasized best practices for avoiding violations or apparent violations of Sunshine Law in relation to attendance at Legislative Action Days.

Council further discussed plans for Legislative Action Days.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON TO ADJOURN; COUNCILMEMBER DAWSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:29 p.m.

JAMES HOMICH, MAYOR
City of Mount Dora

JEANANN HAND, CITY CLERK