



## REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION MARCH 21, 2023 MINUTES

Pursuant to due notice, a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Altamonte Springs, Seminole County, Florida was held at 225 Newburyport Avenue, in said City on March 21, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Bates, Commissioners Brunscheen, O'Malley, Reece and Turney

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Frank Martz	-	City Manager
Rochelle Croskey	-	Deputy City Manager
Amanda Phillips	-	Administrative Director
Skip Fowler	-	City Attorney
Mary Sneed	-	Deputy City Attorney
Angela Apperson	-	City Clerk
Alisa Prince	-	Deputy City Clerk
Tara Culver	-	Chief Financial Officer
John Sember	-	Director of Strategic Planning and Analysis
Jason Burton	-	Director of Growth Management
James Riggs	-	Chief of Police
Timothy J. Murphy	-	Police Commander
David Bass	-	Public Works & Utilities Director
Lee Ricci	-	Human Resources Director
Steve Falk	-	Leisure Services Director
Ryan Thompson	-	Deputy Director of Leisure Services
Amy Ziev	-	Sign Language Interpreter
Sarah Funke	-	Sign Language Interpreter

Mayor Bates called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### 1. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Bates led a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 7, 2023

**Motion:** by Commissioner Turney, seconded by Commissioner Reece, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**3. INFORMAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR:** None

**4. PRESENTATION** City of Altamonte Springs 2022 Annual  
Comprehensive Financial Report

Chief Financial Officer Tara Culver explained the completed report received an unmodified opinion from the independent auditors. The City will be submitting the report to the Special Review Committee of the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for evaluation in the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program. She noted the City has received this Certificate of Achievement for the last 37 years. She reported the City ended the year with Assets and Deferred Outflows of \$413 million and Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of \$64 million, yielding a Net Position of \$349 million which is an increase of \$12 million from the prior year; the General Fund ended the year with a balance of almost \$18 million and has reserves of 36% of the current year's Operating Expenditure Budget; the Water and Sewer Operating Fund ended the year with a Net Position of \$135 million which is up \$3 million from prior year with a reserve of 46%; the Refuse Disposal Fund ended the year with a Net Position of almost \$3 million which is up \$81,000 from prior year with a reserve of 46%. Ms. Culver explained the preparation of the report could not be accomplished without the efficiency and dedication of the Finance Staff. She acknowledged the Mayor and City Commission for their continued support and noted it was a pleasure to work with them.

Dan O'Keefe, from MSL P.A., explained his firm's job is to audit the Financial Statements. He spoke on the different aspects of the Independent Auditor's Report such as, the report on the Financial Statements, which is unmodified, which he noted is what you want to have; the Compliance Section that contains a Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards, an Independent Auditors Report dealing with the compliance and internal controls related to those Federal programs, and a Compliance Report dealing with the internal controls related to the Financial Audit; an Independent Accountants Report which deals with the Investments; and a Management Letter. He stated the bottom line is there are no findings and the City is in great shape. Mr. O'Keefe appreciated the cooperation received from Ms. Culver and the Finance Staff. Mayor Bates thanked Mr. O'Keefe, Ms. Culver, and the Finance Staff. She indicated they did an outstanding job and the Commission is proud of their work.

**Motion:** by Commissioner Reece, seconded by Commissioner Turney, to accept the 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the year ended September 30, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

**5. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL** 3rd Generation Infrastructure Sales Tax – Revision to  
Project List

**Motion:** by Commissioner Reece, seconded by Commissioner Brunscheen, to approve the amended 3rd Generation Infrastructure Sales Tax Program project list. The motion carried unanimously.

**6. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL** Intent to Annex – 1255 E. Altamonte Drive

**Motion:** by Commissioner Turney, seconded by Commissioner Reece, to approve the Intent to Annex and refer the application to the Planning Board. The motion carried unanimously.

**7. FINANCE ITEM** Solicitation Award to Container Systems & Equipment Co., Inc. for the Purchase of Refuse/Recycling Truck (ARPA) Rebid, ITB-23-012-RS

Mayor Bates read the item title into the record.

**Motion:** by Commissioner Reece, seconded by Commissioner O'Malley, to accept the Finance Item. The motion carried unanimously.

**8. INFORMAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR:** None

**9. REPORTS**

**CITY MANAGER FRANK MARTZ:**

- Provided an update on the Legislative Session. He noted the number of bills being introduced that could have a dramatic impact on the City is increasing and that there is not a great deal of input being sought. He indicated he will keep the Commission posted.
- Reminded everyone that on April 22nd the City will open the Park at East Altamonte. He indicated he was very excited about this very special event.
- Acknowledged the long relationship the City has had with Evergreen Cemetery and spoke on the ground penetrating radar work the City did there to help the caretakers locate gravesites. He explained the City is working on a program to help support them in their continued good work because so many residents from East Altamonte were buried there.
- Announced Deputy Police Chief Terence Nicolas has graduated from the FBI Academy. He gave kudos to Deputy Chief Nicolas and noted Chief Riggs and former Police Chief Dan Smutz were graduates as well. Mr. Martz indicated it was a tremendous honor to graduate from the FBI Academy and that the City is very proud of him. He also noted the City has the best Police Department in the State of Florida. He spoke of receiving something from the First Amendment Auditors, which he then sent to Chief Riggs, who responded quickly with an explanation. He reiterated we have a great agency and Deputy Chief Nicolas is one more example of the great talent we have.
- Reported the technical meetings regarding the 4th Generation Sales Tax have begun. He mentioned he has not seen the revenue projections yet, and that there are many people with ideas about how this should move forward. He explained the community has successfully adopted the sales tax in the past because the process was data driven and the projects were items that really matter. He explained that the County and the cities share as many resources as possible. Mr. Martz indicated City Engineer Bruce Doig will be our representative working on this project.

- Noted Red Hot and Boom is coming up soon and he indicated changes will be made from what people experienced in prior years. He mentioned that next year the City will be thinking about rebranding how the event looks. He stated that Altamonte Springs and the landscape is changing and the City needs to adapt to the growth.
- Expressed sadness over the passing of Retired City Employee Steve McCourt. Explained Mr. McCourt, who was seriously injured in an accident on I-4 several years ago, was one of our park rangers; part of our AS2I program; and he was extremely knowledgeable about the animal and plant life in the park. Expressed that he was great with kids, and one of those great employees who spoke his mind and was respected for his view and opinions. Mr. Martz acknowledged Mr. McCourt was a very helpful team member. He indicated it was a huge loss and noted his wife Pam expressed her gratitude for all of the support she has gotten from the City, especially from the Leisure Services and Human Resources teams.

**COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY:**

- Mentioned he received a letter from the La Floresta community and the unsightly, orange pole that was placed in front of their community's sign has been removed. He complimented and thanked staff on their behalf. City Manager Martz mentioned a resident, who also happens to work for another city in Seminole County, reached out to Commissioner Turney regarding issues with the fiber optic installation. The resident suggested that all the cities should have a coordination meeting related to the problems the cities are encountering with the companies installing the fiber optic cables. Mr. Martz reported he reached out to all of the other Managers and proposed they have a working group to address how the cities are dealing with the underground locations and the aftermath of a pipe puncture. Daniel Buckland, who works in our Public Works Department, is leading the effort and he has everyone scheduled to meet this week. Mr. Martz explained, the issue is when they puncture a pipe or snag a utility line, it affects a lot of people and can have a long-term effect, as it could mean days without utilities. He indicated all of the cities and the County will be represented on this group and the intent is to condition the contractors on one way in which this is done, in all cities.
- Complimented staff on Spring Cleanup.

**COMMISSIONER TURNEY:**

- Reported on the Community Service Block Grant meeting. He relayed the Rental Assistance Program has been paused; however, there will be short openings between now and October 1st.
- Recognized the Sharing Center is a very important part of our community service and that Nina Yon, the President and CEO of the Sharing Center, who lives in Altamonte Springs, is a finalist for Central Floridian of the Year. He indicated he was proud of her and noted what they do is amazing and very critical.

**COMMISSIONER BRUNSCHEEN** commended Deputy Chief Terrence Nicolas on his accomplishment, noting his sacrifice and time away from home. He indicated it was wonderful that Deputy Chief Nicolas graduated and that we have a continued strong member of our Police Department.

**MAYOR BATES:**

- Echoed comments about Deputy Chief Nicolas and noted he is a good guy.
- Spoke about the walk she did last week with More Than Pink, which has now come to Altamonte Springs. She mentioned they loved Cranes Roost Park and noted there were at least 1,000 people at the event. Mayor Bates indicated it was really meaningful to be there, as she has a best friend who had been diagnosed with breast cancer years ago. She explained because of doing Relay For Life for 10 years in Altamonte, part of the funds raised went towards developing a drug which helped her friend who has been cancer-free for 15 years now. She noted the participants are eager to return and that they loved our staff. She expressed a thank you to all.
- Mentioned the Uptown Art Festival coming this weekend and hoped for another huge success.

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

