



**Minutes City
Commission**

February 12, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

A Regular Meeting of the City of Winter Garden City Commission was called to order by Mayor Rees at 6:30 PM at City Hall, 300 West Plant Street, Winter Garden, Florida. An Opening Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were given.

Present:

Mayor John Rees
Commissioner District 1 - Lisa L. Bennett
Commissioner District 2 - Iliana R. Jones
Commissioner District 3 - Chloe Johnson
Commissioner District 4 - Colin Sharman

Also Present:

City Manager Jon C. Williams
City Attorney A. Kurt Ardaman
Interim City Clerk Ronisha Martin

1. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting Minutes – January 22, 2026

**Motion by Commissioner Jones to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 22, 2026.
Seconded by Commissioner Sharman and carried unanimously 5-0.**

2. Regular Business

A. Recommendation to approve funding for Axon Body Camera Video System in the amount of \$124,783.38

Police Chief Steve Graham stated that the request is for approval in the amount of 124,783.38 for year three of a five-year contract with Axon Body Camera Video System, which includes the lease of equipment and storage of all video footage. He noted that the funding for the expenditure was included in the approved budget. Staff recommended approval.

There was discussion and confirmation of contract terms.

Motion by Commissioner Jones to approve funding for Axon Body Camera Video System in the amount of \$124,783.38. Seconded by Commissioner Johnson and carried unanimously 5-0.

B. Board Appointment: Code Enforcement

Mayor Rees stated that this item would be postponed to next meeting.

C. Recommendation to authorize City Manager execute amendment to the Farmers Market License Agreement charging weekly amenity fee to each vendor

Economic Director Marc Hutchinson stated that the current license agreement with Red Top Productions Corporation (RTP) does not include a fee for operating the Farmers Market. He explained that to help offset the operational cost associated with maintaining the downtown space, including the pavilion, restrooms, and related programming, the amendment to the licensing agreement with RTP will allow a five-dollar weekly amenity fee per 101x10 space to be charged to participating vendors, effective March 7, 2026. Staff recommended approval to authorize the City Manager to execute the amendment to the Farmers Market License Agreement.

There was discussion regarding the number of participating vendors and the estimated annual revenue the fee would generate.

Motion by Commissioner Bennet to authorize the City Manager to execute the amendment to the Farmers Market License Agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously 5-0.

D. Recommendation to approve SITE PLAN for 1211 Winter Garden Vineland Road (Resurrection Catholic Church), subject to conditions

Planning Director Kelly Carson stated that the applicant is requesting site approval for the renovation of Resurrection Catholic Church, located at 1211 Winter Garden Vineland Road. She explained that the proposed improvements include an expansion of the existing narthex area, redesign of the courtyard, and modification to the parking layout. Ms. Carson noted that the site modifications comply with the property's future land use designation, meet all applicable zoning requirements, and are consistent with the city's ordinance. Staff recommended approval subject to conditions.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett to approve SITE PLAN for 1211 Winter Garden Vineland Road (Resurrection Catholic Church), subject to conditions. Seconded by Commissioner Sharman and carried unanimously 5-0.

E. Recommendation to approve SITE PLAN for 13905 West Colonial Drive (RV Office Building), subject to conditions

Planning Director Kelly Carson stated that the applicant is requesting site plan approval for the property located at 13905 West Colonial Drive to demolish the existing two-story office building and construct a new single-story office building. Ms. Cason noted that the proposal is consistent with zoning and applicable ordinances. Staff recommended approval subject to conditions.

There was discussion regarding the building size and configuration, including clarification that the small two-story element is minimal and consistent with the overall one-story design.

Motion by Commissioner Sharman to approve SITE PLAN for 13905 West Colonial Drive (RV Park Office Building), subject to conditions. Seconded by Commissioner Johnson and carried unanimously 5-0.

F. Recommendation to approve SITE PLAN for 14134 West Colonial Drive (Covenant Group), subject to conditions

Planning Director Kelly Carson stated that the applicant is requesting site plan approval for the property located at 14134 West Colonial Drive to construct a two-tenant 5,000 square-foot commercial building in the West Market master development. Ms. Carson noted that the proposal includes additional landscaping and parking and is consistent with the property's PCD (Planned Commercial Development) zoning, the City's Comprehensive Plan, and Code of Ordinances. Staff recommended approval subject to conditions.

Motion by Commissioner Sharman to approve SITE PLAN for 14134 West Colonial Drive (Covenant Group), subject to conditions. Seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously 5-0.

G. Recommendation to approve SPECIAL EVENT – Celtic Festival by Crooked Can Brewery (Plant Street Market) March 13, 14, and 15, 2026, subject to conditions

Planning Director Kelly Carson stated that the Crooked Can is requesting to hold their annual Celtic Fest from Friday, March 13, to Sunday, March 15, 2026. She noted the event days and times, layout as previous years, street closure, food, and alcohol sales. Staff recommended approval with street closure of South-Central Avenue, subject to condition.

There was discussion on noise issues, and it was confirmed that noise monitoring and enforcement would be in place to ensure compliance.

Motion by Commissioner Bennett to approve SPECIAL EVENT for Celtic Festival by Crooked Can Brewery (Plant Street Market) March 13, 14, and 15, 2026, subject to conditions. Seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously 5-0.

H. Recommendation to approve SPECIAL EVENT – 9th Annual Friends of Lake Apopka (FOLA) 40 Bike Ride – Downtown Pavilion, Sunday, April 19, 2026

Planning Director Kelly Carson stated that the Friends of Lake Apopka (FOLA) are requesting the Downtown Pavilion for rider registration and launch area for their annual 42-mile bicycle ride around Lake Apopka. The event will be held on Sunday, April 19, 2026, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., with approximately 300 cyclists participating in the event. Staff recommended approval.

Motion by Commissioner Jones to approve SPECIAL EVENT for the Annual Friends of Lake Apopka (FOLA) 40 Bike Ride at the Downtown Pavilion on Sunday, April 19, 2026. Seconded by Commissioner Bennett and carried unanimously 5-0.

3. **Matters From Public** - There were no items
4. **Matters From City Attorney** - There were no items.
5. **Matters From City Manager**

City Manager Jon C. Williams provided an update regarding proposed state legislation related to property tax reform. He stated that the city had prepared a document titled "Tax Facts," which outlines the potential financial impacts should all non-school property taxes on homestead property be eliminated. Furthermore, he stated that the document has been posted on the city's website and shared through various channels to ensure public access.

Commissioner Sharman inquired whether any replacement funding had been identified. City Manager Jon C. Williams responded that multiple proposals are being discussed at the state level. Noting that one proposal includes a five percent tax on property transfers as a potential replacement funding source, however, no final decisions have been made.

6. Matters From Mayor and Commissioners

Commissioner Sharman made lighthearted remarks about recently turning fifty and joked about now needing to wear glasses.

Commissioner Johnson thanked staff and Parks and Recreation for the successful reopening of Zanders Park, noting strong community participation.

Commissioner Jones expressed appreciation to staff and first responders.

Commissioner Bennett wished Commissioner Sharman a happy birthday.

Mayor Rees thanked staff for their work on the pickleball courts, noting that the courts looked very nice and were well received.

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

APPROVED:

_____/S/_____
Mayor John Rees

ATTEST:

_____/S/_____
Interim City Clerk Ronisha Martin