



Minutes
City Commission
April 9, 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 p.m. at City Hall, 300 West Plant Street, Winter Garden, Florida. An opening invocation and pledge of allegiance were given.

Present:

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 Cler – Ronisha Martin

Absent:

Mayor John Rees

1. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting Minutes – March 26, 2026

Motion by Commissioner Johnson to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 26, 2026. Seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously 4-0.

2. PRESENTATION

A. Oath of Office - New Police Officers

Police Chief Steve Graham introduced and administered the oath of office to new Police Officers Cambry Knight, Cheneffer Charlemagne, Edward (Eddie) Rosales, Conor Grady and Jacob Biedermann.

B. **Proclamation 26-02**: Proclaiming Florida's Water Conservation Month was read and presented by Commissioner Sharman and the City Commission. The proclamation was accepted by Deirdra Irwin, Water Conservation Coordinator for St. Johns River Water Management District. Ms. Irwin expressed appreciation for the city's ongoing conservation efforts, noted current drought conditions, and emphasized the importance of continued conservation.

C. **Proclamation 26-04**: Mayor Pro Tem Bennett stated that this item will be tabled until next City Commission meeting April 23, 2026.

D. 2026 Drop Savers Poster Contest Winners

Sustainability Coordinator & Community Liaison Donna Corbus announced the 2026 Drop Savers Contest and its Winners, along with Mayor Pro Tem Bennett, who presented certificates to the winners as follows:

Division 1 – Caitlyn Bryant	1 st Grade	StarChild Academy
Division 2 – Shriya Cheripalli	3 rd Grade	StarChild Academy
Division 3 – Victoria Okuneye	5 th Grade	StarChild Academy
Division 4 – Mercedes Jones	6 th Grade	Foundation Academy
Division 5 – Delilah Swingler	2 nd Grade	South Lake Home Educators

Honorable Mention recognition:

Cedric Davis III	2 nd Grade	StarChild Academy
Kaleb Diniz	6 th Grade	Imagine Southlake
Camryn Hardy	7 th Grade	Foundation Academy

3. FIRST READING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE

- A. **Ordinance 26-10**: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 14, SECTION 14-1 OF THE CITY CODE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE EXISTING ANIMAL CONTROL PROVISIONS AND TO ADOPT THE ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME, BY REFERENCE; AMENDING CHAPTER 14, SECTION 14-2 TO ESTABLISH CITYWIDE LEASH AND DIRECT CONTROL REQUIREMENT FOR ANIMALS IN PUBLIC SPACES; AMENDING CHAPTER 27, SECTION 27-9 RELATING TO DOMESTIC ANIMALS IN PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES; AMENDING CHAPTER 118, ARTICLE XII, SECTION 118-1612 RELATING TO THE DOG FRIENDLY DINING PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

City Attorney Kurt Ardaman read ordinance 26-10 by title only. Economic Director Marc Hutchinson stated that Section 14-2 of Ordinance 26-10, related to leash and control requirements, had been revised and amended. He explained that the ordinance updates City Code provisions to strengthen animal control regulations, including leash requirements, owner control in public spaces, and restrictions in parks, while aligning with Orange County standards. Staff recommended approval.

Mayor Pro Tem Bennett opened the public hearing; hearing and seeing none, she closed the public hearing.

Motion by Commissioner Sharman to approve Ordinance 26-10 with second reading and public hearing April 23, 2026. Seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously 4-0.

4. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES

- A. **Ordinance 26-01**: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA PROVIDING FOR THE ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN ADDITIONAL LANDS GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS APPROXIMATELY 1.50 ± ACRES LOCATED AT 1414 EAST CROWN POINT ROAD, AND APPROXIMATELY 2.02 ± ACRES LOCATED AT 1325 EAST FULLERS CROSS ROAD, NORTH OF EAST FULLERS CROSS ROAD, SOUTH OF OCOEE CROWN POINT PKWY, EAST OF FULLERS OAK LOOP AND WEST OF EAST CROWN POINT ROAD, INTO

THE CITY OF WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA; REDEFINING THE CITY BOUNDARIES TO GIVE THE CITY JURISDICTION OVER SAID PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

- B. **Ordinance 26-02**: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE WINTER GARDEN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BY CHANGING THE LAND USE DESIGNATION OF REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS APPROXIMATELY 1.50 ± ACRES LOCATED AT 1414 EAST CROWN POINT ROAD AND APPROXIMATELY 2.02 ± ACRES LOCATED AT 1325 EAST FULLERS CROSS ROAD, NORTH OF EAST FULLERS CROSS ROAD, SOUTH OF OCOEE CROWN POINT PKWY, EAST OF FULLERS OAK LOOP AND WEST OF EAST CROWN POINT ROAD, FROM ORANGE COUNTY LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL TO CITY LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE
- C. **Ordinance 26-03**: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA REZONING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS APPROXIMATELY 1.50± ACRES LOCATED AT 1414 EAST CROWN POINT ROAD AND APPROXIMATELY 2.02 ± ACRES LOCATED AT 1325 EAST FULLERS CROSS ROAD, NORTH OF EAST FULLERS CROSS ROAD, SOUTH OF OCOEE CROWN POINT PKWY, EAST OF FULLERS OAK LOOP AND WEST OF EAST CROWN POINT ROAD, FROM ORANGE COUNTY A-1 (CITRUS RURAL DISTRICT) TO CITY PUD (PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT) AS SET FORTH IN THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN PUD REQUIREMENTS AND DESCRIBING THE DEVELOPMENT AS THE NEW LIFE SLAVIC CHURCH PUD; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; CONFLICTS AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

City Attorney Kurt Ardaman read Ordinances 26-01, 26-02 and 26-03 by title only. Planning Director Kelly Carson stated that the applicant, New Life Slavic Church, is requesting annexation of the properties located at 1414 East Crown Point Road and 1325 East Fullers Cross Road into the City, along with a future land use designation of Low Density Residential and rezoning to Planned Unit Development (PUD) to allow construction of an 11,162-square-foot church. She noted the site design includes landscape buffers, tree preservation, and traffic improvements to mitigate impacts. Ms. Carson further noted that staff found the request consistent with the City's land development regulations and comprehensive plan. Staff recommended approval.

Mayor Pro Tem Bennett opened the public hearing; hearing and seeing none, she closed the public hearing.

Motion by Commissioner Sharman to adopt Ordinances 26-01, 26-02, and 26-03. Seconded by Commissioner Johnson and carried unanimously 4-0.

5. **REGULAR BUSINESS**

- A. **Recommendation to approve purchase of meridian barriers and trailers in the amount of \$483,170.72**

Police Chief Steve Graham stated that the request is for the purchase of portable roadway barriers to enhance public safety, improve event management, and support the City's operational needs during downtown events. He noted that as community events continue to grow, the barriers will help prevent accidental or intentional

vehicle entry into pedestrian areas. Staff recommended approval of the purchase of thirty-two Meridian barriers and four trailers in the amount of \$483,170.72, which is included in the current year's budget.

Motion by Commissioner Jones to approve purchase of meridian barriers and trailers in the amount of \$483,170.72. Seconded by Commissioner Sharman and carried unanimously 4-0.

- B. Recommendation to approve SITE PLAN for 1600 Daniels Road (Center for Digestive Health), subject to conditions

Planning Director Kelly Carson stated that the applicant is requesting site plan approval for lot three of the Daniel's Commerce Center commercial subdivision, a 1.31-acre property located at 1600 Daniel's Road, to construct a two-story, 15,348-square-foot medical office building with associated landscaping and parking improvements. She noted that the building will house the Center for Digestive Health and that the proposed site plan is consistent with the property's C-2 zoning, the City's Comprehensive Plan, and Code of Ordinances. Staff recommended approval subject to conditions.

Motion by Commissioner Johnson to approve SITE PLAN for 1600 Daniels Road (Center for Digestive Health), subject to conditions. Seconded by Commissioner Sharman and carried unanimously 4-0.

- C. Recommendation to issue Purchase Order to T.D. Thomson Construction, Inc. for Percolation Pond Repair in the amount of \$203,712.19, which includes a 10% contingency

City Engineer Jim Monahan stated that the percolation ponds are designed to dispose of wet weather reclaimed water through ground absorption and collection via perforated pipes, which discharge to Lake Apopka. He noted that a large collection pipe has developed a significant hole and must be rerouted to prevent further damage to infrastructure. Staff recommended approval.

Commissioner Sharman inquired about the extent of pipe requiring excavation and repair. Mr. Monahan responded that approximately 300 feet of 16-inch pipe, located about 16 feet deep, would be addressed.

Motion by Commissioner Sharman to issue Purchase Order to T.D. Thomson Construction, Inc. for Percolation Pond Repair in the amount of \$203,712.19, which includes a 10% contingency. Seconded by Commissioner Johnson and carried unanimously 4-0.

- D. Recommendation to issue Purchase Order to T.D. Thomson Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$131,831.33 for additional parking on West Plant Street

City Engineer Jim Monahan stated that parking in downtown Winter Garden continues to be in high demand, and staff have identified an opportunity to add twenty new angled parking spaces along the oval on West Plant Street. He noted that two bids were received for the project, and the lowest responsible and responsive contractor was selected. Staff recommended approval.

Motion by Commissioner Jones to issue Purchase Order to T.D. Thomson Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$131,831.33 for additional parking on West Plant Street. Second by Commissioner Sharman and carried unanimously 4-0.

- E. Recommendation to approve SPECIAL EVENT – Winter Garden Police Athletic League – Donut Dash 5K run on Saturday, November 7, 2026, from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Planning Director Kelly Carson stated that the Winter Garden Police Athletic League submitted an application to hold its annual Donut Dash 5K run, starting and ending at Newton Park on Saturday, November 7, 2026, from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. She described the route and certain road closure areas.

Motion by Commissioner Sharman to approve SPECIAL EVENT – Winter Garden Police Athletic League – Donut Dash 5K run on Saturday, November 7, 2026, from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. Seconded by Commissioner Johnson and carried unanimously 4-0

6. Matters From Public

Allison Painter, 393 North Lakeview Avenue, Winter Garden, Florida, voiced concerns regarding the condition of the alley between Boyd Street and Lakeview Avenue and requested it be evaluated for possible improvements. She also asked the city to consider “No Parking” signage along Lakeview Avenue during events to help alleviate congestion and suggested exploring parking meters to improve parking management and generate revenue. City Manager Jon C. Williams acknowledged her comments and advised her to speak with City Engineer Jim Monahan.

Zachary Weisbecker, 239 East Newell Street, Winter Garden, FL spoke on the importance of youth involvement in local government and recommended creating roles, such as youth representatives on city committees, to provide input and experience. He thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak.

- 7. Matters From City Attorney –** There were no items.

8. Matters From City Manager

City Manager Jon. C. Williams reminded everyone of Spring Fever in th Garden Saturday April 11, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00p.m. and Sunday, April 12, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. He noted that the event is expected to be very busy and encouraged everyone to attend and enjoy the festivities.

9. Matters From Mayor and Commissioners

Commissioner Colin Sharman inquired about future workshops. He noted that upcoming workshops may include public participation and encouraged the public to monitor the city’s website for updates.

Commissioner Chloe Johnson thanked staff for their continued hard work and wished everyone a good evening.

Commissioner Iliana R. Jones thanked staff for their hard work and Zachary Weibecker for his participation. She encouraged him to share ideas on how to engage more youth in local government and offered to meet afterward to discuss ways to increase involvement and awareness of the work performed by staff and City leadership.

Mayor Pro Tem Lisa L. Bennett thanked staff and first responders for their hard work.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

APPROVED:

/S/
Mayor John Rees

ATTEST:

/S/
Interim City Clerk Ronisha Martin