City Commission
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 9, 2025

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:
Mayor John Rees
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
City Clerk - Angela J. Grimmage

Absent:
Commissioner District 1 - Lisa L. Bennett

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting Minutes - September 25, 2025

Motion by Commissioner Johnson to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 25, 2025. Seconded by Commissioner Sharman and carried unanimously 4-0.

2. PRESENTATIONS

A. **OATH OF OFFICE - New Police Officers**

Police Chief Steve Graham introduced and administered the oath of office to new Police Officers Gilan Asuncion, Nicholas Dwyer, Devon Goosen, Gui Torres, Kevin Heben, George Merola, and Joel Valle. There was a ceremonial pinning of badges.

B. **PROCLAMATION 25-13**: Proclaiming Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day as October 13, 2025, was presented by Mayor Rees and the City Commission. MaryAnn Mazellan accepted the proclamation, gave statistical data, announced related event activities, and thanked the City Commission.

- **AdventHealth Winter Garden CEO**

At this point in the meeting Mayor Rees recognized Aimee Keller-Pickford to come and introduce herself as the new chief executive officer (CEO) of AdventHealth Winter Garden. Ms. Keller-Pickford shared some of her history in the industry, noted that she is also a resident of Winter Garden, spoke of the AdventHealth Winter Garden expansion and related new services.

3. **SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE**

A. **ORDINANCE 25-35**: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 26, ARTICLE II OF THE CITY OF WINTER GARDEN CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING THE WINTER GARDEN CEMETERY; PROVIDING FOR REVISIONS TO DEFINITIONS, RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR PURCHASE OF LOTS AND NICHES, OWNERSHIP RIGHTS, AND FEES; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

City Attorney Kurt Ardaman read Ordinance 25-35 by title only. Assistant City Manager of Public Services Stephen Pash stated that this is the second reading of this ordinance and the recommended changes from the last meeting have been made regarding the immediate family definition and residency requirements. Staff recommended approval.

Mayor Rees opened the public hearing; hearing and seeing none, he closed the public hearing.

Motion by Commissioner Johnson to adopt Ordinance 25-35. Seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously 4-0.

4. **REGULAR BUSINESS**

A. **RESOLUTION 25-11**: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WINTER GARDEN, FLORIDA, ADOPTING FEES AND CHARGES RELATED TO THE WINTER GARDEN CEMETERY PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 26, ARTICLE II OF THE CITY OF WINTER GARDEN CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE

City Attorney Kurt Ardaman read Resolution 25-11 by title only. Assistant City Manager of Public Services Stephen Pash noted a corrected typo in Exhibit "A" under cemetery lots/cremation spaces. The maximum cremation space is $1,000 per additional space. He noted the resolution removes fees from the code, allowing the City Manager to change pricing as subcontractors' pricing changes. Mr. Pash spoke of limited space at the cemetery and noted rises in costs and maintenance. He indicated that staff recommend increasing the fees to be more consistent with the surrounding cemeteries and provided statistical data on average pricing in the area. Furthermore, Mr. Pash noted that the City would like to encourage families to purchase one lot and allow for multiple burials in one space. He gave examples of burial comparisons and recommended approval.

Motion by Commissioner Sharman to adopt Resolution 25-11. Seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously 4-0.

B. Recommendation to approve utilizing a City of Boynton Beach piggyback Contract with Core & Main, LP for equipment supplies

Assistant City Manager of Public Services Stephen Pash explained that the City uses a lot of vendors for supply purchases, often using contracts from other municipalities to piggyback. He noted that several of these contracts are on tonight's agenda and noted that this contract is with the City of Boynton Beach utilizing Core & Main, LP, who sell pipes, pipe fittings and other parts used for underground repair for water, sewer and reclaimed waterlines. Staff recommended approval.

There was discussion on the pricing utilizing a piggyback method and the savings involved. It was noted that some of these are renewals, which include price increases.

Motion by Commissioner Sharman to approve utilizing a City of Boynton Beach piggyback contract with Core & Main, LP, for equipment supplies. Seconded by Commissioner Johnson and carried unanimously 4-0.

C. Recommendation to approve utilizing a Clay County Piggyback contract with Sensus USA, Inc. to update water and irrigation meters

Assistant City Manager of Public Services Stephen Pash explained that this contract is with Clay County piggybacking a contract with Sensus USA, Inc. to update water and irrigation meters. Staff recommended approval.

Motion by Commissioner Sharman to approve utilizing a Clay County piggyback contract with Sensus USA, Inc. to update water and irrigation meters. Seconded by Commissioner Johnson and carried unanimously 4-0.

D. Recommendation to approve utilizing a City of Clermont piggyback continuing services agreement with Willdan Engineering, Inc. for Building Inspection and Plan Review

Assistant City Manager of Public Services Stephen Pash explained that this contract is with Willdan Inc., which has been used for the City's building inspections and plan review since 2023 and has recently contracted with the City of Clermont; staff recommended approval of using this as a piggyback contract.

Motion by Commissioner Sharman to approve utilizing a City of Clermont piggyback Continuing Services Agreement with Willdan Engineering, Inc. for Building Inspection and Plan Review. Seconded by Commissioner Johnson and carried unanimously 4-0.

E. Recommendation to approve utilizing a Lake County piggyback contract with DWC Outdoors & Hauling, LLC for right-of-way trimming and related services

Assistant City Manager of Public Services Stephen Pash stated that this contract is with Lake County for DWC Outdoors and Hauling, LLC for right-of-way tree trimming. Staff recommended approval.

Motion by Commissioner Jones to approve utilizing a Lake County piggyback contract with DWC Outdoors & Hauling, LLC for right-of-way trimming and related services. Seconded by Commissioner Sharman and carried unanimously 4-0.

F. Recommendation to approve utilizing a Marion County piggyback contract with Odyssey Manufacturing Company to provide Sodium Hypochlorite (bleach) to be used at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Water Plant
Assistant City Manager of Public Services Stephen Pash stated that Odyssey Manufacturing Company provides sodium hypochlorite, which is bleach, and it is used at the City's water and wastewater treatment plant in large quantities. He noted that they have extended their contract with Marion County. Staff recommended approval of the piggyback of that contract.

Motion by Commissioner Johnson to approve utilizing a Marion County piggyback contract with Odyssey Manufacturing Company to provide Sodium Hypochlorite (bleach) to be used at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Water Plant. Seconded by Commissioner Sharman and carried unanimously 4-0.

G. Recommendation to approve utilizing a Port Orange Piggyback contract with Shelly's Environmental Systems for hauling and disposing of sewage waste/sludge
Assistant City Manager of Public Services Stephen Pash noted that Shelly's Environmental Systems is used to haul the City's biosolids or sludge from the wastewater treatment plant. Staff recommended approval.

Motion by Commissioner Sharman to approve utilizing a Port Orange piggyback contract with Shelly's Environmental Systems for hauling and disposing of sewage waste/sludge. Seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously 4-0.

H. Recommendation to approve a Non-Exclusive Franchise Agreement between the City of Winter Garden and Lake Apopka Natural Gas for natural gas distribution
Assistant City Manager of Public Services Stephen Pash described the non-exclusive franchise agreement with Lake Apopka Natural Gas to allow them to continue installing and maintaining their natural gas lines within the City's right-of-way. He noted that the agreement outlines their responsibilities and fees. It is a ten-year agreement with the option for an additional ten-year extension. Staff recommended approval.

There was discussion about the City's boundaries, the non-exclusive agreement as it relates to other agencies coming in, and regulations governing the issue.

Motion by Commissioner Jones to approve a Non-Exclusive Franchise Agreement between the City of Winter Garden and Lake Apopka Natural Gas for natural gas distribution. Seconded by Commissioner Sharman and carried unanimously 4-0.

I. Recommendation to approve and authorize the City Manager to sign an amendment to extend services with Aspire Health Partners, Inc. for crisis support in the amount of $99,469

Police Chief Steve Graham stated that this is a request to approve an extension of services and allow the City Manager to sign an amendment for the Aspire Health Partners, Inc. contract for the social services component for the Winter Garden Police Department. He noted that there is no increase in cost, and it is the same as last year. Staff recommended approval.

Motion by Commissioner Johnson to approve and authorize the City Manager to sign an amendment to extend services with Aspire Health Partners, Inc. for crisis support in the amount of $99,469. Seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously 4-0.

J. Recommendation to approve funding for SmartCop Records Management System Annual Maintenance in the amount of $94,336.20

Police Chief Steve Graham stated that this item is a request to renew and continue with the SmartCop program for computer-aided dispatch and records management system, which has been used by the City for approximately 19 years. Police Chief Graham stated that these funds have been included in the budget. Staff recommended approval.

There was discussion on the use of Automated Intelligence (AI).

Motion by Commissioner Sharman to approve funding for SmartCop Records Management System Annual Maintenance in the amount of $94,336.20. Seconded by Commissioner Johnson and carried unanimously 4-0.

K. Recommendation to approve SPECIAL EVENT for the Rotary Club of Winter Garden - Rotary Club Poker Tournament on Friday, November 7, 2025, from 2:00 pm to 1:00 am at Tanner Hall and waive permit fee of $1,000

Planning Director Kelly Carson stated that the Rotary Club of Winter Garden requests holding the Rotary Club Poker Tournament at Tanner Hall on Friday, November 7, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Ms. Carson described the event and noted an anticipated attendance of 150 people. Furthermore, Ms. Carson clarified that a waiver of the permit fees is also requested in the amount of $150 and not $1,000, which is for crowds of 200 and above. Staff recommended approval.

Motion by Commissioner Sharman to approve a SPECIAL EVENT for the Rotary Club of Winter Garden for the Rotary Club Poker Tournament on Friday, November 7, 2025, 2:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. at Tanner Hall and waive the permit fee of $150. Seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously 4-0.

L. Recommendation to approve SPECIAL EVENT for the Winter Garden Art Association annual fundraiser on Friday, March 6, 2026, 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, subject to conditions

Planning Director Kelly Carson stated that this is a request to approve the special event for the Winter Garden Art Association annual fundraiser for Friday, March 6, 2026, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. She noted some of the event activities and vendors, noting that the event would be subject to conditions. Staff recommended approval.

Motion by Commissioner Sharman to approve the SPECIAL EVENT for the Winter Garden Art Association annual fundraiser for Friday, March 6, 2026, from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, subject to condition. Seconded by Commissioner Johnson and carried unanimously 4-0.

M. BOARD APPOINTMENT: **General Employees' Pension Board**

City Clerk Angela Grimmage stated that a board appointment was needed to fill an unexpired seat for Gretchen Tope through September 30, 2027. The City Commission thanked Ms. Tope for her service.

Motion by Commissioner Johnson to appoint Lee Douglas to fill the unexpired term on the General Employees' Pension Board through September 30, 2027. Seconded by Commissioner Jones and carried unanimously 4-0.

5. MATTERS FROM PUBLIC

Norine Dworkin, VoxPopuli Winter Garden, shared information about their fundraiser and second annual benefit concert.

6. MATTERS FROM CITY ATTORNEY - There were no items.

7. MATTERS FROM CITY MANAGER

City Manager Jon C. Williams announced that the previously canceled Halloween projections on City Hall would again commence on certain specified dates in October. He noted where these dates would be advertised and that the cost would be $10,000 or less.

Mr. Williams announced that every two years for the last twelve years the City has participated in the National Community Survey by Polco. He described the survey, the span of the data, and the collective gathering of information compared across other cities nationwide. He noted that Polco then identifies the top five cities in certain specified categories, which he listed. He expressed pleasure in announcing that the City of Winter Garden is being honored for being the top performer in the 2025 Best in Governance Award for Community Connection and named the competing cities. He commended the City Commission, staff and residents for making the City of Winter Garden a wonderful place to live, work and play.

Mayor Rees also commended and thanked everyone for their efforts.

8. MATTERS FROM MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Iliana R. Jones thanked the City, City staff and the first responders. She acknowledged MaryAnn Mazellan, who accepted the proclamation for Metastatic Breast Cancer, thanked her for sharing her story, and noted that she would remember her in prayer.

Commissioner Chloe Johnson thanked the City staff, the City Attorney, and City Manager for their hard work. She noted that it is great to live in a city where we work together well and care for our residents. She also acknowledged MaryAnn Mazellan, thanked her for sharing her story, and noted that she is currently experiencing this issue with her 45-year-old sister. Furthermore, Commissioner Johnson thanked the residents for coming out to hear what is going on in our community.

Commissioner Colin Sharman noted that he would be glad to ride to Tampa with the City Manager to accept the 2025 Best in Governance Award for Community Connection if the City should win. He thanked everyone for attending.

Mayor John Rees thanked everyone, acknowledged Ms. Mazellan and noted that she would be kept in our prayers. He thanked everyone for attending.

9. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

APPROVED:

___/S/______________________
Mayor John Rees

ATTEST:

___/S/__________________
City Clerk Angela J. Grimmage