

1 **MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE ORANGE CITY COUNCIL**, held on  
2 Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 201 N. Holly Avenue, Orange City.

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4 **CALL TO ORDER**

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6 The Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Mayor Strickland and roll call was taken.

7  
8 **ROLL CALL**

9  
10 **PRESENT:** Mayor Harley Strickland; Vice Mayor Tom Laputka; Council Members; Tom  
11 Abraham, Anthony Pupello, Gary A. Blair, William Crippen; Elaine Wilson, Interim  
12 Development Services Director; City Clerk Deborah Renner

13  
14 **PRESENT:** (**Historic Board Members**) Marilyn Meyers, Linda Higgins, Bob Reid, Ann Lindsay

15  
16 **ABSENT:** Council Member Tom Abraham

17  
18 Mayor Strickland advised that he has been working on hiring the new Manager and that a contract  
19 should be negotiated tomorrow. He said that he spoke to the new Manager about historic preservation  
20 and citizen involvement. He said that Ms. Croteau recognizes the importance of those issues in the  
21 City's history. The Mayor said that he has had a very long day and will likely leave the meeting early.

22  
23 **1. REVIEW CODE PROVISIONS in Chapter 2, Division 3. Historic Preservation Board**

24  
25 The Mayor asked the group to review the Historic Preservation ordinance with an eye toward any  
26 possible changes that need to be made. He said that he would like to focus on the future. The Mayor  
27 asked if anyone would like to comment.

28  
29 Council Member Laputka expressed his hope that the Board will not fade out.

30  
31 Mayor Strickland began by reviewing the Historic Preservation ordinance. He said that he was not  
32 clear about item 2 in the Code which contemplates a process and suggested that it be expanded to  
33 include standards to be used in designating historic structures.

34  
35 Robert Reid said that there is currently an application available for a property to be designated as  
36 historic. He said that this would constitute the "process." Mayor Strickland asked about the standards  
37 that would be applied.

38  
39 Elaine Wilson, Interim Development Services Director, advised that the City does possess a map  
40 which identifies the historic structures. Ms. Wilson said that standards have been developed. Mayor  
41 Strickland suggested that perhaps the standards may just need updating. Council Member Allebach  
42 observed that the objective for this meeting is to clarify the duties of the Board so that they have a  
43 sense of purpose. Mayor Strickland suggested that one of the functions of the Board, then, would be  
44 to update and maintain the list of historic properties.

45  
46 The Mayor suggested eliminating Item 3, providing technical assistance because the resources to

1 accomplish this do not exist at the present time. Council Member Blair disagreed. He said that people  
2 who are new to town should have somewhere to turn to obtain technical advice.

3  
4 Ann Lindsay recalled an instance where an owner of a historic property sought permission to destroy  
5 the structure. The building was destroyed and a new structure now stands in its place. Council  
6 Member Allebach suggested that the Board could provide advice regarding renovations or provide a  
7 list of resources for having work done. Mayor Strickland disagreed stating that advice would be more  
8 meaningful coming as a referral from someone who had previously had work done. He said that he  
9 did not feel it was an appropriate role for staff.

10  
11 Council Member Blair envisioned that staff would only provide a list of places where materials can be  
12 obtained or of workers with expertise in this area. Mayor Strickland reiterated that this would be a  
13 consideration when making appointments to the Board as he did not feel that it should be a staff  
14 function. Council Member Laputka suggested changing the wording from providing technical  
15 assistance to providing technical references. Ms. Wilson advised that she did not see a problem with  
16 this wording. Mayor Strickland clarified that it should be the Board that would put together the  
17 information not staff.

18  
19 **2. DISCUSS ROLE/PURPOSE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD**

20  
21 Council Member Blair observed that the Board “needs things to do.” He clarified his opinion that the  
22 purpose of tonight’s meeting is to find ways of keeping the Board together and preserving it. He said  
23 that projects are needed for the Board and suggested new Historic District banners could be one.

24  
25 Council Member Crippen clarified that the Board would be the source for information on restoring old  
26 houses in the City, as well as for all things historic. In response to a question from Council Member  
27 Blair, it was stated that there are currently three active members on the Historic Board. Mr. Al  
28 Madges, citizen, said that he applied for the board in November and that he was treated very rudely by  
29 the Clerk’s office when he asked for an application. He said no one ever got back with him after he  
30 sent the application in. Council Member Blair suggested that the first step should be for Council each  
31 to appoint someone to restore the board to full capacity. He said that the next step should be to define  
32 projects for the Board. Some examples provided by Council Member Blair were walking tours,  
33 banners, driving tours, or beautification awards.

34  
35 Ann Lindsay said that what is needed is “active and dynamic Board members.” Mr. Madges  
36 suggested a Christmas tour of homes. Council Member Allebach expressed that the Council should be  
37 willing to allocate funding to the Board for certain projects if necessary. Council Member Blair  
38 advised that the current Council is the most “historic preservation-friendly” that the City has ever had.  
39 Mr. Reid noted that the City of Sanford sells advertising on the bottom of their historic designation  
40 flags. Ms. Wilson stated, “I would like to caution you that that means re-writing the sign ordinance.”

41  
42 Mr. Reid concurred that building the membership back up on the Board is an important factor,  
43 followed by a review of the code provisions for the Board.

44  
45 Mayor Strickland noted that Council Member Blair has a real commitment to historic preservation in  
46 the City and he asked whether he would be willing to share his vision and his plan with the Board and

1 serve as the Council liaison to the historic board. Council Member Blair responded that he “did not  
2 have a problem with that at all.” Council Member Crippen said that he would like to be involved as  
3 well. Mayor Strickland suggested that Council Member Crippen could serve as an “alternate.”  
4

5 Mr. Saylor suggested that the perspective of the board should be expanded from preservation of  
6 historic structures to celebrating and exploring the history of the City  
7

8 Mr. Reid asked what the role of the Historic Society would be. He discussed at length the difference  
9 between the Orange City historic district and the national historic register. Council Member Blair  
10 observed that the Historic Society had a negative impact on the board.  
11

12 Mayor Strickland turned the meeting over to Vice Mayor Laputka and left at 7:40 p.m.  
13

14 Council Member Allebach questioned why the Historic Society formed. Vice Mayor Laputka  
15 responded that he is a member of the Society. He said that at one time, he had an interest in the Seth  
16 French House and that he approached the Society about it. He said that the thinking at the time was  
17 that there would be less “bureaucracy” by working through the Society. He provided some history on  
18 the City’s relationship to Ms. Boyd as it relates to the House. Vice Mayor Laputka noted that the Seth  
19 French House was “ignored” during the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. He said that he felt the house  
20 could be “a showplace.” The Vice Mayor noted that the house had been willed to the City upon the  
21 recent death of Ms. Harriet French Boyd, advising that the estate is currently in probate. He invited  
22 the Board to make a recommendation as to whether the City should accept the bequest. Vice Mayor  
23 Laputka advised that the house is “sound.”  
24

25 Council Member Blair suggested that Council develop an outline of their goals for the Board with the  
26 first item being membership. He suggested that each Council Member could appoint a representative  
27 to the Board. Council Member Crippen said that he felt a list of the Board’s responsibilities should be  
28 available prior to a membership drive.  
29

30 Mr. Reid requested that the Board Meetings be posted on the City sign on Graves Avenue. He  
31 suggested that perhaps the membership criteria might need to be examined. Council Member Blair  
32 noted that it is not mandatory to appoint only people who meet the criteria in the code. Council  
33 Member Allebach said that the Board needs to explore whether or not the City should accept the  
34 bequest of the Seth French House and what could be done with it. If the City wishes to accept the  
35 house, excitement about the project must be generated.  
36

37 Council Member Crippen suggested that an approach to marketing the historic assets of the City must  
38 be developed.  
39

40 Ms. Lindsay noted that the Board spent “two years of blood, sweat and tears” developing the historic  
41 ordinance and was never given any recognition for that effort. Council Member Allebach noted that  
42 Mr. Murray was tasked with holding the status quo and that he was very cautious about spending any  
43 money due to the uncertain economy. He recognized Council Member Blair’s “passion” for historic  
44 preservation. Council Member Allebach suggested that the Manatee Festival could be used to  
45 promote Orange City’s historic areas. Mr. Reid said that he had often thought of having a tour of  
46 Christmas lights in the City.

1 Council Member said that these are all projects that the Board could take on. He suggested that an  
 2 outline of Council’s expectations and the City’s needs should be developed as a plan. Vice Mayor  
 3 Laputka questioned where the City’s artifacts are located. He suggested that the Board should  
 4 maintain at least a minimum membership which could be expanded over time. Council Member  
 5 Crippen said that the Historic Board needs a new “manifesto.” He suggested their role should be  
 6 preserving and promoting the history of the City and promulgating knowledge about that history.  
 7 Council Member Blair suggested involving the business community in the City’s historic preservation  
 8 efforts.

9  
 10 **3. IDENTIFY SECTIONS OF CODE IN NEED OF CHANGE (If any)**

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 12 **4. DISCUSS VISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN ORANGE CITY**

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 14 (Note: Items 3 and 4 were not discussed).

15  
 16 **5. NEXT STEPS?/DIRECTION FROM COUNCIL**

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 18 Council Member Allebach said that someone on the Council should request an item during the “New  
 19 Business” portion of the agenda to discuss a recruitment drive for the Historic Board. He said that  
 20 Council needs to task the Board with one assignment and solicit people to help. Council Member  
 21 Blair concurred and said that he needs direction so that he can enlist the support of people in his  
 22 district to participate in the historic preservation effort.

23  
 24 Council Member Crippen invited everyone to attend a “grave talkers” program in DeLand with an eye  
 25 toward adapting it for Orange City. Council Member Blair stressed the importance that meetings of  
 26 the Board be fun.

27  
 28 **6. ADJOURN**

29  
 30 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

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 32 Respectfully Submitted

Approved on

April 27, 2010

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Deborah J. Renner, CMC, City Clerk