

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council of the City of Orange City, Florida, held
2 on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 201 N. Holly Avenue, Orange City.

3
4 **CALL TO ORDER**

5
6 The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Laputka and roll call was taken.
7

8 **ROLL CALL**

9
10 **PRESENT:** Mayor Tom Laputka; Vice Mayor O. William (Bill) Crippen; Council Members Ron Saylor,
11 Michael G. Wright, Tom Abraham, Anthony J. Pupello, Gary A. Blair; City Attorney Bill Reischmann; City
12 Manager Jamie Croteau; City Clerk Deborah Renner.
13

14 **INVOCATION**

15
16 The Invocation was given by Pastor John Reynolds, Volusia County Baptist Church, followed by the Pledge
17 of Allegiance.
18

19 1. **ABSENCES:** None at this time
20

21 2. **PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS:** None at this time
22

23 3. **CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

24
25 Jeff Allebach, 482 W. Holly Drive, came forward and urged everyone to attend the Manatee Festival on
26 January 28th and 29th. He noted there are coupons available for a free child’s admission when accompanied
27 by a paying adult.
28

29 4. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- 30 a) December 13, 2011 Tree Board Meeting Minutes
- 31 b) December 13, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes
- 32
- 33

34 **Vice Mayor Crippen moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by**
35 **Council Member Blair and passed by a unanimous 7/0 roll call vote of the**
36 **Council.**
37

38 5. **ORDINANCES - FIRST READING:** None at this time
39

40 6. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

41
42 **A. ORDINANCE NO. 477:** An ordinance of the City of Orange City, Florida;
43 annexing the Orange City Villas property into the corporate limits of the City of
44 Orange City, Florida; said property being generally located on the east side of
45 Enterprise Road, approximately 1000 feet south of Grand Plaza Drive, containing
46 approximately 10.25 acres; in accordance with the voluntary annexation provisions
47 of Florida Statute 171.044; redefining the boundaries of the City of Orange City by
48 amending the appropriate sections of the Code of Ordinances; containing a
49 repealer provision, a severability clause and providing for an effective date.

1 **Vice Mayor Crippen read the title of Ordinance No. 477 into the record,**
2 **seconded by Council Member Blair.**

3
4 Jim Kerr, City Planner, came forward and provided a brief presentation on the proposed annexation. He
5 noted that the subject property is nearly surrounded by the City limits. In response to a question from the
6 Mayor, Mr. Kerr advised that there are 112 residents living in Orange City Villas.

7
8 Council Member Pupello asked when the development was built. Mr. Kerr responded that it was the late
9 1970's. He said that the people who live there already feel as though they are living in Orange City. He
10 discussed the importance of filling in the enclaves around town. Council Member Pupello noted that the
11 annexation will benefit the City by an additional \$14,000 in ad valorem revenue. He said that this represents
12 about 1/3 of a mill which Council should remember during budget talks.

13
14 Mayor Laputka opened the public hearing by asking if anyone wished to speak for or against Ordinance
15 No. 477. No one appeared. The Mayor closed the public hearing.

16
17 **Motion passed by 7/0 roll call vote of the Council.**

18
19 **8. DISCUSSION AND ACTION:**

20
21 **A. Discuss charter review**

22
23 Henry Durica, 1310 E. Lansdowne, came forward and stated that he and his neighbors like the Council
24 districts. He noted that the charter amendments were all passed by a wide margin. Mr. Durica suggested that
25 not having districts could lead to one individual with a large voting bloc such as the VFW, a school, a club, a
26 church, etc., having their neighbors and friends all on Council. Mr. Durica noted that many people don't
27 seem to know what district they live in and suggested that putting a map in the newsletter might be helpful.
28 He also suggested including a picture of the Council Member for each district in the newsletter along with
29 the map.

30
31 Council Member Blair said that the discussion should begin with a presentation from staff.

32
33 Mr. Reischmann noted that he and the City Manager and City Clerk had met after the last meeting to discuss
34 issues with the charter. He emphasized that staff did not address any policy issues, only "mechanical" issues
35 that have arisen since the last charter review. Mr. Reischmann noted that there was a section by section
36 breakdown of the issues discussed by staff included in the agenda packet.

37
38 Mr. Reischmann began his discussion with Sections 2.04, 2.06, and 4.03. He stated that there is nothing
39 "wrong" with these sections, rather the problem is with how they work together. He noted that a problem
40 arose with the change from a primary election followed by a general election to a system of a general
41 election followed by a runoff election. Because of this change, the new Council Members cannot take office
42 until after the date of the runoff election. Section 2.06 prohibits seated Council Members from enacting any
43 new policies or creating any new obligations following the general election but prior to the swearing in of the
44 newly elected members in mid-November, a period of nearly two months. Mr. Reischmann advised that staff
45 felt a "correction" was needed to remedy this issue.

46
47 Council Member Abraham questioned whether any other cities in the state were experiencing a similar
48 problem. Mr. Reischmann responded that it is not uncommon for a city to have a general election followed
49 by a runoff if needed. He said that the problem arises when taken with the prohibition against Council being

1 able to take any action during this interim period. He told Council Member Abraham that this prohibition in
2 Section 2.06 would likely be the “less common” provision. In response to a question from Council Member
3 Blair, Mr. Reischmann said that this issue could be remedied by either returning to a primary and general
4 election schedule or by striking the prohibition in Section 2.06.

5
6 Council Member Saylor spoke in support of returning to a primary/general election system.

7
8 Mr. Reischmann said that staff could draft an ordinance to make any change that Council desires.

9
10 Vice Mayor Crippen questioned whether the provision was originally included in response to a problem. Mr.
11 Reischmann responded that the clause has been in the charter since before he became City Attorney. He said
12 that it functions to preserve the status quo until the new Council is sworn in and was meant to cover a very
13 short period of time. He advised that the simplest solution to the problem would be to return to a
14 primary/general election system.

15
16 Council Member Blair suggested that it would be better at this point to decide if Council wants to deal with
17 the changes to the charter or whether they wish to appoint a charter review committee.

18
19 Council Member Wright pointed out that the current system allows the City to avoid the cost of a second
20 election in certain situations. He questioned whether the provision in 2.06 could be implemented on an “as
21 needed” basis as opposed to being a charter requirement. Mr. Reischmann responded that would be the
22 equivalent of “asking a lame duck Council to police itself” and would, therefore, probably not be a good
23 solution. Ms. Croteau noted that if the prohibition were removed, the newly seated Council could take
24 measures to repeal an unwanted action taken by the previous Council. Mr. Reischmann noted that this would
25 apply in cases involving repealing an ordinance or resolution, however, it would not work in the case of a
26 contract executed by the previous Council.

27
28 Mr. Reischmann reiterated that staff has only reviewed technical aspects of the charter that have proved to be
29 problematic.

30
31 Council Member Pupello suggested that Council review staff’s concerns regarding these technical issues and
32 determine whether they should be addressed. From there, staff could be directed to provide potential
33 solutions to the list of issues. Council could then review those suggestions and provide direction for changes.
34 If Council does not feel ready to make changes at that point, a committee could be appointed to discuss it
35 further and make recommendations. Council Member Pupello stated his opinion that there was not a
36 “mandate” from the people to review the charter at this time. He noted further that a charter review has not
37 surfaced as one of Council’s “strategic concerns” and was not expressed by the citizens. Council Member
38 Pupello stated, “I do recognize that there are some clerical, mechanical, concerns that we should address.”
39 He reiterated that staff could be tasked with providing potential solutions to these issues. He noted that if
40 Council felt at some point a review committee was needed it could be addressed then and stated, “I don’t
41 want to go all the way down that road and spend all this energy and effort for something that we probably
42 can handle ourselves.”

43
44 Council Member Blair stated, “I think you cut out the public when you do that.” He stated that in his district
45 he was hearing lots of people that want to see changes to the charter. Council Member Pupello responded
46 that he was not hearing that at all. Council Member Blair spoke in support of a committee stating, “I think
47 the more public participation we have the better off we are.”

48

1 Vice Mayor Crippen concurred with Council Member Pupello. He said that he did not feel that addressing
2 the charter changes in the manner suggested by Council Member Pupello would preclude public input. He
3 noted that there is opportunity for those members of the public present at any meeting to provide their input.
4

5 Council Member Abraham said that upon reviewing Ordinance No. 360 which presented the last charter
6 changes, it was very clear to him that a comprehensive review of all phases of city government was
7 conducted. He concurred with Council Member Pupello that a citizen review committee is not needed at this
8 time. He said that his constituents would question the need for another review at this time.
9

10 Council Member Saylor asked that Mr. Reischmann continue with his section-by-section review. Council
11 Member Pupello concurred. He suggested that following the review, Council could direct staff to bring back
12 potential solutions which Council can then decide upon.
13

14 Mr. Reischmann next addressed the language in Section 2.06 which allows any two members of the Council
15 to call a special meeting. He advised that this section has the potential to create sunshine violations. He
16 suggested a possible remedy of including language that says “any two Council Members.....consistent with
17 state law may call a special meeting....”.
18

19 Mr. Reischmann discussed Section 3.01 (B)(d) which requires that the City Manager attend all Council
20 meetings. Ms. Croteau suggested changing the language regarding this requirement from “shall” to
21 “should”. The current language could be construed to mean that the City Manager is not ever allowed to be
22 absent from a meeting. Council Member Blair concurred that a change is needed and suggested that it also
23 require the Manager to designate someone to fill in during an absence.
24

25 Mr. Reischmann noted that Section 3.01 (C) requires authorization by resolution for the City Attorney to
26 represent the City in all legal proceedings. He explained that although a resolution is sometimes adopted
27 prior to entering into legal action, it is not always the case. He emphasized that this is simply a technical
28 issue, noting that he handles many minor legal matters such as code enforcement liens or foreclosures
29 without formal action by Council. He said that these are more matters of “standard operating procedure.”
30

31 Ms. Croteau also noted that Item (k) under City Manager is not current practice. The City Clerk’s office, not
32 the City Manager provides staff support for the Mayor and Council Members.
33

34 Debbie Renner, City Clerk, recalled that a couple of years ago, most other cities in the County revised their
35 charters to hold elections only in even years, however, the Council at that time wished to retain odd-year
36 elections. She asked that since the charter is being reviewed again, Council may wish to revisit this decision.
37 She noted that having odd-year elections is much less expensive when the City shares the expense with other
38 jurisdictions holding elections. Ms. Renner noted that if Council decided to change to even-year elections, it
39 would be necessary to adjust Council Member’s terms to cycle to the even years. She advised that the City
40 of DeLand extended everyone’s term by one year. Mr. Reischmann noted that the City of Palm Coast just
41 changed to even-year elections. He cited the perception of a higher voter turnout as an additional reason for
42 the change. He said that Palm Coast also added one year to each Council Member’s term in order to
43 transition to the new election cycle.
44

45 Ms. Renner addressed Section 4.04 noting that often there is not enough time to adopt a resolution to certify
46 the ballot as the Supervisor wants to be informed at the close of qualifying so ballots can be ordered.
47

48 Mr. Reischmann noted several other instances where the language of “primary” and “general” election or
49 “regular” or “runoff” are used and reiterated the importance of consistency throughout the charter.

1 Ms. Croteau discussed Section 5.01, noting several issues which she suggested should not be formalized by
2 ordinance. As examples, she cited items 2, 3, 5, and 8 of Section 5.01, the requirements to adopt the budget,
3 set the millage, amend an administrative code, grant or renew a franchise, or authorize the conveyance of
4 land. Ms. Croteau discussed her reasons for this recommendation, chiefly, that these acts do not fit within
5 the definition of an ordinance because they are either not of a permanent nature and are of limited scope.
6

7 Council Member Wright questioned whether the current requirement in Section 5.01 would account for a
8 large code of ordinances. Mr. Reischmann responded that the items mentioned in 2, 3, 5, and 8 are not
9 codified.
10

11 Ms. Croteau addressed Section 5.07 and stated that it does not reflect current practice. Staff actually prepares
12 the RFP for auditor services and oversees the responses. Council's role is to listen to the presentations and
13 make a decision as to who will be chosen to perform the audit. She also took objection with the provision
14 that if the State makes an audit, the City can use it to fulfill the audit requirement. She said that the City
15 must produce its CAFR every year. She said that the language of the previous charter should not have been
16 changed regarding this section.
17

18 Council Member Wright noted that when an auditor begins an audit, they do have the discretion to accept
19 work which has been performed by another source without duplicating it.
20

21 Mr. Reischmann suggested that many areas of Article VII. are governed by statutory requirements and could
22 be modified by referring to the Florida Statutes.
23

24 Ms. Croteau discussed the requirements of Section 7.06 and noted that the City has grown and it is no longer
25 possible to issue a budget report for the month by the end of the following month as required in the Charter.
26

27 Council Member Saylor noted Section 7.10 as the final area identified for review. Ms. Croteau said that the
28 language in this section is confusing and could be clarified.
29

30 Council Member Wright stated that all of the changes suggested by staff make sense to him.
31

32 Ms. Croteau stated that even if nothing else is addressed, the issue in Section 2.06 needs to be dealt with.
33

34 Mr. Reischmann discussed the charter amendment process stating that an ordinance will be drafted listing the
35 items to be placed before the voters. It would then be placed on a ballot at the next regular election or at a
36 special election. The next issue Council would have to decide is whether to submit the changes as one
37 question which would result in an "all or nothing" outcome, or to draft several questions on the various
38 issues proposed. He said that normally that decision is based on how many changes are being proposed.
39

40 Council Member Blair said that he would like a discussion on districts. He said that he has heard from a lot
41 of people that they are not happy with the districts. He stated, "That's why I think we would be well-served
42 by having a charter review committee." Council Member Blair said that he was satisfied with everything
43 presented tonight, but that he felt there are other things to be looked at for consideration later or by a review
44 committee.
45

46 Council Member Saylor said that a district system is the democratic way of operating at all levels of
47 government. He felt that it is important for people to have a representative they can contact when they have
48 issues. Mr. Saylor suggested that districts represent "the American way of life." He said that the only one he
49 has heard speak against districts is Council Member Blair.

1 Council Member Wright acknowledged that he, also, ran unopposed. He noted that, initially he had an
2 opponent, however, the person changed their mind. He said that running in a district made it “doable” for
3 him. Council Member Wright said that he works full time and while dealing with a district was manageable,
4 a city-wide campaign would not have been so. He suggested that many people would feel “overwhelmed” if
5 they had to work a campaign city-wide.
6

7 Vice Mayor Crippen said that between the years 2000 and 2007, there were nine Council Members who
8 entered office unopposed. In 2009, all offices were contested, while in 2011 two were unopposed. He said
9 that he appreciates the district process as it is good to have representation for individual community areas.
10

11 Bill O’Connor, 2854 Doe Run Trail, came forward and said that if Council would like some signatures of
12 people who do not like districts, he could provide 500 within 30 days. He stated, “So you’re not listening to
13 the people out there.” Mr. O’Connor questioned why John Knox Village should not have a say in everything
14 that happens in the City. He stated, “Probably because they are the largest bloc, voting blocs in the City.
15 That scares people. It shouldn’t. They should have the same say-so as anybody else on any other decision.”
16 Mr. O’Connor noted that he lives in Fawn Ridge, a development with 100 homes and stated, “Why shouldn’t
17 I get to vote on every member that’s running my City?” Mr. O’Connor recalled that the entire reason for
18 the last charter review was to have less people running uncontested. He stated, “It didn’t work.” Mr.
19 O’Connor maintained that Orange City’s population does not warrant having districts. He noted that in
20 District 1 where he lives there is a lot of multi-family residential which results in a higher transient
21 population who generally are less likely to vote.
22

23 Henry Durica, 1310 E. Lansdowne, came forward and stated, “If a retirement community can get 500
24 signatures...if a church can get 500 signatures...., this is where the districts are not going to be relevant.” He
25 said that the districts ensure a Council of officials from different areas of town and not from “a controlled
26 group.” Mr. Durica noted that in 2009 when the Charter was adopted, no one ran unopposed. Prior to that
27 there were “quite a few.” He noted that the charter has not even been in effect for two years and stated, “let’s
28 give it a chance.”
29

30 Mr. Reischmann noted that in addition to voting by districts and at-large voting, there is also a third option
31 whereby candidates run for a district, but voting takes place city-wide for each seat. The mayor suggested
32 that these are options that a charter review committee may want to take up.
33

34 Council Member Blair stated his belief that the City should have a five-member Council rather than seven.
35

36 Council Member Pupello stated, “Every decision I make is city-wide.” He said that he has never made a
37 decision on the dais that didn’t impact the entire city. He said that doesn’t constitute an argument for not
38 having districts. Council Member Pupello stated, “I am not, nor have I seen, anyone who is a district
39 representative act as if their district is alone in this City.” He maintained that the current system affords more
40 representation and has allowed for more diversity on the Council. He noted that in the past, the same body of
41 representatives was elected year after year. Council Member Pupello said that he would never have been on
42 the Council if it were not for districts. He said that he felt he has done a good job on Council and that he is
43 proud of his work. He said that he has heard nothing from the public about returning to an at-large system.
44 Council Member Pupello told Mr. Durica that he disagreed with his view. He said that it is important to him
45 to address the “technical concerns” in the charter and characterized the move to undertake a comprehensive
46 review of the charter as “going sideways.” He noted that this issue was addressed two years ago and stated,
47 “I’m not interested as a District 4 Representative of going backwards. I have not heard from other than this
48 evening, two individuals, that we need to address districts.”
49

1 Jeff Allebach, 482 W. Holly Drive, came forward and observed that tonight's discussion is whether or not
2 Council should appoint a committee to review the charter or to allow staff to bring forward the needed
3 changes. Mr. Allebach suggested that either the Council or the citizens should be coming up with solutions
4 to issues with the charter, not just leaving it to staff. Referencing the previously discussed issue of the period
5 of time between the election and the swearing in of newly elected Council Members, Mr. Allebach noted that
6 many jurisdictions don't swear in their newly electeds until January following the November election. He
7 questioned why this wasn't an issue for them. Mr. Allebach suggested that Council is "giving up their
8 power" by allowing staff to make all the decisions. He stated, "If you want to give up your power, let's just
9 streamline Orange City and get rid of seven Council Members and we'll have the Attorney, the Manager, and
10 the Clerk just run everything." He expressed his strong support for a committee and said that it would be
11 okay for them to have a limited scope for the review.

12
13 Council Member Abraham stated, "I'm glad Jeff Allebach was allowed to speak."

14
15 Council Member Wright stated that the issues mentioned thus far seem to be "administrative in nature" to
16 him and that they make sense to him. He noted that "an ordinance is to implement a law, whereas, a
17 resolution is to make a decision." Ms. Croteau concurred and remarked that, in no way, has staff asked
18 Council to give up voting on any item. Council Member Wright expressed his belief that Council should
19 make the decision about issues such as elections. He said that he felt the charter is "very well written" and
20 commended the previous committee for their work.

21
22 Council Member Saylor said that he did not feel the charter was being rewritten by staff. He noted that any
23 changes to the charter would appear on the ballot and stated, "...and the voters are going to be a charter
24 review committee when it's on the ballot."

25
26 **Council Member Blair moved to appoint a charter review committee,**
27 **seconded by Mayor Laputka who passed the gavel to the Vice Mayor.**
28 **Motion failed by 2/5 roll call vote with Council Members Wright, Pupello,**
29 **Saylor, and Abraham and Vice Mayor Crippen voting "no."**

30
31 Mr. Reischmann stated that it would be "inappropriate" for staff to make the decisions regarding issues such
32 as even vs. odd-year elections.

33
34 Council Member Pupello noted that if Council wishes to hold even-year elections, it should be a separate
35 ballot question because it would necessitate extending everyone's term for one year.

36
37 Council Member Wright clarified that while he does not oppose the idea of a charter review committee, he
38 just felt that it would be good for staff to provide some options for discussion by either Council or a
39 committee.

40
41 **Council Member Wright moved that staff provide options regarding the**
42 **charter for Council's consideration and possibly for the consideration of a**
43 **committee. Motion died for lack of a second.**

44
45 Council Member Saylor said that he would like to consider the following options: a general/primary election
46 scheme and elections in even numbered years. He suggested that the rest of the changes could be grouped
47 together. Council Member Wright concurred. Mayor Laputka stated, "So you'd like to see this move
48 forward into another meeting with some more clarification from staff?" Council Member Saylor stated,
49 "Yes." Vice Mayor Crippen concurred.

1 Mayor Laputka stated that Council is directing that this issue be moved forward until a future date and will
2 be brought back with more clarification. Ms. Croteau said that staff could bring back options on the two
3 larger issues, even year elections and primary vs. general. Regarding the “housekeeping” issues, staff will
4 bring back recommendations for changes.

5
6 Council Member Blair stated, “I’d like to clarify for the record that I oppose this.”

7
8 In response to a question from Council Member Wright, Mr. Reischmann stated his understanding that the
9 charter officers were directed to bring back suggestions on three areas of the charter. The first is Section
10 2.06 and 4.03; the second being moving elections to even years; and finally, addressing the “housekeeping
11 matters” in the charter.

12
13 In response to a question from Council Member Blair, Mr. Reischmann clarified that staff would return with
14 potential options for issues identified by the Council and as directed by Council.

15
16 **9. NEW BUSINESS:**

17
18 Council Member Blair asked if staff was going to prepare an item to recognize the West Volusia Titans
19 football team for winning the AAU national championship. Ms. Croteau responded in the affirmative.

20
21 **10. REPORTS:**

22
23 **A. City Manager**

24
25 Ms. Croteau announced that the State of the City report would be presented at the second meeting in
26 February. She said that City offices would be closed January 16th in observance of Martin Luther King day.
27 The Manatee Festival will be held on January 28th and 29th. The Movie in the Park for February 3rd will be
28 “The Smurfs.” There are 340 people who “like” the City on Facebook. She said that one does not have to be
29 a member of Facebook to view the City’s page. Ms. Croteau noted that the City received many positive
30 comments about the holiday decorations this year. She thanked John Davis, James Moltz and Danielle Lung
31 for their hard work during the holiday season. Vice Mayor Crippen advised that he received a compliment
32 about the City’s decorations at a meeting he attended yesterday. The first “Food Truck Expo” which was
33 scheduled for February 5th has been postponed since that date is also Super Bowl Sunday. The City will
34 begin with the Food Trucks on March 4th in the Lowes parking lot from 5-8 p.m.

35
36 Ms. Croteau announced that Volusia County is giving the City land at the corner of 17-92 and Saxon near the
37 Terrace Hill property. The land will be used for a Fire Station. They are also requesting that the City take
38 ownership of Miller pond. She said that she would bring cost estimates later regarding maintenance of the
39 pond. Ms. Croteau said that staff requested taking ownership of the Terrace Hills pond first in order to get
40 things moving on the Fire Station. Mill Lake will be next.

41
42 **B. Mayor/City Council**

43
44 Vice Mayor Crippen reported on the River of Lake Heritage Corridor group meeting. There was no quorum
45 at the meeting. DeLand will be having their Wildflower Festival on March 24th. Nine thousand people
46 attended the festival last year. Regarding trails updates, County Council Member Andy Kelly mentioned the
47 French Avenue trail bridge needs. Sanford and Seminole County are now part of the Corridor group. The
48 Vice Mayor showed a travel guide which has been printed and said that he will make copies available in City

1 Hall. He said that Blue Springs is included. Vice Mayor Crippen said that he will be attending the TPO
2 Retreat meeting on January 20th for Council Member Saylor.

3
4 Mayor Laputka stated that the annual social studies fair is being held at River Springs Middle School on
5 January 25th and Council Members are invited to act as judges at the fair. The event begins at 9:00 a.m., but
6 projects can be judged until 3:00 p.m. The City Manager is also invited to participate. The Mayor advised
7 that he had participated in a peer review at the Orange City hospital.

8
9 **C. City Clerk**

10 The City Clerk had nothing further to report.

11
12
13 **D. City Attorney**

14 No further report.

15
16 **11. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** (See Consent Agenda)

17
18
19 **12. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

20
21 Council Member Blair said that he was disappointed that the Council did not take steps to convene a charter
22 review committee tonight.

23
24 Council Member Saylor commended staff for their hard work over the holidays. He stated that he has heard
25 “nothing but great things” about the decorations. He noted other activities in the City which have opened
26 recently such as the new playground equipment at Valentine Park and the dog park. Council Member Saylor
27 said that he sees people at the dog park every time he drives by. Mr. Saylor also mentioned letters received
28 by Council from the County Chairman about the homeless. He expressed his concern for the homeless
29 families in the area.

30
31 Council Member Pupello said that he appreciated everyone who came out to the meeting tonight and that he
32 appreciates their opinions. He urged them to continue to be active. Council Member Pupello said that he
33 looks forward to the continuing discussions on the charter. He expressed his confidence that the review will
34 “solve some concerns.” He commended staff for all of their hard work recently, noting that it generated a lot
35 of good press for the City. Council Member Pupello noted that even with the differences of opinion among
36 the Council, they take the responsibility “seriously and thoughtfully.” He stated that he was looking forward
37 to “achieving many more great things with this Council and for our citizens.”

38
39 Council Member Wright stated that there were some “pretty good discussions” tonight and even though
40 Council didn’t always agree with each other, “civility reigned”. He said that impresses him and he hopes it
41 will continue.

42
43 Council Member Abraham said that he will be attending two community events this month: the “Dream
44 Fest” in DeLand which is being held in conjunction with Black History Month. He said that he also received
45 Chairman Bruno’s letter and said that he would be attending the meeting at Stetson University on January
46 21st. Council Member Abraham said that there would be a lot of discussion regarding what Volusia County
47 is doing for homeless families.

48

1 Vice Mayor Crippen echoed Council Member Pupello’s comments. He said that, reflecting on the new year
2 so far, he is extremely proud to see the development of a new Dollar General store, the continuation of
3 annexations into the City, and that he applauds the wonderful job done by City staff through the holiday
4 season.

5
6 Mayor Laputka said that during the peer review at the hospital, the City’s architectural standards were
7 brought up, specifically the Kohl’s plaza. Comments were very complimentary.

8
9 **13. ADJOURN**

10
11 There being no further business, Mayor Laputka adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

12
13 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

APPROVED:

14
15 _____
16 Deborah J. Renner, CMC
17 City Clerk

Date

18