# City Commission
# Regular Meeting Minutes

**July 23, 2025 at 3:30 PM**

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

**Present**

Mayor Sheila DeCiccio, Commissioners Marty Sullivan, Craig Russell, Kris Cruzada and Warren Lindsey; City Manager Randy Knight; City Attorneys Kurt Ardaman and Dan Langley, and City Clerk Rene Cranis.

## 1. Meeting Called to Order

Mayor DeCiccio called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

## 2. Invocation - Wes Hamil, Director of Finance

## 3. Pledge of Allegiance

## 4. Approval of Agenda

**Motion made by Commissioner Russell to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Cruzada. The motion carried unanimously by a 5-0 vote.**

## 5. Mayor's Report

## 6. Citizen Budget Comments

Hattie Bryant, 1240 S. Pennsylvania, opposed the proposed increase in utility rates, suggested eliminating the Department of Natural Resources and Sustainability and thanked Mr. Knight for a budget at the same millage rate.

## 7. City Manager's Report

## 8. City Attorney's Report

## 9. Non-Action Items

## 10. Public Comments | Heard after Item 12b

Jonathan Blount, founder of Essence magazine, expressed his disappointment in the quality of the MLK statute at MLK Park.

## 11. Consent Agenda

a. Approve the minutes of the regular meeting, July 9, 2025
b. Approve the minutes of the work session, July 10, 2025
c. Approve the following formal solicitations:

d. Approve the following piggyback contracts:
    1. Weedoo Greenboats, Inc. - GSA #47QMCA20D0042 - Equipment & Supplies Purchasing; For the repair and maintenance of existing equipment to support City operations. Contract Term: Through July 16, 2030; Not to Exceed: $125,000
    2. Vermont Systems - Seminole County #RFP-602809-17BJC - Parks & Rec Division Business Management Software; Requesting additional funds for the software solution used by the Parks & Recreation Department to manage business operations and services. Contract Term: Through September 30, 2029; Not to Exceed: $550,000
    3. Carr & Collier, Inc. - Seminole County #CC-3563-21/RTB - Minor Construction Projects Less Than $2M; For contracted services to support the Public Works Department staff and City operations. Contract Term: Through August 9, 2026; Not to Exceed: $400,000
    4. Ovation Construction Company, LLC - Sourcewell #FL-R3-GC-092524-OCC - General Contractor; For contracted services on an as-needed basis during the term of the agreement to assist staff and support City operations. Contract Term: Through December 10, 2026; Not to Exceed: $500,000

e. Approve the following contracts:
    1. RFQ7-22 - Patel, Greene & Associates, LLC - Transportation Planning & Engineering Services; For professional consulting services to support City staff with active and potential future projects. Contract Term: Through July 7, 2026
    2. RFQ7-24 - L&S Diversified - Professional Survey Consulting Services; For professional consulting services to support City staff with active and potential future projects. Contract Term: Through May 23, 2026

f. Approve request to waive procurement process:
    1. Mission Critical Solutions (MCS), an authorized contractor for Lighting Solutions - MLK Jr. Park Basketball & Pickleball Court Lights Installation; Not to Exceed: $84,100

g. FY25 Budget Amendments

h. Commission acceptance of Water & Wastewater Utility Strategic Plan

i. City Commission approval of the Electric Utility Strategic Plan.

**Motion made by Commissioner Lindsey to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Russell. The motion carried unanimously by a 5-0 vote.**

## 12. Action Items Requiring Discussion

a. Seven Oaks Park Sculpture Installation Proposal from Public Art Advisory Board

Assistant Director of Communications Craig O'Neil presented the Public Art Advisory Board's (PAAB) accomplishments. Senior Advisor of Arts and Culture Anda Ariail reviewed the proposal for periodically rotating three sculptures in Seven Oaks Park and two permanent sculptures and associated costs. Public Art Advisory Board Vice-Chair Charles Hamilton spoke about the benefits of arts and culture to the local economy.

Discussion followed on the annual dedicated funding of 10% of the growth of general fund reserves, recurring costs and the need for interactive pieces for children.

Peggy Bohl, PAAB member, thanked Mayor DeCiccio for appointing Carolyn Fennell to the board and thanked Mr. O'Neil and Ms. Ariail for their work.

Gigi Papa, 1440 Hibiscus Avenue, supported interactive art and suggested guidelines for selection of art.

**Motion made by Commissioner Russell to approve as presented, seconded by Commissioner Cruzada. The motion carried unanimously by a 5-0 vote.**

b. Budget Discussion & Set Tentative Millage Rate

Mr. Knight stated the proposed operating millage is unchanged from last year at 4.0923 mills and the debt service is slightly lower at 0.2062 mills for the Library and Events Center bonds. The Commission must adopt a tentative millage rate which cannot be increased once approved without notification to all property owners.

Commissioner Lindsey supported retaining the current millage rate, particularly to maintain the current level of service; however, the commission should consider reducing the millage rate in the future if property values increase and generate higher property tax revenue.

Commissioner Cruzada stated higher property values have resulted in additional revenue without increasing the millage rate for the previous 17 years and helps to provide an excellent level of service and retain dedicated employees.

Mayor DeCiccio agreed with Commissioners Lindsey and Cruzada.

Commissioner Russell supported a .5 mill increase to fund future unfunded projects and retain the level of service for future residents.

Commissioner Sullivan proposed a .25 mill increase to meet future needs due to the unknown and potential reduction in state revenue. The rate could be reduced at the time of budget adoption in August. He said the impact on property taxes on a house valued at $600k is approximately $13/month.

Discussion was held on the impact of increased millage rate on residents, particularly those on a fixed income, and what additional revenue would fund. It was noted the reserve fund goal is 30% of the budget, which is currently 2-3% below the goal, but while percentage decreases, the dollar amount increases due to higher budget amounts.

Commissioner Russell suggested a survey of property owners about increasing the millage rate.

The following spoke against an increased millage rate and supported reduced spending:

Denise Gillespie, 1608 Hibiscus Avenue
Hattie Bryant, 1240 S. Pennsylvania Avenue
Mark Gillespie, 1608 Hibiscus Avenue
Gigi Papa, 1440 Hibiscus Avenue

Charles Williams, 2021 Temple Drive, spoke in favor of an increase due to unknown state or federal funding

**Motion made by Commissioner Lindsey to maintain the current operating millage rate of 4.0923 and the debt service millage rate of 0.2602, seconded by Commissioner Cruzada. The motion carried by a 3-2 vote. Commissioners Sullivan and Russell voted no.**

c. Discussion of Orange County Redistricting

Mr. Knight advised that Orange County Commission district boundaries are needed due to the charter amendment that increased the number of county commissioners from six to eight. He reviewed the impact on future elections and Winter Park. He presented his recommendation for the options that combine Winter Park with neighboring areas and municipalities with similar/shared interests. He will present the commission's recommendation to the redistricting committee on July 30th.

Discussion was held on the options submitted by members of the redistricting committee. Mayor DeCiccio stressed the importance of the commission's attendance at the redistricting meeting to present the city's position. Consensus was to prioritize support for Tom Callan's Map 1, followed by Joe Kilsheimer's Map 6 David Washington's Map 2.

Hattie Bryant, 1240 S. Pennsylvania, supported Mr. Washington's Map 2.

d. Seven Oaks Park Activation RFP

Mr. Knight said this is in response to the commission's consensus to issue an RFP. Staff have determined the guidelines but would prefer the full support of the commission to activate the park in this manner before proceeding due to the cost incurred by the city and by potential respondents.

Commissioner Lindsey supported deferring this for a year to determine the usage of the park.

Commissioner Cruzada supported delaying the RFP to determine whether other efforts, i.e., art sculptures, would activate the park in a more organic way and including in the development of the Parks Master Plan.

Commissioner Russell questioned the benefit of waiting and supported the RFP.

Commissioner Sullivan said while he would prefer the park to be activated in some manner, he is concerned about issuing an RFP and suggesting developing Incentivizes for existing businesses to help to activate the park.

Mr. Knight presented the alternative to release a Request for Interest (RFI), which is less formal with fewer requirements than an RFP. Plans would be further developed following commission approval to move forward.

**Motion made by Commissioner Russell to move forward with issuing a Request for Interest, seconded by Mayor DeCiccio.**

Peggy Bohl, 2333 Summerfield Road, supported an RFI.

David Varet, 850 E. Lake Sue, supported an RFP as development would create a revenue source.

Charles Williams, 2021 Temple Drive, suggested creating more shade by installing canvas canopies or water misters for the comfort of park visitors.

Gigi Papa, 1440 Hibiscus Avenue, supported giving the park an opportunity to flourish and opposed concrete pads in the park.

Following a brief discussion on the RFI process, **the motion carried unanimously by a 5-0 vote.**

## 13. Public Hearings: Quasi-Judicial Matters

## 14. Public Hearings: Non-Quasi-Judicial Matters

a. ORDINANCE 3350-25 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WINTER PARK, FLORIDA, IMPLEMENTING REASONABLE TIME, PLACE, AND MANNER RESTRICTIONS ON ORGANIZED PROTESTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS NEAR THE WINTER PARK LIBRARY AND EVENTS CENTER AND PROHIBITING INTENTIONAL ACTS CAUSING DISRUPTIONS TO LIBRARY OPERATIONS OR EVENTS OCCURING AT THE WINTER PARK LIBRARY AND EVENTS CENTER CAMPUS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (2nd Reading)

Attorney Dan Langley read the ordinance by title.

Mayor DeCiccio said she has reviewed case law which she feels gives the city the ability to enact this ordinance. It does not limit or silence voices or restrict content but applies only to the disruption of private or city events or library use.

Commissioner Sullivan said it is important to determine the reason for this ordinance and suggested a permitting process rather than creating a law where a city or library official can declare an activity unlawful based on their observation. He feels this is the wrong response to what has been seen as a problem.

Commissioner Russell said he feels the ordinance is about managing a space with reasonable boundaries, not about silencing voices.

Commissioner Cruzada said the city is not trying to regulate any type of speech, just in an area that is rented. It is about a level of civility and quiet enjoyment of space.

Commissioner Lindsey strongly opposed the ordinance as it is unconstitutional and feels there is no history of incidents to justify the ordinance and symbolically does not reflect the image of Winter Park.

The following spoke against the ordinance:

Jane Hursh, on behalf of League of Women Voters of Orange County.
Cheryl Malone, 2400 Temple Drive
David Varet, 850 E. Lake Sue

Gigi Papa, 1440 Hibiscus Avenue
John Papa, Sr., 1440 Hibiscus Avenue
John Papa, Jr., 1440 Hibiscus Avenue
Charles Williams, 2021 Temple Drive
Denise Gillespie, 1608 Hibiscus Avenue

Attorney Langley suggested amending Section 2(a) striking "that has not been expressly authorized by the operator of Winter Park Library or authorized by the City" and adding a new sentence "This subsection shall not apply to persons renting the Events Center or to activities authorized by the operator of Winter Park Library." to clarify the city is not intending to create a permit process for the city to select speakers.

**Motion to adopt Ordinance 3350-25 as amended by the City Attorney, seconded by Mayor DeCiccio. Upon a roll call vote, Commissioners Russell and Cruzada and Mayor DeCiccio voted yes, and Commissioners Sullivan and Lindsey voted no. The motion carried by a 3-2 vote.**

b. RESOLUTION 2303-25 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WINTER PARK, FLORIDA, DESIGNATING THE CITY MANAGER AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO APPROVE PLATS AND REPLATS PURSUANT TO SECTION 177.071, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Attorney Ardaman read the resolution by title. Mr. Knight reviewed the basis for this change due to recent legislation.

Commissioner Lindsey suggested adding language that would provide for subsequent review and approval by the Commission. Mr. Ardaman opined that final by the Commission is inconsistent with statute.

Assistant Director of Planning and Zoning John Harbilas advised that the commission will consider larger projects as part of the conditional use process without requiring projects come back for final plat or replat approval.

There were no public comments.

**Motion made by Commissioner Lindsey to adopt Resolution 2303-25, adding language to be consistent with Subparagraph 3 of the Statute to provide for Commission approval. After discussion, the motion failed for a lack of second.**

**Motion made by Commissioner Cruzada to adopt Resolution 2303-25, seconded by Mayor DeCiccio. Upon a roll call vote Commissioners Sullivan, Russell and Cruzada and Mayor DeCiccio voted yes and Commissioner Lindsey voted no. The motion carried by a 4-1 vote.**

## 15. Department Budget Presentations

a. Department Budget Presentations

Director of Natural Resources Gloria Eby and Director of Water and Wastewater Utilities David Zusi presented their department's FY26 proposed budgets.

## 16. City Commission Reports

Commissioner Russell
- Announced that school starts in 19 days.

Commissioner Cruzada
- Attended a concert at Blue Bamboo, which he feels is a great venue.

Commissioner Lindsey
- Commended staff's quick response and work to restore electric service which was lost due to a cut power line. Mayor DeCiccio echoed his comments.
- Distributed copies of a book, Happy Wife, which is a fictional psychological thriller in Winter Park.

## 17. Summary of Meeting Actions

- Approved the Consent Agenda.
- Approved sculpture installation at Seven Oaks Park.
- Adopted tentative millage rate at 4.0923 and debt service millage rate at .2062.
- Made recommendations on proposed Orange County redistricting.
- Approved the issuance of an RFI for the activation of Seven Oaks Park.
- Adopted Ordinance 3350-25 on second reading.
- Adopted Resolution 2303-25.
- Received budget presentations.

## 18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

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Mayor Sheila DeCiccio

ATTEST:

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City Clerk Rene Cranis