City Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes

September 10, 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; Assistant City Manager Michelle del Valle; City Attorney Kurt Ardaman and City Clerk Rene Cranis.

1. Meeting Called to Order

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

2. Invocation - Pastor Weaver Blondin, Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church

3. Pledge of Allegiance

A moment of silence was held in remembrance of September 11th.

4. Cultural Partner Presentation

a. Blue Bamboo Center for the Arts

Chris Cortez and Dr. Alvaro Gomez performed two musical pieces.

5. Approval of Agenda

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

6. Mayor's Report

a. Proclamation for "Star Spangled Banner Day"

Mayor DeCiccio read the proclamation for Star Spangled Banner Day, September 14, 2025, which was accepted by Paula White, president of the Major Francis L. Day Chapter of the United States Daughters of 1812.

Mayor DeCiccio reported the appointment of Katherine Johnson to the Utilities Advisory Board.

7. Citizen Budget Comments

Hattie Bryant, 1240 S. Pennsylvania Avenue, said she feels sustainability is no longer of interest and suggested eliminating the sustainability division and reallocating savings to other departments.

Gigi Papa, 1440 Hibiscus Avenue, agreed with Mrs. Bryant and spoke about community center operations and suggested looking at better ways to better manage resources.

8. City Manager's Report

a. Welcome - Mead Botanical Gardens, Inc. Excecutive Director, Ashley Fraebel

Tom McMacken, 1821 Shiloh Lane, Chairman of Mead Botanical Garden Board of Trustees, thanked the commission for their support and Department of Parks and Recreation for their partnership. He introduced new Executive Director Ashley Fraebel. who recognized Mead Gardens staff and spoke about the update of the strategic plan and thanked the city for its continued support.

Mr. Knight announced the Water and Wastewater Utility was awarded First Place for Best Tasting Drinking Water in Central Florida by the Florida section of the American Waterworks Association.

9. City Attorney's Report

The TDT grant award for the Winter Park Playhouse is on the Orange County Commission's agenda next Tuesday, with closing to follow within a week,

Mr. Knight requested a shade meeting for the Fire union negotiations. The meeting was scheduled for September 25th at 3:30 p.m. in lieu of the work session.

10. Non-Action Items

11. Public Comments |

Gigi Papa, 1440 Hibiscus Avenue, thanked those that signed the petition continuing the name of Christmas on Park to keep the traditions of Christmas in Winter Park. She spoke about the recent college campus shooting in Utah. Pastor Blondin led a prayer for the victim and his family. Mayor DeCiccio noted that Winter on the Avenue describes many holiday events, including Christmas and Hannukah.

12. Consent Agenda

a. Approve the minutes of the regular meeting, August 27, 2025
b. Approve the minutes of the work session, August 28, 2025
c. Approve the following formal solicitations:
    1. RFQ10-25 - Parks and Recreation Master Plan; Authorization for Procurement and City staff to enter into negotiations and award the top-ranked vendor based on the selection committee's recommendation: GAI Consultants.
d. Approve the following piggyback contracts:
    1. Meridian Rapid Defense Group LLC - GSA #47QSWA19D001F - Physical Access Control Systems; For contracted services to be utilized by the Police Department for vehicle threat mitigation. Contract Term Through November 18, 2028; Not to Exceed: $150,000
    2. Stryker - Sourcewell #041823-STY - EMS Equipment; For the purchases of EMS equipment and related products to support Fire Department operations. Contract Term: Through June 30, 2027; Not to Exceed: $750,000

e. Approve the following contracts:
    1. FY13-2 - DeYoung Law Firm, P.A. - Legal Services for the Winter Park Police Department; For contracted services to provide legal support to the Police Department. Contract Term: Through September 30, 2026; Not to Exceed: $89,000
    2. RFQ6-23 - Geosyntec Consultants - Professional Stormwater Management Engineering Services; Task Order for Phase 1 Final Design and Phase 2 for the Lake Mendsen Drainage Improvements Project; Amount: $221,377
    3. RFQ18-18 - Power Engineers, Inc. - Electric Underground Conversion Design; Request for additional funding to complete the remaining projects T, U, X, and V designs and services during the ongoing underground project; Not to Exceed: $200,000
f. Approve the final award recommendations:
    1. RFP5-25 - Design, Install, Configure & Maintain Audio Visual Systems; Following negotiations, Procurement and staff recommend awarding a contract to IM Solutions. Contract Term: 1-year initial term with four 1-year renewal options; Not to Exceed: $200,000
g. Approve the following request to waive the procurement process:
    1. Leidos Engineering, LLC - Cost of Service Study for the Electric Utility Department; Requesting to waive the formal procurement process and enter into a direct contract for a one-year term; Not to Exceed: $109,000
h. Approve the following purchase:
    1. Stuart C. Irby Company – Emergency purchase of cable and wire to support restoration management; necessary due to delays in lead time until the end of October. Amount: $104,000

Motion made by Commissioner Sullivan to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Russell. The motion carried unanimously by a 5-0 vote. There were no public comments.

13. Action Items Requiring Discussion

a. Approval of the Interlocal Agreement for Dispatching Services between the City of Winter Park and the City of Maitland. (Tabled from August 13, 2025).

Police Chief Tim Volkerson said this agreement will not affect the current level of service provided by the communications division for the Police and Fire Departments. He reviewed the terms of the agreement to assume dispatch responsibilities for Maitland Police Department, costs, reimbursement and benefits. He recommended approval with a modification to allow for a flexible start date so Maitland can provide advance notification to Apopka of its intent to terminate their existing agreement and to adjust the first payment based on the start date, approximately 120 days after notification.

Motion made by Mayor DeCiccio to approve the agreement with the modifications recommended by Chief Volkerson, seconded by Commissioner Russell. The motion carried unanimously by a 5-0 vote.

14. Millage Rate and Budget Public Hearing | 5:00 p.m. or soon thereafter

a. Ordinance - Adopting millage rates for FY 2026 budget (1st reading)
b. Ordinance - Adopting the FY 2026 budget (1st reading)

A simultaneous public hearing was held on the millage rate and budget ordinances. Director of Office of Management and Budget Peter Moore gave an overview of the budget. Mayor DeCiccio stated the proposed millage rate of 4.0923 remains the same but results in an increase in property tax revenue of 5.75% due to increased assessed property values. City Attorney Ardaman read the ordinances by title.

Mayor DeCiccio suggested a 7.5% increase in the non-fuel electric rate, rather than the proposed 3%, in order to complete undergrounding by 2030 as planned and to replace aging transformers. She opposed issuing bonds to cover the cost of undergrounding due to the high interest amount.

Commissioner Sullivan asked for an estimate on size of the bond issue with a 3% rate increase. Mr. Knight replied $35-40m and explained options. Staff are recommending a 7.5% non-fuel rate increase. However, the budget is presented with a 3% increase based on commission consensus at the budget work session.

Commissioner Russell noted different opinions of residents on rates, bond issues and undergrounding and supported a 7.5% increase to complete undergrounding and purchase transformers.

Commissioner Cruzada noted the areas still to be undergrounded and the minimal net effect on customers and supported a 7.5% rate increase to accomplish the undergrounding goal. He suggested revisiting this later after a cost analysis for underground completion. Mr. Knight noted that a cost-of-service study is underway and the bond issue and capital planning will be discussed by the Utilities Advisory Board.

Commissioner Lindsey supported keeping the increase at 3% and considering a rate increase after additional study. Discussion followed on the impacts of a higher rate increase and on the completion of undergrounding.

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Lindsey asked that discussion of the Heritage Trail study be placed on the next agenda. Agreed by consensus.

Motion made by Mayor DeCiccio to approve the millage rate ordinance on first reading, seconded by Commissioner Russell. Upon a roll call vote, Commissioners Sullivan, Russell, Cruzada and Lindsey and Mayor DeCiccio voted yes. Motion carried unanimously by a 5-0 vote.

Motion made by Mayor DeCiccio to amend the budget to increase the non-fuel component of the electric rate to 7.44%, seconded by Commissioner Russell. Upon a roll call vote, Commissioners Russell and Cruzada and Mayor DeCiccio voted yes. Commissioners Sullivan and Lindsey voted no. Motion carried by a 3-2 vote.

Motion made by Mayor DeCiccio to approve the budget ordinance as amended on first reading, seconded by Commissioner Sullivan. Upon a roll call vote, Commissioners Sullivan, Russell, Cruzada and Lindsey and Mayor DeCiccio voted yes. Motion carried unanimously by a 5-0 vote.

15. Public Hearings: Quasi-Judicial Matters

a. Resolution 2305-25 - Designating certain land within the boundaries of the Community Redevelopment Area as an Economic Enhancement District (for brownfield designation); designating the Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB) as the recommending body to the City Commission as the Economic Enhancement District Board; and authorizing notification to Florida Department of Environmental Protection of said designation.

Attorney Ardaman read the resolution by title. Assistant Director of Economic Development/CRA Kyle Dudgeon gave a presentation on designation of Economic Enhancement (Brownfield) Districts within the CRA, benefits and requirements. Following comments about the negative connotation of the brownfield designation and a suggestion to change it to greenfield, City Attorney Brandon Pownall, advised that there is no requirement to name it a brownfield designation. There were no public comments.

Motion made by Commissioner Lindsey to adopt Resolution 2305-25, amending "brownfield" to "greenfield", retaining statutory references to brownfield, seconded by Mayor DeCiccio. Upon a roll call vote, Commissioners Sullivan, Russell, Cruzada and Lindsey and Mayor DeCiccio voted yes. The motion carried unanimously by a 5-0 vote.

16. Public Hearings: Non-Quasi-Judicial Matters

a. Ordinance amending Chapter 22 "Buildings and Building Regulations" to implement amendments to Florida Statute 553.899 related to milestone inspections and repairs; Providing for enforcement through the Code Compliance Board (1st Reading)

Attorney Ardaman read the ordinance by title. Director of Building and Permitting Services Gary Hiatt advised this ordinance is mandated by State Statute and responded to questions. There were no public comments.

Motion made by Commissioner Sullivan to approve the ordinance on first reading, seconded by Commissioner Cruzada. Upon a roll call vote, Commissioners Sullivan, Russell, Cruzada and Lindsey and Mayor DeCiccio voted yes. The motion carried unanimously by a 5-0 vote.

A recess was held from 4:42 to 4:53 p.m.

17. City Commission Reports

Commissioner Sullivan –

- Spoke about legislation that allows Floridians to openly carry guns and reminded everyone to be cautious and safe.

Commissioner Russell

- Thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for expanding the tutoring program at the community center.
- E-bike and scooter safety videos will be released in October.
- Thanked the Public Works staff for their quick response to clear the storm drains at Perth and Lochberry.

Commissioner Lindsey-

- Thanked the Water and Wastewater Utilities staff for their work to provide clean water.
  Winter Park resident Anne Hicks Murrah was recognized by the Orlando Sentinel for her philanthropic contributions.
- Asked that Betsy Gardner, President/CEO of the Chamber of Commerce be invited to the next meeting to report on upcoming activities. Agreed by consensus.

Mayor DeCiccio –

- Thanked Commissioner Russell for the safety videos.
- Asked staff to investigate flooding problems near the Alabama.

18. Summary of Meeting Actions

- Presented Proclamation for Star Spangled Banner Day.
- Katherine Johnson was appointed to the Utilities Advisory Board.
- Welcome new Executive Director of Mead Gardens, Ashley Fraebel.
- City received award for best drinking water in Central Florida.
- Received update on County approval process for the TDT grant.
- Scheduled a shade meeting for September 25th at 3:30.
- Approved the consent agenda.
- Approved the interlocal agreement with Maitland with modifications.
- Approved the millage rate ordinance.
- Approved the FY 26 budget, amending the non-fuel rate increase to 7.44%.
- Approved the Resolution designated economic development (greenfield) district.
- Approved ordinance amending building regulation regarding milestone inspections.
- Invite Chamber of Commerce to next meeting to report on upcoming events.
- Add discussion Heritage Trail on the next agenda as an action item.

19. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

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Mayor Sheila DeCiccio

ATTEST:

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City Clerk Rene Cranis