



City Commission Work Session Minutes

May 14, 2026 at 3:30 PM

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

Present

Mayor Sheila DeCiccio, Commissioners Elizabeth Ingram, Craig Russell, Kris Cruzada and Warren Lindsey; City Manager Randy Knight; Assistant City Manager Michelle del Valle; and Deputy City Clerk Kim Breland.

Also Present

Director of Natural Resources Gloria Eby and Lee Hale of Hale Innovation.

1. Meeting Called to Order

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

2. Discussion Item (s)

a. Winter Park Grant Master Plan

Director of Natural Resources Gloria Eby spoke about the city's efforts to centralize its grant process and strengthen coordination across departments to increase funding opportunities and support long-term priorities. The centralized structure has improved collaboration, streamlined the grant process, reduced departmental workload, and enabled the city to pursue larger, more competitive funding opportunities tied to CIP projects and other city initiatives. She introduced the city's new Environmental Specialist Grant Manager Joe Smirti and emphasized the importance of a dedicated source to manage grants. She reviewed completed and pending grant pursuits related to stormwater, wastewater, resiliency, and water quality projects, noting approximately \$42.5 million in grant funding secured since 2023. In addition, she noted several pending applications and ongoing basin study planning efforts tied to future projects.

Lee Hale provided an overview of Hale Innovation and discussed their role in supporting the city's grant pursuits. He reported the city's grant success rate, the value of the grant master plan, and the importance of maintaining proactive communication and coordination between departments to respond quickly to funding opportunities. He highlighted funded and pending projects, including the Howell Branch stormwater pond project, and wastewater and tourism development funding, and responded to questions regarding grants, legislative appropriations, cross-jurisdictional partnerships, public safety and fire station funding opportunities, master planning timelines, and budgeting strategies tied to future grant opportunities.

Discussion followed on compliance requirements, funding limitations, and the importance of maintaining updated master plans, CIP schedules, and coordinated communication between departments and leadership. The Commission expressed appreciation for the staff's grant efforts and continued collaboration in pursuing external funding opportunities for Winter Park projects and initiatives.

3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Mayor Sheila DeCiccio

ATTEST:

City Clerk Rene Cranis