



**MEETING MINUTES
SESSION OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF KISSIMMEE
CITY HALL, COMMISSION CHAMBERS
101 CHURCH STREET, KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA 34741-5054
TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2024 AT 6:00 PM**

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Members Present: Mayor Olga Gonzalez, Commissioners Olga Castano, Angela Eady, Carlos Alvarez, III, Janette Martinez

Staff Present: City Manager Mike Steigerwald, City Attorney Olga Sanchez de Fuentes, Assistant City Manager Austin Blake, City Clerk Linda Hansell

Members Absent: Commissioner Olga Castano, Deputy City Manager Desiree Matthews

Mayor Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

After a Moment of Silence, Commissioner Alvarez led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS - FIRST AND SECOND READINGS

4.A Public Hearing - Second and Final Reading - Proposed Ordinance # 24-11 - Repealing the Charter School Advisory Board

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA, CHAPTER 2, ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE III, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, DIVISION 9, CHARTER SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD, SECTIONS 2-334 THROUGH 2-336; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Approval of the Second and Final Reading of Proposed Ordinance #24-11 repealing the Charter School Advisory Board.

City Attorney Sanchez de Fuentes read Ordinance # 3106 by title.

City Manager Steigerwald reviewed the request for repeal the Charter School Advisory Board after the sale of the City-owned school and property to Imagine Kissimmee Charter Academy. As a result the City is no longer involved in the governance of the school and therefore staff recommends approval.

Mayor Gonzalez announced the Public Hearing with no response from the audience.

Commissioner Eady moved to approve the Final Reading of Ordinance # 3106. Commissioner Martinez seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Commissioner Eady	AYE
Commissioner Alvarez	AYE
Commissioner Martinez	AYE
Commissioner Castano	ABSENT
Mayor Gonzalez	AYE

Motion carried 4 - 0.

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

5.A Public Hearing – Resolutions Adopting Substantial Amendments to the CDBG 2017-2018 and 2022-2023 Annual Action Plans

Approval of the Substantial Amendment to the CDBG Annual Action Plans for Fiscal Years: 2017-2018 and 2022-2023 to reallocate funding from completed or under performing activities; execution of the Amended Resolutions by the Mayor.

Frances DeJesus, Development Services Department, reviewed the request for the Commission to adopt a Resolution for the expenditure and reallocation of funds for 2017-2018 and 2022-2023 Annual Action Plans. Funds for these two (2) Action Plans will be redistributed to a newly established project for the rehabilitation of the Haven on Vine project. Available CDBG funds for 2017-2018 total \$27,404.84 and 2022-2023 are \$122,843.39; total funds to be redistributed are \$150,248.03 for Project CM2408. The City met the required 30-day comment period with no citizen participation, therefore staff recommended approval.

Mayor Gonzalez announced the Public Hearing with no response from the audience.

Commissioner Eady made a motion to approve the Public Hearing and Adopt Resolution # 14-2024 (2017-2018) and Resolution # 15-2024 (2022-2023). Commissioner Martinez seconded the motion.

AYE: Mayor-Commissioner Olga Gonzalez, Commissioner Carlos Alvarez, Commissioner Angela Eady, Commissioner Janette Martinez

NAY: None

Motion carried 4 - 0.

6. HEAR AUDIENCE

Alex Alemi, 424 Lakeshore Blvd, Kissimmee, addressed the Commission with comments on the election voting processes used in Osceola County and the State of Florida. During Mr. Alemi's comments he reviewed different types of voting systems and provided a flyer to the Commission on the Star Voting System (Exhibit "A") which allows for scoring the candidates. Mr. Alemi expressed his opinion of the "Star Voting" program and encouraged the Commission to investigate options that are fair and accurate ways to vote.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda is a technique designed to expedite the handling of routine miscellaneous business of the City Commission. The City Commission in one motion may adopt the entire Consent Agenda. The motion for adoption is non-debatable and must receive unanimous approval. By request of any individual member, an item may be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Commissioner Eady made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda in its entirety. Commissioner Alvarez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4 - 0.

7.A Binding Lot Agreement and Sidewalk Easement with Adventist Health System/Sunbelt, Inc.

The City Commission is requested to approve a Binding Lot Agreement and Sidewalk Easement with Adventist Health System/Sunbelt, Inc., to facilitate the development of a property as a parking lot. (Contract #20240478).

- 7.B Federal Aviation Administration Airport Grant Offer for Air Traffic Control Tower Design
Approval to accept a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) – Airport Infrastructure Grant (AIG) Grant of \$413,697.00 to develop the design and VISTA Report Study for a new Federal Contract Control Tower at the Kissimmee Gateway Airport. Grant Master No. ATCTDesig2.
- 7.C Resolution for the acceptance of Grant Funding from Florida Department of Transportation for Air Traffic Control Tower Design
Approval to accept, by Resolution, a Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA) from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to develop the design and VISTA Report Study for a new Federal Contract Control Tower at the Kissimmee Gateway Airport in the amount of \$36,773. Grant Master No. ATCTDsng-S.
- Resolution # 16-2024 was Adopted.
- 7.D Purchase of Property at 1007 Martin Luther King Boulevard
Approval of the purchase of property at 1007 Martin Luther King Boulevard from Poma Homes, LLC (contract #20240479) for right of way (ROW) needs related to the Mann Street Extension Project in the amount of \$125,000.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 8.A Request for Mayor Gonzalez to attend the 2024 Children & Families Summit
Request from Mayor Gonzalez to approve her attendance at the 2024 Children & Families Summit on September 4-6, 2024 at the JW Marriott Orlando, and for the associated expenses to be covered by the City.
- Commissioner Martinez commented she researched information on the Children & Families Summit and feels it would be beneficial for the City to have attendees with the Haven on Vine project.
- Commissioner Martinez made a motion to Approve. Commissioner Alvarez seconded the motion.
- AYE: Mayor-Commissioner Gonzalez, Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Eady, Commissioner Martinez
NAY: None
- Motion carried 4 - 0.
- 8.B Retirement Benefit for Elected Officials
Staff is seeking guidance on how to proceed with implementing a Retirement Benefit for Elected Officials.
- City Manager Steigerwald informed the Commission this is being brought back for discussion after there was conversation on the subject at the Budget Workshop in July. If the Commission intends for their selected option to be effective October 1, 2024, two (2) Public Hearings would need to be held in September.
- The Commission and staff discussed options and asked questions of the Pension Plan Administrator Linda Gomez and Human Resources Director Roxane Walton. Option A: Pension - Defined Benefit was discussed but might not be beneficial due to the low number of members that would be eligible for that plan with their limited number of years of service. As another option, the buy-in (buy-back) to enter the General Pension was discussed and the Commission would be required to contribute the cost for their previous

years of service including the City portion of the contribution. This would be costly for the Commissioners based on the number of years they would need to buy back. The City contribution for employees varies yearly based on the investment returns for the plan.

A question was asked whether the City could pay a portion of the cost for the Commissioners to enter the pension plan. It was explained that the cost for someone to join the pension plan cannot be a cost to the plan and would be the responsibility of the person entering the pension plan. The buy-back option currently prohibited by ordinance to allow members to join the plan at a cost to the City or the retirement plan itself and its current members. For the Actuary to provide a report of the cost per Commissioner to buy-back previous time, each Commissioner would be required to pay the \$450.00 cost of an actuary report to be generated. Pension Plan Administrator Gomez explained that once you are a member of the Plan, the City could contribute its portion going forward as it does for all employees. With Option A: Pension with Defined Benefits, the cost to the Commissioners to buy-in would be either 3.69% (Tier 1) or 7.5% (Tier 2) of their salary, plus the City contribution amount and also what the Plan would have received in investments if they had invested your money. An example was given of a firefighter who paid to buy-back one (1) year and their cost was \$26,000.00 for one year.

City Manager Steigerwald confirmed that if an employee joined the City later in life and wanted to buy-back years toward their retirement, the ordinance for the Plan is written that the person entering the plan would have to pay what the City would have contributed for them to be a member of the plan for that number of years.

A question was asked concerning when benefits start for full-time employees and the response was directed specifically to pension plan members who would be immediately added to the plan with partial vesting at 5-years and 100% vested at 10-years. The consensus of the Commission was whether they could be considered full-time employees so they receive the same level benefits as the City employees.

Human Resource Director Walton confirmed the Commission is considered modified full-time so that they receive health insurance. City Manager Steigerwald stated there would not be any additional benefits by making the Commission full-time, since the Commission already receives health insurance as a benefit. The remaining benefits would not be part of the Commission's compensation as their salaries are mandated by the City Charter and are based on population; the only requirement is for the Commission to attend two (2) Commission meetings a month. The Commission salaries are not calculated based on an hourly rates.

City Manager Steigerwald was direction by the Commission to get answers to the question of the easiest way for the Commission to be part of the City Pension Plan so it can be brought back to the next meeting for a vote.

9. HEAR CITY OFFICIALS

9.A CITY MANAGER

City Manager Steigerwald reminded the Commission there will be a Special Meeting on Tuesday, August 27, 2024, at 5:30 pm to accept the August 20, 2024, Election Returns and approve the Election Proclamation for the names to appear on the ballot for the November Run-off Election. The Lottery Drawing will be held on Monday, August 26, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

9.B CITY ATTORNEY

Nothing.

9.C CITY COMMISSION

Commissioner Eady wished all the candidates well and thanked them for taking time out of their lives to be an elected official representing the people; it is not an easy job.

Commissioner Alvarez wished the best of luck to all the candidates in tonight's election.

Commissioner Martinez asked for consensus from the Commission on allowing the individual Commissioners to join the Florida Black Caucus; the cost is approximately \$75 per year. City Manager Steigerwald said that it should not be a problem to get into the final budget.

Commissioner Eady requested to attend the National League of Cities Conference in the spring of 2025. City Manager Steigerwald stated we could budget for all to attend if the Commission feels this would be valuable.

Commissioner Martinez made a motion to approve the Commission members being members of the Florida Black Caucus or other membership for the same purpose at \$75 per year. Commissioner Eady seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4 - 0.

Mayor Gonzalez thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as the Mayor; she is not sure if the election will decide on a new Mayor tonight. If not decided, she'll see everyone in September.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mayor Gonzalez adjourned the meeting at 6:33 PM.



Olga Gonzalez

MAYOR-COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

Linda S. Hansell

CITY CLERK

Exhibit "A"
Hand-out – Star Voting
Speaker Alex Alemi
Hear the Audience
Item 6.



STAR VOTING

SCORE - THEN - AUTOMATIC - RUNOFF

Item 6
Hand-out
8/20/2024

Necessity is the mother of invention and the last few decades have been groundbreaking for election reform. **STAR Voting** is a cutting-edge voting method that is fair, accurate, and nationally viable.

Give your favorite 5 stars, give your worst-case-scenario a 0, and arrange the rest in order of preference.

- ★ **Vote your conscience!**
- ★ **No more vote-splitting or spoiled elections!**
- ★ **If your favorite can't win, your vote still makes a difference!**
- ★ **Your vote automatically goes to the finalist you prefer.**
- ★ **Levels the playing field!**
- ★ **Fights polarization!**



STAR VOTING

SCORE - THEN - AUTOMATIC - RUNOFF

- Give your favorite five stars.
- Give your last choice zero or leave blank.
- Equal scores are allowed.
- Score other candidates as desired.

	Worst					Best
	0	1	2	3	4	5
Andre	0	1	2	3	4	5
Blake	0	1	2	3	4	5
Carmen	0	1	2	3	4	5
David	0	1	2	3	4	5
Erin	0	1	2	3	4	5

The two highest scoring candidates are finalists.
Your full vote goes to the finalist you prefer.
The finalist with the most votes wins.

Host your own election at: star.vote

Our current system forces voters to pick one candidate only, and the incentive is to vote for frontrunners who you think are electable...

... but who gets to decide who's "electable"?

BETTER VOTING for a **BETTER WORLD**

starvoting.org



Q: What's wrong with our current voting method?

- "Choose One" Plurality Voting is wildly inaccurate if there are more than two candidates in the race. That's why we have a two-party system. Voters with more candidates on their side can end up divided and conquered.
- It's especially vulnerable to "The Spoiler Effect," which is a type of vote-splitting that allows candidates opposed by the majority to win, wastes votes of those who don't vote for a frontrunner, prevents accountability, drives polarization, and magnifies the influence of money in politics.

Q: Why not just go with Ranked Choice Voting?

- Although RCV is an improvement, it has some serious flaws, especially in elections with three or more viable candidates.
- Ranked ballots are more expressive, but not all rankings given are actually counted. RCV is tabulated using multiple elimination rounds, which can skew results based on the order of elimination.
- Voters whose favorite isn't eliminated until the last round won't have their next choice counted. Limits on how many candidates can be ranked lead to high rates of exhausted ballots. It's not necessarily safe to rank your favorite first.
- STAR Voting is more transparent and accurate. Votes are tallied using addition and ballots can be counted locally, unlike RCV which requires centralized tabulation.
- STAR Voting was invented to deliver on the goals of older methods like RCV while addressing well-documented issues with the 150-year-old system.

Comparing Voting Methods

	Choose One (Plurality)	Choose One + Top Two Runoff	Ranked Choice (IRV)	STAR
Spoiler Effect / Vote Splitting	YES	In primary but not in general election	YES - With 3 or more viable candidates	NO
Gives an advantage to some types of candidates	Favors polarizing candidates who are "viable"	Favors polarizing candidates who are "viable"	Strong underdog candidates are at a disadvantage	NO
Voided Ballots: Ballots voided due to voter error.	Extremely Rare	Extremely Rare	Common. Equal rankings, skipped rankings, and ranking candidates twice all can void your ballot.	Rare. giving a candidate two scores can void your ballot
Wasted Votes and Exhausted Ballots	Not voting for a frontrunner is a wasted vote	Not voting for a frontrunner is a wasted vote	Exhausted Ballots are not counted in deciding round	NO
Ballots tabulated locally?	Local tally	Local tally	Centralized Tally	Local tally
Tabulation Complexity	Add up votes	Add up votes	Multiple elimination rounds and vote transfers	Add up stars, then add up votes
Accuracy measured by Voter Satisfaction Efficiency *	87%	91%	92%	99%
Incentive to honestly support to your favorite *	-14.5% Strong disincentive	-1.2% Weak disincentive	-3.5% Moderate disincentive	12.0% Strong incentive

EQUAL.VOTE

Key: Worst to Best



* Data from peer reviewed article, "STAR Voting, Equality of Voice, and Voter Satisfaction", Constitutional Political Economy, 2023