

1 **MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING** of the City Council of the City of Orange City,  
2 Florida, held on Tuesday, May 24, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 201 N. Holly Avenue,  
3 Orange City.

4  
5 **CALL TO ORDER**

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

8  
9 **ROLL CALL**

10  
11 **PRESENT:** Mayor Harley Strickland; Vice Mayor O. William (Bill) Crippen; Council Members Jeff  
12 Allebach, Tom Laputka, Tom Abraham, Anthony J. Pupello, Gary A. Blair, City Attorney William  
13 Reischmann; City Manager Jamie Croteau; City Clerk Deborah Renner

14  
15 **1. BUDGET OVERVIEW:**

16  
17 Ms. Croteau noted that there was a 10% decrease in property values. She noted that the tentative  
18 millage rate must be set by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

19  
20 Finance Director Christine Davis gave a power point presentation which provided an overview of the  
21 budget process, a review of the TRIM process, and a review of projected revenues and expenses for  
22 fiscal year 2010/2011 (a copy of which is attached and becomes a permanent part of these minutes).

23  
24 Ms. Croteau advised that staff is expecting to receive numbers from the property appraiser's office next  
25 week. She said that comments from the Council were welcome.

26  
27 **2. CITIZEN INPUT ON SPENDING PRIORITIES FOR FY 2011/12**

28  
29 Vice Mayor Crippen read a statement from Michelle Polgar, 585 Montclair Avenue, into the record (a  
30 copy of which is attached and becomes a permanent part of these minutes). Ms. Polgar expressed her  
31 support for "beautifying 17-92" and "creating a downtown area." She did caution against "overuse of  
32 consultants." She spoke in support of continuing community activities such as "movies in the park," and  
33 the Halloween event. Mayor Strickland advised that he had spoken with Ms. Polgar regarding her  
34 comments about consultant fees and clarified that her comments were related to what she considered  
35 "high" fees in the past, not that she opposed using consultants in general.

36  
37 Evelyn Robinson, 311 E. Cherokee Avenue, came forward and expressed her support for recent events  
38 such as the farmer's market. She said that plans were in the works for an expansion of the African  
39 American Heritage Festival. Ms. Robinson said that she hoped to be able to count on the City's  
40 continued support for these events.

41  
42 Bob Storke, 1122 E. Wisconsin Avenue, came forward and noted the importance of maintaining the  
43 City's infrastructure. He stated, "If it goes down too far....you'll never get it back."

44  
45 Hugh Strickland, 420 May Street, came forward and observed that the Finance Director said that two  
46 public hearings on the budget would be held in September. Mr. Strickland reminded Council that the

1 budget must be adopted prior to the September 13<sup>th</sup> election “due to a quirk” in the City’s charter. He  
2 stated, “If any one of you is not continuing to serve, and my guess is you can’t roll the dice without that  
3 happening, then this Council may not adopt a budget or encumber the City financially.” Mr. Strickland  
4 urged staff and the City Manager to make the appropriate scheduling changes “to make that happen.”  
5 Mr. Strickland expressed his hope that “appropriate training” would be a focus next year due to the fact  
6 that there will be new members of the Council. He stated that it “makes the staff look bad” when they  
7 are not aware of changes or policy decisions that are made. He stated, “So, a need for training is clear.”  
8 Mr. Strickland noted that he had requested information from the Fire Department which showed that the  
9 vast majority of their calls are for medical, not for fire. He advised that the City uses “large, expensive  
10 fire trucks” to respond to “heart attacks.” Mr. Strickland asserted that it has been shown that a rescue  
11 truck could run a call for \$42-\$48 while it costs about \$248 to send a fire truck. He urged Council and  
12 staff to have adequate rescue vehicles available. He said, “We should not be sending the brush truck to  
13 a medical event.” Mr. Strickland urged Council and staff to continue support for the African American  
14 Festival and the Farmers Market. He suggested that evening hours for the Market might be beneficial  
15 for all. Mr. Strickland stated that when he drove through DeBary recently, he noticed that their speed  
16 limits were lower than Orange City’s. He asked, “Why is that?” He suggested that funds be allocated to  
17 investigate this matter. He suggested that staff and council look for ways to be “effective” and cited as  
18 an example that May Street does not need to be paved and much as Leavitt Avenue does. Mr. Strickland  
19 stated, “So, when you consider this budget, the average person will not look at the average tax  
20 bill....they will look at their tax bill. I hope that you won’t be deceived by taking averages too far.” In  
21 conclusion he stated, “So folks will review the budget action you take not based on the average, but  
22 based on their tax bill and whether in fact, did it go up, or did it not?”

23  
24 Ron Saylor, 361 Dixson Drive, came forward and said that he noticed all of the “extra fees” being added  
25 to his bills. He advised that fees have been added to his electric bill, phone bill, cell phone bill, and  
26 cable bill. However, Mr. Saylor noted that there is no tax added to his water bill. He asked, “Are we  
27 missing something here?” He emphasized the need for capital improvements in the water system.

### 28 29 **3. COUNCIL DISCUSSION:**

30  
31 Ms. Croteau noted that the garbage rates would be lowered another \$17 in the coming year which will  
32 make the City’s rates comparable with Volusia County. She observed that the rate has been reduced by  
33 \$69 over the past two years.

34  
35 Council Member Pupello said that he received a phone call from a resident who asked that Council  
36 continue to support the programs in Parks and Recreation and to continue with efforts to beautify the  
37 City.

38  
39 Council Member Allebach concurred with the previous comments regarding the City’s parks and  
40 infrastructure maintenance. He stated, “In general, I’m glad the way we’re going.”

41  
42 Vice Mayor Crippen thanked everyone for their input tonight. He assured the citizens that Council  
43 would do their best for the City in these difficult times.

44  
45 Council Member Abraham thanked those who shared their opinions on the budget. He acknowledged  
46 that much thought went into their comments. He noted that the Council will consider an ordinance to

1 stop panhandling in Orange City. He advised that other cities have adopted similar measures, however,  
2 were more compassionate by having a public shelter where poor people can be provided with counseling  
3 and shelter. He asked whether the City has a shelter for people who will be affected by the ordinance.  
4 He discussed the rights of panhandlers and said that the City should be more compassionate by  
5 providing shelter for “the poorest of the poor.”  
6

7 Mayor Strickland reported that he attended the Volusia Council of Governments (VCOG) meeting  
8 yesterday. One of the themes that he heard in other cities was that citizens were willing to pay higher  
9 taxes to work on improving the quality of life for the residents and to maintain the investment in  
10 infrastructure.

11

12 **4. ADJOURN**

13

14 There being no further business, Mayor Strickland adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

15

16 Respectfully Submitted:

Approved:

17

18

19

20 \_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah J. Renner, CMC, City Clerk

June 14, 2011

Date