

# TOWN OF WINDERMERE

Town Council Workshop Minutes

June 25, 2019

## CALL TO ORDER:

Present were Mayor Jim O'Brien, Council Members Bill Martini, Bob McKinley, Chris Sapp, and Liz Andert. Town Manager Robert Smith, Chief Dave Ogden, and Town Clerk Dorothy Burkhalter were also present. Town Council member Andy Williams and Public Works Director Scott Brown were absent.

Mayor O'Brien called the workshop to order at 6:00pm.

### 1. OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public speakers deferred their comments until after the presentation.

### 2. SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

#### a. Cut-thru Traffic Update

Mayor O'Brien turned the floor over to Manager Smith. Manager Smith gave an update on past discussions regarding cut-thru traffic, the past Kimley Horn Associates Study, Orange County development and Operation Dusty Roads Part 2. Manager Smith then turned the floor over to Officer 2 Ryan Miller. Officer Miller gave a report regarding the Operation Dusty Road Part 2 Detail. After the report completed, Mayor O'Brien opened the floor to the Public. First to speak was Mrs. Brandi Haines of 835 Oakdale Street. She thanked the Police Department for their work with the detail. She then questioned what future plans would be. Mayor O'Brien stated that the Town Council would need to further discuss and review options. Next to speak was Mr. Steve Walker of 763 Magnolia Street. Mr. Walker questioned if the barriers would be placed. Mayor O'Brien stated that the barriers would be discussed later in the meeting. Mr. Walker stated that due to the detail, traffic has decreased. Mrs. Theresa Myers of 2713 Tryon Place introduced herself. She then commented on a very large oak on the north/west corner of the proposed roundabout area. Mrs. Myers stated that she is advocating for saving the oak tree and the impacts on the tree if the roundabout is built. Mayor O'Brien stated that he feels that Orange will assist with the project if it should happen. Some discussion followed. Mr. Byron Traynor of 11201 Willow Gardens Drive and member of The Willows Board of Directors introduced himself. He commented that he wanted facts regarding the roundabout. Mr. Traynor then commented on the OARS kids that walk across the road slowing up traffic. He then suggested a pedestrian walkover in that area. Mayor O'Brien stated that the current roundabouts work. He then commented that he would not know what traffic today would look like without them. Mr. John Fitzgibbon stated that protection of the tree was reviewed when the discussion of the roundabout was being made. He also stated that the roundabout would work effectively due to three thoroughfares entering instead of four. Mayor O'Brien opened the floor to the Town Council members for discussion. Member Martini questioned if making it easier to get thru Town would cause more traffic, Orange County's assistance, clarifying limitations within the Orange County Road 439 Agreement, and finding another Urban Planner for the study. Manager Smith stated for the record, "We can't pick and choose who we use. We would have to do an RFQ that's based on qualifications." He then further explained the RFQ process and timing. Mayor O'Brien state for the record, "I think we could study this to death, and I think we know what the issue is." Member Martini commented on barriers. He stated that a trail with barricades should have been done. Discussion followed. Member McKinley commented on the effeteness of the new roundabout at Windermere Road and Roberson Road. He stated that roundabouts work. Member McKinley then commented on barriers and issues that would be cause by using them. He then commented on stop signs and traffic impacts. Member Sapp commented that in discussions with the Long-Range Planning Committee, he agrees with the continuous right-hand turn onto Chase Road and the Roundabout at Windermere Road and Maguire Road. He also stated that the traffic needed to be moved thru town. Member Sapp questioned why studies are done if no action is going to be taken. He suggested that an Urban Planner look at the back roads and analyze them for such neighborhoods that they are. Member Andert stated that residents want something done. She also stated that she is not opposed to a trail on the back roads. Member Andert stated that the Town needed to be mindful of the County and surrounding areas when planning anything with the roads. She also stated she is in favor of the continuous right-hand turn at Chase Road as well as the roundabout at Windermere Road. Manager Smith stated he would reach out to Orange County regarding any relieve/assistance with the Chase Road right-hand turn and the roundabout. Discussion followed. Mayor O'Brien stated that Community support is needed as well as a very thought out plan. Member McKinley stated that the easier it is for someone to get through town on


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the main roads, it will reduce the cut thru traffic on the back roads. He stated that there would not be a need to cut-thru if the traffic is moving. Discussion followed. Mayor O'Brien recapped the discussion as Kinley Horn IPO is not needed at the next Town Council meeting, looking at other municipalities that have had these similar issues, study internal data, being on the County's radar with school starting in August. Manager Smith stated that there is funding remaining in the budget to allow further policing of the areas. Chief Ogden stated that he will be short handed due to a few officers being out. Mayor O'Brien stated he has asked to have 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Park on the next agenda as well. He also stated that for the Town Council agenda would be Internal – no study from Kinley Horn. Member McKinley stated that the one reason for the previous study was to assist with traffic issues in discussions with the County. Chief Ogden stated that a further breakdown can be done for a later date.

There being no further comments, Mayor O'Brien adjourned the workshop at 7:47pm.

  
Dorothy Burkhalter, MMC, FCRM  
Town Clerk

  
Jim O'Brien, Mayor