

TOWN OF WINDERMERE

Town Council Workshop Minutes (Virtual)

October 27, 2020

CALL TO ORDER:

Present were Mayor Jim O'Brien, Council Members Bill Martini, Bob McKinley, Andy Williams, Chris Sapp, and Liz Andert. Town Manager Robert Smith, and Town Clerk Dorothy Burkhalter were also present.

Mayor O'Brien explained that this was a workshop, therefore no motions or votes will be made. Mayor O'Brien called the workshop to order at 6:00pm. He then led everyone into the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the Invocation.

1. OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT:

All speakers deferred their comments until after the presentations.

2. SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

a. **First & Forest Stormwater Concept Plan**

Mayor O'Brien turned the floor over to presenters. Mr. John Fitzgibbon introduced himself. He then gave an overview of the proposed plan. He then introduced Kimley Horn representatives Mr. Hao Chau and Mr. Victor Gallo. Mr. Chau reviewed the presentation and commented on leaving existing roads as is, not proposing to reconstruct dirt roads – only regrade, making swales effective, and add a second outfall pipe to the existing French drainage system. Manager Smith stated that there will be a water line that will need to be designed, as well as which side of the road determined. Mr. Gallo reviewed the proposed outfalls that will allow the water to flow. Some discussion followed. Mayor O'Brien opened the floor to public comments. Mr. Keith Carsten of Forest Street thanked the Town Council for the new approach. Mrs. Theresa Schretzmann-Myers of 2713 Tryon Place introduced herself. She then commented on concerns with preserving the tree canopy and protecting the critical root system of the trees. Mr. Fitzgibbon stated that protection will be taken into account. Mayor O'Brien opened the floor to the Town Council. Member Martini questioned if the presentation plans were different than the ones in the agenda packet. Manager Smith stated yes. He explained that the plans were updated that morning. Some discussion followed Mayor O'Brien reviewed the comments as there is consensus to move forward with the design, and all to be advised when changes are made.

b. **Bessie Stormwater Basin Plan**

Mayor O'Brien introduced this item. He then turned the floor over to Mr. Chau for a presentation regarding the proposed Bessie Stormwater Basin plan. Mr. Chau commented that changes had been made after an arborist's comments were received. He then reviewed the plan regarding Main Street and Oakdale Street, Oakdale Street run-off, the basin extended down Oakdale for three blocks, removal of 24" oak tree and some pine trees, three way stop at East Avenue and 8th Avenue, removal of pond vegetation/replaced with rain garden, looped water system, proposed 18' dirt roads, water lines and fire hydrants. After the presentation was completed, Mayor O'Brien opened the floor to the Public. First to speak was Mr. Bill Bardoe of 225 E 9th Avenue. Mr. Bardoe commented on the project, width of the current and proposed road, changing the existing character, and impacts to his neighbors. Mrs. Brandi Haines of 835 Oakdale Street deferred until after the Town Council has discussed this item. Ms. Susan Carter of 106 Palm Street introduced herself. She then commented on the impacts to the trees and the ability to plant in/around proposed swales. Mr. Fitzgibbon stated that oak trees could be replanted. Ms. Nora Brophy of 426 Magnolia Street introduced herself. She questioned the experience of Kimley Horn and dirt road projects. Mr. Chau stated that there are not many projects in Orlando, but they have worked many in Ocala. Ms. Brophy commented on the lack of experience. Mr. Chau commented on Kimley Horn's experience. Mr. Simon Simaan of 812 East Blvd introduced himself. He stated that he has concerns with the improvements causing increased traffic and speeding. Mr. Simaan stated that the neighbors needed to provide their approval and for them to be considered. He then stated that increasing the width of the roads will put the roads closer to houses. Mrs. Theresa Schretzmann-Myers of 2713 Tryon Place introduced herself. She then commented on the benefits of trees have that aid in stormwater She then requested a tree inventory of the trees that are scheduled to be removed. Manager Smith stated that a certified arborist will be used and that the Tree Board will review the list. Mr. Fitzgibbon stated that trees will be replanted. Mr. Joe Tenczar of 327 E 8th Avenue stated he opposes this project. He then commented on safety concerns and consideration of one-way roads. Mr. Nasirdin Madhany owner of 824

TOWN OF WINDERMERE

Town Council Workshop Minutes (Virtual)

October 27, 2020

East Blvd stated that he objects to the proposed plan. Mr. Bardoe stated he agreed with a one-way road. There being no further public speakers, Mayor O'Brien turned the floor over to the Town Council. Council Members commented on the project cost, reduced width for road widening, cost share of the grant, one-way options, concerns with residents not in favor, notification to residents, better compromise needed, maintain first then move forward if needed, County water hook-ups, losing Town charm, re-evaluate project and need, residents comments clear on keeping dirt roads, other funding sources, reviewing of ordinances for retention, and timing for use of funds. Mr. Fitzgibbon commented that protecting the lakes and the Town's charm is a priority. Mayor O'Brien stated that the Town Council directed the Town Staff to seek funding, now direction of moving forward is needed. Mrs. Haines commented on concerns with first responders and a one-way road. She then stated she is not in favor of two lanes roads, questioned cost to fix existing swales, and the possibility of losing the 15mph agreement. After some discussion was made, Member McKinley stated the funds needed to be returned. Mayor O'Brien stated that the item of proposing as a one-way road will need to be placed before the Town Council. Manager Smith stated that the one-way and road width will be verified to be acceptable or not. Member Sapp stated that the shoulders of the road need to be included in the discussion.

3. TIMED ITEMS AND PUBIC HEARING

4. NEW BUSINESS

5. MAYOR & TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS


Member McKinley advised everyone of the upcoming Elder Luncheon that will be a home delivery. He then stated that the Christmas luncheon will be handled the same way.

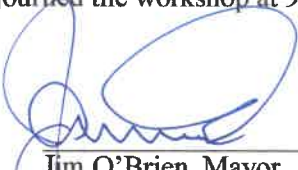
6. STAFF REPORTS

Manager Smith reported on Scott Brown's resignation and that the position will be advertised, the upcoming Halloween Parade, the Pine Street boathouse discussion, and upcoming DRB meeting. He then questioned the direction of the Town Council regarding notification. Discussion followed. Mayor O'Brien summarized the comments as; notification will be placed on the calendar, all social media, and door hangers for residents within 500'. Mrs. Schretzmann-Myers suggested having the ZOOM link better accessible. Mayor O'Brien commented on the access for the link.

7. ADJOURN

There being no further comments, Mayor O'Brien adjourned the workshop at 9:12pm.


Dorothy Burkhalter, MMC, FCRM
Town Clerk


Jim O'Brien, Mayor