

1 **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ORANGE CITY COUNCIL**, called by Vice
2 Mayor Tom Laputka and Council Member Gary Blair for Tuesday, September 28, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in
3 Council Chambers, 201 N. Holly Avenue, Orange City.

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5 **CALL TO ORDER**

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

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9 **ROLL CALL**

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

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15 1. Discuss Sun Rail Train Station

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17 Vice Mayor Laputka began the discussion by recalling that a resolutions was adopted by Council on
18 February 10th supporting the Sun Rail project. The resolution was sent along with a letter to
19 Congressman John Mica with a copy to Noranne Downs at the DOT. Vice Mayor Laputka said that
20 the Orange City Council is more well informed and coordinated regarding the Sun Rail project than
21 any other city in Volusia County. He advised that he hoped a strategy could be developed by the
22 Council to encourage the placement of a station here.

23
24 Council Member Blair said the reason for the meeting is because Council has received a lot of
25 “misinformation.” He expressed that it is important for Council to leave this meeting with “some type
26 of direction” on how to proceed. He stated that even though the station is “years and years ahead,”
27 now is the time to start planning for it. He said that he has heard a lot of “rumors” about Council
28 Members having meetings on their own regarding this issue and that he hopes from now on all
29 information would be provided to all Council Members.

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31 Council Member Allebach noted that Chairman Bruno of the County Council recently commented
32 that the first phase of Sun Rail is scheduled to begin in 2013 running from DeBary to Sand Lake. The
33 second phase will go from Poinciana to Sand Lake and from DeBary to DeLand. Council Member
34 Allebach stated, “This talk of another station and this and that is nothing except the third phase and
35 that’s not even been discussed.” He suggested that the Council got distracted which caused the
36 County to site the station in DeBary. He said that a station in Orange City is probably ten years away.
37 Council Member Allebach noted that the long awaited transportation improvements such as the
38 western beltway and Rhode Island Avenue extension have been delayed until 2025. He noted that a
39 summit meeting is scheduled for November 6th and stated that Orange City has the “most functional
40 Council” in Volusia County. He urged Council to step up and “be the leader” by encouraging transit.

41
42 Vice Mayor Laputka advised that people can travel to all of the major cities in the northeast via train,
43 noting that the infrastructure grew with development which is not the case in Florida. He suggested
44 that this mode of transportation is a “very sustainable thing” for the people of Florida.

45
46 In response to a question from Council Member Blair, Council Member Allebach said that the Phase II

1 station is scheduled to be located in DeLand. He envisioned train transportation available to all areas
2 of the State some day. He noted the availability of train travel in Europe. Council Member Blair said
3 that he had also traveled abroad and concurred. Council Member Allebach said that the local
4 governments will have to fund the cost of the rail by 2016 and that there is talk of implementing a ½ ¢
5 sales tax increase to fund transit in Volusia County by 2016.
6

7 Council Member Blair indicated that during his discussions with Ms. Croteau about locating a station
8 in Orange City, she said Council needs to “sell it to the County.” Ms. Croteau noted that
9 Congressman Mica has said that he will ask for a third station, but the location will be up to the
10 County. She encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Summit meeting. She said that the County
11 wants to locate the station where there is room for density and development. Mayor Strickland noted
12 that there will be new members on the County Council following the November election. He
13 suggested obtaining copies of the minutes from when the train station(s) were discussed by the County
14 Council because he recalled some dissension at the time. He also discussed the importance of talking
15 to the candidates. The Mayor noted that the largest population base is in Deltona, where an election is
16 also taking place this year. He suggested holding off discussion with them until the election is over.
17 Council Member Blair expressed that the Normandy Boulevard overpass linking Deltona and Orange
18 City is an integral part of the success of the rail station. He noted that this project has been pushed out
19 again until 2025. Mayor Strickland advised that the County stopped purchasing right of way for the
20 project. Council Member Allebach said that the important thing is to remain “the squeaky wheel.”
21

22 Mayor Strickland said that he was told by Chairman Bruno that if the City wanted a station, it would
23 have to pay for it because the County wasn't doing anything. More recently, Chairman Bruno stated
24 clearly that if the City wants a station, they should get it in the public record. The Mayor said that this
25 has been done. He stated that there has been so much conflicting information, the issue is who to
26 believe and who to trust. He stressed that if Sun Rail is to be successful in Volusia County, it must be
27 “sustainable.” He advised that there must be sufficient ridership and surrounding land open to
28 development which will contribute to the ridership. The Mayor said that some in the County are
29 upset because there are no plans at this time to connect the rail to the east side of the County. He
30 urged the Council to support a viable station within the City's designated planning area, noting that it
31 will likely be located in the unincorporated area. The next step is to get the project on the TPO
32 long-term plan. The Mayor summarized by stating that the City is “clearly seen” as supportive of Sun
33 Rail. He expressed that it's difficult for the City to make plans with so many of the issues “up in the
34 air” at this time.
35

36 Council Member Blair expressed the importance of maintaining the support of the east side and
37 finding a way to meet their needs as well. The Mayor noted that when the TPO did their “strings and
38 ribbons” exercise here a while back, Orange City was the only city that was linking transportation.
39 Vice Mayor Laputka said that the City should maintain its focus on the issue and be prepared for when
40 opportunities arise.
41

42 Council Member Allebach said that the reason developers chose Orange City is because of the
43 stability of government here.
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45 Council Member Crippen suggested that contact should be made with each member of the County
46 Council “in due course” to let them know how Council feels about the station being located on the

1 west side. He concurred with holding back on discussions with Deltona until after the election.
 2 Council Member Crippen suggested that a spur could be run from where the old rail line in DeLand is
 3 near Stetson to link downtown DeLand with the train station. He reiterated the importance of keeping
 4 each other informed. He stated, "I think we're moving in the right direction." Council Member
 5 Crippen conceded that information at this time is "kind of vague" because of the uncertainty regarding
 6 exactly where an additional station will be located.

7
 8 Council Member Pupello expressed his excitement about the Sun Rail project in general. He observed
 9 that Council shares the mission to make the Sun Rail project successful because in seven years, the
 10 citizens will be responsible for funding. He advised that the main key to success will be ridership. He
 11 pledged to do his "due diligence" to move the project forward.

12
 13 Mayor Strickland noted that one of the traits of the Council which could prove useful is the fact that
 14 they are so "well-traveled." Council each discussed their international experiences with train travel in
 15 places around the County and the world and the insight each gained from those travels.

16
 17 Council Member Laputka asked Ms. Croteau to summarize what, if anything, is on the horizon
 18 regarding this topic. She responded by reiterating the importance of maintaining communication with
 19 County staff. She said that Congressman Mica is planning a transportation meeting for next week on
 20 October 7th. Ms. Croteau agreed that road networks will impact the chosen location(s) for the train
 21 stations. Another consideration will be how to pull Deltona in. She expressed her disappointment that
 22 funding for the Rhode Island Avenue extension is being pushed out. Ms. Croteau said that she has
 23 spoken with both the Deputy County Manager Mary Anne Connors and Greg Stubbs, Planning
 24 Director.

25
 26 Mayor Strickland said that County Council Member Northey has expressed concern over how the City
 27 would find continued funding for a station if it was located here.

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 29 3. Adjourn

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 31 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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 33 Respectfully Submitted

Approved on
 October 12, 2010

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 36 Deborah J. Renner, CMC, City Clerk
