The meeting of the Winter Park City Commission was called to order by Mayor Roland Hotard at 4:30 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, 401 Park Avenue South, Winter Park, Florida.

The invocation was offered by Assistant City Manager Randy Knight, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Mayor Roland Hotard, III; Commissioners Douglas Storer, John Eckbert, Douglas Metcalf and Barbara DeVane; City Attorney C. Brent McCaghren; City Manager James Williams and City Clerk Cynthia Bonham.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

a) Mayor Hotard presented a proclamation and certificate to Stephanie Wilkins, Emergency Communications Operator, congratulating her as the February 2003 Outstanding Employee of the Month.

b) Mayor Hotard presented the Easter Seals of Florida with a plaque thanking them for their contributions to the new Ward Park playground. Susan Ventura, Vice President of Easter Seals of Florida and Julie Nasser, Director of Development for Easter Seals Florida received the plaque. Many thanks were given to Ms. Ventura, Parks Director John Holland and Assistant Parks Director Cory Clarke for their hard work and dedication to the project.

c) Mayor Hotard nominated the following to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Board: Marty Sullivan, Hugh Bartling, Chris Menken, Susan Beal, Pat Johnson, Julie Carmody, Marie Melaugh and Kristin Keen (student). Seconded by Commissioner Storer and carried unanimously.

Mayor Hotard nominated the following to the Tree Preservation Board: Tom McMackin (P&Z member), Michael Clary (BOA member), Ann Higbie (Parks Board), Gail Baxter (citizen-at-large) and Steven Pategas (citizen-at-large). Seconded by Commissioner DeVane and carried unanimously.

CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT:
No report.

CONSENT AGENDA:

a) Approve the minutes of 1/28/03.

b) Receive the presentation by FDOT regarding transportation and rail initiatives.

c) Warrant analysis for a stop sign at Loch Berry and Langholm. Postponed until 2/24/03 agenda.

d) Approve the selection of Dunlap & Associates as the City’s on-going financial advisor for bond issues.

e) Receive the presentation regarding the Park Avenue Way Finding Signage Program. Direct staff to go back and review the entire signage program to address pricing, the various types of signs to be used and the appropriate location for each type of sign.

f) Authorize the Mayor to execute the City Hall space needs contract with ACi, in the amount of $65,000.

g) Dismiss sponsoring a civic giving dinner to raise awareness to the City’s public art and civic giving program. Move forward with promoting the Civic Giving Program to raise funds for
h) Approve Bids and Purchases as follows:
   1) PO 98859, after-the-fact, to Invensys Co., for assorted water meters and accessories, $103,415.00 (Budget: Utilities)
   2) RFP-1-2003, Printing of Winter Park Update (newsletter), to Abbott Printing Co., per tabulation attached (Budget: Public Relations). In lieu of approving a new vendor, review the possibility of continuing with the existing printer until the consultant (Pecora & Pecora) evaluates the City's communication needs.
   3) PR 100292, to Vermeer Southeast Sales & Service for a stump cutter with remote control for Forestry off of City of Atlanta contract #7369, $30,852.00 (Budget: Forestry)
   4) Extension of Bid WP-5-2001/2, Towing/Wrecker Service, to Link's Automotive, Inc. All prices, terms and conditions remain the same as last year (Budget: Fleet and Departments)

i) Review calendar and update with upcoming events.

j) Receive updates concerning Florida Power Corporation. Direct staff to obtain a cost estimate from Gray Harris regarding future monthly billings throughout the end of the year. No further updates were given regarding the redevelopment of City Hall.

Informational Purposes Only:
   a) Approve request from Orange County East Rotary Club to waive fees for off-duty police and fire services for the annual Metro Cup Boating Regatta on March 1, 2003.

The following spoke regarding the Consent Agenda. Brian Wettstein, spoke in favor of Consent Agenda item 'e'. He asked that a temporary way finding sign program be implemented within 30 days and to determine where decorative signs should be placed. Commissioner Storer stressed the need for the program to be implemented as quickly as possible to guide people to Park Avenue. Commissioner Eckbert asked that staff come to the next meeting with a list of signs the City can make in-house to expedite the erection of these signs. Public Works Director Jim English stated he will review putting up a sign to guide people to Park Avenue upon exiting I-4. He spoke that they cannot exceed 11” x 17” size signs but can make signs from a picture. A simplified, interim program will be discussed at the next meeting.

Motion made by Commissioner Storer to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Metcalf and carried unanimously.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT:
   a) Discuss the fee waiver request for use of Central Park by the Winter Park High School as part of their 75th anniversary celebration event.

Commissioner Metcalf commented that the Commission should not selectively decide who receives the benefit of waiving fees for weekend events in Central Park.

Motion made by Commissioner DeVane to waive the fees, seconded by Commissioner Storer and carried with a 3-2 vote with Commissioners Metcalf and Eckbert voting nay.

b) Discuss the letter sent to Congressman John Mica regarding the city’s position on commuter rail.

City Manager Williams spoke that the letter sent to Congressman Mica has been provided. He
addressed concerns the City of Maitland had pertaining to the double tracking verbiage within the letter. Discussion ensued regarding whether or not double tracks is necessary for commuter rail. Commissioner DeVane expressed the need to meet with Maitland periodically throughout the year to discuss the issues that both cities have in common. Commission discussion included that their intent was not to impose anything on other jurisdictions and was only to show Congressman Mica that the City supports commuter rail and that Winter Park wants to move forward with a mass transit system.

c) Discuss utilizing lobbyist Bill Peebles.

City Manager Williams addressed the letter and credentials provided by Mr. Peebles, the attorney proposing to represent the City during the 2003 legislative session concerning the creation of a municipal electric utility. The $10,000 fee is contingent upon other cities joining in with this effort. Commissioner Metcalf asked if he should be working with City lobbyist Robert Hartnett. Mr. Williams stated Mr. Hartnett indicated they would do that but would prefer that Mr. Peebles also be hired because of his expertise in this area. Assistant City Manager Randy Knight spoke that this is to specifically block any legislation that would prevent the city from forming its own electric utility. Commissioner Storer commented about utilizing Mr. Peebles in a broader fashion. Commissioner DeVane spoke that she hoped this could be expanded because her concern is not only the electric which is the most immediate, but it is to limit municipalities from entering into any type of utility arrangement. She spoke of having no success with the Public Service Commission (PSC) representing the City’s interest. She wanted to be sure Mr. Peebles understood that it is equally important that either the PSC assist municipalities or that they move aside.

Motion made by Commissioner Eckbert to accept this letter from Mr. Peebles and move forward with an engagement, seconded by Commissioner Metcalf and carried unanimously with a 4-0 vote. Mayor Hotard abstained from voting.

d) Discuss the memorandum from Anna Currie regarding the Railroad Avenue residential project.

This will be discussed at the next work session.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

a) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WINTER PARK, FLORIDA AMENDING CHAPTER 94 “TAXATION” SO AS TO INCREASE THE OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE TAXES BY FIVE PERCENT (5%), PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. First Reading

Attorney McCaghren read the ordinance by title. No public comments were made. Commissioner DeVane asked when the actual license fees get reviewed and how those were originally set. Building Official George Wiggins explained there is strict statutory control over the City’s occupational licenses and limitations as to how much the City can charge and can increase the fees. He addressed the statutory limit of 5% increase which was established by an Equity Study Committee years ago that was facilitated by Florida Statute. Further questions ensued concerning tracking home businesses. Mr. Wiggins addressed this issue.

Motion made by Commissioner Storer to accept the ordinance on first reading, seconded
by Commissioner Eckbert. Upon a roll call vote, Mayor Hotard and Commissioners Storer, Eckbert, Metcalf and DeVane voted yes. The motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

b) ORDINANCE NO. 2502-03: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WINTER PARK, FLORIDA AMENDING CHAPTER 58 LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, ARTICLE III, "ZONING" AND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP SO AS TO CHANGE THE ZONING DESIGNATION OF SINGLE FAMILY (R-1A) DISTRICT TO LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-2) DISTRICT ON THE PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 2232 HAWICK LANE, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED HEREIN. Second Reading

Attorney McCaghren read the ordinance by title. No staff or public comments were made.

Motion made by Commissioner Storer to adopt the ordinance, seconded by Commissioner DeVane. Upon a roll call vote, Mayor Hotard and Commissioners Storer, Eckbert, Metcalf and DeVane voted yes. The motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Hotard adjourned the meeting at 5:12 p.m.