

**New Smyrna Beach City Commission Meeting  
June 25, 2019**

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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFnPWTUfup3BtTrUyHaJisA>

**1. The City Commission voted unanimously to approve buying nearly 152 acres known as the Turnbull Trace property, to preserve it for public use and prevent its development into a subdivision with hundreds of homes.**

Owned by Turnbull Land LLC, the land is located along Turnbull Creek, south of Pioneer Trail, east of Otter Boulevard, north of Jungle Road, and west of Hammond Street. Almost 32 acres of the tract is either wetlands or surface waters.

Voters approved a bond issue of up to \$15 million in November 2018 to purchase environmentally sensitive properties around Turnbull Creek and preserve those lands, as well as protect the creek's pristine waters.

New Smyrna Beach was awarded a Florida Communities Trust grant of \$3.6 million to offset the cost of buying the land, plus \$50,000 for its acquisition costs. The city's share of the purchase price will be \$5.4 million.

The property owner Turnbull Land LLC had already applied to the city for a preliminary plat review last year, with plans for 293 residential lots.

"I've had people reach out to me and talk about we're overpaying for swamp land. I've heard it all. And it's all stuff I've thought about myself," Mayor Russ Owen noted, before the Commission's vote. "But if we weren't doing this, ... let's say instead of this the agenda item was approving 293, or 250 or even 200 homes, with docks sticking out into Turnbull Bay ... on septic probably, which we wouldn't be able to stop ... this room would be full of people begging us to vote no on that project.

"And, if we paused that meeting at that time and said, 'Well, would you want to buy the property? Here's the purchase price;' the room would erupt in applause if we voted to buy the property. That's where I'm generally at. We're not going to please all the people. We're pleasing 75 percent of the people, if not more. I think it's the right thing to do."

Commissioner Jake Sachs added, "I was unhappy that this Commission didn't have a chance to negotiate the price (*in lieu of the Trust for Public Land providing that service*), but there is a tremendous upside to purchasing this land ... I know there are some people out there that were uncomfortable with this proposal. We did have an election; we did have a referendum vote. The majority of people spoke. They hoped that we would keep these lands in perpetuity."

The city's portion of the price is initially expected to come from short-term financing. The taxpayer-funded bond issue that eventually will pay for the Turnbull Trace parcel as well as others will be discussed at a future meeting, probably July 23.

**2. City Commissioners voted in unison to pass a law banning city contractors and temporary vendors from using single use plastics such as polystyrene food containers and plastic straws, and prohibiting those items on city property.**

The ordinance adopted June 25 would not affect existing contracts the city has with vendors, but will apply to any new contracts entered into after its adoption. As such, it applies to all special events, including food trucks, parades, the Farmer's Market and facility rentals, and will apply to the city's catering contract prices whenever that request for proposals is issued again.

Earlier this year, the Commission discussed banning single-use plastics in city facilities, and decided to look at options for doing that. Staff members reported back that the state has preempted municipalities from enacting any ordinances that restricting disposable plastic bags, but they are free to regulate polystyrene materials on public property, as well as plastic straws.

**3. The City Commission voted unanimously to award a contract for construction and renovation of the new City Hall Annex to A.G. Pifer Construction of Daytona Beach.** The \$4,419,457 contract is for renovation of the former First Baptist Church building immediately north of City Hall, and includes purchasing an emergency generator to power its offices during and after natural disasters. It's estimated the city could be moving into the renovated building by July 2020.

**4. City Commissioners voted unanimously to approve recording a plat for the proposed Turnbull Crossings Subdivision. The development would consist of 25 single-family residential lots on about 31 acres immediately north of Turnbull Bay Road and east of Martin Dairy Road. The property also is near Spruce Creek and the Doris Leeper Preserve.**

Each residential lot is proposed to be a minimum of one acre. No central water and/or sewer services are immediately available to the property, so the subdivision will be served by individual wells and septic systems. However, the developer plans to use advanced, nitrogen-reducing septic systems in an effort to reduce the amount of nitrogen that could end up in various waterways, according to information provided to the city.

Jerry Johnson is the manager and applicant for the property owner, Turnbull Crossings, LLC, 424 Luna Bella Lane, Suite 119.

**5. The City Commission unanimously approved the removal of a Historic Live Oak tree measuring 50 inches in diameter at 1203 Lurian St.**

An arborist concluded the tree's condition was rapidly declining due to being struck by lightning, and it posed a danger to three residential buildings located nearby.

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