



**City Council Workshop
January 26, 2026
Council Chambers
5:30 PM**



- I. Call to Order
- II. Discussion
 1. Fort Maitland Historical Marker Verbiage.
- III. Adjournment

Notice: Any person who desires to appeal any decision made at this meeting or hearing will need a record of the proceedings and, for this purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which includes testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk's office (407-539-6219) 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

MEETING DATE		AGENDA
January 26, 2026		Section: Discussion
Department/Office : City Clerk	AGENDA REPORT	Item #: 1.

Subject:

Fort Maitland Historical Marker Verbiage.

Requested Action or Motion:

Direct staff to incorporate feedback from the January 26, 2026, City Council workshop and present the finalized Fort Maitland historical marker language to City Council for consideration at the February 10, 2026, City Council meeting.

Summary Explanation & Background:

At the November 10, 2025, City Council meeting, the City Council discussed the replacement of the historical marker at Fort Maitland Park, recognizing the former location of Fort Maitland and the life of William Maitland. The original marker had deteriorated after decades of exposure and was determined to be unsalvageable and subsequently disposed of. Following discussion, the Mayor requested additional review to identify next steps to advance a replacement marker.

At the December 8, 2025, City Council meeting, the Mayor presented draft marker language for Council review. During that meeting, a subcommittee was formed to further refine and finalize the proposed verbiage.

The subcommittee met on December 18, 2025, reviewed the draft language, made a few amendments and unanimously recommended the proposed marker text for Council consideration. This subcommittee consisted of four of five currently sitting City Council members.

The subcommittee's recommended language was presented to City Council at the January 12, 2026, meeting.

Proposed language:

FORT MAITLAND

was built across the road from this spot in November 1838 during the war between the United States and the Seminoles. It was a day's march from Ft. Mellon (Sanford) and Ft. Gatlin (Orlando). The fort was named for U.S. Army Bvt. Capt. William S. Maitland (1798-1837) of New York. He never saw this area, but fought against Native and Black warriors at the Battles of Withlacoochee (Dec. 31, 1835), Ft. Defiance (July 19, 1836), and Wahoo Swamp (Nov. 21, 1836), where he was badly wounded. The fort's remnants were visible as late as 1872 when this settlement was designated 'Maitland.'

INDIAN REMOVAL ACT

In 1830, Congress enacted a law to 'remove' Native American Tribes from their ancestral lands and onto reservations west of the Mississippi River. Troops were sent to Florida but most Seminoles refused to leave. In 1835, war broke out. For 7 years, Seminoles and their Black allies who had escaped American slavery fought to remain in Florida. By war's end, the U.S. had deported over 4,000 survivors, though some remained deep in the Everglades. Today, their descendants include the Seminoles and Miccosukees of Florida, Seminoles of Oklahoma, and Black communities of Coahuila, Mex. and

Brackettville, Tex.

City Council took no formal action at that meeting and instead expressed consensus to hold a City Council workshop to further refine and finalize the marker verbiage prior to proceeding.

The purpose of the January 26, 2026, City Council workshop is to review, discuss, and finalize the Fort Maitland historical marker language. Consistent with Council direction provided on January 12, the City intends to proceed with independent fabrication and installation of the marker without submitting an application to the Florida Division of Historical Resources. This approach allows the City to move forward on an expedited timeline while retaining full control over the final marker content. As the marker will not be processed through the state program, it will not be listed in the Florida Historical Marker database and will not include the state seal.

Fiscal Impact:

TBD

Exhibits:

Commission/Board: Other

Contact Person: Lori Hollingsworth 407-539-6219

Reviewed by City Attorney

N/A