



**City Council
Approved Minutes
March 5, 2026
Council Chambers
12:00 PM**



I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: 5 - Mayor John Lowndes, Councilmember Vance Guthrie, Councilmember Stephen Schoene, Councilmember Scot French, Councilmember Bill Randolph

Absent: 0 -

Mayor Lowndes called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. on March 5, 2026. Staff in attendance included: Assistant City Manager Lewis, City Clerk Hollingsworth and Captain Kevin Plumlee.

II. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Lowndes offered a moment of silence.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Lowndes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. DECISIONS

1. FINALIZATION OF FORT MAITLAND HISTORICAL MARKER TEXT.

Mayor Lowndes presented the newly proposed historical marker text incorporating the comments and suggested revisions received. Discussion ensued among City Council.

Mayor Lowndes opened the public period. There being no individuals interested in speaking, the public period was closed.

The approved marker text is provided below, including City Council revisions.

FORT MAITLAND

In the midst of the Florida War, later called the Second Seminole War (1835 - '42), the U.S. Army built a fort east of this spot, across what is now Highway 17-92. At the war's onset, central Florida was the reservation of Florida's Native American Tribes. African-descended people who had escaped American slavery lived among the Tribes. Americans labeled them simply "Seminoles" and "Black Seminoles." The U.S. Army aimed to defeat and remove these people from the territory. In November 1838, Lt. Col. Alexander Fanning began building a military road through uncharted country from Ft. Mellon (now Sanford) toward Lake Tohopekeliga (near today's Kissimmee). He paused by a lake that Native people called Fumecheliga, or muskmelon place. Here, soldiers

built a modest fort of split pine logs and named it in memory of Bvt. Capt. William S. Maitland (1798-1837), who had served with distinction under Fanning. The fort was short-lived and Maitland never saw it, though. He fought against Native and Black warriors at the Battles of Withlacoochee (Dec. 31, 1835), Ft. Defiance (July 19, 1836), and finally Wahoo Swamp (Nov. 21, 1836), where he was badly wounded. He died in the Ashley River at Charleston, S.C. en route to his home state of New York. The fort's remnants were visible as late as 1872 when this settlement was designated "Lake Maitland."
(See other side)

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INDIAN REMOVAL ACT

In 1830, Congress enacted a law to "remove" Indian Tribes from their ancestral lands and onto reservations in present-day Oklahoma. Over the next decade, up to 80,000 Native Americans were forced from their homes across the Southeastern U.S. An estimated 15,000 died walking exile routes known as the Trail of Tears.

But Florida was different. Most Natives refused to leave the territory despite mounting American pressure. In December 1835, war broke out. For 7 years, Native people and their Black allies fought to remain in Florida. Hostilities ranged from the Georgia borderlands to the Florida Keys and from New Smyrna to Tampa. The Second Seminole War was America's longest, deadliest, and costliest war against Native Americans, claiming the lives of an unknown number of Native people, militiamen, and more than 1,500 U.S. soldiers and sailors.

By war's end, the U.S. had deported up to 4,000 survivors to Oklahoma, though several hundred remained defiant deep in the Everglades. Today, the descendants of those who remained are the Seminole Tribe and the Miccosukee Tribe of southern Florida. Descendants of those forced west are the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and the Black Seminole communities of Brackettville, Texas and Coahuila, Mexico.

(See other side)

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Motion was made to approve the text as presented with the removal of the words "finally" and "though", and authorized submission of the final text to Sewah Studios for fabrication of the historical marker.

RESULT:	Approved
MOVER:	Councilmember Randolph
SECONDER:	Councilmember French

AYES:	Stephen Schoene, Vance Guthrie, Scot French, Bill Randolph, John Lowndes
NAYS:	None

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 12:29 p.m.