



# City of Palm Coast Minutes City Council Workshop

City Hall  
160 Lake Avenue  
Palm Coast, FL 32164  
[www.palmcoastgov.com](http://www.palmcoastgov.com)

**Mayor Michael Norris**  
**Vice Mayor Theresa Pontieri**  
**Council Member Charles Gambaro**  
**Council Member Ty Miller**  
**Council Member David Sullivan**

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**Tuesday, July 8, 2025**

**6:00 PM**

**City Hall - Jon Netts  
Community Wing**

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## City Staff

Lauren Johnston, Acting City Manager

Marcus Duffy, City Attorney

Kaley Cook, City Clerk

- Public Participation shall be in accordance with Section 286.0114 Florida Statutes.
- Other matters of concern may be discussed as determined by City Council.
- If you wish to obtain more information regarding the City Council's agenda, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 386-986-3713.
- In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons needing a reasonable accommodation to participate in any of these proceedings or meeting should contact the City Clerk at 386-986-3713, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.
- City Council Meetings are streamed live on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@PalmCoastFL>.
- It is proper meeting etiquette to silence all electronic devices, including cell phones while Council is in session.
- Any person who decides to appeal any decision of the City Council with respect to any matter considered at this meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, may need to hire a court reporter to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

NOTICE: This meeting is being live streamed on the City of Palm Coast YouTube channel and audio recorded for public record and transparency.

## **A CALL TO ORDER**

*Mayor Norris called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.*

## **B PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG AND A MOMENT OF SILENCE**

## **C ROLL CALL**

*Deputy City Clerk Alison Palmer called the roll. All members were present.*

## **D PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Public Participation shall be held in accordance with Section 286.0114 Florida Statutes. And pursuant to the City Council's Meeting Policies and Procedures:

- (1) This agenda item has a thirty (30) minute limit.
- (2) Each speaker shall at the podium, provide their name and may speak for up to 3 minutes.
- (3) The Public may provide comments to the City Council relative to matters not on the agenda at the times indicated in this Agenda. Following any comments from the public, there may be discussion by the City Council.
- (4) Public speakers may address their comments to the Council as a whole, the Mayor, or to an individual Council Member
- (5) When addressing the City Council on specific, enumerated Agenda items, speakers shall:
  - (a) make their comments concise and to the point;
  - (b) not speak more than once on the same subject;
  - (c) not, by speech or otherwise, delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the City Council;
  - (d) obey the orders of the Mayor or the City Council; and
  - (e) not make any irrelevant, impertinent or slanderous comments while addressing the City Council; which pursuant to Council rules, shall be considered disorderly.
- (6) Any person who becomes disorderly or who fails to confine his or her comments to the identified subject or business, shall be cautioned by the Mayor and thereafter must conclude his or her remarks on the subject within the remaining designated time limit.

Any speaker failing to comply, as cautioned, shall be barred from making any additional comments during the meeting and may be removed, as necessary, for the remainder of the meeting.

Members of the public may make comments during the public comment portion of the meeting. Please be advised that public comment will only be permitted during the public comment portions of the agenda at the times indicated by the Chair during the meeting.

*Mayor Norris provided the rules and procedures of public participation.*

*Public participation opened at 6:02 p.m.*

*Jeani Duarte discussed flooding, DOGE, the City Manager search, development, the budget, and asked for action.*

*C.D. Roussel, K section, discussed InfraGard and infrastructure, cell phone towers, and provided documents which are attached to these minutes.*

*Bruce Stone discussed the traffic on Seminole Woods, traffic lights, traffic studies, and lack of solutions.*

*Carol Stauton discussed stormwater, the prior City Manager, water treatment plants, City staff, and salaries.*

*Wendy Tremarche, Flagler County, praised City animal control staff, discussed the animal shelter, City Council and County meeting schedules, and that this issue is time sensitive.*

*Cameron Orr, Animal Rescue of Flagler, discussed prior meetings about animal control, Putnam County, the meeting schedule, and finding solutions.*

*Cathy Saris discussed animal control and the contract with the Flagler Humane Society, animal dumping, pet ownership, and asked for this to be a priority.*

*Jim Blecken discussed development, the real estate market, a moratorium, and taking care of the existing citizens of Palm Coast.*

*Leslie Johnston discussed the Acting City Manager, City staff, Florida Statutes, and asked for an ethics investigation.*

*Jeremy Davis discussed the prior speaker's comments, conflicts of interest, development, and asked Council to take action.*

*Nelson Sistoki, W section, discussed infrastructure and sinkholes near the Mobil station, the golf course and Loopers, and City staff and salaries.*

*Public participation closed at 6:31 p.m.*

*Ms. Johnston responded to public comment regarding the public records request from Ms. Duarte, asked Council if they have different direction on the City Manager search, projects and budgeting, traffic lights, animal control, and her personal commitments in the community.*

*Council Member Miller responded to comments on animal control and long-term funding, infrastructure, and DOGE.*

*Council Member Gambaro responded to public comment regarding Ms. Johnston's involvement in the community.*

*Council Member Sullivan responded to public comment regarding animal control and the animal shelter.*

*Vice Mayor Pontieri responded to public comment regarding animal control, asked for consensus to add an animal shelter to the CIP, City staff positions, traffic light timing, and asked staff to prepare in advance of the August 6 meeting on animal control.*

*Council discussed animal control, an animal shelter, and gave consensus to add an animal shelter to the CIP.*

*Mayor Norris responded to public comment regarding the sinkhole issues in W, the City Manager search, and animal control.*

## **E PRESENTATIONS**

### **1 RESOLUTION 2025-XX APPROVING THE NUISANCE ABATEMENT INITIAL ASSESSMENT**

*City Attorney Duffy read the title into the record.*

*Ms. Johnston provided a background of the item.*

*Barbara Grossman, Code Enforcement Manager, presented the item to Council.*

*Topics presented included: the process, history, and timeline, public nuisance abatement violations, and nuisance abatement assessments.*

*Council held discussion on the following additional topics: increased penalties and fees, and cost recovery.*

*Ms. Grossman provided a response to Council questions.*

*Public comment:*

*Jeani Duarte discussed lot clearing near her house and asked questions about the process.*

*Jim Blecken expressed support for the abatement efforts, fees and fines, liens, and interest.*

*Denise Henry discussed unsafe areas in her neighborhood and asked for remedies.*

*Mark Webb shared praise for Ms. Grossman and her staff, asked about property definitions, shared his experience with empty lots in his neighborhood, and asked how complaints begin.*

*Ms. Grossman responded to public comment regarding process and timeline.*

*Council provided direction to look at fees and cost recovery for next year.*

## **2 PRESENTATION - PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026 GENERAL FUND, IT OPERATIONS, AND FACILITIES BUDGET AND TRIM RATE OPTIONS**

*Ms. Johnston provided a background of the item.*

*Helena Alves, Director of Financial Services, and Gwen Ragsdale, Budget & Procurement Manager, presented the item to Council.*

*Topics presented included: FTEs, General Fund revenue and expenditure, Administration Services budgets, Flagler County Sheriff's contract, City department budgets including Community Development, Economic Development, Fire, Parks & Recreation, Public Works, and IT, non-departmental expenditures, millage rate options, timeline, and online resources.*

*Ms. Alves and Ms. Ragsdale provided a response to Council questions.*

*Public comment:*

*Jeani Duarte praised Chief Berryhill and first responders.*

*Carol Stauton asked how much has been budgeted for water and sewer treatment plants and asked when the last audit was done.*

*Jim Blecken asked about canal dredging, discussed details of the department budgets, and the millage rate.*

*Mark Webb asked about the County millage rate, budget reductions, and projections.*

*Council and Ms. Johnston and responded to public comment and continued discussion of the budget.*

*Council gave direction to set the maximum millage rate at 4.1893.*

### **3 PRESENTATION - STORMWATER ANNUAL UPDATE**

*Ms. Johnston provided a background of the item.*

*Carl Cote, Director of Stormwater & Engineering, and Lynn Stevens, Deputy Director of Stormwater & Engineering, presented the item to Council.*

*Topics presented included: the stormwater system, the swale system, SAP objective, survey results from comparable cities, maintenance alternatives, swale option summary, accomplishments, capital improvements, 2019 master plan update, 2023 rate study update, FY25 CIP loan, and next steps.*

*Mr. Cote and Ms. Stevens provided a response to Council questions.*

*Public comment:*

*Carol Stauton discussed issues in other places she has lived with development and swales.*

*Jeani Duarte thanked staff for the presentation.*

*Jim Blecken thanked staff, shared that he looks forward to speaking with them, and shared methods of swale maintenance.*

*Jeremy Davis discussed details of the presentation and discussed the swale system.*

*Council gave consensus to purchase two portable trenchers and camera video equipment for pipe inspections.*

## **F PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Remainder of Public Comments is limited to three (3) minutes each.

*Public participation opened at 10:04 p.m.*

*Carol Stauton asked that staff salaries be posted and discussed the animal shelter.*

*Mark Webb discussed the library.*

*Jim Blecken asked for links to backup documentation for the agendas and praised Council for the meeting.*

*Public participation closed at 10:10 p.m.*

**G DISCUSSION BY CITY COUNCIL OF MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

*Vice Mayor Pontieri thanked residents and staff for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July events, discussed paint colors, that this item should be on a referendum, and asked for consensus to add this item to the 2026 ballot. Council did not provide consensus. Vice Mayor Pontieri stated that she will move for reconsideration at the next business meeting.*

*Council Member Gambaro asked City Attorney Duffy how much was spent on the recent lawsuit, asked Council if Mayor Norris should reimburse the City, and asked for consensus that Council request reimbursement. Council did not provide consensus.*

*Council held discussion on the lawsuit, reimbursement, and additional recent events.*

**H DISCUSSION BY CITY ATTORNEY OF MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

*There were none.*

**I DISCUSSION BY CITY MANAGER OF MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

*There were none.*

**J ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.*

*Respectfully submitted by: Alison Palmer  
Deputy City Clerk*

## Infragard

InfraGard is a public-private partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and members of the private sector. Its goal is to protect U.S. critical infrastructure through information sharing, education, and collaboration between government agencies and private organizations.

### Key Facts About InfraGard

#### What It Is:

A non-profit organization (InfraGard National Members Alliance) partnered with the FBI.

Supports national security by defending 16 sectors of critical infrastructure (e.g., energy, water, communications, transportation, emergency services).

#### Core Functions:

Threat Information Sharing: Early warnings, cyber alerts, and intelligence from the FBI.

Training & Education: Webinars, conferences, tabletop exercises on physical and cybersecurity threats.

Networking: Builds trusted relationships between FBI field offices and vetted sector professionals.

#### Who Can Join:

U.S. citizens working in fields related to critical infrastructure (private industry, utilities, healthcare, finance, etc.).

Must pass an FBI background check.

Membership is free, but subject to review.

#### Security Role:

InfraGard provides non-classified intelligence to members who can act on it to safeguard systems.

Used extensively for cybersecurity coordination, especially during large-scale threats or ransomware events.

 Example Use Cases:

Sector How InfraGard Helps

Water Utilities      Receives cyber intrusion alerts and DHS advisories.

Telecom      Coordinates with FBI on infrastructure sabotage threats.

Finance      Gets early warnings on fraud patterns and phishing campaigns.

Transportation      Works on anti-terror protocols and disaster response coordination.