



City of Palm Coast Minutes Budget Hearing

City Hall
160 Lake Avenue
Palm Coast, FL 32164
www.palmcoastgov.com

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

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

5:15 PM

**City Hall - Jon Netts
Community Wing**

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.
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- 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 5:15 p.m.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG AND A MOMENT OF SILENCE

C. ROLL CALL

City Clerk Kaley Cook 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.

Jeani Duarte discussed departments to bring forward their final drafts, excessive budgets, lack of resistance to increase requests, and issues she has with Town Halls for the Charter Review.

Ms. Johnston replied to share details of Town Hall meetings.

E. PRESENTATION

1. PRESENTATION - FINAL PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 BUDGET

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

Topics presented included: General Fund Revenues Summary, General Fund Expenditure Summary, Proprietary Funds Budget Summary, Capital Projects Funds Budget Summary, Capital Projects Funds Major Projects Fiscal Year 2026, Special Revenue Funds Budget Summary, Internal Services Funds Budget Summary, Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget Summary, Millage Rate Options, and next steps.

City Council held discussion on the following topics: thanks for the efforts, highlighting the reason for increases and investing in infrastructure, line-item utility capital fund budget, how bonds are reflected on future budgets, and questions about potential bond reductions.

Public comment:

Jeani Duarte shared concern for fund balance and comments from Governor Ron Desantis.

RECESS CITY COUNCIL AND CONVENE THE SR 100 CORRIDOR CRA BOARD

City Council recessed at 5:32 p.m. and convened the SR 100 Corridor CRA Board.

F. SR 100 CORRIDOR CRA RESOLUTIONS

2. SR 100 CORRIDOR COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY RESOLUTION 2025-151 ADOPTING THE SR 100 CORRIDOR COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Mayor Norris stated that the SR 100 Corridor Community Redevelopment Agency Board hereby proposes to adopt a budget with total appropriated expenditures and reserves of \$3,336,344.

Ms. Alves provided a brief overview and reiterated budget amount of \$3,336,344.

Public Comment:

There were none.

Pass

Motion made to approve by Council Member Sullivan and seconded by Council Member Gambaro

Approved - 5 - Mayor Michael Norris, Vice Mayor Theresa Pontieri, Council Member Charles Gambaro, Council Member Ty Miller, Council Member David Sullivan

ADJOURN THE SR 100 CORRIDOR CRA BOARD AND RECONVENE CITY COUNCIL

The SR 100 Corridor CRA Board adjourned at 5:33 p.m. and the City Council meeting reconvened.

G. RESOLUTIONS

3. RESOLUTION 2025-153 ADOPTING THE MILLAGE RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Mayor Norris announced that the City of Palm Coast proposes to levy a tentative millage rate of 4.0893 mills. This is an increase of 2.14% from the rolled-back rate of 4.0035 mills.

Council Member Gambaro discussed the budget process, input received from residents, and wanted a rolled back rate of 4.0035.

Public comment:

Jeani Duarte agreed with the comments of Council Member Gambaro, discussed increased bills, and supported a rollback.

City Council held lengthy discussion on the following topics: dollars that would need to be cut, requests to Council Member Gambaro for proposed cuts, discussion on the proposed cuts, budgeted projects, the budgeting process, and the presented budget. Vice Mayor Pontieri and Council Member Miller did not support the proposed rolled back rate.

Pass

Motion made to approve the millage rate of 4.0893 mills by Vice Mayor Pontieri and seconded by Council Member Sullivan

Approved - 4 - Mayor Michael Norris, Vice Mayor Theresa Pontieri, Council Member Ty Miller, Council Member David Sullivan

Denied - 1 - Council Member Charles Gambaro

4. RESOLUTION 2025-152 ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

Mayor Norris announced that the City of Palm Coast proposes to adopt a tentative budget with total appropriated expenditures and reserves of \$696,444,327.

Public Comment:

There were none.

Mayor Norris announced that the City of Palm Coast proposes to adopt a tentative budget of \$696,444,327.

Mayor Norris stated that the City Clerk must forward a copy of the resolution adopting the final millage to the Property Appraiser, the Tax Collector, and the State of Florida Department of Revenue within 3 days.

Pass

Motion made to approve by Council Member Sullivan and seconded by Vice Mayor Pontieri

Approved - 5 - Mayor Michael Norris, Vice Mayor Theresa Pontieri, Council Member Charles Gambaro, Council Member Ty Miller, Council Member David Sullivan

5. RESOLUTION 2025-154 APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 FLEET REPLACEMENT/PURCHASE PROGRAM AND ASSOCIATED PURCHASE ORDERS FOR FLEET VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

Ms. Johnston provided a brief overview and was available for questions.

Vice Mayor Pontieri highlighted the decrease to the budget.

*Public Comment:
There were none.*

Pass

Motion made to approve by Council Member Gambaro and seconded by Council Member Miller

Approved - 5 - Mayor Michael Norris, Vice Mayor Theresa Pontieri, Council Member Charles Gambaro, Council Member Ty Miller, Council Member David Sullivan

H. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

There were none.

I. DISCUSSION BY CITY COUNCIL OF MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Council Member Gambaro discussed the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) and sought consensus to get a survey to AHAC for feedback and final presentation to Council.

Additionally, Council Member Gambaro highlighted a topic of discussion from the AHAC meeting regarding impact fee waivers, County efforts, and recommended that the Council review the policies of the County and to decide if the policies are a good fit.

Mayor Norris was hesitant to cut back impact fees.

Vice Mayor Pontieri did not support the request but was fine with reviewing the County policies for edification.

Council Member Miller was in support of reviewing the information.

Council Member Sullivan provided consensus to review the information.

Council Member Sullivan shared his attendance at the State Legislative Program meeting, that the Mayor gave the presentation appropriately, and shared comments from Senator Leek.

Vice Mayor Pontieri thanked Mayor Norris for representing the City at the meeting.

Mayor Norris shared his thought on the different feel of the meeting compared to last year and discussed City needs.

Vice Mayor Pontieri discussed recent traffic fatalities on the roads, encouraged safe driving and roadway safety projects, a Live Like Cameron event, Kiwanis Club bowling tournament and a challenge issued to local municipal boards for board bowling leagues. City Council shared support for participating in the bowling league.

Mayor Norris shared bike riding concerns he recently witnessed.

Council Member Gambaro shared about a baby box dedication at Fire Station 25.

J. DISCUSSION BY CITY ATTORNEY OF MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were none.

K. DISCUSSION BY CITY MANAGER OF MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were none.

L. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by: Kaley Cook, CMC, FCRM
City Clerk*