



City of Oak Hill, Florida

City Workshop Minutes

Date: September 15th 2025

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: 234 S. U.S. Hwy 1, Oak Hill, FL 32759

VSO Workshop

Meeting minutes

Call to Order

Mayor Taylor called the City of Oak Hill Commission workshop to order. A moment of silence was observed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Deputy City Clerk conducted the roll call. Present were Commissioner Hyatt, Vice Mayor Catigano, Commissioner Drollinger, Mayor Taylor, and Commissioner Werning. All commissioners were present.

Presentations

PRESENTATION FROM VOLUSIA SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Mayor Taylor opened the workshop meeting and explained that sensitive information should not be shared during the public meeting. He requested that citizens with specific concerns about individuals or addresses speak with officers privately after the meeting. He stated that the purpose of the workshop was to clarify expectations, improve communication, and enhance the relationship between the Volusia Sheriff's Office (VSO) and the City of Oak Hill.

Deputy City Clerk Megan Bracy informed attendees that Captain Shivers had provided business cards at the back table for those who wished to share sensitive information privately.

Captain Dan Shivers presented information about the VSO's work in Oak Hill. He introduced himself as a 25-year law enforcement veteran with 21 years at the sheriff's office who serves as District 3 commander covering the area from Ormond Beach to Oak Hill. He also introduced Lieutenant Joel Turney, the District 3 south assistant commander who manages day-to-day operations in the area.

Captain Shivers shared a video featuring Deputies Jordan Luis and Jonathan Rivera discussing their experiences serving Oak Hill. Both deputies expressed their appreciation for the community and noted the value of working in a small town where they can build relationships with residents.

The presentation included the following statistics and information:

- Oak Hill had 6,800 calls for service in 2024, with 4,100 year-to-date through September 1st
- 70.39% of calls were self-initiated by deputies (traffic stops, extra patrols, directed patrols)
- One deputy is assigned per 12-hour shift, providing 24/7 coverage
- Clearance rates for crimes in Oak Hill significantly exceed national averages:
- Person crimes: 82.76% clearance (national average: 45.5%)
- Property crimes: 67.57% clearance (national average: 17.2%)
- Year-to-date clearance rates continue this trend: 88.89% for person crimes and 68.75% for property crimes
- Overall crime reduction of 19.7% compared to the same period last year
- Deputies made 86 arrests in 2024, with 46 arrests year-to-date (22 for narcotics)
- Traffic enforcement: 651 traffic stops, 390 citations, and 154 written warnings in 2024
- Deputies responded to 16 motor vehicle crashes (10 minor, 4 majors, 2 hit and runs)
- 100% decrease in overdose deaths since 2023 and a 57.1% decrease in overdose incidents

Captain Shivers also highlighted additional resources available to Oak Hill beyond the four assigned deputies, including:

- Crime Suppression Team led by Sergeant Dean Wallace
- County motorcycle units
- Eastside Narcotics Task Force
- Behavioral Threat Assessment Team
- Detective units
- Victim advocates
- Specialized units (SWAT, K9, marine units, forensics)

Captain Shivers emphasized the department's commitment to Oak Hill through:

- Achieving proven crime reductions
- Delivering strong accountability and service
- Providing access to county-wide resources
- Continuing collaboration with city leaders

He also mentioned the Volusia Sheriff's Office Safer Watch app, which allows citizens to see real-time calls for service, send tips, and view information.

Commissioner Werning asked whether the statistics presented were only for the city limits or included unincorporated areas. Captain Shivers confirmed the data was exclusively for Oak Hill city limits but offered to provide comparative data for unincorporated areas upon request.

PUBLIC INPUT

Several residents raised concerns about community issues:

Rocky Drohan (196 Gary Avenue) reported speeding issues on his street, noting concerns about safety for children and animals. He mentioned that when he asks drivers to slow down, he sometimes receives hostile responses. Captain Shivers committed to increasing deputy presence in that area.

Tammee Kreek (124 North Gaines Street) inquired about the city's ordinances regarding prowling, loitering, and trespassing. Captain Shivers explained that prowling and loitering are combined in one statute, defined as being in a place in a manner inconsistent with law-abiding citizens. He encouraged residents to call when they see suspicious activity.

Donia DeWees (243 Adams Street) expressed concerns about speeding on Blinn Street and Gaines Street, mentioning there are seven children living on Blinn Street alone. She also complained about a property where people were living in improper structures with overgrown vegetation. The sheriff's representatives and city staff noted that the new code enforcement officer would address these issues.

Dan Racquet (230 Adams Street) described what he called a "bicycle backpack patrol delivery system" operating 24 hours a day in his neighborhood, with people traveling behind houses and allegedly building structures in overgrown areas. He expressed frustration with the transient population and drug activity. Captain Shivers acknowledged the issue and asked residents to report suspicious activity when they see it happening.

David Lee (130 North Putnam) raised concerns about homeless encampments that reappear shortly after being cleared and drug deals occurring in plain sight. The sheriff's representatives explained the challenges they face with homeless populations and emphasized the value of calling 911 when illegal activity is occurring. Sheriff Chitwood noted that specific information from witnesses is crucial for deputies to have legal grounds to stop and search suspects.

Jeannie Austin (537 Cheyenne Drive) reported ongoing issues with garbage being dumped in the turnaround area at Lighthouse Cove, including bottles containing urine. Deputies committed to monitoring the area.

Vice Mayor Catigano described a situation where someone was allegedly living in a shed on a residential property with frequent suspicious visitors. Sheriff Chitwood and Captain Shivers explained that this was primarily a code enforcement issue rather than a law enforcement matter, as deputies cannot stop people walking down the street without specific legal grounds.

Rose Hartman (250 Cypress Avenue) and a neighbor raised concerns about a fence being built in an easement that blocked access to their properties. Mayor Taylor directed them to work with code enforcement after the meeting to address this issue.

FINAL COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Werning asked what the commission and city could do to help VSO address drug dealing and homelessness issues. Captain Shivers identified two key needs:

1. Improved communication from residents about problem areas and suspicious activity
2. Enhanced coordination between code enforcement and law enforcement

City Manager John Barkley emphasized the importance of reviewing city ordinances and strengthening the partnership between code enforcement and law enforcement. He noted that the city's new code enforcement officer would be instrumental in addressing many of the issues raised during the meeting.

Sheriff Chitwood suggested leveraging county resources for code enforcement and using body camera footage from deputies to support code enforcement actions. He also emphasized the importance of residents reporting crimes as they occur.

Captain Shivers and Lieutenant Turney encouraged residents to contact them directly with concerns and assured the commission of their continued commitment to serving Oak Hill.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Werning, seconded by Commissioner Hyatt.
Motion carried.

Note: In accordance with Resolution 2006-17, a three-minute time limit per speaker is enforced. If any individual decides to appeal a decision made during this meeting, a verbatim record of the proceedings will be required as per Florida Statute 166.041(3)(A).

Attest:

X

City Manager
John Barkley

X

Ricky Taylor
Mayor