



City of Oak Hill, Florida
City Commission Meeting Minutes
Date: September 22nd, 2025
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: 234 S. U.S. Hwy 1, Oak Hill, FL 32759

City Council Meeting

Meeting minutes

OPENING

Call to Order

Mayor Ricky Taylor called the City Commission meeting to order.

Moment of silence

A Moment of silence was observed.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Ricky Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Deputy City Clerk Megan Bracy conducted the roll call. Present were Mayor Ricky Taylor, Commissioner Carrie Werning, Vice Mayor Joe Catigano, Commissioner Linda Hyatt and Commissioner Mark Drollinger.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

Commissioner Carrie Werning requested to add follow-up questions from previous meetings under Old Business as item G.2 Mayor Ricky Taylor confirmed this would be added as item G.2.

PRESENTATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Jo Oppel, Chaplain, American Legion Auxiliary re: Food Bank/Homeless Services

Mayor Ricky Taylor began with a proclamation for Constitution Week 2025, declaring September 17-23, 2025, as Constitution Week in Oak Hill.

Ms. Mary Jo Oppel then presented information about St. Vincent de Paul food distribution services. She explained that they serve Oak Hill, Edgewater, and New Smyrna Beach communities. Ms. Oppel detailed their operations, noting they are entirely volunteer run, with a home visiting team that delivers food to those who cannot drive. Every Monday, approximately 10 volunteers prepare 60 sets of groceries (two bags per set), with larger families receiving two sets.

Ms. Oppel explained they receive food from Second Harvest Food Bank, which they purchase, and they also receive meat donations from Publix that have been frozen before their expiration date. She emphasized that nothing on their shelves is outdated. Their phone team takes calls from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM, and they pick up bread and pastries from Publix in Edgewater and beachside locations three different times per week.

Ms. Oppel provided informational materials about various food assistance resources in the area, including St. Gerard's Church where their office is located. She invited volunteers to help, particularly for home visits, noting that two people always go out together for these deliveries.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION / PUBLIC INPUT (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

Mr. Neil Bonds from 295 Indian Creek Road announced that the Fellowship of Christian Athletes would be holding their first saltwater tournament in Volusia County on November 1st. He explained the event aims to get young people away from video games and out on the water. All entrance fees will be returned as prizes. Mr. Bonds mentioned they are looking for sponsorships and for people over 18 who can take kids without boats out on the water. He noted that the tournament would be held at River Breeze Park and would end at noon. He emphasized that while it's called Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the program is open to any student who wants to participate.

CONSENT AGENDA

Meeting Minutes

Mayor Ricky Taylor presented the minutes from the August 25, 2025, Commission Meeting, August 28, 2025, Budget Workshop, and September 8, 2025 Commission Meeting for approval.

Commissioner Carrie Werning noted several corrections needed in the minutes:

- In the August 28th minutes, her name was misspelled as "Waren" instead of "Werning"

- In the September 8th minutes, she was incorrectly referred to as "he" instead of "she"
- Also in the September 8th minutes, there was an incorrect statement that "participants for the breast cancer walk will receive shirts." She clarified that shirts can be purchased separately for \$15, and the walk registration is \$10, with all money going to the Oak Hill team fundraiser for Making Strides Volusia Flagler Daytona Beach Walk and the majority of the donations will stay in our local community.

Commissioner Linda Hyatt pointed out that "Brendan DeWees" should be corrected to "Brenda DeWees." She also noted that the community garden and the Oak Hill Garden Club are two separate entities.

Motion: Commissioner Linda Hyatt moved to approve the minutes with the requested corrections. Commissioner Mark Drollinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

City Manager John Barkley presented his written report, noting it was available on the back tables and posted online. He explained this was a new reporting process to keep citizens informed of city activities, and that the reports would be posted online the week before each regular meeting.

City Manager Barkley stated he would not go through each item on the list but was happy to follow up with citizens on any concerns. He mentioned that the speed bump issue had become more complicated as they examined factors such as miles per hour, grades of the speed bumps, and styles. He noted they were reexamining whether speed bumps are the best remedy for speeding concerns.

City Manager Barkley reported that they had spoken with the Sheriff's Office about law enforcement aspects and had a follow-up meeting scheduled for the next day to discuss better coordination between code enforcement and law enforcement efforts. He emphasized that staff is being proactive about enforcement issues, noting that Code Enforcement Officer Pete Hinson had "hit the ground running" with his experience and knowledge.

OLD BUSINESS

Public Hearing: Adoption of Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Final Budget and Millage Rate

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-06 OF THE CITY OF OAK HILL OF VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE FINAL LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR VOLUSIA COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Attorney Mike Kelly advised that the resolution could be read by title into the record. City Manager John Barkley noted that the resolutions had been dually noticed.

Motion: Commissioner Carrie Werning moved to approve the existing millage rate for 2025-2026, meaning the millage rate will not be changing. Commissioner Mark Drollinger & Commissioner Hyatt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-07 OF THE CITY OF OAK HILL VOLUSIA COUNTY
FLORIDA ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026;
PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Motion: Commissioner Linda Hyatt moved to approve Resolution 2025-07 adopting the final budget for fiscal year 2025-2026. Commissioner Mark Drollinger seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1 with Commissioner Carrie Werning voting no.

Follow-up Questions

Commissioner Carrie Werning inquired about several items from previous meetings:

1. Regarding the forensic audit request made by Vice Mayor Joe Catigano during the August 28, 2025, budget workshop, City Manager John Barkley stated he had a cost estimate that was within his purchasing authority threshold but would bring it before the commission for their awareness.
2. Regarding the audit report from CARR, City Manager Barkley reported it had been received 2-3 days ago and was scheduled for presentation at the October 27th City Commission meeting. He confirmed copies would be provided to commissioners with ample time to review before the presentation.
3. Regarding formal quotes for the towable man lift and enclosed utility trailer requested by Mayor Taylor, City Manager Barkley stated they were still doing their due diligence and would have the information a week before the October 13th commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01: FIRST READING, EXTENDING THE ONE-YEAR MORATORIUM OF CITY ACCEPTING ANY APPLICATION FOR RESIDENTIAL PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (RPUD) ZONING

City Attorney Mike Kelly presented the ordinance and explained that Senate Bill 180 had preempted the city's ability to extend this moratorium. He advised that the moratorium extension was not necessary, as the commission could still review and potentially deny any RPUD applications on a case-by-case basis.

The City Attorney explained that if developers submit applications for RPUD zoning, the commission could deny them based on legitimate reasons, such as needing to revise the RPUD ordinance but being unable to do so due to SB 180. He noted that enacting the moratorium could expose the city to potential liability under SB 180.

Commissioner Carrie Werning discussed the possibility of updating the city's comprehensive plan to be ready when SB 180 expires or is overturned. She also raised a question about removing the 78 acres of Canaveral National Seashore from the city's comprehensive plan, as

this federal land is incorrectly listed as city parkland and affects calculations for open spaces in development applications.

City Attorney Kelly read the ordinance by title: "An ordinance of the City of Oak Hill, Volusia County, Florida extending for a period of one year the moratorium enacted by ordinance 2024-10 on the city's acceptance of any application for a residential plan unit development RPUD zoning; providing for legislative findings; providing for conflicting ordinances; providing for severability and providing for an effective date."

Motion: Commissioner Carrie Werning moved to not accept Ordinance 2025-01 at this point in time. Commissioner Linda Hyatt seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1 with Vice Mayor Joe Catigano voting no.

Vice Mayor Catigano expressed concern that by not enacting the ordinance, the city was not being clear to developers and the public about the commission's intentions.

CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Mike Kelly had no updates since the last meeting.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Economic Development Director Mike Arman reported on attending the State of the State address at Brannon Center with City Manager Barkley. He noted that economics professor Sean Snaith from UCF and a representative from the Florida Department of Commerce spoke at the event. He shared a concerning statistic that 38% of school-age children in Oak Hill are living in poverty, the highest percentage in the entire area. Mr. Arman expressed his intention to identify these children and connect them with resources, suggesting coordination with churches, community members, and schools.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Carrie Werning raised concerns about:

1. The need to improve the sound system for meeting recordings to ensure attendees and those listening to recordings can clearly hear what is said.
2. Information that Don and Erin have moved their ball games from Nancy Cummings Park to Edgewater due to complaints about people parking on the grass. She noted they had not notified the city about this change.

City Manager John Barkley committed to looking into the situation with the ball games, noting that he recalled complaints about parking issues affecting both the park and neighboring properties.

Mayor Ricky Taylor mentioned observing vehicles parked long-term on the street near the park, including a trailer with grass growing around it and a jeep that appeared to have been there for some time.

Vice Mayor Joe Catigano expressed concern about the level of detail in meeting minutes, suggesting it takes up too much staff time. Deputy City Clerk Megan Bracy explained that recent minutes were less detailed than previous ones and noted the challenges of creating detailed minutes, especially when people don't identify themselves when speaking.

Commissioner Mark Drollinger suggested summarizing minutes with the option to provide more detail as needed. He also reported that he had observed two people camping in the dugout at the ball field and called the Sheriff's Department. He commended Officer Blackwell for responding quickly, trespassing the individuals, and discovering drug paraphernalia.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Carrie Werning moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Linda Hyatt seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

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