



## Osceola Local Government Update

### QUICK WEEK OVERVIEW

#### **OSCEOLA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Last week, Joliene Shive was appointed by Governor Ron Desantis to the Osceola County School Board, District 3 (A vacant seat after Anthony Cook stepped down from his position) bringing a new voice to the district's leadership. She is also a member of The Osceola Chamber and a valued friend to many in our community.



#### **OSCEOLA COUNTY**

*February 16, 2026 - 5:30pm*

At this week's meeting of the Osceola County Board of County Commissioners, a proclamation was presented recognizing Heart of Florida United Way Day by Daniel Vanegas. The consent agenda items #2 through #21 were approved 5-0, with Item #12 passed 4-1 as Ricky Booth voted in opposition. Consent public hearing items #22 through #29 were approved unanimously. Public hearing items #30 and #31 were approved 4-1, again with Booth dissenting, and three constituents spoke in opposition to those items.

During board closing comments, Chair Brandon Arrington and Vice Chair Cheryl Grieb offered remarks, including mention of the Neo City Character Design Contest. Commissioner Viviana Janer highlighted the upcoming Community Resource Fair on March 5 at 10 a.m. at 501 Florida Parkway, while Commissioner Peggy Choudhry noted that applications remain open for the 2026 student committee. Commissioner Booth encouraged residents to attend the Osceola County Fair, which runs through Sunday, and the Silver Spurs Rodeo taking place Thursday through Saturday. He also mentioned the Finance Authority Board and Vivian Grillo. County Manager Don Fisher addressed a significant commercial fire along Poinciana Boulevard this past week and announced that the county is issuing a burn ban at this time.

#### **CITY OF KISSIMMEE**

*February 17, 2026 - 6:00pm*

At this week's meeting of the Kissimmee City Commission, commissioners presented a proclamation recognizing Back on Track Employment Services and honored community partners and the Resident of the Year from Haven on Vine. During public hearings, Ordinance #26-03, which would amend term limits to allow commissioners to serve three consecutive four-year terms instead of two, was approved 4-1, with Janette Martinez opposing; if ultimately approved, the measure will appear on the August ballot for voters to decide. Martinez questioned the necessity of the change, while Carlos Alvarez stated that although he has served six years, there is still more work to accomplish. Ordinance #26-04 prohibiting smoking and vaping in public parks passed unanimously, with several youth speakers addressing the commission and receiving praise, and Ordinance #26-05 requiring criminal background checks to verify candidate qualifications also passed 5-0.



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During public comment, residents raised concerns including alleged retaliation by the commission, the recent firing of the city attorney, alcohol sales at city events, and allegations against Jeremy Fetzer, including claims of deceptive statements and questions about his independence, with references made to Jackie Espinosa. Fetzer denied the allegations and spoke in favor of the attorney's termination. The consent agenda items #7.A through #7.N were approved unanimously. Under discussion items, commissioners provided direction regarding potential regulations for food trucks and carts, reviewing multiple options ranging from prohibition to allowing them through special event or conditional use permits; Mayor Espinosa stated Kissimmee is open for prudent business but emphasized concerns that require further workshop discussion before drafting an ordinance.

The commission appointed Kalanit Oded, who has served as deputy city attorney for over six years with more than 22 years of legal experience, as interim city attorney, and discussed the recruitment process for a permanent appointment, as well as establishing an Auditor Selection Committee. During closing remarks, City Manager Mike Steigerwald and City Attorney Olga Sanchez spoke, and Mayor Espinosa addressed public criticism surrounding the attorney's termination, stating her motion was based on over a year of observation, concerns over communication, management, and departmental performance, including reference to an alleged \$11 million budget overstatement during the department's tenure; she emphasized the decision was not intended to publicly humiliate anyone. Vice Mayor Angela Eady expressed concern about the social media response to her vote and said she would like more briefing information prior to future decisions. Commissioner Martinez requested clarification regarding prior meetings involving the mayor, the city manager, the financial director, and Fetzer about budget concerns and the termination, stating she was unaware of those discussions and questioning why they were not brought before the full board. Mayor Espinosa adjourned the meeting while Martinez continued to seek clarification.

### **CITY OF ST CLOUD WORKSHOP**

*February 18, 2026 - 2:00pm*

At this week's workshop, the St. Cloud City Council discussed a proposed fire special assessment fee that would utilize the same formula currently used by the City of Kissimmee. The assessment study is being prepared by the same consultant who works with Kissimmee, which is scheduled to conduct its annual review of the fee in April. Council members said they still need more detailed financial information including projected revenue, property impacts, and how the funds would directly support fire operations before it can move forward in the budget process. As it stands, Chris Robertson has expressed opposition to implementing a new fee, and the overall consensus was that additional data is necessary before any decision can be made.