

**MINUTES
CITY OF ORMOND BEACH
STORMWATER UPDATE WORKSHOP**

April 15, 2025

5:30 p.m.

City Commission Conference Room

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jason Leslie called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jason Leslie, Commissioners Lori Tolland, Travis Sargent, Kristin Deaton and Harold Briley, City Manager Joyce Shanahan, City Attorney Randy Hayes, and Assistant City Managers Claire Whitley and Shawn Finley.

II. DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Shawn Finley, Assistant City Manager, reviewed statistics on the city's stormwater maintenance and management, including piping, swales, ponds, and lakes, and full-time stormwater employees. He discussed the history of stormwater management, hydrologic cycle, stormwater runoff, stormwater goals, and stormwater design. He noted the city was required to meet Volusia County's minimum standards but could go above the standard if so desired.

Commissioner Sargent inquired if the city could enlist prisoners to help mow the swales; whereby, Commissioner Deaton was supportive.

Ms. Joyce Shanahan, City Manager, stated it was discussed in the past and was unsure if the program was still offered.

Mr. Finley reviewed Lincoln Park as a premiere stormwater park and discussed its features and the impact it would have on future nearby redevelopment.

Commissioner Sargent inquired if native vegetation could be used instead of mulch in the Granada Boulevard medians; whereby, Mr. Finley noted the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) oversaw the rights-of-way.

Commissioner Tolland discussed retention ponds and stormwater design in new developments.

Mr. Finley discussed local retention ponds, their function, and how they flood. He reviewed the City Engineering Department's role in stormwater management, highlighting the importance of the review of stormwater design plans.

Commissioner Briley expressed concerns regarding redevelopment of older properties with older stormwater standards being built to newer standards; whereby, Mr. Finley stated with proper plan review and stormwater design it could be done properly.

Mr. Finley reviewed types of stormwater storage and key design factors. He discussed post-hurricane reviews by staff, including onsite visits to places that previously flooded. He noted post-storm goals and issues with post-storm flooding. He discussed state requirements and St. John's Water Management District's standard requirements. He

indicated issues with dissolved Homeowner Associations (HOA) and who oversaw the upkeep of the stormwater management within those communities.

Commissioner Deaton inquired about full swales in a neighborhood after a storm; whereby, Mr. Finley explained how they function and the importance of keeping culverts clear of debris to prevent flow obstruction. Commissioner Deaton asked if staff could include a reminder to residents on their water bill to keep the culverts clean; whereby, Mr. Finley stated he believed that was already done and there were social media posts scheduled during storm seasons.

Mr. Finley reviewed the standards for pipe size within the city.

Commissioner Tolland inquired about the pipe-lining projects; whereby, Mr. Finley explained the sanitary and storm sewer pipes were older pipes and the project would allow for a quicker and cheaper process, while enhancing the speed at which the water flows through the pipes.

Mr. Finley discussed the Volusia County stormwater requirements and noted the city could either match them or make them stricter. He reviewed the Volusia County Council priority items, including acquisition of flood prone properties and discussed the requirements and history with similar projects.

Commissioner Tolland indicated a citizen suggested the city stop utilizing chemicals to cut back the overgrown grass in ponds and provided an alternate way to achieve a similar outcome.

Mr. Finley noted the importance of some vegetation in the ponds and discussed canal maintenance, public properties for flood mitigation, and the use of fill in developments. He provided an example of compensating storage with fill on a property. He discussed Volusia County's Transform 386 program and the proposed projects that were already approved for design.

Commissioner Sargent inquired if the Durrance Acres project was the city's responsibility as the roads were private; whereby, Mr. Finley explained Groover Branch Creek was a part of the proposed project and was a high priority for the city and Volusia County.

Commissioner Briley noted if Groover Branch had improvements, it would help the surrounding neighborhoods, not only Durrance Acres.

Commissioner Sargent expressed the importance of the Wilmette Avenue and Sanchez Avenue areas.

Mr. Finley explained the studies were previously approved, noting no work would be done without the Commission's approval. He reviewed the flooding assessment, noting high priority areas such as Sanchez Avenue area, North US Highway 1, and Ormond Lakes. He reviewed the Stormwater Masterplan, noting its success since the 2009 unnamed storm.

Commissioner Briley expressed concerns regarding a resident's property near a Volusia County School, noting his preference to have the School Board assist with the funds to fix the flooding.

Commissioner Tolland asked if the Wilmette Avenue property Commissioner Sargent suggested purchasing would help with flooding issues in the area; whereby, Mr. Finley stated there was concern regarding the amount of wetland areas, noting the area was good for waterway access. He noted the city was working on getting an appraisal for the property.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.
Prepared by: Taylor Lochert