



City of Ormond Beach

City Commission Workshop

City Hall Commission Conference Room
22 South Beach St., Ormond Beach FL 32174

Jason Leslie, Mayor
Lori Tolland, Zone 1
Travis Sargent, Zone 2
Kristin Deaton, Zone 3
Harold Briley, Zone 4

March 3, 2026, 5:30 PM

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Leslie called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

Present: Mayor Jason Leslie, Commissioners Lori Tolland, Travis Sargent, Kristin Deaton, and Harold Briley, Budget Advisory Board Members Rick Boehm, Billie Jo Kaler, John Olivari, and Troy Railsback, City Manager Joyce Shanahan, City Attorney Randy Hayes, Assistant City Managers Claire Whitley and Shawn Finley, Finance Director Kelly McGuire, and Assistant Finance Director Chris Byle.

2. DISCUSSIONS

A. Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Kickoff

Efficiency Audit Findings

Ms. Kelly McGuire, Finance Director, reviewed the discussions from the Efficiency Audit (Self-DOGE) meetings with the Budget Advisory Board, highlighting the timeline of the audit, travel policies, not-for-profit contributions, professional memberships, take-home vehicle policy, contract management review, and the review of the bid platform.

Mayor Leslie inquired if the membership budget was normal for the size of the municipality; whereby, Ms. McGuire stated it was normal-to-low in comparison to other municipalities.

Commissioner Tolland questioned if the membership budget included the Commissioners' memberships; whereby, Ms. McGuire indicated the Commission memberships were included.

Commissioner Briley reviewed concerns and the effectiveness of vehicle tracking.

Commissioner Sargent asked what would be accomplished by installing tracking software to the vehicles; whereby, Mr. Railsback explained the Budget Advisory Board suggested the tracking if there were concerns of employees abusing the take-home vehicle policy.

Commissioner Tolland stated it could be used to verify there was no utilization of vehicles after work hours for personal uses.

Commissioner Briley suggested utilizing travel logs if a tracking system was not already in place; whereby, Ms. Claire Whitley, Assistant City Manager, explained staff would investigate if there were concerns of any employee abusing the vehicle policy.

Ms. McGuire further reviewed the take-home vehicle policy.

Commissioner Deaton and Commissioner Sargent expressed concerns regarding additional oversight of the vehicle policy.

Mayor Leslie inquired about the number of auto-renewal contracts; whereby, Ms. McGuire stated there were a couple dozen each year that were above the city manager's spending level.

Commissioner Tolland discussed the travel policy and stated the entire Commission did not need to attend every conference together, noting it could be discussed before deciding on who would go to which conference.

Property Taxes and Future Budgets

Ms. McGuire reviewed the property taxes the city received, noting the proposed property tax reform legislation bills. She stated the reform bill was proposing cutting the homesteaded tax revenue, which would cut over \$11,200,000 in the 2027-2028 Fiscal Year (FY) budget. She reviewed hypothetical scenarios and strategies if the bills passed, including sales tax, increased property tax, increased or new fees, and cutting of services and projects. She reviewed the plan for the capital projects for the 2026-2027 FY budget based on the current tax rate, noting she was looking for direction from the Commission if other projects should be added or removed and adjusting the tax rates.

Mayor Leslie asked about the Nova Field 1 Refurbishment project; whereby, Mr. Shawn Finley, Assistant City Manager, explained the results of the study conducted and the work needed.

Ms. McGuire reviewed the budget and funding for the Nova Field 1 work, noting it was budgeted over two years.

Commissioner Deaton and Commissioner Sargent discussed the potential use of the field; whereby, Mr. Finley noted youth baseball was the proposed use.

Commissioner Deaton stated traffic-calming was not a priority for the budget; whereby, Commissioner Sargent agreed, noting the effectiveness of the Police Department writing tickets.

Commissioner Tolland discussed the importance of LED lighting at the Nova Fields; whereby, Ms. McGuire stated the lighting for Fields 11 and 12 was a funded project. Commissioner Tolland questioned the funds for the Miracle Field project; whereby, Ms. Finley reviewed the issues regarding funding and location.

Commissioner Briley inquired how frequently Riverbend Nature Park was utilized; whereby, Commissioner Tolland stated she drove by the park all the time and the parking lot was always full and the park busy. He reviewed the burden of increased taxes and expressed concerns with the proposed legislation.

Commissioner Deaton questioned the police and fire taxes on a tax bill versus city fees; whereby, Ms. McGuire explained the benefits of the tax.

Mayor Leslie inquired about the traffic signal maintenance; whereby, Mr. Finley stated the cost was for the painting of mast arms.

Commissioner Briley suggested not painting the mast arms; whereby, Mayor Leslie agreed, highlighting the maintenance would remain with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

Mayor Leslie inquired about the replacement of mast arms and the city's fiscal responsibility; whereby, Mr. Finley stated the item would be brought before the Commission in an upcoming meeting. Mayor Leslie asked about the Central Park Dock projects; whereby, Ms. McGuire stated the projects had not started and were proposed for future year budgets.

Ms. McGuire requested clarification on whether the Commission wanted to remove traffic-calming from the budget; whereby, Mr. Finley reviewed what was involved in the traffic-calming funds.

Commissioner Deaton expressed the need for the millage to remain as it was for the upcoming budget.

Commissioner Briley reviewed the costs associated with the radar feedback signs.

Commissioner Tolland inquired how many requests there were for speed tables; whereby, Mr. Finley stated there were two high priority requests, noting there were several other requests. She discussed costs associated with the traffic-calming program; whereby, Ms. McGuire stated there was \$50,000 budgeted. Commissioner Tolland suggested keeping the item in the budget but reducing the funding.

Commissioner Deaton questioned the security access; whereby, Commissioner Sargent clarified the Police Department made the recommendations for the project.

Commissioner Tolland expressed support for the security access project.

Ms. McGuire discussed the millage rate and Commission direction to remain the same.

Commissioner Tolland stated the millage should remain where it was last year at a flat rate with direction for staff to adjust funds as needed for each project; whereby, Mayor Leslie agreed.

Commissioner Deaton explained the Parks and Recreation Department was requesting laser graded fields and the Fire Department was requesting additional staff and an apparatus.

Ms. McGuire stated the requests could be discussed further at the Capital Improvement Program workshop.

Mayor Leslie inquired if the same millage rate was kept, would the city still be the second lowest in the county; whereby, Ms. McGuire stated she did not foresee other

municipalities lowering their millage rates, therefore the city would remain the second lowest.

Commissioner Briley discussed the unaddressed Public Works needs and potentially increasing Public Works funds; whereby, Ms. McGuire explained all stormwater projects were funded from the stormwater rates.

Mr. Finley reviewed the funding of stormwater projects, including the stormwater rates and grants.

Commissioner Briley discussed other Public Works needs such as sidewalks; whereby, Mr. Finley reviewed sidewalks and roadway projects.

Commissioner Sargent expressed support for the tax rate going flat, noting he would like to see the city aim for the rolled back rate in future years. He discussed the importance of technology to improve efficiency, need for additional first responders, and desire for more state-funded projects.

Ms. McGuire and Mayor Leslie thanked the Budget Advisory Board for all their hard work.

3. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 PM.

Prepared by: Taylor Lochert