



City of Ormond Beach

City Commission Workshop

City Hall Commission Conference Room

22 South Beach St., Ormond Beach FL 32174

July 28, 2026, 5:30 PM

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

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Leslie called the meeting to order at 5:30 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 Josh Pringle, City Manager Joyce Shanahan, Assistant City Managers Shawn Finley and Claire Whitley, City Attorney Randy Hayes, Finance Director Kelly McGuire, and Assistant Finance Director Chris Byle.

2. DISCUSSIONS

A. Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Proposed Budget and Millage Rate

Ms. Kelly McGuire, Finance Director, reviewed the process to prepare the budget, noting each year the City Commission selected an outside firm to audit the city's financial transactions. She discussed the categories addressed during the City Commission's requested Efficiency Audit (Self-DOGE) completed by the Budget Advisory Board. She explained the Commission previously unanimously voted to use the fiscal year (FY) 2025-2026 millage rate of 4.32 mills for FY 2026-2027. She reviewed the proposed budget by funds and legislation regarding a homestead property tax amendment scheduled to be voted on during the November 2026 election and its potential impacts if the amendment passed. She stated the need to focus on the tax funded portions of the budget during the workshop as the tentative millage rate needed to be set at the following City Commission meeting. She indicated another workshop could be scheduled for further review on August 25, 2026.

Commissioner Tolland confirmed with Ms. McGuire the millage rate could not increase after the July 28, 2026, City Commission meeting but could decrease at the Commission's direction.

Ms. McGuire provided an overview of changes in expenditures from FY 2025-2026 to FY 2026-2027, noting, without the Fleming Avenue Pump Station project, the total budget decreases from the previous year. She discussed changes to the general fund and the addition of two positions funded with building inspection reserves. She elaborated on the remaining funds, dedicated millage, and capital projects. She reviewed the options the Commission had regarding direction needed on the tax rate.

Commissioner Tolland stated it was the Commission's direction to keep the tax rate flat.

She voiced concerns about the proposed property tax reform and provided suggestions on expenditures in capital improvement projects that could be delayed until after November 2026, including the Nova Field One improvement, bridge lighting, public works and fire security upgrades, and City Commission meeting livestreaming.

Mayor Leslie stated the bridge lighting was under the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) funds and noted concerns regarding removal of the security upgrades.

Ms. McGuire clarified the Commission did not direct staff to include the livestreaming in the budget.

Commissioner Deaton proposed to maintain a flat millage and include one-time budget cuts such as cutting \$32,000 from the public art fund, \$33,000 from the Commission travel fund, \$33,000 from community events, and potentially selling Nova Field One. She suggested stopping the \$27,000 subsidy funds for the Ormond Beach Youth Baseball and Softball Association (OBYBSA) and adding the cost to the registration fees. She noted she did not support going to a rollback millage.

Mayor Leslie asked if cutting the OBYBSA subsidy would affect the enrollment numbers; whereby, Commissioner Deaton clarified families who had difficulty paying the registration fee could reach out to the city for assistance with applying for scholarships.

Commissioner Tolland questioned if the cuts would be added back at a later date; whereby, Commissioner Deaton stated it could be evaluated. Commissioner Tolland indicated she did not want the resident rate to be increased; whereby Commissioner Deaton stated the OBYBSA participant registration would increase by \$10.

Commissioner Briley noted he did not object to all of Commissioner Deaton's recommendations but was concerned about delaying \$500,000 for safety upgrades at the fire stations and public works locations.

Mayor Leslie agreed and inquired if the security upgrade project could be split into smaller phases; whereby, Ms. McGuire stated it was already split into phases but could be split into smaller phases if desired.

Commissioner Sargent stated he did not want to split the safety upgrade project into smaller phases, indicating it was necessary to complete the project quickly. He inquired about insurance renewal savings; whereby, Ms. Claire Whitley, Assistant City Manager, stated the market is favorable, but some areas were doing better than others. He noted he wanted to look into an alternative streaming method that may be low or no cost and provided Daytona Beach Shores meeting livestreaming as an example. He stated he supported the proposed millage rate.

Mayor Leslie discussed the delay regarding livestreaming; whereby, Ms. Whitley indicated additional equipment and staffing was needed. He voiced support of the budget cut suggestions from Commissioner Deaton and concerns about the suggestion for OBYBSA. He mentioned the First Step Homeless Shelter was investing money for future funding and suggested lowering the city's contribution to \$50,000.

Commissioner Deaton questioned if the city could still refer people to the shelter if funding was reduced or cut; whereby, Mayor Leslie indicated he would find out.

Ms. McGuire clarified there was no contract in place regarding funding for the shelter; whereby, Commissioner Sargent stated he would prefer to give the shelter notice if the city were to reduce funding.

Mayor Leslie asked if there was any benefit to having a hiring freeze for non-essential employees; whereby, Ms. Whitley relayed with employment vacancies, services provided tend to be reevaluated.

Ms. McGuire explained with vacancies, the budget would not change as funds were typically spent on overtime on other employees covering the work.

Commissioner Briley requested feedback from the Budget Advisory Board (BAB) members.

Mr. Pringle noted any cut in the millage rate would affect residents and voiced support of the security project to be finished but was okay with the other cuts.

Mr. Boehm highlighted safety and did not want the safety upgrades postponed. He agreed selling Nova Field One could be valuable.

Ms. Kaler agreed with safety being a priority and would like more awareness for OBYBSA scholarships.

Mr. Olivari agreed with statements made by the BAB members. He suggested waiting to see what happened in the November election before cutting the millage.

Commissioner Tolland proposed selling Nova Field One, removing bridge lighting, and talking to Parks and Recreation before agreeing to any cuts.

Commissioner Deaton expressed opposition to the bridge lighting and noted there was space behind the Nova Recreation Center for walking tracks and multi-purpose fields.

Mayor Leslie noted Nova Field One was prime real estate.

Mr. Robert Carolin, Parks and Recreation Director, explained the sports subsidy and shared he had not heard of any children being unable to play due to financial reasons. He noted with Volusia County ECHO grants funding many upgrades to facilities, Volusia County residents could no longer be charged 50 percent more than Ormond Beach residents on registration fees. He shared challenges with the Nova Field One property.

Mayor Leslie inquired if there was a demand for additional ballfields; whereby, Mr. Carolin stated the Nova Field One was the least utilized ballfield, noting they received many complaints about parking when the field was used for tournaments.

Commissioner Deaton asked if there was a future need for additional baseball fields; whereby, Mr. Carolin noted a future need for mid-sized fields based on future developments within the city and county.

Commissioner Briley questioned if Nova Field One was considered Brownfield property; whereby, Mr. Shawn Finley, Assistant City Manager, indicated he did not think it was but could look into it.

Mr. Finley reviewed the Nove Field One property and work that was needed; whereby, Commissioner Deaton stated the value may be impacted due to its current condition.

Ms. McGuire stated staff would get more information about the budget reduction suggestions and bring it back to the Commission on August 25, 2026. She reviewed what the budget reductions would look like if the property tax bill passed in November.

The Commission unanimously agreed to keep the millage rate at 4.32 mills.

B. Osceola Elementary School First Right of Refusal

Mr. Finley reviewed the timeline regarding the sale of the Volusia County School's (VCS) Osceola Elementary School property and provided information about the property. He noted the majority of the buildings on the property would not be of use to the city. He discussed the benefits the city had under an interlocal agreement with VCS. He noted it would cost \$30,000 a year to maintain the property and provided examples of previous projects done by the city as potential cost estimates for uses for the property.

Ms. McGuire reviewed funding options for purchasing the property; whereby, Mr. Finley reviewed the options the Commission had regarding submitting an offer based on the First Right of Refusal.

Mayor Leslie asked if the property was being sold before or after the demolition of the buildings; whereby, Ms. Patricia Smith, Volusia County Schools Representative, confirmed the buildings would be demolished prior to sale.

Commissioner Briley indicated he would not want the city to miss the opportunity to procure the property.

Mayor Leslie inquired if the asking price was \$3.3 million; whereby, Ms. Smith stated VCS wanted fair market value, noting VCS was willing to work with the city.

Commissioner Tolland highlighted the need for recreation space on the beachside and requested VCS consider holding off until after November before the city provides an answer.

Commissioner Sargent suggested potential grants as a funding source.

Mayor Leslie inquired if VCS was open to a property swap; whereby, Ms. Smith stated that could be negotiated.

Commissioner Deaton shared she needed more information regarding the property and would like VCS to allow more time to consider purchasing the property.

Mr. Randy Hayes, City Attorney, requested any formal direction be given to staff at the Commission meeting.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Leslie adjourned the meeting at 6:54 PM.

Prepared by: Elizabeth Walden