



# Ocala

## City Council

### Minutes

110 SE Watula Avenue  
Ocala, FL 34471

[www.ocalafl.gov](http://www.ocalafl.gov)

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**Tuesday, June 16, 2026**

**4:00 PM**

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**1. Call to Order**

**2. Roll Call**

**Present:** Mayor Ben Marciano  
Pro Tem Jay A. Musleh  
Council Member Kristen M. Dreyer  
Council Member James P. Hilty Sr  
Council Member Barry Mansfield  
Council President Ire J. Bethea Sr

**2a. New Employees**

- Connor Hartwig, Electric
- Jonathan Poust, Electric
- Anthony Eaglen, Growth Management
- Christo Petzer, Public Works

**3. Public Notice**

**4. Proclamations and Awards**

**5. Presentations**

**5a. Presentation of the Mayor's Citizen Recognition Award to Eddie Leedy**

Mayor Marciano presented the Mayor's citizen award to Eddy Leedy for his outstanding work to the community.

**5b. 2026 Citizens Academy Graduation**

Information Officer Greg Davis introduced and presented certificates to Citizens Academy graduates.

City Manager Lee introduced the Future Leader intern group. Staff Development and Training Administrator Alex Schnortz explained this group was selected from 110 applicants, and they will be spending the next six weeks as interns in departments across the City for practical work experience.

Council Member Dreyer said she briefly met some of the interns earlier and found them very impressive. She believes they represent a bright future, praised their commitment to showing up during their free time, and wished them all good luck.

**5c. Presentation of America 250 flag from Ocala Main Street to City of Ocala for display**

during the 250th anniversary celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Sarah Lambert, Executive Director of Ocala Main Street, presented the City with an America 250 flag as a gesture of partnership and announced a week of historical programming and events leading up to a July 3rd picnic in the park.

**5d. Upward Communities Keeping Ocala's Workforce Close to Home**

Jason Roberts, founder of Upward Communities, explained that his company partners with public entities to privately fund and build high-quality single-family home communities for essential workers. He described their model as fully privately financed with no tax increases, aimed at helping staff afford to live where they work. He asked the City for permission to begin a formal investigative process to see whether Ocala's workforce has a need for this type of housing solution.

Council Member Dreyer spoke positively on exploring the project. City Manager Lee explained staff is willing to poll City employees.

Council Member Hilty commented on having available property approved.

Council Member Musleh agreed to possibly partnering with MCPS.

**6. Consent Agenda**

Consent Agenda items are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless members of Council or the public request specific items to be removed for separate discussion and action.

**RESULT:** APPROVED THE CONSENT AGENDA

**MOVER:** James P. Hilty Sr

**SECONDER:** Barry Mansfield

**AYE:** Musleh, Dreyer, Hilty Sr, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr

- 6a.** Six-month extension to the cooperative purchasing agreement between City of Ocala and Playcore Wisconsin, Inc., doing business as Gametime, as amended, for final renewal period July 1, 2026, through December 30, 2026, with an aggregate expenditure not to exceed \$80,000

**Presentation By:** Kathy Crile

- 6b.** Memorandum of Understanding with the School Board of Marion County for high school swim team use of the City's Aquatic Fun Centers, with anticipated revenue not to exceed \$10,000

**Presentation By:** John Spencer

- 6c.** Budget Resolution 2026-144 to amend the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget to appropriate funds from the Police Trust and Agency Fund Reserve for Fund Balance for the purchase of a tested single-purpose K-9 in the amount of \$16,500

**Presentation By:** Michael Balken

- 6d.** Budget Resolution 2026-145 to amend the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget to accept and appropriate program income for the City of Ocala's Community Development Block Grant program in the amount of \$16,338 and the State Housing Initiatives Partnership grant program in the amount of \$4,529, for a total of \$20,867

**Presentation By:** James Haynes

- 6e.** Request from Habitat for Humanity of Marion County for reimbursement of fees associated with the production of an affordable housing unit in the amount of \$11,829

**Presentation By:** James Haynes

- 6f.** Request from Habitat for Humanity of Marion County for reimbursement of fees associated with the production of an affordable housing unit in the amount of \$6,479

**Presentation By:** James Haynes

- 6g.** Request from Habitat for Humanity of Marion County for reimbursement of fees associated with the production of an affordable housing unit in the amount of \$6,479

**Presentation By:** James Haynes

- 6h.** Affordable Housing Incentive Fund disbursement to Robin Rose Construction, LLC for the construction of a new single-family affordable housing unit, in an amount not to exceed \$15,697

**Presentation By:** James Haynes

- 6i.** City of Ocala's Community Development Block Grant 2026 Annual Action Plan for submission to the Department of Housing and Urban Development

**Presentation By:** James Haynes

- 6j.** Purchase of multiple actuators for Water Reclamation Facility No. 2 Leopold Filter System from Floworks USA, LP, doing business as Flotech, with a total cost of \$91,600

**Presentation By:** Sean Lanier

- 6k.** Resolution 2026-39 to allow public use on certain municipally owned properties to accommodate the recycling drop-off program

**Presentation By:** Aubrey Hale

- 6l.** City Council meeting minutes

**Presentation By:** Angel Jacobs

## **7. Consent Agenda Items Held for Discussion**

Should any items be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion, they will be discussed at this time.

## **8. Introduction and First Readings of Ordinances**

(Second and Final Reading - July 7, 2026)

- 8a.** Ordinance 2026-19 to rezone from O-1, Office District, to B-2A, Limited Business Commercial District, for property located at 619 SE 17th Street (Parcel 2917-002-000), approximately 2.04 acres (Case ZON26-0002) (Quasi-Judicial)

**Introduced By:** James P. Hilty Sr

## 9. Public Hearings / Second and Final Readings / Adoption of Ordinances

- 9a.** Resolution 2026-41 to abrogate the segment of SW 25th Street between blocks 91 and 111, as shown on the West End Ocala Plat, Plat Book A, Page 78, of the public records of Marion County, Florida. (Parcel 22714-111-03), approximately 0.179 acres. (Case ABR26-0001) (Quasi-Judicial).

Endira Madraveren explained that Legacy View Church is requesting to close and absorb a segment of SW 25th Street that was only recently discovered during survey work. Earlier approvals for the church's site plan and parking remain valid but depend on this street abrogation. Planning and Zoning unanimously recommended approval, and staff also supports it.

There being no further discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

**RESULT:** ADOPTED

**MOVER:** Barry Mansfield

**SECONDER:** James P. Hilty Sr

**AYE:** Musleh, Dreyer, Hilty Sr, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr

## 10. General Business

- 10a.** One-year renewal of the Agreement for fuel supply and transfer services with Petroleum Traders Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$3,500,000

**Presentation By:** John King

There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** Kristen M. Dreyer

**SECONDER:** Barry Mansfield

**AYE:** Musleh, Dreyer, Hilty Sr, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr

- 10b.** Purchase of Laser Shot Judgment Training System in the amount of \$160,610

**Presentation By:** Joshua Sasso

Joshua Sasso explained that the Police Department is adopting a new multi-screen, interactive training system that lets instructors escalate or de-escalate scenarios and allows officers to practice with their actual weapons and realistic nighttime conditions.

Mayor Marciano commented he is in support of this item.

Council Pro Tem Musleh asked how this differs from the training he went through a couple of years earlier. Police Chief Balken clarified that this system replaces the old, outdated VR headset setup. He noted the new system uses live-action scenarios, far more realism, and better supports de-escalation training.

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** James P. Hilty Sr

**SECONDER:** Barry Mansfield

**AYE:** Musleh, Dreyer, Hilty Sr, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr

- 10c.** Three-year contract with Cubix, Inc. for the provision of citywide carpet cleaning services with an estimated aggregate expenditure of \$150,000

**Presentation By:** Gary Crews

There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** Kristen M. Dreyer

**SECONDER:** Jay A. Musleh

**AYE:** Musleh, Dreyer, Hilty Sr, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr

- 10d.** Additional expenditures under the agreement for roofing trade contract services for an increased aggregate expenditure not to exceed \$579,815

**Presentation By:** Gary Crews

There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** Jay A. Musleh

**SECONDER:** James P. Hilty Sr

**AYE:** Musleh, Dreyer, Hilty Sr, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr

- 10e.** Purchase of multiple actuators for Water Treatment Plant No.1 filters and pipe actuators system from Floworks USA, LP, doing business as Flotech, Inc. with a total cost of \$115,350

**Presentation By:** Sean Lanier

There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** Kristen M. Dreyer

**SECONDER:** Barry Mansfield

**AYE:** Musleh, Dreyer, Hilty Sr, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr

- 10f.** Resolution 2026-40 to execute a State-Funded Grant Agreement and accept the grant funds from the Florida Department of Transportation in the amount of \$579,922

**Presentation By:** Sean Lanier

There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

**RESULT:** ADOPTED

**MOVER:** James P. Hilty Sr

**SECONDER:** Kristen M. Dreyer

**AYE:** Musleh, Dreyer, Hilty Sr, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr

- 10g.** Budget Resolution 2026-146 to amend the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget to accept and appropriate grant funds from the Florida Department of Transportation in the amount of \$579,922

**Presentation By:** Sean Lanier

There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

**RESULT:** ADOPTED

**MOVER:** Kristen M. Dreyer

**SECONDER:** Jay A. Musleh

**AYE:** Musleh, Dreyer, Hilty Sr, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr

- 10h.** Budget Resolution 2026-147 to amend the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget for the carry forward of prior fiscal year grant funds totaling \$235,035

**Presentation By:** Janice Mitchell

There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

**RESULT:** ADOPTED

**MOVER:** Kristen M. Dreyer

**SECONDER:** Barry Mansfield

**AYE:** Musleh, Dreyer, Hilty Sr, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr

- 10i.** Re-award of the contract for grounds maintenance services for the City's northeast quadrant to Extreme Enterprises of Marion County, Inc., in the amount of \$124,632

**Presentation By:** Darren Park

There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** Kristen M. Dreyer

**SECONDER:** James P. Hilty Sr

**AYE:** Musleh, Dreyer, Hilty Sr, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr

**11. Internal Auditor's Report**

**12. City Manager's Report**

- **2026/2027 Strategic Planning Session Draft Executive Summary**

**13. Ocala Police Department Report**

Chief Balken reported that officers continue to handle substantial mental-health and substance-abuse-related calls, noting 382 Baker Act and Marchman Act cases in the first five months of the year-a 14 percent increase and on track to match last year's totals. Over the past

two-week period, the department responded to about 7,200 incidents, with 65 percent being proactive efforts; 310 were criminal cases resulting in 248 arrests. Officers conducted 937 traffic stops and investigated 141 crashes, a slight decrease. Detectives made several significant arrests, including a suspect attempting to meet a minor and another with multiple warrants, an altered firearm, and drugs. Several major cases also concluded in court, with three individuals receiving a combined 25 years for charges including DUI manslaughter and drug trafficking. Additionally, a joint traffic operation with the sheriff's office produced over 100 stops, four citations, and 11 arrests.

#### **14. Ocala Fire Rescue Department Report**

Chief Welborn reported that during the two-week period, the department responded to 998 calls, bringing the yearly total to 12,400. Rescue 1 handled the most calls at 171, and Engine 4 led on the engine side. Crews responded to 83 motor vehicle accidents and a total of 149 across the city, along with two structure fires and 22 community paramedic or court-related calls. He also highlighted the hiring of two new firefighter-EMTs and noted that on June 27th, personnel will join Marion County first responders for a PTSD Awareness Walk at the McPherson Complex.

#### **15. City Attorney's Report**

#### **16. Public Comments**

Ellie Burrage 1315 SE Silver Springs Place Apt 12. discuss the American system of economics as advocated by Promethean Action and make it relevant to City business

Ellie Burrage, 1315 SE Silver Springs Place, Apt. 12, spoke about Promethian Action and restoring the American economic system

Ellie Burrage discussed Promethean Action, a political movement advocating a return to Alexander Hamilton's "American System" of economics, emphasizing domestic manufacturing, infrastructure investment, and government-industry partnership. She argued that the decline of U.S. manufacturing stems from abandoning this model and encouraged local leaders to strengthen Ocala's infrastructure, support key industries, expand workforce training, and prioritize economic development. She closed by urging officials and citizens to learn more about the movement through its online videos and thanked the council for their service.

#### **17. Informational Items and Calendaring Items**

- Friday, June 19, 2026 - Juneteenth Holiday - City offices will be closed
- Tuesday, June 23, 2026 - TPO meeting - 3:00pm - Marion County Board of County Commissions Auditorium
- Friday, July 3, 2026 - City offices closed for Independence Day
- Tuesday, July 7, 2026 - City Council meeting - 4:00pm - Council Chambers
- Tuesday, July 21, 2026 - Community Redevelopment Area Agency meeting - 3:45pm - Council Chambers
- Tuesday, July 21, 2026 - City Council meeting - 4:00pm - Council Chambers
- Tuesday, August 4, 2026 - City Council meeting - 4:00pm - Council Chambers
- Tuesday, August 11, 2026 - City Council workshop RE: FY 2026/27 Budget - 12:00pm - Council Chambers
- Tuesday, August 18, 2026 - Community Redevelopment Area Agency meeting - 3:45pm - Council Chambers
- Tuesday, August 18, 2026 - City Council meeting - 4:00pm - Council Chambers
- Tuesday, August 25, 2026 - TPO Meeting - 3:00pm - Marion County Board of County Commissions Auditorium

**17a.** Monthly budget-to-actual report and Capital Improvement Project status report as of April 30, 2026

**17b.** Fire Assessment update and request to establish a date for the public hearing

CFO Janice Mitchell explained that, due to ongoing union negotiations, the city will move forward this year with only the fire assessment tax roll update rather than a full study, which will be completed next year. She outlined the legally required September public hearing schedule and recommended holding a special meeting on Wednesday, September 9 at 5 p.m. to serve as both the fire assessment hearing and the first budget hearing. Council agreed to this preferred date.

**17c.** Fully Executed Contracts Under \$50,000

## **18. Comments by Mayor**

- **New turn lane at 7th and 32nd**

- **Acknowledgement of Marion County Sheriff Department's execution of a child predator sting**

Mayor Marciano praised recent law-enforcement efforts, highlighting a major sheriff's sting that caught 50 child predators and noting the city's own full-time focus that has resulted in 49 arrests since January. He stressed the importance of internet safety, urged parents to monitor their children's device use, and emphasized that the community is committed to removing these offenders from the streets.

## **19. Comments by City Council Members**

- **Council Member Dreyer discussed her concerns about potential data centers in Ocala**

Council Member Dreyer asked staff to determine whether data centers are an allowable use under the city's comprehensive plan, identify where they could go, and explore the

possibility of a moratorium to avoid being caught off guard. City Manager Lee responded that staff will prepare a survey of how other jurisdictions are handling data centers and provide an outline of possible approaches.

**20. Adjournment**

5:15PM

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Ire J. Bethea Sr.

Council President

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Angel B. Jacobs

City Clerk