



# Ocala

## City Council

### Minutes

110 SE Watula Avenue  
Ocala, FL 34471

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**Tuesday, April 21, 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**

- Justin McMillen, Community Development Services
- Sarah Andre, Growth Management
- Philip Curtis, Growth Management
- Jasmine Dieguez, Growth Management
- Stacey Duffy, Growth Management
- Ruben Velazquez, Public Works

**3. Public Notice**

- **Public Notice for the April 21, 2026 City Council Regular Meeting was posted on March 3, 2026**

**4. Proclamations and Awards**

**4a. Presentation of the Mayor's Citizen Recognition Award to Tyler Corkern**

Mayor Marciano honored Tyler Corkern for his extensive volunteer work mentoring youth, promoting mental and social well-being, supporting people experiencing homelessness, and serving the community through Young Life and his fitness business with his wife. Tyler responded by sharing that Young Life transformed his own life and that he is grateful to now support and guide the next generation.

**4b. Presentation of the Arbor Day Proclamation to Amy Liberty, Recreation and Parks Special Services Division Head, and Anthony Santangelo, Ocala Electric Utility Vegetation Manager**

Mayor Marciano issued an Arbor Day proclamation celebrating the value of trees and encouraging citizens to plant and support them. Afterward, Amy Liberty announced the city's annual Earth Day event at Tusawilla Park and noted that Ocala Electric would be giving away trees. She thanked the council for the recognition.

**4c. Service Award - Captain Chris Hickman - OFR - 25 Years of Service**

City Manager Pete Lee honored Captain Chris Hickman for 25 years of service, highlighting his leadership in fire rescue, his pioneering work in mobile integrated health, his mentorship programs, and numerous career awards. Captain Hickman thanked the city and credited his success to the support and examples of leaders throughout his career. Council President Bethea then praised Captain Hickman's long-standing excellence, noting he and the following Service Award recipients on the agenda exemplify true community service.

**4d. Service Award - Robin Ford - Community Development Services - 35 Years of Service**

City Manager Pete Lee honored Robin Ford for 35 years of service, highlighting her long career with the Ocala Police Department, her rise to police major, and her later transition to community housing services, where she continues helping residents in crisis. Ms. Ford thanked her team and the city, saying she's been grateful for the opportunities and proud to share what a great place the city is to work.

**4e. Service Award - Donna Guinn - Ocala Police Department - 35 Years of Service**

City Manager Pete Lee honored Donna Guinn for 35 years of service, noting her groundbreaking work as the Ocala Police Department's first victim advocate coordinator and her major role in developing local programs and task forces addressing domestic violence, dating violence, seniors' safety, memory-impaired individuals, and human trafficking. Donna thanked her fellow advocates, her department's leadership, and her family and friends. She said she feels blessed to do work she loves and invited everyone to a domestic violence workshop held in recognition of Victims' Rights Week.

**4f. Service Award - Howard Smallwood, Jr. - Ocala Electric Utility - 35 Years of Service**

City Manager Pete Lee recognized Howard Smallwood Jr. for 35 years of service, describing his rise from stormwater maintenance worker to journeyman lineman and foreman in Ocala Electric Utilities, and noting his commitment to customers and community. Mr. Smallwood thanked everyone and encouraged others to work hard and follow the rules. Council President Bethea closed by thanking all the long-serving employees recognized that evening for helping make Ocala a great place to live and work.

**5. Presentations**

**5a. Reilly Arts Center Executive Director, Natalie McComb, and Reilly Arts Center Senior Director of Operations and Programming, Adam Volpe - Reilly Arts Center and Marion Theatre Update**

Director of the Reilly Arts Center Natalie McComb presented the Center's annual report, highlighting strong growth in events, attendance, tourism impact, and community engagement. She noted the symphony's successful 50th season, heavy use of the Marion Theatre, expanded music education programs, scholarships, and school partnerships, as well as the essential role of sponsors. She emphasized accessibility, quality, and the arts'

economic and cultural benefits.

Mayor Marciano then asked whether Marion Theatre attendance was trending upward from the previous year, and after confirming it was, he praised the center's success and encouraged them to keep up the good work.

## 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:** Kristen M. Dreyer

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

6a. Addition of Parcel 26297-000-01 to the City's Surplus Property List

**Presentation By:** Tracy Taylor

6b. One-year renewal of janitorial service contracts with First Coast Franchising, Inc. doing business as Jani King of Jacksonville and Serviamigos Solutions, LLC, with an aggregate expenditure of \$51,694

**Presentation By:** Gary Crews

6c. Award of the contract for rehabilitation of the Bacon residence located at 2005 NW First Street to Stejack, LLC, for a total project cost not to exceed \$52,439

**Presentation By:** Robin Ford

6d. Contract award to The Ford Design Group, LLC, for rehabilitation of the Medina residence located at 1445 NE 22nd Street at a total project cost not to exceed \$83,880

**Presentation By:** Robin Ford

6e. Change order and additional expenditure under the contract with Marion Rock, LLC, for construction services related to the Lift Station No. 127 Force Main Reroute Phase 1 project in the amount of \$67,479

**Presentation By:** Sean Lanier

6f. First amendment for a one-year renewal with Clarke Environmental Mosquito Management, Inc. for mosquito control services with an estimated expenditure of \$85,000

**Presentation By:** Darren Park

6g. Circle Fore at S.W. 48th Avenue Developer's Agreement

**Presentation By:** Aubrey Hale

6h. Pulled

- 6i. 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 - May 5, 2026)

- 8a. Ordinance 2026-12 to amend the Future Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan by deleting Policy 18.13 and Policy 18.24 relating to development conditions that apply to 75.93 acres of two parcels of land that total approximately 251.09 acres (Parcels 2380-000-001 and 23812-001-00) located in the 3000 and 4000 to 4300 blocks of SW 43rd Court (Case FLUP25-0001)

**Introduced By:** Jay A. Musleh

**RESULT:** INTRODUCED

- 8b. Ordinance 2026-13 to rezone approximately 251.09 acres located in the 3000 and 4000 to 4300 blocks of SW 43rd Court (Parcel 23812-001-00 & 2380-000-001) from PUD-06, Planned Unit Development, and OP, Office Park, to PD, Planned Development (Case PD25-0001) (Quasi-Judicial)

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

**RESULT:** INTRODUCED

- 8c. Ordinance 2026-14 to rezone approximately 283.55 acres located west of Interstate 75 and north of SW 66th Street, the 4000 block of SW 66th Street (Parcel 23875-000-01 & 35364-000-00) from PUD-02, Planned Unit Development, to PD, Planned Development (Case PD25-0007) (Quasi-Judicial)

**Introduced By:** Kristen M. Dreyer

**RESULT:** INTRODUCED

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

- 9a. Ordinance 2026-10 to change the Future Land Use map designation on approximately 74.11 acres, comprised of nine parcels (Parcels 21492-000-00, 21477-000-00, 21474-002-00, 21476-000-00, 21474-000-00, 21474-001-00, 21480-000-00, 21494-000-00, and 21478-000-00) located in the 2300 block, along the west side of NW 27th Avenue from Medium Intensity/Special District to Employment Center (Case LUC25-0004) (Quasi-Judicial)

**Presentation By:** Jeff Shrum

**Introduced By:** Jay A. Musleh

Growth Management Director Jeff Shrum presented a final public hearing on a land-use amendment requested by Friends Recycling. The proposal changes about 74 acres from a medium-intensity special district to an employment center to resolve a conflict between

the current landfill use and the existing future land-use designation. State agencies returned no objections, staff found the amendment consistent with the comprehensive plan and recommended approval.

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

**RESULT:** ADOPTED

**MOVER:** Jay A. Musleh

**SECONDER:** Kristen M. Dreyer

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

**NAY:** Bethea Sr

- 9b.** Ordinance 2026-11 to amend the Code of Ordinances, City of Ocala, Florida, Chapter 18, Article II, Section 18-31 to reduce the required quorum for meetings of the Airport Advisory Board from four to three of five members

**Presentation By:** Matthew Grow

**Introduced By:** Barry Mansfield

Airport Operations Manager Michael Baker presented a proposed code amendment to reduce the Airport Advisory Board's quorum from four members to three. Council Member Hilty raised concerns about absenteeism and asked about term limits and attendance policies. Mr. Baker explained there are currently no formal policies, and that attendance issues are handled informally. Mr. Lee noted the board is advisory only and that quorum rules and attendance policies can be discussed further in an upcoming workshop. After brief discussion about whether to delay, the council proceeded to vote on the quorum change.

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

**RESULT:** ADOPTED

**MOVER:** Barry Mansfield

**SECONDER:** Jay A. Musleh

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

**NAY:** Hilty Sr

## **10. General Business**

- 10a.** Property exchange agreement between the City and Ocala SE 8th Street, LLC

**Presentation By:** Aubrey Hale

Planning Director Aubrey Hale presented a proposed property exchange between the City of Ocala and Ocala Southeast 8th Street LLC. The city would swap most of its current 2.7-acre parcel for a nearby 2.18-acre parcel better suited for relocating and expanding an

aging electric substation that serves downtown and local hospitals. The city would retain a small portion of the original site for its fiber facility. Because decommissioning the old substation will take about three years, a temporary lease agreement is included, allowing continued use for up to four years at a nominal cost, with higher fees starting in year five if needed. Staff recommended approval.

There being no further 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.** Agreement with Central State Water Resources for the sale and purchase of potable water for Oak Haven subdivision

**Presentation By:** Sean Lanier

**RESULT:** PULLED

- 10c.** Award of a two-year contract to Marion Rock, LLC, for the Parking Lot Improvement Program with an aggregate expenditure not to exceed \$1,000,000

**Presentation By:** Sean Lanier

City Engineer Sean Lanier presented a two-year contract (with renewal options) for maintaining and repairing city-owned parking lots, noting that Marion Rock LLC was the lowest qualified bidder. Council Member Mansfield then asked whether the work also includes fixing rough thermoplastic road markings near parking lot entrances. Mr. Lanier said those items aren't part of the parking-lot contract but agreed some spots around town need improvement and offered to review the locations Council Member Mansfield mentioned.

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

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** Barry Mansfield

**SECONDER:** James P. Hilty Sr

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

- 10d.** Task Work Order No. 2 under the City's continuing professional engineering services agreement with McKim & Creed, Inc., for the provision of engineering services related to the Water Reclamation Facility No. 3 Expansion Conceptual Engineering Report in the amount of \$128,118

**Presentation By:** Sean Lanier

City Engineer Sean Lanier presented a task work order with McKim & Creed to study

expanding Water Reclamation Facility No. 3, which is permitted for 4 million gallons per day but currently operating at about 3.2 million. The project will evaluate doubling its capacity to 8 million gallons within the existing site.

Roger Johnson, who owns the parcel next to the facility, spoke briefly to confirm the plant's location and note his interest as an adjacent land manager. No council questions followed.

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

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** James P. Hilty Sr

**SECONDER:** Jay A. Musleh

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

- 10e.** Third amendment with In Depth, Inc. for tank inspection and cleaning of the City's water storage tanks for an amount not to exceed \$150,000

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.** Utilization of a Sourcewell cooperative purchasing agreement with Power Technique North America for the purchase of an Atlas Copco Bypass Pump from Hydra Service, Inc. in the amount of \$188,281

**Presentation By:** John King

Facilities Director John King requested approval to purchase a mobile bypass pump for about \$180,281 using a cooperative agreement. The pump will support Water Resources by temporarily taking over wastewater flow when a stationary lift-station pump is down for maintenance or repair. In response to a question from Council President Bethea, Mr. King confirmed the city has fixed pumps already, but this mobile unit provides essential backup to keep operations running smoothly.

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

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** Barry Mansfield

**SECONDER:** James P. Hilty Sr

- AYE:** Musleh, Dreyer, Hilty Sr, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr
- 10g.** Utilization of Sourcewell Cooperative agreement with National Auto Fleet Group for the purchase of four replacement vehicles for the Ocala Police Department in the amount of \$226,495

**Presentation By:** John King

Facilities Director John King requested approval to use a cooperative purchasing agreement to replace four Ocala Police Department vehicles that were totaled in collisions. He noted that a companion budget resolution will provide the necessary funding. Staff recommends proceeding with the vehicle replacements.

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

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** Barry Mansfield

**SECONDER:** Kristen M. Dreyer

- AYE:** Musleh, Dreyer, Hilty Sr, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr
- 10h.** Budget Resolution 2026-135 to amend the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget to transfer funds from the General Liability Claims fund for the purchase of four replacement vehicles for the Ocala Police Department in the amount of \$92,444

**Presentation By:** John King

Council President Bethea questioned the difference of total amounts between items 10g and 10h. Council Member Dreyer noted the staff report explains the amount of the budget resolution comes from the general liability funds, and the remainder comes from OPD's Machinery and Equipment account.

There being no further 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
- 10i.** Utilization of State of Florida cooperative purchasing agreement with Deere & Company for the purchase of a tractor with attachments for Ocala International Airport in the amount of \$115,688

**Presentation By:** John King

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

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** Jay A. Musleh

**SECONDER:** Kristen M. Dreyer

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

- 10j.** Budget Resolution 2026-136 to amend the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget to transfer funds from the Airport Reserve for Contingencies account to purchase a tractor with attachments for the Ocala International Airport in the amount of \$115,688

**Presentation By:** John King

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

**RESULT:** ADOPTED

**MOVER:** Jay A. Musleh

**SECONDER:** Kristen M. Dreyer

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

- 10k.** Two-year agreement with Sulter Precision Cuts, LLC, for grounds maintenance services for the City's northeast quadrant in the amount of \$108,284

**Presentation By:** Darren Park

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

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** James P. Hilty Sr

**SECONDER:** Kristen M. Dreyer

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

- 10l.** Three-year agreement with Sulter Precision Cuts, LLC, for stormwater grounds maintenance services for the City's southeast quadrant in the amount of \$294,840

**Presentation By:** Darren Park

Council Member Hilty questioned why the contract terms for item 10k and 10l are not both two- or three-year terms. Public Works Director Darren Park stated he wasn't sure but he would get that answer to Council.

There being no further 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

- 10m.** Purchase of inventory items for Ocala Electric Utility from multiple vendors in the amount of \$1,005,746

**Presentation By:** Doug Peebles

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

- 10n.** Selection of an applicant for appointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a new four-year term ending March 1, 2030

**Presentation By:** Angel Jacobs

Appointment of Thaddius Neasman to the Planning & Zoning Commission the remainder of a four-year term ending March 1, 2030, by ballot vote

By a ballot vote of 3-2, Council appointed Thaddius Neasman to the Planning & Zoning Commission for the remainder of a four-year term ending March 1, 2030.

## **11. Internal Auditor's Report**

- 11a.** Internal Audit Report Issued – Payroll Observations – OPD Department

City Auditor Randall Bridgeman reported two key compliance issues found during a review of the police department: the on-call compensation process and the overtime approval process were not being handled according to the city's employee handbook. He explained that on-call duties had not been rotated fairly and that one employee improperly received work payments while on FMLA leave, requiring about \$925 to be recovered. The department has already begun correcting both issues, including implementing stricter overtime documentation and supervisor approval requirements. The auditor will monitor both areas over the next three months and thanked OPD leadership for quickly addressing the problems.

## **12. City Manager's Report**

workshop - boards & commission and CRA procedures June 9, 2026

April 30th Strategic Planning Session

- **City Council Workshop scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2026, in Council Chambers, to discuss Boards, Commissions, and CRA Advisory Board procedures**
- **Strategic Planning Session scheduled for Thursday, April 30, 2026 at 8:30am at the Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place**
- **Staff to meet with Senator McClain on Thursday, April 23, 2026 to discuss HB-399 and third party fiber installation concerns**
- **Audit Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 3:30pm in Council Chambers**

## **13. Ocala Police Department Report**

- **Overview of Crime and Traffic Stops**

Police Chief Balken reported 7,416 incidents for the period, a 2% decrease from last year. Officers handled 303 criminal cases (up 7%), made 238 arrests (up 13%), conducted about 1,000 traffic stops, and responded to 158 crashes.

- **Commendation of OPD investigative staff**

Police Chief Balken highlighted the Evidence Unit's behind-the-scenes work, noting they processed nearly 900 crime scenes last year, recovered about 3,500 evidence items, and secured numerous fingerprints, DNA, and ballistic matches that helped identify suspects and support prosecutions. He also noted that declining violent crime has helped reduce the department's evidence inventory from 107,000 items to 87,000, with a goal of reaching about 60,000.

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

##### Deputy Fire

- **Unit Responses**

Deputy Fire Chief Richard Lietz provided an update on Fire Department activity for the past two weeks. He reported that Engine 4 and Rescue 4 led all front-line response units during this period.

- **Service Calls Update**

The department responded to 1,114 calls, including 86 motor vehicle accidents, two structure fires, and 42 community paramedicine calls. Total calls for the year now stand at 8,189.

- **Department Highlights**

Chief Lietz highlighted two significant incidents. The first was a vehicle fire on the third level of the Advent Health employee parking garage early Friday morning. Despite heavy congestion during shift change, crews worked efficiently to contain and extinguish the fire, limiting damage to nearby vehicles. The second incident occurred at a sawmill, where a fire began in a piece of heavy equipment and spread due to windy, low-humidity conditions. Fire crews remained on scene for several hours, using heavy machinery to access and fully extinguish the fire. He noted the valuable assistance provided by the Ocala Police Department in securing the area and supporting water shuttle operations.

- **Red Flag Warning**

Chief Lietz also reported that Marion County is under a red flag warning and a countywide burn ban due to dry, windy weather creating elevated fire risks. In response

to Council questions, he confirmed that the vehicle involved in the parking garage fire was not electric and explained that the heavy smoke observed that morning likely originated from multiple fires burning in surrounding counties. He added that the department received numerous calls related to smoke investigations.

**15. City Attorney's Report**

**16. Public Comments**

**17. Informational Items and Calendaring Items**

- Tuesday, April 28, 2026 - TPO meeting - 3:00pm - Marion County Board of County Commissioners Auditorium
- Thursday, April 30, 2026 - City Council Strategic Planning Session - 8:00am - Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place
- Tuesday, May 5, 2026 - Audit Committee - 3:30pm - Council Chambers
- Tuesday, May 5, 2026 - City Council meeting - 4:00pm - Council Chambers
- Tuesday, May 12, 2026 - City Council workshop Re: Safe Streets 4 All; Transportation Improvement Plan; Recycling Update - 12:00pm - Council Chambers
- Tuesday, May 19, 2026 - CRA Board meeting - 3:45pm - Council Chambers
- Tuesday, May 19, 2026 - City Council meeting - 4:00pm - Council Chambers
- Monday, May 25, 2026 - Memorial Day Holiday - City Offices closed
- Tuesday, May 26, 2026 - TPO Meeting - Marion County Board of County Commissioners Auditorium

**17a.** Dearmin Substation Transformer Cost Escalation Informational Update

**17b.** Fully Exected Contracts Under \$50,000

**18. Comments by Mayor**

Domestic Violence Shelter and Sexual Assault Center possible merge Mainstreet Bank fundraiser

**- Casa Marion Domestic Violence Center update**

Mayor Marciano reported on the transition of the domestic violence shelter services. Casa Marion, which had stepped in two years ago when the local shelter closed due to licensing issues, will be returning operations to a new locally led effort. He noted that the community can now obtain the appropriate licensing and plans are underway to merge the sexual assault center with the new domestic violence center. While Casa provided valuable support, their Pinellas County-based operation resulted in limited resources being directed to Ocala. Currently, only about 20 of the roughly 100 available beds are in use, despite domestic violence being one of the community's highest call volumes. Local leaders are moving forward with the transition, and Casa is departing on good terms. Mayor Marciano emphasized the importance of restoring strong local services and expressed his commitment to supporting the effort. He also noted an upcoming fundraising event hosted by Main Street Bank on April 29 to help launch the initiative.

**19. Comments by City Council Members**

Mansfield - Fiber Optic questions. Concerned mom. Son overdose on Kratom

Hilty - Closing of Stella downtown. Saving Mercy ribbon cutting Friday 10:00am

Dreyer - expressed concerns of intersection near post office

Bethea - commented on long tenured employees receiving recognition tonight

- **Council Member Mansfield discussed concerns about kratom in the community**

Council Member Mansfield requested detailed information regarding the city's fiber optics operations. Specifically, he asked for the total number of current customers, the number of customers added in the past six months, and the number of cancellations during that same period. He also requested information on how many vendors operate in the area, who they are, whether a service map exists, and an overview of the city's fiber-related assets. He asked that this information be compiled for review.

- **Council Member Hilty expressed concern about a downtown business closing**

Council Member Mansfield shared that he received a distressing call from a mother whose son overdosed on kratom and suggested the council revisit the issue. Mayor Marciano and others responded by noting available resources, emphasizing the need for public awareness about kratom and similar substances, and highlighting ongoing efforts to educate the community and seek stronger state-level action.

- **Council Member Hilty invited council members to the Saving Mercy ribbon cutting on Friday, April 24, 2026 at 10am**

- **Council Member Dreyer commented on confusing intersection markings near the post office**

Council Member Dreyer commented on the intersection at SW Third and SW First, and requested the City consider turning it into a four-way stop to ease the confusion created by the crosswalk markings.

- **Council Member Dreyer requested an update on the intersection at NE Sanchez Ave and NE 3rd Street**

Council Member Dreyer asked for an update on safety concerns at the intersections of NE Sanchez Avenue and NE Third Street. Public Works Director Darren Park explained that staff had inspected the area and are evaluating whether the intersections warrant conversion to four-way stops before making smaller adjustments like moving the stop bar. He noted that crash data is being reviewed and engineering will complete its analysis within a few weeks. Council Member Dreyer reiterated that both intersections experience confusion and near misses, partly due to road design and driver speed, and Mr. Park

agreed that traffic control changes and potential calming measures are under consideration.

**20. Adjournment**

- **Adjourned at 5:40 pm**