



Ocala

City Council

Minutes

110 SE Watula Avenue
Ocala, FL 34471

www.ocalafl.gov

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

4:00 PM

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

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

Excused: Council Member James P. Hilty Sr

2a. New Employees

- Corbin Schwenkner, Electric
- Alysen Brooks, Growth Management
- Lauren Denning, Growth Management
- Charles Hannah, Growth Management
- Eloy Zayas Bazan, Growth Management
- Willie Davis, Water Resources
- Michael Frannea, Water Resources

3. Public Notice

Public Notice for the April 7, 2026 City Council Regular Meeting was posted on February 19, 2026

4. Proclamations and Awards

4a. Presentation of the Water Conservation Month Proclamation to Matthew Stanley, City of Ocala Water Resource Conservation Supervisor; the Southwest Florida Water Management District; and William White, Intergovernmental Coordinator, St. Johns River Water Management District

Mayor Marciano presented a proclamation for Water Conservation Month. The City proclaims the month of April 2026, as Water Conservation Month.

Matthew Stanley, Water Resource Conservation Supervisor, Southwest Florida Water Management District, and William White, Intergovernmental Coordinator, St. Johns River Water Management District, appeared before the Mayor to express appreciation for the Water Conservation Month proclamation. They emphasized the critical need for municipal collaboration to protect regional water resources, noting that the aquifer is currently performing below its seasonal average due to lack of rainfall.

4b. Presentation of the Fair Housing Month Proclamation to Dr. Gwendolyn Dawson, CEO, Ocala Housing Authority

Mayor Marciano presented a proclamation for Fair Housing Month. The City proclaims the month of April 2026, as Fair Housing Month.

Jacalyn Brown, Compliance Director, Ocala Housing Authority, thanked the Mayor for the recognition. She discussed the organization's 75-year history of serving the community and their ongoing mission to help local families achieve stable housing.

4c. Presentation of the National Poetry Month Proclamation to Emily Parkman, Cultural Arts Supervisor, Mariana Prieto, Cultural Arts Coordinator, and Heather Webb, Marion County Public Library System

Mayor Marciano presented a proclamation for National Poetry Month. The City proclaims the month of April 2026, as National Poetry Month.

Cultural Arts Supervisor Emily Parkman expressed gratitude to the Mayor and City Council for their continued support and partnership. She invited the public to the inaugural Art Park Literacy & Poetry Festival, scheduled for April 11, 2026, at Tusawilla Park. Additionally, Ms. Parkman announced the launch of the City's first literary poem book, a collaborative collection featuring works from 55 different poets.

5. Presentations

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: Kristen M. Dreyer

SECONDER: Jay A. Musleh

AYE: Musleh, Dreyer, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr

EXCUSED: Hilty Sr

6a. One-year renewal of the contract with Cellebrite, Inc., for Ocala Police Department forensic software with an annual expenditure of \$56,910

Presentation By: Joshua Sasso

6b. License plate reader replacements to comply with new security requirements making payments over five years for a total amount of \$93,261

Presentation By: Joshua Sasso

6c. Rental agreement with The Magic House, St. Louis Children's Museum for the "Super WHY!: Super Readers, Power Up!" educational traveling exhibit in the amount of \$55,000

Presentation By: John Spencer

6d. Rental agreement with Omaha Children's Museum for the "My Wild Backyard"

educational traveling exhibit in the amount of \$55,000

Presentation By: John Spencer

- 6e. Utilization of a cooperative purchasing agreement with Alfred Benesch & Company for fire assessment study update services for Fiscal Year 2026-27 in an amount not to exceed \$79,810

Presentation By: Tammi Haslam

- 6f. One-year renewal with Bound Tree Medical, LLC, Henry Schein, Inc., and Life Assist, Inc., for the purchase of emergency medical supplies in the amount of \$75,000

Presentation By: Clint Welborn

- 6g. Renaming of Baseline Substation at 950 Northeast 58th Avenue in honor of Marshall T. Penuel

Presentation By: Doug Peebles

- 6h. Resolution 2026-22 to adopt the Marion County Consortium 2024-2028 Citizen Participation Plan

Presentation By: James Haynes

- 6i. Administrative Services Agreement between the City of Ocala and MissionSquare Retirement for administration and record keeping services for the City's Section 401(a) and Section 457(b) Retirement Plans for an initial five-year term

Presentation By: Todd Swanson

- 6j. Hangar Ground Lease amendment with R.L.R. Investments, LLC

Presentation By: Matthew Grow

- 6k. Reappointment of Thomas McCullough to the Historic Preservation Advisory Board for a new three-year term ending March 1, 2029

Presentation By: Angel Jacobs

- 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 - April 21, 2026)

- 8a. 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)

Introduced By: Jay A. Musleh

- 8b.** 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

Introduced By: Barry Mansfield

Council Member Musleh inquired as to why a quorum is required for the Airport Advisory Board. City Attorney Sexton clarified that the requirement on the Airport Advisory Board is mandated by the City's Code, noting that Council has the authority to amend the code to reduce or eliminate quorum requirements. He requested direction from Council on whether to pursue such an amendment or postpone the item.

City Manager Pete Lee informed Council of his plan to bring all City Boards back for discussion during the first meetings in May and June. These discussions will evaluate the necessity of each Board and review their respective quorum requirements and attendance statistics.

City Council reached a unanimous consensus not to postpone the current item.

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

10. General Business

- 10a.** Additional expenditures under the cooperative purchasing agreement with Milliken Services, Inc., for flooring materials, supplies and services for an increased aggregate contract expenditure not to exceed \$450,000

Presentation By: Gary Crews

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

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Kristen M. Dreyer

SECONDER: Barry Mansfield

AYE: Musleh, Dreyer, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr

ABSENT: Hilty Sr

- 10b.** Additional expenditures under the Agreement for heating, ventilation and air conditioning repairs and installation services with Sherman Mechanical Contractors for an increased aggregate expenditure not to exceed \$300,000

Presentation By: Gary Crews

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

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Kristen M. Dreyer

SECONDER: Barry Mansfield

AYE: Musleh, Dreyer, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr

ABSENT: Hilty Sr

- 10c.** One-year renewal of the contract with Marion Rock, LLC, for the Drainage Rehabilitation Improvement Program with an aggregate expenditure not to exceed \$1,250,000

Presentation By: Sean Lanier

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

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Jay A. Musleh

SECONDER: Kristen M. Dreyer

AYE: Musleh, Dreyer, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr

ABSENT: Hilty Sr

- 10d.** Award of contract to Ulloa Management Group, LLC, for construction services for Union Station restrooms with ticketing kiosk in the amount of \$662,900, plus a 10 percent contingency, for a total project budget not to exceed \$729,190

Presentation By: Sean Lanier

Mayor Marciano inquired how the establishment of ticketing kiosks at Union Station would benefit the City and the public. Transit Administrator Tom Duncan explained that the kiosks serve a multi-level purpose, providing a customer service opportunity for road supervisors and dispatchers. The goal is to ensure immediate response times for coordination issues at the Train Station or Union Station area, while also providing a location for the public to purchase bus passes and tokens.

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

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Kristen M. Dreyer

SECONDER: Barry Mansfield

AYE: Musleh, Dreyer, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr

ABSENT: Hilty Sr

- 10e.** Second amendment for the renewal of the contract with Carmeuse Lime & Stone for supply and delivery of quicklime for Water Treatment Plant No. 1 in an amount not to exceed \$1,650,000

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, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr

ABSENT: Hilty Sr

- 10f.** Purchase of 300 manhole rings and covers from Fortiline Waterworks, LLC to support routine maintenance, repair, and replacement within the wastewater collection system for \$280,613

Presentation By: Sean Lanier

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

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Jay A. Musleh

SECONDER: Kristen M. Dreyer

AYE: Musleh, Dreyer, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr

ABSENT: Hilty Sr

- 10g.** Utilization of Sourcewell's cooperative purchasing agreement with USA Services of Florida for street sweeping services in the amount of \$190,000

Presentation By: Darren Park

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

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Kristen M. Dreyer

SECONDER: Jay A. Musleh

AYE: Musleh, Dreyer, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr

ABSENT: Hilty Sr

- 10h.** Fourth Amendments for the one-year renewal of contracts with Marion Tree Trimming & Stump Removal and Flyaway Access, LLC d/b/a Conrad Tree Services for citywide tree trimming and removal services in the aggregate amount of \$866,000

Presentation By: Darren Park

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

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Barry Mansfield

SECONDER: Jay A. Musleh

AYE: Musleh, Dreyer, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr

ABSENT: Hilty Sr

- 10i.** Two-year agreement with Solo Cats Services, LLC, for grounds maintenance services for the City's northwest section in the amount of \$177,100

Presentation By: Darren Park

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

- RESULT:** APPROVED
MOVER: Kristen M. Dreyer
SECONDER: Barry Mansfield
AYE: Musleh, Dreyer, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr
ABSENT: Hilty Sr
- 10j.** One-year renewal of contract with UKG for the City's time management software, UKG Pro, with ongoing maintenance costs for an estimated expenditure amount of \$123,750
Presentation By: Kelly Vann
There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.
- RESULT:** APPROVED
MOVER: Jay A. Musleh
SECONDER: Barry Mansfield
AYE: Musleh, Dreyer, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr
ABSENT: Hilty Sr
- 10k.** Workers' compensation settlement in the matter of Thomas Casey versus the City of Ocala, Florida, with a proposed settlement amount of \$150,000
Presentation By: William Sexton
There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.
- RESULT:** APPROVED
MOVER: Jay A. Musleh
SECONDER: Barry Mansfield
AYE: Musleh, Dreyer, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr
ABSENT: Hilty Sr
- 10l.** Budget Resolution 2026-132 to amend the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget to accept and appropriate 2025-26 State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program grant funding in the amount of \$155,373
Presentation By: James Haynes
There being no discussion the motion carried by roll call vote.
- RESULT:** ADOPTED
MOVER: Barry Mansfield
SECONDER: Kristen M. Dreyer
AYE: Musleh, Dreyer, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr
ABSENT: Hilty Sr
- 10m.** Budget Resolution 2026-133 amending the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget to accept and appropriate funding for the City of Ocala's Home Investment Partnership Program grant

in the amount of \$255,186

Presentation By: James Haynes

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

RESULT: ADOPTED

MOVER: Kristen M. Dreyer

SECONDER: Jay A. Musleh

AYE: Musleh, Dreyer, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr

ABSENT: Hilty Sr

- 10n.** Continued utilization of the State of Florida Alternative Source Contract with SHI International Corp. for the one-year renewal of Microsoft 365 cloud subscriptions, endpoint licenses, security tools, and AI licenses with an estimated aggregate expenditure amount of \$578,413

Presentation By: Christopher Ramos

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

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Kristen M. Dreyer

SECONDER: Jay A. Musleh

AYE: Musleh, Dreyer, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr

ABSENT: Hilty Sr

- 10o.** Purchase of physical security cameras for Parking Garage No. 2 from Morse Communications Inc., with an estimated expenditure of \$281,573

Presentation By: Christopher Ramos

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

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Jay A. Musleh

SECONDER: Barry Mansfield

AYE: Musleh, Dreyer, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr

ABSENT: Hilty Sr

- 10p.** Budget Resolution 2026-134 to amend the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget to transfer funds from reserves for the purchase of physical security cameras for Parking Garage No. 2 from Morse Communications Inc. in the amount of \$141,583

Presentation By: Christopher Ramos

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

RESULT: ADOPTED

MOVER: Kristen M. Dreyer
SECONDER: Barry Mansfield
AYE: Musleh, Dreyer, Mansfield, and Bethea Sr
ABSENT: Hilty Sr

- 10q.** Selection of an applicant for appointment to the Airport Advisory Board for a new four-year term ending April 7, 2030

Presentation By: Angel Jacobs

Thad Boyd III appointed to the Airport Advisory Board for a new four-year term ending April 7, 2030 by ballot vote

City Clerk Angel Jacobs announced the ballot vote results, confirming that City Council has appointed Thad Boyd to the Airport Advisory Board. The appointment is for a new four-year term, which is set to expire on April 7, 2030.

- 10r.** Selection of an applicant for appointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a new three-year term ending March 1, 2029

Presentation By: Angel Jacobs

City Clerk Angel Jacobs announced the ballot vote results are a tie.

Council Member Musleh requested postponing the second vote until the next meeting to ensure the full Council is present, noting Council Member Hilty's absence. In response to his inquiry regarding procedural impacts, Ms. Jacobs confirmed that a postponement would not create a quorum issue.

City Council agreed to delay the vote until the next meeting.

11. Internal Auditor's Report

12. City Manager's Report

- **Safe Streets For All Grant & Transportation Improvement Plan workshop, May 12, 2026**
- **Discussion and approval of Letter to Florida Legislature regarding fiber Installation contractor complaints and regulatory remedies**

City Manager Pete Lee presented a draft letter addressed to the Florida Legislature regarding fiber installation contractor complaints and regulatory remedies, requesting Council feedback before finalization.

Council Member Musleh inquired about the status of \$2.8 million in damages caused by fiber contractors; Chief of Staff Christopher Watt responded that while specific totals are pending from the PMA broker, 12 recent gas leak claims exceeded \$8,000, and he committed to adding the exact unreimbursed damage amount to the draft letter.

Council Member Musleh emphasized the critical need to quantify unreimbursed damages, leading Mr. Watt to confirm he would work with the City's broker to

determine that figure for inclusion in the legislative letter.

Council Member Musleh raised serious public safety concerns regarding damaged gas and sewer lines, questioning why contractors continue to make catastrophic mistakes that jeopardize lives and property.

Council Member Manfield highlighted that fiber contractors are draining City resources through unreimbursed utility locates and property damages.

Director of Electric Utility Doug Peebles reported that while the exact financial impact is difficult to determine, the high volume of utility locate requests is severely burdening department operations.

Council Member Dreyer recommended strengthening the letter's tone to be more aggressive, suggesting it include a detailed list of anecdotal and physical evidence regarding damages to both public and private property.

Council Member Mansfield reiterated that the letter must address the broader financial burden placed on City resources beyond direct physical damages.

Council Member Musleh noted that residents are "terrified" of fiber contractors due to past safety incidents and stressed the importance of tracking damage costs, reimbursement status, and the frequency of repeat call-outs to the same locations.

Director Peebles acknowledged the data limitations of current City systems but confirmed that the department is working to address the ongoing issue of frequent contractor call-outs.

Council Member Musleh questioned why some contractors had not posted the required \$500,000 bond; Mr. Lee confirmed all but one contractor, Wire3, were bonded and admitted it was a City error to allow that firm to begin work without one.

Council Member Musleh proposed increasing the bond requirement to \$1 million for fiber contractors and noted he would personally meet with a new contractor next week to discuss public safety expectations.

Mr. Lee explained that while federal grants are driving these projects, the City's regulatory authority is limited by federal law; however, the City will implement a new tracking system for locates, costs, bonds, and damages.

Council Member Dreyer requested that the letter include requirements for visible business signage on contractor vehicles and improved public notification protocols, such as City-issued door hangers for upcoming projects.

Council Member Mansfield suggested that the costs associated with hanging door hangers and other administrative hours should be billed directly to the fiber companies.

City Attorney Sexton clarified that while Florida statutes restrict local control over fiber contractors, the City maintains the right to claim all incurred costs, though quantifying "neighborhood terror" or pain and suffering remains a legal challenge.

Mr. Watt confirmed the City tracks claims until they are paid by insurance carriers and promised to provide the Council with a comprehensive list of all paid and pending claims.

City Attorney Sexton discussed a previous litigation case where the City settled a \$197,000 claim for \$110,000, highlighting the difficulty in proving specific damages like pavement resurfacing frequency.

Council Member Dreyer recommended that the draft letter include specific legislative recommendations to amend the Florida statutes that currently limit the City's oversight.

Council Member Musleh expressed disappointment that the State Legislature has yet to address the safety and financial concerns of Ocala citizens regarding fiber installation.

Mr. Lee concluded by stating the City would follow up with the Council via email to provide all available financial data and updates.

- **Audit meeting, May 5, 2026, at 3:30 PM**

- **Florida House Bill 399 (HB 399), land-use regulation and development**

City Manager Pete Lee reported that Florida House Bill 399 (HB 399) is scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2027, pending any legal challenges, and identified seven key areas that will directly impact municipal land use and development regulations.

Regarding development permits and orders, Mr. Lee explained that the City must conduct a fee study to ensure charges are reasonably related to direct processing costs; he advised Council Member Musleh that this study could be performed by internal staff rather than a third party. The City is currently collaborating with the Technical Working Group (TWG) on the School Interlocal Agreement as part of the broader regulatory response to the bill. Mr. Lee noted that residential compatibility reviews will necessitate amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations to include specific definitions for compatible, incompatible, and complementary land uses. Current regulations governing residential manufactured homes will become unenforceable under the new law, requiring the City to execute comprehensive changes to ensure local codes remain consistent with state mandates. Staff is conducting further research into Section 7 of HB 399, which limits the regulation of buildings constructed offsite as defined by Florida Statute 553.36 and introduces new language regarding architectural elements.

Council Member Dreyer expressed strong opposition to the bill, characterizing it as state-level micromanagement and oversight that threatens local zoning integrity by suggesting that "not everything belongs everywhere." In response to concerns about mobile homes being placed in inappropriate areas, Council Member Dreyer stated she would call for a building moratorium to protect the City's wooded fields and rural

character.

Mr. Lee assured the Council that staff will perform an in-depth analysis of all sections of the statute to determine where the City retains the authority to govern the exterior aesthetics and placement of mobile homes. He cautioned that the implementation of the bill has the potential to significantly alter the established character of the Ocala community.

Council Member Musleh observed that the sweeping changes in the bill will have a visible impact on every quadrant of the City.

Mr. Lee raised concerns regarding the "Live Local" language as it relates to manufactured homes, noting that while it is considered an affordable housing product, its specific application within the City remains a point of inquiry.

Director of Community Development Services, James Haynes, discussed provisions allowing religious institutions to develop affordable housing on sites of three acres or more under the Live Local Act.

13. Ocala Police Department Report

- Overview of Crime and Traffic Stops

Deputy Police Chief reported on crime data for the period, March 16, 2026 to March 29, 2026: 7,571 total incidents, 5,164 proactive calls, 2,407 dispatched calls, quadrant breakdown (1,977 NW, 1,328 NE, 1,913 SE, 2,095 SW, and 249 County), 253 crimes, 206 arrests, 1,221 traffic stops, and 139 crashes.

14. Ocala Fire Rescue Department Report

- Unit Responses

Fire Chief Clint Welborn reported on unit responses for a two-week period, March 17, 2026 to April 6, 2026. The two busiest units: Fire Rescue Four (264-unit responses) and Fire Engine Four (170-unit responses).

- Service Calls Update

Fire Chief Clint Welborn reported on call type spotlights for a two-week period, March 17, 2026 to April 6, 2026: motor vehicle accidents 120, structure fires 5, and community paramedicine/core 41, and calls for service 1,619 (5,922 calls-to-date).

- Department Highlights

Fire Chief Clint Welborn reported that the department successfully hosted an Employee Academy on March 31, 2026, and responded to an RV fire on March 25, 2026, which was initially reported as an outside fire upon arrival. The department has officially launched drone operations to improve situational awareness, recently utilizing the technology to capture construction progress at Station 8 and monitor a gas leak caused by

a fiber installation contractor. This gas leak incident required the deployment of the Hazmat trailer and resulted in a one-hour traffic disruption.

15. City Attorney's Report

16. Public Comments

17. Informational Items and Calendaring Items

- Tuesday, April 21, 2026 - CRA Board meeting - 3:45pm - Council Chambers
- Tuesday, April 21, 2026 - City Council meeting - 4:00pm - Council Chambers
- 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 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.** Informational Item regarding the replacement of engine, transmission, and refurbishment of aerial waterway of Tower One in the amount of \$97,393
- 17b.** Power Cost Adjustment Report - February 2026
- 17c.** Fully Executed Contracts Under \$50,000
- 17d.** Monthly budget-to-actual report and Capital Improvement Project status report as of February 28, 2026

18. Comments by Mayor

- Safety and Security Enhancements at Local Walmart Locations

Mayor Marciano announced that following the opening of the new Neighborhood Walmart, City leadership engaged the corporation's management to address high crime rates associated with existing locations. Petty theft currently accounts for a significant portion of local crime, with the two highest call volumes for service originating from Walmart properties. In response, Walmart has committed to partnering with the City to implement enhanced safety and security measures aimed at reducing these incidents. Mayor Marciano intends to provide a future report to the Council demonstrating the effectiveness of this partnership through a reduction in reported crime rates.

- Commendation - Ocala Skate Park Expansion Project Team

Mayor Marciano formally commended City staff for their dedication to the Ocala Skate Park Expansion Project and for hosting a highly successful grand opening event. The Mayor highlighted the attendance of skateboarding legend Rodney Mullen and noted that the City has received overwhelming positive feedback from citizens regarding the new

Skate Park.

19. Comments by City Council Members

- **Council Member Mansfield warned the public about scams involving City permit payments**

Council Member Mansfield issued a public warning regarding ongoing scams where fraudulent payment requests are sent to citizens for City permit fees. He recommended that the City issue an official public notice to alert and protect residents from these deceptive practices. In response, Mayor Marciano confirmed that the Ocala Police Department (OPD) will release an announcement across its social media platforms to broaden public awareness.

- **Council Member Dreyer urged the City to act on a long-standing request for a school zone at Meadow Brook**

Council Member Dreyer urged the City to take immediate action on a long-standing request for a school zone at Meadow Brook and requested that a meeting be added to the calendar today to finalize the matter. She noted that the school has already offered to fund the project. Director of Public Works Darren Park clarified that school zones are typically paid for by either the School Board or the respective private school. Following the discussion, City Manager Pete Lee and Council Member Dreyer agreed to meet after the session to further discuss the request and coordinate the schedule.

- **President Bethea extended his appreciation to the staff for a successful skate park expansion opening**

20. Adjournment

Adjourned at 5:32 PM

Minutes

Ire J. Bethea Sr.
Council President

Angel B. Jacobs
City Clerk