

**CITY OF MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION
MEETING MINUTES**

March 4, 2025. 6:00 p.m.
Mount Dora City Hall
510 North Baker Street, Mount Dora, Florida 32757

CALL TO ORDER

Having been duly advertised as required by law, at 6:00 p.m., Vice-mayor John Cataldo called to order the March 4, 2025 meeting of the Mount Dora City Council in the City Hall Council Chamber.

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-mayor Cataldo led a moment of silence and a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

John Cataldo, Vice-mayor
Cal Rolfson, District 1
Dennis Dawson, District 3
Marc Crail, District 4
Nate Walker, District 5
Doug Bryant, At-large

Also Present

Vince Sandersfeld, City Manager
Patrick Brackins, City Attorney
Jeanann Hand, City Clerk

Not Present

James L. Homich, Mayor

PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation Recognizing Women's History Month

The City Clerk read the proclamation into the record. Marlene Straughan was present to receive a copy of the proclamation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice-mayor Cataldo opened public comment. No one spoke. Vice-mayor Cataldo closed public comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

***MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA;
COUNCILMEMBER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A
UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.***

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Request Approval of Task Authorization with RCM Utilities, LLC, to Supply Materials and Labor for Improvements to the Sanitary Lift Station at Wastewater Treatment Plant #1
2. Request Council Approval of Requisition for the Rehabilitation of the Aqua Guard Self-Cleaning Bar Screen at Wastewater Treatment Plant #2

PUBLIC HEARINGS-RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES

1. Request Adoption of **Resolution No. 2025-08**, In Support of the Florida League of Cities 2025 Legislative Platform

Mr. Brackins read Resolution No. 2025-08 by title only.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA, URGING MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT THE 2025 FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES' LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM; PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. Sandersfeld introduced the topic.

Councilmembers spoke in favor of adopting the resolution.

Council and staff discussed upcoming proposed legislation and the effects it may have on the City. They spoke about the importance of the Florida League of Cities (FLC) and the role it has played in protecting Home Rule powers, commenting on Florida's League being the most active in the nation. It was noted several Councilmembers are active participants in the League's legislative committees.

Council discussed several key issues including sovereign immunity, and maximum damage limits and their relation to insurance premiums. They felt adoption of the resolution was important as a show of support for the League's work and decisions regarding proposed legislative decisions.

Elected State officials will receive documentation of each City's resolution of support for the FLC's legislative platform.

Council discussed the potential impacts of the votes on enterprise fund transfers, water resource policies, the Live Local act,

Adopting the resolution is clear statement of the City's priorities and policy positions.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2025-08, IN SUPPORT OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES 2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Council and staff discussed proposed legislation regarding CRAs. Council and staff discussed proposed legislation related to diversity and inclusion policies and the votes of elected officials on items related to diversity and inclusion.

Vice-mayor Cataldo opened public comment. No one spoke. Vice-mayor Cataldo closed public comment.

Council and staff discussed the recreation center financing and how proposed legislation might affect it.

COUNCILMEMBER DAWSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A 6-0 ROLL CALL VOTE.

***YES Rolfson
 Dawson
 Walker
 Cataldo
 Crail
 Bryant***

NO None

PRIORITY PROJECT UPDATES

1. Odor Issues

Mr. Sandersfeld delivered updates on the item. On February 25th, the Lake County Board of County Commissioners voted to approve a 50% cost share with the City for the odor study. The City and County attorneys are drafting an interlocal agreement. The agreement will be based on the amount listed in the proposal. Should the cost come to exceed that amount, further discussion will take place.

2. Parking Downtown Improvements

Mr. Sandersfeld told Council about an update to a parking agreement with Main Street Leasing which Main Street is reviewing. It is a shared parking agreement for golf carts. He spoke about the actions the City is exploring for the accomplishment of the other elements of the parking plan. He was in agreement that signage will be helpful, especially a gateway sign, and the City is studying ways to enhance its gateway signage.

Councilmember Bryant pointed out that the City has an adequate number of spaces, but needs to communicate about how to fill those spaces. He had spoken with Mr. Sandersfeld and CRA Administrator Adam Sumner about opportunities to direct those seeking parking, especially from the gateways.

Mr. Sandersfeld spoke about progress in street lighting along the walkway between Tremain and 5th Avenue and the United Methodist Church parking lot, as discussed at the parking workshop. New sidewalks are being put in in that area because the sidewalks were cracked.

Staff had not yet calculated the cost for transitioning Baker Street to a one-way street providing diagonal parking.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT

1. Witherspoon Lodge Status

Mr. Sandersfeld told Council that the City, according to its Purchasing Policy, is seeking three quotes for appraisals for the property.

Mr. Brackins told Council the first appraiser being considered withdrew because of the challenges of project. City staff is hopeful one of the three appraisers currently being considered will be able to handle the task. If all appraisers feel an appraisal cannot be accomplished, the City will share this information with the other interested party.

Mr. Sandersfeld spoke about 2025 City holiday schedule. The City will present a proposed resolution making the Fridays after 2025 Christmas and 2026 New Year's Day City holidays.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Brackins spoke about the "in absentia" ordinance. The first reading will take place at the March 18th meeting.

Mr. Brackins provided an update regarding the Hemingway lawsuit. The judge instructed both plaintiffs, the City, and other defendants to submit reports by February 24th. The City complied. Nothing else is known at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Councilmember Rolfson commended staff for their work, spoke about City holidays, and mentioned the FLC continuing education course he would be attending later in the week. He reminded those present about the Library's upcoming Revolutionary War display.

Councilmember Marc Crail spoke about CRA funding and proposed legislation. He congratulated Fire Chief Joseph Hightower on the department's upcoming accreditation.

Councilmember Walker thanked the Fire Department for their smoke alarm campaign in his district.

Councilmember Bryant spoke about library's extraordinary displays and accomplishments.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER WALKER TO ADJOURN; COUNCILMEMBER DAWSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:46 p.m.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON TO REOPEN THE MEETING; COUNCILMEMBER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

Vice-mayor Cataldo called the meeting back to order at 6:47 p.m.

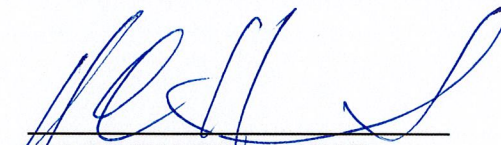
Vice-mayor Cataldo opened public comment.

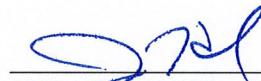
Andrea, 205 Bear Court, spoke about odor issues.

Vice-mayor Cataldo closed public comment.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER WALKER TO ADJOURN; COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:49 p.m.



JAMES HOMICH, MAYOR
City of Mount Dora

JEANANN HAND, CITY CLERK