



CITY OF MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
July 1, 2025
City Hall 510 N. Baker St.
Mount Dora, FL 3275

CALL TO ORDER

Having been duly advertised as required by law, at 6:00 p.m., Mayor James Homich called to order the Regular Session of City Council in the Mount Dora City Hall Council Chamber.

MOMENT OF SILENCE & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A moment of silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag were led by Mayor Homich.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

James Homich, Mayor
John Cataldo, Vice-mayor
Cal Rolfson, District 2
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

PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation Parks and Recreation Month

Mayor Homich read the proclamation into the record. Parks and Recreation Director Troy Shonk spoke about his staff and the work that they do.

2. Presentation of Donnelly Park Site Concept Plans and Various Park Sites

Mr. Shonk provided presentations on Donnelly Park renovations and work that will be done on various other park sites. Mr. Shonk answered questions asked by Council.

Landscape Architect Carrie Reed spoke about the proposed park design concepts for Donnelly Park, providing two plans. Council spoke with Ms. Reed and Mr. Shonk about elements of the presented design concepts. They talked about the Donnelly renovation's role in downtown beautification. The time capsules will be protected. Accessibility was discussed.

Mr. Shonk informed Council about the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board's and other stakeholders' support for these designs after being provided opportunities for feedback. Some members of Council expressed concern about the loss of green space in Donnelly Park, while

others saw the advantage of controlling the consistency of the green space with the tiers presented in the plans.

Mayor Homich opened public comment.

Janet Gamache, 1004 North Rossiter Street, shared her experience as an event coordinator who utilizes Donnelly Park. She spoke in favor of the concepts and provided input on the presented green space and tent placement.

Brian Young, 1004 North Rossiter Street, discussed the presented concepts and shared his experience with the ease of pedestrian movement throughout the park. He spoke in favor of Concept 2.

Eric McDonald, 1826 Overlook Drive, spoke positively about the changes that have taken place at Donnelly Park thus far. He complimented the City Manager for his accomplishments in that regard.

Rachel O'Ryan, Mount Dora Area Chamber of Commerce, spoke in favor of the presented concepts.

Mayor Homich closed public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Homich opened public comment. No one spoke. Mayor Homich closed public comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Request Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND THE CONSENT AGENDA; VICE-MAYOR CATALDO SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Request Authorization for Mayor to Sign on behalf of City Council the Federally-Funded Subaward and Grant Agreement for Donnelly Street Stabilization, Erosion Control Phase II Project

Public Works Director George Marek spoke about this request to authorize the Mayor to sign the grant agreement so that the City may accept the award. This was a federally funded Subaward and Grant Agreement with the Florida Division of Emergency

Management (FDEM). The grant provides funding for Phase II of the Donnelly Street Stabilization and Erosion Control Project, which is designed to stabilize the eroded roadside slope and re-establish the pedestrian pathway on Donnelly Street north of Limit Avenue that had deteriorated due to stormwater runoff.

Council and staff discussed the timeline of the project and the City's ability to adhere to the grant's specifications. Upon securing the funding, the City is prepared to proceed with the construction phase of this project, the first step of which would be contractor selection. The temporary sidewalk will be available throughout construction, and the contractor will assist with restoring the area to its original state after the project is completed. The grant requires a 10 percent match by the City.

Mr. Marek spoke about the sub-recipient management portion, which adds funds to the original grant. Council and staff discussed the areas that would be affected by this project. The City will work with the businesses in those areas to avoid conflict and congestion.

Mayor Homich opened public comment. No one spoke. Mayor Homich closed public comment.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN ON BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL THE FEDERALLY-FUNDED SUBAWARD AND GRANT AGREEMENT FOR DONNELLY STREET STABILIZATION, EROSION CONTROL PHASE II PROJECT; COUNCILMEMBER CRAIL SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A 7-0 ROLL CALL VOTE.

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

NO None

2. Request Approval of Contract with Orlando City Soccer for Annual Tourism Campaign

Economic Development Director Misty Sommer explained that this is a request for City Council to approve a contract with Orlando City Soccer for the City's 2024-25 annual tourism campaign.

The City has launched a variety of tourism campaigns to promote visitation throughout the year. For the 2024–25 campaign, staff is recommending a sponsorship agreement with Orlando City Soccer due to the strong alignment with their demographics, diverse and engaged fanbase, extensive marketing territory, and broad media reach.

Ms. Sommer told Council that the proposed campaign would run from August 1 to October 31, 2025, and explained the benefits the City would receive. A live event featuring an appearance by the team would be part of the campaign, although a date had not been set.

Council and staff discussed the compatibility of Orlando City Soccer's demographic with the City's demographic.

Ms. Sommer introduced Ms. O'Ryan, who spoke to Council about the Chamber's new fundraiser, Mount Dora Magic Bash, which involves live magic shows, sessions for children at the library, and strolling magicians.

Mayor Homich opened public comment. No one spoke. Mayor Homich closed public comment.

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER WALKER TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH ORLANDO CITY SOCCER FOR THE ANNUAL TOURISM CAMPAIGN; COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A 7-0 ROLL CALL VOTE.

<i>YES</i>	<i>Bryant</i>
	<i>Rolfson</i>
	<i>Walker</i>
	<i>Cataldo</i>
	<i>Homich</i>
	<i>Dawson</i>
	<i>Crail</i>
<i>NO</i>	<i>None</i>

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Sandersfeld introduced the City's new Finance Manager, Steven Weber.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Brackins spoke about the presentation he would deliver at an upcoming meeting.

He reported that he had met with City staff and the environmental attorney near the landfill.

He spoke briefly about Senate Bills 180 and 786.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Councilmember Dawson spoke about the County's recent joint planning agreement (JPA) meeting and the Florida League of Cities legislative committees.

Councilmember Crail commended Mr. Marek and Police Chief Michael Gibson for recent accomplishments.

Councilmember Bryant spoke about the JPA meeting and commended Ms. Sommer and Ms. O’Ryan for their work related to generating local tourism.

Councilmember Rolfson spoke about the Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization’s strategy documents.

There was a consensus of the Council to re-appoint Councilmember Rolfson as the City's voting delegate at the Florida League of Cities annual business meeting in August.

Vice-mayor Cataldo spoke about the JPA roundtable, and the concept of county-city mirroring of land use.

Mayor Homich spoke about the JPA roundtable.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON 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 8:08 p.m.



JAMES HOMICH, MAYOR
City of Mount Dora



JEANANN HAND, CITY CLERK