



**CITY OF MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA
CITY COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
July 7, 2025
City Hall 510 N. Baker St.
Mount Dora, FL 3275**

CALL TO ORDER

Having been duly advertised as required by law, Mayor James Homich called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

Members Present

James L. Homich, Mayor
John Cataldo, Vice-mayor
Cal Rolfson, District 2
Dennis Dawson, District 3
Nate Walker, District
Doug Bryant, At-large

Members Not Present

Marc Crail, District 4

Also Present

Vince Sandersfeld, City Manager
Patrick Brackins, City Attorney
Jeanann Hand, City Clerk
Budget Officer Matt Dodson
Police Chief Michael Gibson
Fire Chief Joseph Hightower
Deputy Police Chief James Deleu
Parks & Recreation Director Troy Shonk
Public Works Director George Marek
Library Director Cathy Lunday
Additional staff

DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Capital Outlay, CIP, and Enterprise Funds

Budget Officer Matt Dodson provided an overview of Capital Outlay, the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), and Enterprise Funds.

Police Department Budget

The Council discussed the acquisition of additional Meridian barriers, which will increase the City's supply from 8 to 24. Half of the cost will be reimbursed by a state grant, and the City has the necessary equipment to deploy them.

Council also reviewed the use of License Plate Reader (Flock) cameras. The discussion highlighted their role in solving and deterring crime, the 30-day data retention policy, and the City's partnership with Lake County's real-time crime center.

The Police Department's budget for vehicle trade-outs and upfitting was reviewed. Four older vehicles will be replaced, and these do not expand the fleet.

Fire Department Budget

The Fire Department requested a Ford F-250 to serve as an incident command vehicle. This vehicle will be specially outfitted for its purpose. Both Police and Fire vehicles are acquired through the Florida Sheriffs' Association.

Parks & Recreation Budget

The Parks and Recreation Department requested a new pickup truck, which was discussed in relation to staffing needs.

The Council also considered the purchase of pressure washing equipment. The \$40,000 investment is expected to save money compared to contracted services and will allow citywide use, including downtown.

Sidewalks and Road Projects

The sidewalk program was reviewed, with \$600,000 annually recommended to achieve ADA compliance. Grinding will be used as a cost-savings measure over full replacement, and Council emphasized prioritization of repairs.

Options for addressing sidewalks impacted by trees were discussed, including rerouting sidewalks and using both contractors and in-house resources.

The phasing of Donnelly Street resurfacing versus reconstruction was reviewed.

Although funding for curbs is not anticipated this year, Council expressed interest in redirecting available funds toward sidewalks.

Other Capital Projects

Council reviewed the history and priority of purchasing a scoreboard.

A grant will support the Waterfront Master Plan, which will include restroom additions and provide leverage for future grants for park improvements.

Funds were allocated for engineering and design for the Simpson Farmhouse Expansion project.

The Forest Preserve Phase II will focus on a long-term restoration plan, which may be supported by grant funding.

The 11th Avenue and Lakeshore Drive study is nearing completion, and Council reviewed shifting priorities and funding strategies for the project.

The Streetscape Program is not included in the current CIP, but future consideration may be tied to one-way striping plans.

Enterprise Funds

The Electric Fund was reviewed, including base rate, power cost, revenues, reserves, and expenditures. The budget is balanced.

The Water/Wastewater Fund was also reviewed. This budget is balanced, and the discussion included facility security and the timing of Donnelly Street utility undergrounding.

The Sanitation Fund's revenues and expenditures were reviewed.

The Stormwater Fund was reviewed, with Raftelis currently conducting a rate study. The discussion focused on Pine Avenue drainage solutions, FEMA grant opportunities, and the \$505,000 allocated for engineering and construction.

RECESS AND RECONVENE

The meeting recessed at 8:19 p.m. and reconvened at 8:25 p.m.

Closing Discussion

Council commended staff for their work and highlighted the importance of the budget process.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:51 p.m.



JAMES HOMICH, MAYOR
City of Mount Dora

JEANANN HAND, CITY CLERK