



**CITY OF MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA
CITY COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
July 21, 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
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
Jeanann Hand, City Clerk
Budget Officer Matt Dodson
Department Directors and Staff

Members Not Present

John Cataldo, Vice-mayor, District 1

DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Governmental Funds and Internal Services

General Fund

Mr. Dodson reported the FY 2025-26 budget is balanced, unlike the previous two years. The proposed operating budget is \$7,790,377, reflecting a nine percent decrease. Approximately \$840,000 was cut. Council and staff discussed Planning differences and revenue fluctuations.

Human Resources

The Human Resources budget improved due to increased use of the employee clinic, resulting in fewer claims.

Library and Parks & Recreation

The Library budget increased to support a Deputy Director succession plan. The Parks and Recreation budget rose due to Recreation Center staffing, funded by the CRA. Other areas showed decreases, but staffing needs made the recreation budget appear higher.

Police and Fire

The Police Department added three School Resource Officers, 70% reimbursed by schools, and requested a part-time Evidence Clerk. The Fire Department requested a Chief of Training and Standards. Council discussed the Fire Emergency Service Fee, MSTU revenues, and mutual aid coverage, noting that 78% of calls are within Mount Dora.

Code Compliance and Public Works

Code Compliance requested a manager position for efficiency. Council discussed railroad rights-of-way and the benefits of added management. Public Works reviewed building maintenance, streets, and urban forestry. Council considered revisiting a full-time Urban Forestry position if conditions change.

Special Revenue and CRA Funds

Discretionary funds were adjusted to prioritize sidewalks. The CRA Fund is balanced, includes the Freebee project, and carries no new debt. The Northeast CRA budget is also balanced, with revenues conservatively estimated.

Other Funds

The Building Department showed a 22.8% overall decrease, with personnel increases for Fire Inspection services. The Fire Assessment Fee Fund will rely more on assessments due to fewer impact fees. Council discussed cemetery land behind a local church, debt service, and impact fee reserves.

Internal Service Funds

The Public Works Complex Fund now houses loan payments only. The Vehicle Replacement Fund provides reserves for emergency replacements. Self-Insurance and Property/Casualty funds reflect higher premiums. Risk assessments are conducted by Brown and Brown. Workers' Compensation estimates are expected to be below projections.

Council Discussion and Next Steps

Council discussed succession planning, nonprofit partnerships for the Recreation Center, and staffing increases. TRIM notices will be mailed on August 21. Council expressed appreciation for staff cooperation and attentiveness. Mayor Homich requested consideration of future green space acquisition.



JAMES HOMICH, MAYOR
City of Mount Dora



JEANANN HAND, CITY CLERK