



CITY OF MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
September 3, 2025
Mount Dora City Hall
510 North Baker Street, Mount Dora, Florida 32757

CALL TO ORDER

Having been duly advertised as required by law, at 6:08 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 the Pledge of Allegiance were led by Mayor Homich.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

James Homich, Mayor
John Cataldo, Vice-mayor, District 1
Cal Rolfson, District 2
Dennis Dawson, District 3
Marc Crail, District 4
Nate Walker, District 5

Also Present

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

Members Not Present

Doug Bryant, At-large

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS - RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES

1. Request Adoption of Resolution No. 2025-20, Tentative Millage Rate

Mr. Brackins read Resolution No. 2025-20 in its entirety.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-20

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26; PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT; PROVIDING FOR LEVY OF AD VALOREM TAXES AND PERCENTAGE INCREASE; PROVIDING FOR A FINAL BUDGET HEARING; PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, after conducting a public hearing on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, the City of Mount Dora adopted Resolution No. 2025-16 certifying the proposed millage rate for Fiscal Year 2025-26, as required by Fla. Stat. § 200.065; and

WHEREAS, the Lake County Property Appraiser has delivered notice of the City’s proposed property tax to each taxpayer for which the City of Mount Dora is the taxing authority; and

WHEREAS, following a review of the tentative budget as submitted, the City of Mount Dora has determined that a millage rate of 6.3000 mills is necessary to produce sufficient revenue to fund the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City of Mount Dora, Florida, as follows:

SECTION 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. The City has complied with all requirements and procedures of Florida law in processing this Resolution. The above recitals are hereby adopted.

SECTION 2. Levy of Ad Valorem Taxes and Percentage Increase. The City hereby tentatively levies the millage rate specified and hereby states the percent, if any, by which the tentative millage rate exceeds the rolled back millage rate, as follows:

<u>Taxing Entity</u>	<u>Tentative Millage Rate</u>	<u>Rolled Back Millage Rate</u>	<u>% Increase Over/ (Under) the Rolled Back Rate</u>
General Fund	6.3000 Mills	6.0523	4.09%

SECTION 3. Final Budget Public Hearing. The final public hearing related to the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget adoption process is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., and will be held at 510 N. Baker Street, Mount Dora, Florida 32757, where interested parties may appear and address the City Council on budget-related matters.

SECTION 4. Implementation of Administrative Actions. The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to take such actions as deemed necessary and appropriate in order to implement the provisions of this Resolution. The City Manager may, as deemed appropriate, necessary, and convenient, delegate the powers of implementation as herein set forth to such City employees as deemed effectual and prudent.

SECTION 5. Savings Clause. All prior actions of the City of Mount Dora pertaining to the adoption of the tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2025-26, which is the subject of this Resolution, as well as any and all matters relating thereto, are hereby ratified and affirmed consistent with the provisions of this Resolution.

SECTION 6. Scrivener’s Errors. Typographical errors and other matters of a similar nature that do not affect the intent of this Resolution, as determined by the City Clerk and City Attorney, may be corrected.

SECTION 7. Conflicts. All Resolutions or parts of Resolutions in conflict with any of the provisions of this Resolution are hereby repealed.

SECTION 8. Severability. If any Section or portion of a Section of this Resolution proves to be invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional, it shall not be held to invalidate or impair the validity, force, or effect of any other Section or part of this Resolution.

SECTION 9. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

Council and staff discussed including additional information in the final budget agenda packet, including CRA TIF numbers, which may be adjusted as the City and County negotiate the Northeast expansion agreement (which is not an approved agreement between the City and County at this time).

Mr. Dodson presented additional information to Council, stating that tonight's Resolution No. 2025-20 serves to establish the Tentative Operating Millage Rate for FY 2025-2026. Staff proposes that the operating millage rate be set at 6.3 mills, which is 4.09% above the rolled-back rate of 6.0523 mills. The decision to levy an operating millage rate of 6.3 mills as opposed to the rolled-back rate of 6.0523 mills will result in additional ad valorem General Fund revenue of \$510,351 (net of statutory discount). This is a decrease from the 6.6000 millage cap that was approved at the July 15th meeting. Lastly, these resolutions establish the date, time, and place of the final public hearing related to the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 operating millage rate as September 16, 2025, at 6:00 pm, in the Council Chamber.

Council discussed the reasons for setting the proposed tentative millage rate as described in Resolution No. 2025-20. There was debate amongst Council, with Mayor Homich arguing against the increase. Council spoke about the need to fund infrastructure improvements, the meeting of safety requirements, the increased costs of materials and services, and the potential impact of property tax changes.

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

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2025-20, TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE; COUNCILMEMBER DAWSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH 5-1 ROLL CALL VOTE.

**YES Dawson
Walker
Crail
Cataldo
Rolfson
NO Homich**

2. Request Adoption of Resolution No. 2025-21, Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Mr. Brackins read Resolution No. 2025-21 in its entirety.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA, PERTAINING TO THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26; PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT; PROVIDING FOR APPROVAL OF THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26; PROVIDING FOR A FINAL BUDGET HEARING; PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Manager of the City of Mount Dora recommended a tentative annual budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26, which begins on October 1, 2025, and ends on September 30, 2026; and WHEREAS, the City of Mount Dora held budget work sessions on June 9, 2025, July 7, 2025, July 21, 2025, and August 25, 2025, for the purpose of reviewing and, where appropriate, revising the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26; and

WHEREAS, Fla. Stat. § 200.065 requires the City Council to hold a public hearing to consider adoption of the tentative millage rate and budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26; and WHEREAS, on September 3, 2025, after having first adopted a resolution establishing a tentative millage rate for Fiscal Year 2025-26, the City of Mount Dora held a public hearing and considered adoption of its tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26; and WHEREAS, during the course of said public hearing, all persons desiring to voice objections or make comments relating to the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26 were given an opportunity to do so. NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City of Mount Dora, Florida, as follows: SECTION 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. The City has complied with all requirements and procedures of Florida law in processing this Resolution. The above recitals are hereby adopted. SECTION 2. Approval of the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26. Pursuant to the City of Mount Dora Charter and Florida Statute Chapters 166 and 200, the City of Mount Dora hereby adopts the various tentative budgets for Fiscal Year 2025-26 as set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto. SECTION 3. Final Budget Public Hearing. The final public hearing related to the Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget adoption process is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., and will be held at 510 N. Baker Street, Mount Dora, Florida 32757, where interested parties may appear and address the City Council on budget-related matters. SECTION 4. Implementation of Administrative Actions. The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to take such actions as deemed necessary and appropriate to implement the provisions of this Resolution. The City Manager may, as deemed appropriate, necessary, and convenient, delegate the powers of implementation as herein set forth to such City employees as deemed effectual and prudent. SECTION 5. Savings Clause. All prior actions of the City of Mount Dora pertaining to the adoption of the tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26, as well as any and all matters relating thereto, are hereby ratified and affirmed consistent with the provisions of this Resolution. SECTION 6. Scrivener's Errors. Typographical errors and other matters of a similar nature that do not affect the intent of this Resolution, as determined by the City Clerk and City Attorney, may be corrected. SECTION 7. Conflicts. All Resolutions or parts of Resolutions in conflict with any of the provisions of this Resolution are hereby repealed. SECTION 8. Severability. If any Section or portion of a Section of this Resolution proves to be invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional, it shall not be held to invalidate or impair the validity, force, or effect of any other Section or part of this Resolution. SECTION 9. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption. EXHIBIT A displays the City of Mount Dora Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

Mr. Sandersfeld reminded Council that staff has been working toward this budget since October 2024. He expressed confidence in the presented budget.

The total budget is \$139,806,329.11, which was a decrease from the previous year.

The final public hearing related to the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget adoption is scheduled for September 16th at 6:00 p.m.

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

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2025-21, TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026; COUNCILMEMBER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A 6-0 ROLL CALL VOTE.

YES *Crail*
Walker
Rolfson
Cataldo
Dawson
Homich
NO *None*

Council expressed gratitude to staff, including the City Manager, the Budget Manager and the CRA Manager for the work that had gone into the budget documents presented at the meetings held on this date. Council and staff discussed upcoming meetings scheduled for the following week.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.



JAMES HOMICH, MAYOR
City of Mount Dora, Florida



JEANANN HAND, CITY CLERK