



CITY OF MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
Mount Dora City Hall
510 North Baker Street, Mount Dora, FL 32757
January 6, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

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

Council recognized the late Dr. R. Eugene Burley, a prominent member of the community who had recently passed away. His service to the City and the Northeast community were noted.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mayor Homich.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

James Homich, Mayor
John Cataldo, District 1, Vice-mayor
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

PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation Recognizing Florida Arbor Day

Mayor Homich read the proclamation into the record.

2. Proclamation Recognizing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Mayor Homich read the proclamation into the record. Council joined in the action of the proclamation.

3. Lake County Trails Update

Economic Development Director Misty Sommer provided an update regarding the status of trails in the City. She mentioned grants for which the City had applied, and spoke about her visit to Washington, D.C. to advocate for funding.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Homich opened public comment.

Jerome Fowler, 332 Limit Avenue, commented favorably about the Police Department's support for the community.

Mayor Homich closed public comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of a Piggyback Agreement with Guardian Equipment, Inc.
2. Request Ratification of the Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Extensions of Resolution 2025-45, Local State of Emergency Related to October 26-October 27, 2025 Flood Event
3. Request Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE PROCLAMATION NAMING THE OFFICIAL TREES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT DORA REMOVED TO BE PLACED ON AN UPCOMING AGENDA AS A RESOLUTION; COUNCILMEMBER DAWSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1. City of Mount Dora Advisory Board and Committee Appointments

Vice-mayor Cataldo proposed the appointment of Gabrielle Baraglia-Gunderson to the Historic Preservation Board, and the appointment of Paula Tucker to the Public Arts Commission.

2. Lake Community Action Agency

With a unanimous voice vote, Council reappointed Jeanann Hand to serve on the board of the Lake Community Action Agency

ACTION ITEMS

1. Request Approval of Rankings and Authorization to Negotiate - RFP 26-GS-006 Classification and Compensation Study

Human Resources Director Alan Cline requested Council authorization to proceed with vendor ranking and negotiations for a Classification and Compensation Study under RFP 26-GS-006. Thirteen proposals were received, and staff selected a top-ranked firm—also used for the City’s 2021 study—based on methodology, deliverables, and value. The study supports the City’s strategic goals for recruitment and retention.

The project will review job descriptions, gather employee input, benchmark market salaries, and assess internal equity. It will not automatically change pay but will provide data to guide future compensation decisions. The study covers non-collective bargaining positions; Police and Fire are excluded. Council confirmed inclusion of all relevant administrative and technical roles.

Current pay grades stem from the 2021 study and minimum wage adjustments. Compensation studies are typically conducted every three to five years, with optional follow-up services available. Funding of \$85,000 is budgeted in Human Resources. The requested action authorizes negotiations, with final contract terms to be determined.

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

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER CRAIL TO APPROVE THE RANKINGS AND AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE – RFP 26-GS-006 CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION PAY STUDY; COUNCILMEMBER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

PRIORITY PROJECT UPDATES

Mayor Michael Homich noted the recent recurrence of odor conditions affecting the City during certain seasonal and weather patterns. Mr. Brackins provided an update on related legal matters involving the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and advised Council members to contact him by telephone for additional discussion.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Councilmember Rolfson spoke about the upcoming Heartland League of Cities luncheon at which the new president will be sworn in. He encouraged attendance.

Councilmember Dawson briefly mentioned Three Kings Day.

Councilmember Walker suggested Northeast CRA Board be involved with the naming of the new Resource Center.

Vice-mayor Cataldo discussed a recent cardiac incident at the pickleball courts and expressed support for installing an automated external defibrillator (AED) at that location. Fire Chief Joseph Hightower provided additional information regarding AED devices, explaining their function and importance in cardiac emergencies. It was noted that the City will be placing AED units at municipal recreational facilities.

Vice-mayor Cataldo also inquired of Ms. Sommer regarding the timeline for activation of the kiosk. It was stated that the kiosk has been approved by the Historic Preservation Board (HPB) and may become operational within approximately one month.

Mayor Homich raised the topic of a Rural Protection Area (RPA) and asked whether there was Council consensus to address this issue during negotiations with the County concerning the Joint Planning Area (JPA). The City Manager responded that the City's JPA boundary includes limited rural land.


ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON TO ADJOURN; VICE-MAYOR CATALDO SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:52 p.m.



JAMES HOMICH, MAYOR
City of Mount Dora, Florida



Jeanann Hand, City Clerk

