



CITY OF MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

Mount Dora City Hall
510 North Baker Street, Mount Dora, FL 32757
January 20, 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 & 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, District 1, 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
Ryan Knight, City Attorney
Jeanann Hand, City Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Homich opened public comment.

Lisa Caravette, 220 Baker Street, 225 North Tremain Street, 224 East Third Avenue, spoke about her objection to the activity at a business close to her property on Tremain.

Bailey Stack, 1175 East Fifth Avenue, spoke about Waste Management rate increases and the reliability of service.

Edmonia Worlds, 350 Lincoln Avenue, spoke about concerns with traffic patrol behavior and the circumstances that occurred during a traffic stop.

Tracey Jackson, 1023 Jackson Avenue, spoke about the police presence in his neighborhood.

Sharon Woods, 1400 Eudora Road, spoke about police behavior in their neighborhood.

Marcus Robinson, 1903 North Orange Street, spoke about traffic stops in Mount Dora, particularly in the Northeast community.

Councilmember Walker spoke about the above topic.

Mayor Homich closed public comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Request Approval to Apply for the Community Forestry – Hurricane Ian Recovery (CFHIR) Grant Program
2. Request Approval Work Authorization # 1 to Purchase and Install a Substation Distribution Electrical Breaker **(Removed from Agenda)*
3. Request Approval of Mutual Aid Agreement Between the Mount Dora Police Department and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement
4. Request Approval of Federal Bureau of Investigation Safe Streets Task Force Memorandum of Understanding
5. Request Approval of Lake County Sheriff's Office Aviation Tactical Flight Officer Program
6. Request Approval to Use State Forfeiture Funds for the Purchase of Security Cameras in Historic Downtown **(Moved to Action Item One)*
7. Request Ratification of Emergency Agreement for Professional Engineering and Geotechnical Services for Limit Avenue Public Works Facility Stormwater Pond Repair.
8. Request Ratification of Task Authorization for the 16" Reuse Main and 16" Water Main Associated with the North Donnelly Street Damage as a Result of the October 26, 2025 and October 27, 2025 Flood Event
9. Request Ratification of the Eleventh and Twelfth Extensions of Resolution 2025-45, Local State of Emergency Related to October 26-October 27, 2025 Flood Event
10. Request Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH CONSENT AGENDA ITEM TWO (REQUEST APPROVAL WORK AUTHORIZATION # 1 TO PURCHASE AND INSTALL A SUBSTATION DISTRIBUTION ELECTRICAL BREAKER) REMOVED AND ITEM SIX (REQUEST APPROVAL TO USE STATE FORFEITURE FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF SECURITY CAMERAS IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN) MOVED TO ACTION ITEMS; COUNCILMEMBER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Request Approval to Use State Forfeiture Funds for the Purchase of Security Cameras in Historic Downtown **(Moved from Consent Agenda Item Six)*

Vice-mayor Cataldo requested Consent Agenda Item 6 be moved to an Action Item.

The Police Department requested approval to use \$14,000 in forfeiture funds to deploy two surveillance cameras in strategic downtown locations for continuous monitoring and added

security during large events. Deputy Police Chief Jim Deleu explained the cameras would be discreet and used in public areas where no expectation of privacy exists. The system was described as a force multiplier supporting prevention, real-time awareness, and post-incident investigation, particularly during festivals and street closures when risk exposure increases. The cameras are part of a layered security approach that may also include drone use during major events.

Staff stated that similar systems are standard in modern municipal policing. Costs include a \$7,500 Year One recurring fee and \$6,000 annually thereafter, with ongoing expenses moving to the operating budget. A vendor site survey will guide placement, initially focusing on major intersections and high-traffic areas, with future expansion based on need and budget.

Existing City cameras in parks and waterfront areas are fixed and less flexible. The proposed cameras are mobile and easier to relocate, and the City may gradually transition to this model as older equipment is replaced. The downtown units will provide surveillance only, without a license plate reader or audio capability. The vendor monitors system operability; warranty details will be confirmed, and relocation involves additional cost. The discussion concluded with a call for a motion on the funding request.

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

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON TO APPROVE THE USE OF STATE FORFEITURE FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF SECURITY CAMERAS IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN; VICE-MAYOR CATALDO SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

PUBLIC HEARINGS-RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES

1. Request Adoption of Resolution No. 2026-01, Adopting the Official Trees of the City of Mount Dora

Mr. Knight read Resolution No. 2026-01 by title only.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA DESIGNATING AN OFFICIAL CANOPY TREE AND AN OFFICIAL UNDERSTORY TREE FOR THE CITY OF MOUNT DORA; PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENER'S ERRORS, CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

Staff introduced a resolution for Council consideration to formally recognize designated canopy and understory trees for the City. The item was previously presented in proclamation form at an earlier meeting, but it was decided that adoption by resolution would provide clearer Council support and formal acknowledgment.

It was noted that two example trees were recently planted at Donnelly Park, where visual examples of the selected canopy and understory species can be observed. City Urban Forester Mark Miller was identified as available to answer Council questions, including providing the botanical (Latin) names and additional information about the selected species.

The action was presented as an opportunity for the City to officially recognize representative canopy and understory tree types as part of the City's environmental and aesthetic identity. Council was asked to consider moving forward with the resolution designating these trees.

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

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2026- 01, ADOPTING THE OFFICIAL TREES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT DORA; COUNCILMEMBER CRAIL SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A 7-0 ROLL CALL VOTE.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Sandersfeld directed Council's attention to items in the agenda packet. He introduced Fire Chief Joseph Hightower, who spoke about a food drive.

Also discussed were a St. John's River Water Management District meeting at the library and plans for an upcoming report from the Police Department.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No report.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Councilmember Walker thanked Mr. Knight for attending the meeting, and spoke about Police activity and about the topping out ceremony for the new recreation center.

Councilmember Bryant commented favorably about a Florida Arbor Day event that several Councilmembers had mentioned during the meeting. He mentioned the flexibility of the Police agreement with the FBI, and requested recognition of athletic event organizer Vickie Blate at an upcoming meeting.

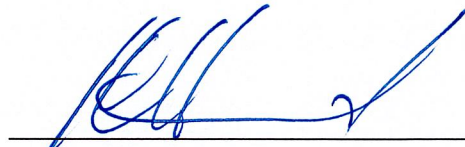
Councilmember Rolfson reiterated Councilmember Bryant's expressed thoughts regarding the FBI memorandum of understanding. He spoke about Florida League of Cities (FLC) resources related to proposed legislation and about Legislative Action Days.

Councilmember Dawson spoke about attending Legislative Action Days and mentioned the resident restoration of the Ocklawaha River Basin. He spoke favorably about Arbor Day events at Forest Preserve.

Councilmember Crail spoke about Arbor Day and the involvement of Friends of the Environment, City staff, and the community. He also spoke favorably about the water management meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:17 p.m.



**JAMES HOMICH, MAYOR
CITY OF MOUNT DORA**



Jeanann Hand, City Clerk