



CITY OF MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
Mount Dora City Hall
510 North Baker Street, Mount Dora, FL 32757
March 17, 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 Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag were led by Mayor Homich.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

James Homich, Mayor
John Cataldo, 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 Bicycle Month

Mayor Homich read the proclamation into the record.

2. Proclamation Recognizing the Mount Dora Yacht Club 73rd Annual Sailing Regatta

Mayor Homich read the proclamation into the record. Edie Robinson, representing the Mount Dora Yacht Club, was present to receive the proclamation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND THE CONSENT AGENDA; COUNCILMEMBER CRAIL SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Request Approval of Rankings and Authorization to Negotiate — RFQ 26-UT-004 "Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) Services for the Wastewater Treatment Plant #2 Expansion"
2. Request Ratification of Urban Forestry Grant Application for the 2025 Urban and Community Forestry Natural Disaster and Recovery Supplement Grant
3. Request Ratification of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Extensions of **Resolution No. 202545**, Declaring a Local State of Emergency Related to October 26-October 27, 2025 Flood Event
4. Request Approval of Meeting Minutes

ACTION ITEMS

1. Request for Code Lien Waiver or Reduction for 1450 Hilltop Drive

Mr. Brackins swore in staff and the property owner who would be testifying about the item.

Community Development Director Adam Sumner presented the case involving prior code violations, including unpermitted tree removal and a life safety issue related to a missing pool enclosure.

The Special Magistrate previously reduced the lien from \$37,310.18 to \$24,735.76, with administrative costs totaling \$1,835.76.

The property owner addressed the Council, acknowledged the violations, and requested further reduction based on compliance and corrective actions.

Council members discussed enforcement consistency, property compliance, and precedent considerations.

Motion by Councilmember Rolfson that, in Code Compliance Case No. E2025-0101, the fine be reduced to \$20,000.00, with the stipulation that the reduced fine be paid to the City of Mount Dora on or before April 26, 2026. Failure to pay the total reduced fine by that date will result in the fine reverting to its original amount of \$24,735.76. The motion died for lack of a second.

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

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER WALKER THAT, IN CODE COMPLIANCE CASE NO. E2025-0101, THE EXISTING FINE BE REDUCED TO \$9,735.76, WITH THE STIPULATION THAT THE REDUCED FINE WILL BE PAID TO THE CITY OF MOUNT DORA ON OR BEFORE

APRIL 16, 2026. FAILURE TO PAY THE TOTAL REDUCED FINE WILL RESULT IN THE FINE REVERTING TO ITS ORIGINAL AMOUNT OF \$24,735.76; COUNCILMEMBER CRAIL SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A 4-2 ROLL CALL VOTE.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. FY26-27 Budget Calendar Discussion

The proposed budget calendar and workshop schedule was presented. The Council reviewed the timeline and identified no conflicts.

The City Clerk was directed to place the budget calendar and workshop dates on upcoming agendas and notify Council members accordingly.

2. Discussion on the Lake County and Lake Municipalities Joint Planning Agreement (JPA) Preserve Rural Lands

Council discussed a conceptual proposal to collaborate with Lake County and other municipalities to preserve rural lands and manage development impacts.

Discussion included managing growth and traffic congestion, protecting rural and transition lands, and potential regional coordination strategies.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Sandersfeld directed attention to the lobbyist information in the agenda packet.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Brackins reported that the Lake County Board of County Commissioners will consider the City's counteroffer on March 24.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Councilmember Rolfson commented on St. Patrick's Day.

Councilmember Dawson spoke about pocket parks in District 3, attending the Police award ceremony, and Irish immigrants.

Councilmember Crail thanked Jennifer Gates and Andrew Marsian for their operational efficiency.

Vice-mayor Cataldo commented favorably about the Parks and Recreation and Building departments.

Mayor Homich spoke about property that may be suitable for a trailhead.

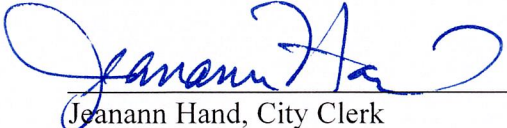
Council discussed the implications of SB 686, which addresses agricultural enclaves and development rights. They acknowledged the need for a balanced approach to development and infrastructure planning.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:22 p.m.



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



Jeanann Hand, City Clerk