



**CITY OF MOUNT DORA, FLORIDA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

Mount Dora City Hall
510 North Baker Street, Mount Dora, FL 32757
April 7, 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, District 1, Vice-mayor
Cal Rolfson, District 2
Dennis Dawson, District 3
Nate Walker, District 5
Doug Bryant, At-large

Also Present

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

Members Not Present

Marc Crail, District 4

PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation Recognizing National Arbor Day 2026

Mayor Homich read the proclamation into the record.

Mark Miller, the City's Urban Forester, presented details regarding the National Arbor Day event to be held at Sunset Park on April 25, 2026.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Homich opened public comment.

Dr. Kiernan, 1015 North Alexander Street, spoke about the Donnelly Street washout and Rails to Trails.

Stephenie Winheim, unincorporated Lake County, spoke about the Police Department.

Mayor Homich closed public comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Request Approval of Piggyback Agreement with The Davey Tree Expert Company for Tree Pruning and Maintenance in the City's Specified Right-of Ways
2. Request Approval to Use State Forfeiture Funds to Host Northeast Community Event
3. Request Ratification of North Donnelly Street Emergency Roadway Repair (Permanent) Agreement
4. Request Ratification of North Donnelly Street Emergency Roadway Repair (Permanent) Agreement
5. Request Ratification of the Twenty-first, Twenty-second and Twenty-third Extensions of **Resolution No. 2025-45**, Declaring a Local State of Emergency Related to October 26-October 27, 2025 Flood Event
6. Request Approval of Meeting Minutes

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1. Police Pension Board (Board of Trustees)

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF DAVID NYE TO THE POLICE PENSION BOARD OF TRUSTEES; COUNCILMEMBER WALKER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

2. Public Arts Commission Appointment

MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBER WALKER TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JOHN WESNER TO THE PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION; COUNCILMEMBER ROLFSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED WITH A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Annual Tourism Campaign

Economic Development and Public Information Director Misty Sommer provided an update to Council on the City's Annual Tourism Campaign.

She reported that the summer tourism initiative will focus primarily on Florida travelers and regional visitors, particularly those traveling through the Orlando market.

Campaign elements include an Expedia digital advertising campaign and an Orlando Sanford Airport advertising campaign

The campaigns will run from May through September 2026.

Council discussed possible expanded partnerships with Lake County, neighboring municipalities, the Chamber of Commerce, and regional tourism partners.

PRIORITY PROJECT UPDATES

1. Update Landfill (City Attorney)

The City Attorney provided an update regarding ongoing landfill litigation.

Council was advised that discovery requests have been exchanged, depositions are being scheduled, and the trial is presently set for the week of May 11, 2026

Staff and legal counsel continue preparing discovery materials and witness preparation.

2. Update Northeast CRA Expansion Settlement (City Attorney)

Council discussed the Northeast CRA expansion settlement and related language concerning roadway improvements. Discussion included prioritization of infrastructure improvements and coordination with the County.

Mayor Homich shared a document and a video clip from the Board of County Commissioners meeting at which the board approved the settlement agreement.

3. Update Donnelly Street Restoration Construction Status

Staff provided a comprehensive update regarding the Donnelly Street post-flood restoration project, including roadway reconstruction, sidewalk mitigation, erosion control, and stormwater improvements. The total project budget was reported as \$2,011,000.

Staff advised that the project remains on schedule, despite unforeseen field conditions, stormwater management, and construction challenges.

Council expressed gratitude to the staff and stakeholders involved in the project, including Representative Ann Cobb and the Lieutenant Governor.

Council expressed appreciation to City staff, contractors, state representatives, and regional partners involved in the recovery effort.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Councilmember Walker and Mr. Brackins discussed the status of the purchase agreement for the Witherspoon Lodge.

Councilmember Bryant spoke favorably about the updated displays in the City Hall lobby area.

Councilmember Rolfson commended staff and associated stakeholders for the progress rehabilitating the area of Donnelly Street that suffered damage during last October's flood.

Councilmember Dawson commended Water Utility staff for their productive communication with members of the community. He spoke about the upcoming Heartland League of Cities luncheon, and financial disclosure forms.

Vice-mayor Cataldo discussed the kiosk with Ms. Sommer, and the Resource Center with Mr. Sumner.

Mayor Homich commented on the Library's Easter Egg Hunt.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:10 p.m.



Jeanann Hand, City Clerk



JAMES HOMICH, MAYOR
City of Mount Dora