

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2026
7:00 P.M.

This Commission Meeting was conducted utilizing Communications Media Technology. Some Staff members were present in the Commission Chambers while others were present via the Zoom application.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT IN CHAMBERS:

Dan West, Mayor
Sunshine Joiner, Vice-Mayor/ Commissioner Ward 2
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2
Harold Smith, Commissioner Ward 1
Scott Whitaker, Commissioner-at-Large 1
Brian Williams, Commissioner, Ward 3

STAFF PRESENT IN CHAMBERS:

Jim Freeman, City Clerk
Marisa Powers, City Attorney
Mohammed Rayan, Public Works Director
Scott Tyler, Chief of Police
Rowena Young, CRA Director
Cassi Bailey, Deputy City Clerk
Amanda Beaver, Administrative Assistant
Jake Bibler, City Planner
Jeff Bowman, Code Enforcement Supervisor
Rob Lamensa, Code Enforcement
Todd Williams, Information Technology (IT) Consultant

1. Mayor West called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and Pastor Collins, gave the prayer for tonight's meeting.

All persons intending to address the City Commission were duly sworn.

2. CITY COMMISSION AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION: **Commissioner Joiner moved, Commissioner Williams seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the February 2, 2026 City Commission Agenda.**

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3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Matthew Haines spoke regarding Breonte Johnson Davis' death and against the juvenile curfew ordinance.

Peyton Hoey spoke against the juvenile curfew ordinance.

Ronnie King, employee at Lincoln Middle, spoke in favor of the juvenile curfew ordinance and thinks this will help with attendance.

Sarah McKane spoke regarding Breonte Johnson Davis' death and against the juvenile curfew ordinance.

Mathilda Pateau spoke against the juvenile curfew ordinance.

Tracey Washington spoke against the juvenile curfew ordinance.

Pastor Jerry Parrish spoke in favor of the juvenile curfew ordinance.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

a. FDOT Project Application US-41 & US-301 Overpass and Intersections to Desoto Bridge

b. Assignment of contract for 4th of July Event Planning

c. Resolution 2026-03: FDOT Agreement-10th St W and 8th Ave W Turn Lanes

MOTION:

Commissioner Joiner moved, Commissioner Whitaker seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as presented by staff.

5. FIRST PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE 2026-01 CERTIFIED RECOVERY RESIDENCES (M.POWERS & J.BIBLER)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALMETTO, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY OF PALMETTO CODE OF ORDINANCES, APPENDIX B RELATING TO CERTIFIED RECOVERY RESIDENCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor West opened the Public Hearing at 7:19 pm.

Ms. Powers explained this is the first of two public hearings. The second public hearing will be on February 23, 2026.

The Planning and Zoning Board had some recommendations at their meeting. They asked to see it again at their February 19th meeting. She is hoping to have a recommendation from them at the second public hearing.

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Commissioner Cornwell asked if she suggested they don't do anything at this time. Ms. Powers explained this was the first public hearing, no action is needed at this time. Mr. Freeman explained they could continue it at the second public hearing if they need to discuss it further at that time.

Commissioner Williams asked if both public hearings were advertised. Yes. He asked for the process of recovery residences. Mr. Bibler answered there is not a current process in place. They will need to establish one. There would be no fee. This has to be dealt with delicately. Legal reiterated they do not recommend a fee be applied. We are required to have this. This is a sensitive nature.

Mayor West recessed the City Commission Meeting to open the February 2, 2026 CRA Board Meeting at 7:25 pm.

Mayor West reconvened the City Commission Meeting at 8:56 pm.

COMMENTS:

6. DEPARTMENT HEADS' COMMENTS

Mr. Rayan reported that new light poles are expected to be installed on the bridge next week. For Ward 1 Phase III, work on the interior roadways is ongoing, and the base material is expected to be paved soon to bring the project to completion. A recent meeting with CVS resulted in progress regarding the small portion of property needed to install turning lanes at 8th Avenue and 10th Street. Additionally, negotiations with potential engineering firms are continuing, and a six-month extension has been granted, moving the deadline to June 2027 for the design of the Complete Streets project.

Mr. Freeman noted that on December 15th Pamela Roberts was re-appointed for the Planning and Zoning Board. There was a scrivener's error, and it read Pamela Evans. The appointment will be good through December 2027. If there is no objection, he requested a motion to ratify the appointment.

MOTION:

Commissioner Cornwell moved, Commissioner Williams seconded, the motion carried 5-0 to ratify the appointment of Pamela Roberts to the Planning and Zoning Board through December 2027.

Mr. Freeman went on to share that the 14th Ave park will go out to bid on Wednesday February 4th. He is hoping to break ground by summer. The project would take approximately 10-12 months to complete.

The Charter Review Committee has completed their review. They have two recommended changes in the form of Ordinances that will come to the Commission for their review. They will come to them at the workshop on March 9th. If the Commission decides to move forward, they would be placed on the general election ballot in November.

Commissioner Smith asked how much it costs to put it on the ballot. Mr. Freeman doesn't believe there is a cost to put on the ballot, but he will double check.

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7. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor West reminded everyone of the FDOT meeting tomorrow night at Veterans' hall from 5-7pm.

After last week's meeting Mayor West drove to Tallahassee and spoke to Senator Boyd and Representative Robinson about the City appropriation requests.

8. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Williams asked why projects are taking a long time to move forward. Ms. Young responded that holding briefings before projects are presented to the public could help address questions in advance. She noted that this approach may improve the process and stated that she will schedule one-on-one meetings to discuss projects further.

Commissioner Joiner asked when the Juvenile Curfew Ordinance will come back for Public Hearing. It was answered, February 23rd.

Commissioner Whitaker requested an update on the building next door and the CSX property. Mr. Freeman reported that, regarding the building next door, the city's attorney forwarded the final revisions a couple of weeks ago, and no response has been received to date. Concerning the CSX property, staff has agreed on a proposed purchase price, subject to Commission approval, and this has been forwarded to the attorneys. The item is expected to be presented at the first meeting in March. Mr. Freeman added that both options are continuing to be pursued as directed.

Mayor West adjourned the meeting at 9:11 pm.

MINUTES APPROVED: APRIL 6, 2026

JAMES R. FREEMAN

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CITY CLERK