

**MINUTES**  
**CITY COMMISSION MEETING**  
**APRIL 20, 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 (Present via ZOOM)  
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2  
Harold Smith, Commissioner Ward 1  
Scott Whitaker, Commissioner-at-Large 1 (Present via ZOOM)  
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  
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 Jacob Simmons from Bayside Community Church, 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 Whitaker moved, Commissioner Cornwell seconded, and the motion carried 3-0 to approve the April 20, 2026 City Commission Agenda, moving item #8 to item #3a. (Commissioner Joiner and Commissioner Williams did not vote.)**

3. PROCLAMATION: LIFE LINK

3a. PROPERTY PURCHASE FROM CSX SITE ID FL-081-1009432 (J.FREEMAN/LEGAL)

Mr. Freeman reminded everyone this item was discussed at the 4:30 pm Workshop.

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Commissioner Smith questioned whether the language was included in the agreement, regarding the due diligence period. Mr. Freeman confirmed the four-month due diligence period was included.

**MOTION:**                    **Commissioner Cornwell moved, Commissioner Whitaker seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the purchase and sales contract ("Contract") with CSX of property consisting of approximately 5 acres total and generally located between 8th Ave West and 10th Ave West on either side of 9th Street West and the potential property for trail extension from 11th Ave West to 5th Ave West for \$1,400,000 and authorize the Mayor to execute any documents related to implementing and closing the contract.**

Commissioner Williams noted that he wanted to discuss payment options in the future.

4.     PUBLIC COMMENT

Sheldon Jones spoke on his skepticism of item 5f. He wasn't sure if it was a good idea to switch the start time to 6:00 am for waste pick up.

5.     CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes: 02/02/2026 & 02/23/2026
- b. Special Function Permit: Operation Reach 2026
- c. Special Function Permit: Fourth Fest
- d. Resolution 2026-06: FY26 US Bancorp Lease Documents
- e. Resolution 2026-07: Underground Injection Control (UIC) Well Project
- f. Enhanced Bulk Collection Services-Waste Management Contract

**MOTION:**                    **Commissioner Cornwell moved, Commissioner Smith seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve items 5a. and 5b.**

Item 5c. was pulled by Commissioner Cornwell to go over details of the event. Ms. Bailey noted that Ms. Jill McGarry will be at the May 18<sup>th</sup> Workshop to share an update on the event.

**MOTION:**                    **Commissioner Cornwell moved, Commissioner Whitaker seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve item 5c.**

Item 5d. was pulled by Commissioner Cornwell to make sure everyone has reviewed the resolution. Mr. Freeman answered that this resolution was a revision to the budget for capital lease equipment.

**MOTION:**                    **Commissioner Cornwell moved, Commissioner Whitaker seconded.**

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Commissioner Williams questioned "and other" written in the point paper. Mr. Freeman said he is unsure why it says that because the items are specifically listed. There is no other equipment. If there is, Commissioner Williams wants it reported to them.

**The motion carried 5-0 to approve item 5d.**

Item 5e. was pulled by Commissioner Cornwell because she thought it was important to celebrate the grant appropriations we received.

**MOTION: Commissioner Cornwell moved, Commissioner Whitaker seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve item 5e.**

Item 5f. was pulled by Commissioner Smith. He thinks we need to let everyone know what this means. Mr. Freeman needs to let everyone know. Mr. Freeman reiterated there is no cost to the residents. There will be social media posts advertising and there will be flyers that will go out. June 1<sup>st</sup> will be the effective date. Commissioner Smith doesn't think this should've been on the consent agenda.

**MOTION: Commissioner Smith moved, Commissioner Whitaker seconded,**

Commissioner Williams discussed his problem with starting at 6:00 am, they need to list where they will be starting. He thinks they need to give 10 days' notice if they are changing their routes. He stated, don't bring things to a workshop, then expect them to vote on them the same day. Mr. Rayan said the noise ordinance would allow the 6:00 am start. Commissioner Smith agreed with Commissioner Williams but stated they're trying to get things cleaned up quickly.

**The motion carried 4-1. (Commissioner Williams voted nay.)**

**6. PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE 2026-02 PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT: BOUNDARY MAP (LEGAL)**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALMETTO, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY CHARTER TO THE VOTERS AT THE NOVEMBER, 2026 GENERAL ELECTION PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE A BOUNDARY MAP OF THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR APPROVAL OF A BALLOT QUESTION; PROVIDING FOR APPROVAL OF BALLOT QUESTION TITLE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; PROVIDING FOR COORDINATION WITH SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS; PROVIDING FOR ELECTION DATE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

*Mayor West opened the Public Hearing at 7:39 pm.*

Ms. Powers gave a brief recap. The charter review committee recommended two changes. Commission

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decided to move forward with only one Ordinance.

Commissioner Smith asked how much this would cost to be put on the general election ballot. Mr. Freeman answered, according to the Supervisor of Elections office, as long as there wasn't an additional page added, there would not be any cost. Commissioner Smith asked how much it would cost if it did go to another page. Mr. Freeman will find out.

Commissioner Whitaker asked if this is something legal recommended. Yes, Mr. Barnebey recommended a boundary map.

Mr. Freeman read from his email to the supervisor of elections office, regarding Commissioner Smith's question.

*Mayor West closed the Public Hearing at 7:45 pm.*

**MOTION: Commissioner Cornwell moved, Commissioner Whitaker seconded, and the motion carried 4-1 to adopt Ordinance 2026-02 as presented at the March 9, 2026, meeting, and instruct the City Clerk to transmit the Ordinance to the Supervisor of Elections for placement of the Amendment on the November, 2026, general election ballot in accordance with the Ordinance. Further, the Mayor and City Clerk shall make the proposed Charter Amendments available for review by the public and publish the amended charter in accordance with Ordinance 2026-02. (Commissioner Smith voted nay)**

7. 2<sup>nd</sup> PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE 2026-01 CERTIFIED RECOVERY RESIDENCES (PLANNING/LEGAL)

*THIS WAS CONTINUED FROM MARCH 23, 2026 AND FEBRUARY 23, 2026.*

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.

Ms. Powers gave a recap of this item. It was recommended by the P&Z Board 4-0. In attachment A- "a blank 7" shouldn't be there. There should only be 7 items total.

*Mayor West closed the Public Hearing at 7:50 pm.*

**MOTION:** Commissioner Whitaker moved, Commissioner Cornwell seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to adopt Ordinance 2026-01, amending Appendix B of the code of Ordinances.

8. PROPERTY PURCHASE FROM CSX SITE ID FL-081-1009432 (J.FREEMAN/LEGAL)

**This item was moved to 3a.**

9. MARCH 2026 CHECK REGISTER (Informational Only)

COMMENTS:

10. DEPARTMENT HEADS' COMMENTS

Ms. Young shared that she traveled to Oklahoma to the Mainstreet Conference. Palmetto Downtown Mainstreet is thriving. She encourages everyone to support them.

Mr. Rayan noted that they are continuing to finalize Ward 1 Phase III. They sent out the permits for Complete Street to FDOT for their review. Paving projects throughout the City are ongoing.

Mr. Freeman said he will bring initial information on the building next door at the next meeting. He thanked the Commission for their support on other items tonight.

11. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor West reported the following:

- The Palmetto Downtown Mainstreet's Chalk Festival was wonderful.
- Keep Manatee Beautiful planted wonderful red, white, and blue flowers this weekend for Earth Day.
- Thursday there will be an employee appreciation luncheon at Public Works.
- Friday they are planting a "Freedom Tree" at Heritage Park by Carnegie Library for Arbor Day.
- The Desoto Parade will be on Saturday. He encouraged all employees to join.

Mayor West noted the CRA's desire to submit a regional application in partnership with the County for the Opportunity Zone. The consensus from the Commission was favorable to move forward.

12. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Whitaker really appreciated Mr. Freeman bringing the concept to them for City Hall on the CSX property. He noticed the first 7 poles on the Bradenton side of the Green Bridge have flags

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on them and asked if we are adding flags to our side. Yes, we are adding flags to all our poles as well. They had planned to do so this morning but weren't able to due to the traffic congestion. They are going to put them up tomorrow.

Commissioner Cornwell questioned if Veolia applied for the grants we've received for the WWTP. Mr. Rayan responded no, the City has applied for those. Commissioner Cornwell then asked if Veolia has operated an AGS system. Yes, he believes so. Commissioner Cornwell would like for Mr. Rayan to provide her with that information. She then asked if Veolia ever sponsors City events. She would like that information as well.

Commissioner Cornwell would like to see the type of design Fawley Bryant presented for City Hall, similarly, presented for a streets-scape concept down 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, along with a list of vacant parcels. In a PowerPoint format. She's been waiting 2 months from the CRA and still has nothing. Ms. Young stated that on May 18<sup>th</sup> she will bring back something regarding the vacant building, but she can't promise design elements.

Commissioner Cornwell thanked Mr. Rayan for the grants he brings to the City and the solution with Waste Management.

Commissioner Joiner spoke via ZOOM that she loved the Palmetto Downtown Mainstreet's chalk festival.

Mayor West adjourned the meeting at 8:09 pm.

MINUTES APPROVED: JUNE 1, 2026

***JAMES R. FREEMAN***

JAMES R. FREEMAN  
CITY CLERK