

**DRAFT**  
**CITY COMMISSION MEETING**  
**MAY 18, 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  
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 Shelly Riker with 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 Joiner moved, Commissioner Williams seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the May 18, 2026 City Commission Agenda with the removal of item # 12.**

3. JOHN LAND YEARS OF SERVICE AWARD

Eryn Alcorn, Florida League of Cities, presented the John Lands Years of Service Award to Tamara Cornwell for her 30 years of service with the City of Palmetto.

4. PROCLAMATION: ALS AWARENESS MONTH

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5. PROCLAMATION: CHILD CARE PROVIDER'S DAY

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Guadalupe Hernandez spoke on her request to receive approval for a vinyl fence. She provided backup documentation, which was made part of the minutes.

Christopher Mullinex spoke about his mother's former property and the water meter tampering issue.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes: 03/09/2026 & 03/23/2026
- b. Allocation of Opioid Settlement Money to NRPP
- c. Grant of Easements from View Lake LLC (Terra Ceia Bay Townhomes)
- d. Special Function Permi: 2027 Regatta
- e. Resolution 2026-09 Amending Commission Meeting Start Time
- f. Opioid Litigation-Settlement with Opioid Distributor

Commissioner Williams asked if items 7b. and 7f. were the same item. No, Chief answered that item 7b. was discussed on the workshop. 4f. involves new class action opioid lawsuits.

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

Commissioner Cornwell asked to pull items 7b., 7c., 7e., and 7f.  
Commissioner Smith asked to pull item 7d.

**The motion carried 5-0 to approve item 7a.**

Item 7b. Commissioner Cornwell stated that she wanted all the funding to go to the citizens, schools, churches, businesses, etc within the City of Palmetto.

**MOTION: Commissioner Cornwell moved, Commissioner Williams seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve item 7b. with the stated stipulations.**

Item 7c. Commissioner Cornwell wanted staff to speak on this item. Mr. Rayan explained that Terra Ceia Bay Townhomes was granting an easement to the City to be able to maintain, repair or replace any of our utilities within the easement.

**MOTION: Commissioner Cornwell moved, Commissioner Williams seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve item 7c.**

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Item 7d. Commissioner Smith asked when they changed the name to the Bradenton Area River Regatta. It was answered that it has been that way as long as staff can remember.

**MOTION: Commissioner Cornwell moved, Commissioner Smith seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve item 7d. with the change of the name to Bradenton/Palmetto Area River Regatta.**

Item 7e. Commissioner Cornwell wanted to speak on the purpose of the resolution. The workshop will be at 4:30 until 6:00 pm, then the regular meeting will start at 6:15 pm, beginning in July.

Commissioner Smith asked if they had tried this before. No, Mr. Freeman said they did try changing the workshop from 5:00-6:00 pm years ago and only for 3 months. But never the Commissioner meeting. This will take effect July 1<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Smith didn't think this should've been on the consent agenda. Mr. Freeman answered that it was put on the consent agenda because it had been previously discussed.

Commissioner Smith suggested moving the meeting end time earlier, and Commissioner Whitaker agreed, proposing that meetings conclude at 9:15 pm. instead of 10:00 pm.

**MOTION: Commissioner Cornwell moved to approve Resolution 2026-09, for Commission meetings to begin at 6:15 pm and end at 9:15 pm, time certain. Commissioner Joiner seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.**

Item 7f. Commissioner Cornwell clarified that this is an additional class action opioid litigation.

**MOTION: Commissioner Cornwell moved, Commissioner Joiner seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve 7f.**

**8. PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE 2026-07: Palmetto Comprehensive Plan Amendment Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) (LEGAL/PLANNING)**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALMETTO, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE PALMETTO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, ORDINANCE 2010-01, AS AMENDED; AMENDING AND ADDING DEFINITIONS; AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE ELEMENT, TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT, HOUSING ELEMENT, SANITARY SEWER ELEMENT, SOLID WASTE ELEMENT, STORMWATER ELEMENT, POTABLE WATER ELEMENT, COASTAL MANAGEMENT ELEMENT, CONSERVATION ELEMENT, PARKLAND OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION ELEMENT, PUBLIC SCHOOL ELEMENT, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION ELEMENT, AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ELEMENT; PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS RELATED TO THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA; PROVIDING FOR UPDATES; PROVIDING FOR A CODIFIED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

*Mayor West opened the Public Hearing at 7:49 pm.*

Ms. Powers explained that this is needing to be continued to June 15<sup>th</sup>. The Planning & Zoning Board did not have a quorum at their last meeting.

**MOTION:** **Commissioner Williams moved, Commissioner Joiner seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to continue the public hearing on Ordinance 2026-07 to June 15, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.**

9. PHASE 1- UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL (UIC) WELL AND REJECT STORAGE CONTROL SYSTEM DESIGN (M.RAYAN)

This was previously discussed at the 4:30 workshop.

Commissioner Williams asked if items 9 and 10 can be approved at one time. Yes, if they are incorporated into the same motion.

**MOTION:** **Commissioner Williams moved, Commissioner Whitaker seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to authorize the Mayor to sign the work assignment for work to be performed by Wade Trim to provide the design for the UIC Well and Reject Storage Tanks to satisfy the Florida - FDEP CWSRF/SAHM grant funding currently totaling \$19,166,503 and for the work assignment for work to be performed by Wade Trim to provide the design for the Effluent Transfer Pump Station & Chlorine Chemical Contact Basin Improvements to satisfy the Florida – FDEP CWSRF/SAHM grant funding currently totaling \$19,166,503.**

**Note: The City is eligible to receive additional funding, up to \$61,000,000 million, should additional funding become available.**

10. PHASE 2-EFFLUENT TRANSFER PUMP STATION & CHLORINE CHEMICAL CONTACT BASIN IMPROVEMENTS DESIGN (M.RAYAN)

This item was approved as part of the motion in item number 9.

11. April 2026 Check Register (Informational Only)

*Mayor West recessed the City Commission Meeting to open the May 18, 2026 CRA Board Meeting at 7:53 pm.*

*Mayor West reconvened the City Commission Meeting at 8:23 pm.*

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~~12. RIVERSIDE DRIVE FERRY LANDING FDEP PERMIT APPLICATION (R.YOUNG)~~

COMMENTS:

13. DEPARTMENT HEADS' COMMENTS

Chief Tyler reported that in early March the department investigated three separate shooting incidents and has since made arrests in all three cases. He stated that one individual was responsible for all three shootings, and that the suspect was a 16-year-old from Bradenton.

Mr. Freeman reported that the item regarding the property next door will be brought forward for action on June 1<sup>st</sup>. He also noted that bids for the 14th Avenue project will be presented to the Commission for consideration and a recommendation to move forward in June. Mr. Moore, the City's lobbyist, provided an update on legislative funding efforts, stating that two of the City's requests have been approved—\$750,000 for the 14th Avenue Park and \$350,000 for dispatch software—both of which are now awaiting the Governor's signature, while other funding requests are still progressing through the approval process.

Kimley Horn wants to schedule a stakeholder meeting or Workshop to discuss design elements for the 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue- Complete Street Project.

Commissioner Cornwell asked if they could schedule meetings with them individually, maybe on a Friday. Mr. Freeman will follow up with them.

Mr. Freeman reported that the City is continuing to work through the branding study. He noted that the public survey closed in mid-May and received a strong response. Additional information and findings from the study will be provided at a later time.

Mr. Rayan reported that a household hazardous waste disposal event will be held on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the fairgrounds with hours from 8:00 am. to 12:00 pm. He noted that the upcoming June 1<sup>st</sup> bulk collection will begin and will allow residents to dispose of up to four items on their regular collection day. He added that notifications have been shared through social media and water bill inserts. He also provided updates on the 10th Avenue Complete Streets project, stating that survey work is expected to begin soon and recommending that a workshop be scheduled for July. Additionally, he noted that discussions are ongoing regarding turning lane improvements at 10th Street and 8th Avenue.

14. MAYOR'S REPORT

Nothing additional to report.

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### 15. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Smith asked Mr. Freeman and the Mayor why new buildings are being developed on back roads instead of main roads. He stated his preference that new construction should be located on main streets where they are more visible and accessible to the public.

Commissioner Williams thanked Commissioner Cornwell for her 30 years of service.

Commissioner Joiner noted that the City participated in the May 7<sup>th</sup> National Day of Prayer and thanked the Mayor for representing the City well at the event. She also expressed appreciation to Commissioner Cornwell for her years of service. Additionally, she stated that she will be absent from the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Commissioner Whitaker requested an update on the Altier project. Mr. Freeman responded that the developer has submitted its General Development Plan (GDP) to staff and noted they have a six-month window from February to do so, meaning they are still within the required timeframe to submit both the rezoning application and GDP. Ms. Young added that the City recently received a draft Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreement from legal counsel for review. Commissioner Whitaker thanked the Chief and law enforcement officers for their efforts in solving the three shooting cases that occurred earlier in the year.

Last week's Law Enforcement Memorial event was noted, where the Mayor served as the keynote speaker. Commissioner Whitaker opined that the Mayor did an excellent job and represented Palmetto really well.

Commissioner Cornwell jokingly said she wished she had been given a heads-up about her award and thanked everyone for keeping the surprise. She also offered congratulations on the City's grant and state appropriation approvals.

Commissioner Cornwell asked Chief Tyler about Narcan availability and the scope of the related grant funding. Chief Tyler explained that approximately \$1,200 to \$1,400 was set aside for that purpose and noted that he plans to bring back a first responder program proposal for Commission consideration on June 1<sup>st</sup>. He added that supplies will be provided for distribution to those in need, including through officers who already carry Narcan. Commissioner Cornwell emphasized the importance of educating residents about its use and availability.

The Mayor announced that a cleanup effort is planned for Saturday at the Old Memphis Cemetery and invited anyone who is available to participate in the effort.

*Mayor West adjourned the meeting at 8:44 pm.*