MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 5, 2026
6:15 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
Jeff Bowman, City Planner
Gabriella Vork, Administrative Assistant
Todd Williams, Information Technology (IT) Consultant

1. Mayor West called the meeting to order at 6:16 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and Commissioner Joiner 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 October 5, 2026 City Commission Agenda with the removal of 4e. and the addition of 4h.**

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Minutes: 08/17/2026
b. Special Function Permit: FBC Fall Festival
c. Special Function Permit: 2027 Desoto Grand Parade
d. Police Officers' Pension New Board Member
~~e. Branding Logo/Seal~~
f. Resolution 2026-21 Lease Reimbursement for 2027 Capital Items
g. Sole Source Purchase-U.S. Flood Control Corp. (USFC)
h. SFP- Pier 22 Fireworks (ADDITION)

Commissioner Cornwell removed 4.f, 4g. for further discussion

MOTION: Commissioner Cornwell moved, Commissioner Joiner seconded, and the motion carried to approve the Consent Agenda as presented by staff 4a., 4b., 4c., and 4d.

Commissioner Cornwell questioned if we are purchasing these vehicles. Mr. Freeman answered capital lease financing requires a resolution be adopted when the City is expected to be reimbursed for any purchases prior to the financing. This amount was approved as part of the FY 2027 Budget process.

MOTION: Commissioner Cornwell moved, Commissioner Joiner seconded and the motion carried 5-0 for item 4f.

Commissioner Cornwell questioned 4g. and what the Tiger Dam system would do for the City. Mr. Rayan answered how this started with the consent order. They presented the Tiger Dam to the DEP. They were ok with it. Mr. Rayan said now they may not go with it. They presented something else to DEP. They kept it on agenda in case they want to use it in the future. They thought they should purchase another pump due to the issues they've had recently at the WWTP.

MOTION: Commissioner Cornwell moved, Commissioner Joiner seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 for item 4g.

MOTION: Commissioner Cornwell moved to approve item 4h., Commissioner Joiner seconded, and the motion carried 5-0

5. FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2026-14 DATA CENTER MORATORIUM (LEGAL)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF PALMETTO, FLORIDA IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON THE SUBMISSION AND ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS FOR BUILDING PERMITS, SITE PLANS, DEVELOPMENT ORDERS, DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS, SPECIAL EXCEPTION USES, CONDITIONAL USES, REZONINGS, AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENTS RELATED TO DATA CENTERS, LARGE-SCALE DATA CENTERS AND OTHER LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF PALMETTO, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING PURPOSE; PROVIDING FOR APPLICATION; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; IMPOSING TEMPORARY MORATORIUM; PROVIDING FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION; PROVIDING PROCESS FOR EXTENSION; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT, PENALTY, AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF; REPEALING LAWS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

MOTION: **Commissioner Joiner moved, Commissioner Williams seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2026-14 and direct Staff to schedule the appropriate public hearings.**

6. FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2026-15 SMOKE SHOP MORATORIUM (LEGAL)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF PALMETTO, FLORIDA IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RETAIL SMOKE SHOPS, SMOKING PRODUCTS, VAPING ACCESSORIES AND PRODUCTS, VAPOR-GENERATING ELECTRONIC DEVICES, AND PRODUCTS AND ACCESSORIES RELATED TO CBD PRODUCTS FROM EVERY ZONING DISTRICT IN THE CITY FOR A PERIOD OF 365 DAYS, UNLESS EXTENDED OR REPEALED; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING PURPOSE; PROVIDING NOTICE OF PENDING ORDINANCE; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR BOUNDARIES SUBJECT TO THE MORATORIUM; IMPOSING TEMPORARY MORATORIUM; PROVIDING FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION; PROVIDING PROCESS FOR EXTENSION; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT, PENALTY, AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF; REPEALING LAWS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

MOTION: **Commissioner Williams moved, Commissioner Joiner seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2026-15 and direct Staff to schedule the appropriate public hearings.**

7. FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2026-16 VACATION OF EASEMENT-JERRY REID-1302 28TH AVENUE DRIVE WEST (PLANNING)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PALMETTO, FLORIDA, VACATING A 15 FOOT WIDE UTILITY EASEMENT GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING LOCATED ON THE EASTERN 15 FEET OF LOT 2, BLOCK B, TROPIC ISLES MOBILE HOME ESTATES, UNIT THREE; AND AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Whitaker clarified since this is a utility easement does that mean there aren't any utilities currently in that easement. It was confirmed that was correct.

MOTION: **Commissioner Joiner moved, Commissioner Whitaker seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2026-16 and authorize staff to advertise for the appropriate public hearings.**

Mayor West recessed the City Commission Meeting to open the October 5, 2026 CRA Board Meeting at 6:35 pm.

Mayor West reconvened the City Commission Meeting at 6:46 pm.

COMMENTS:

8. DEPARTMENT HEADS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Cornwell expressed her appreciation to the Legal Department for bringing the moratoriums before the Commission so quickly.

Mr. Rayan reported that the concrete pad at Patriot Park was placed today and that vertical construction would begin soon. Regarding the WWTP, Mr. Rayan stated that the City had issued a request for vendor applications. He requested a 30-day contract extension and had verbally confirmed that Veolia would agree to the extension. The Legal Department would need to draft a memorandum of understanding extending the agreement through January 31. The item would return at the next meeting.
The Commission reached consensus to proceed with that timeline.

MOTION: **Commissioner Williams moved to direct the Legal Department to prepare an MOU extending Veolia's agreement through January 31st, Commissioner Joiner seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.**

Ms. Young reported that small benches had been installed around the perimeter of the gazebo at Connor Park.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT

No additional comments.

10. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Williams stated that a light was needed at 17th Street and 14th Avenue because the fair was approaching. Mr. Rayan stated that he would follow up.

Commissioner Cornwell clarified that the items discussed during the workshop were called "bridge fenders."

Commissioner Whitaker asked what had been done regarding the faulty WWTP filters. Staff responded that no permanent action had been taken yet, but temporary filters had been installed and the facility was in compliance.

Commissioner Cornwell requested timeline updates for the City's larger projects. She also requested an update on the Planning and Zoning timeline for the moratorium, noting that the review period had begun.

Mayor West adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm.

MINUTES APPROVED: NOVEMBER 16, 2026

JAMES R. FREEMAN
JAMES R. FREEMAN
CITY CLERK