

**City of South Daytona
City Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 6:00pm**

City Council Chambers, 1672 South Ridgewood Avenue, South Daytona, Florida
and Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/CityOfSouthDaytona)

A. OPENING. Call to Order: Mayor William C. Hall called the City of South Daytona Regular City Council Meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Roll Call:

Present:

Mayor William C. Hall
Vice-Mayor Doug Quartier
Councilman Eric Sander

Councilman Brandon Young
City Manager James L. Gillis, Jr.
City Attorney Wade Vose

Not Present: Councilwoman Lisa O'Neal

Deputy City Clerk Becky Witte noted that Councilwoman Lisa O'Neal was unable to attend tonight's meeting, as she is attending her nephew's graduation from the U.S. Army, which is a great honor.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor William C. Hall followed by the **Invocation** led by Councilman Brandon Young.

Item 5: City Manager Report:

City Manager Gillis provided an update on stormwater improvements completed since the previous Council Meeting.

The City's excavation contractor, Drewery, has started on the Windle Lane Pond Expansion project. The project calls for the vast expansion of the existing pond to more than double its current size with the goal of keeping stormwater out of homes in the Coventry Forest subdivision.

The Public Works Department cleaned out the outfall box and surrounding area in the Harborside subdivision. In addition, we reconfigured the stormwater pump there to more effectively move water out of the subdivision.

City staff met with Volusia County's design engineering firm to go over the City's comments on the recently received plans for the Lantern Park Secondary Stormwater Pond project. In addition to the pond excavation, the project will also involve stormwater pipe upsizing inside the subdivision, a wall, and a second pump station with a permanently mounted generator to keep water out of homes. The next step for this project involves the submittal of the plans to the state for permitting.

City staff has reviewed and provided comments on the initial design submittal for the Aspen Stormwater Pond Expansion project. The project calls for expansion of the pond, the installation of a second stormwater pump station with a permanently mounted generator, and the replacement

of the existing connection pipe with Silver Pond. The start of the permit submittal process is the next step for this project.

The Public Works Department has begun clearing the Stevens Canal again; this time with heavy equipment. Surface vegetation will be left to reduce erosion; however, the entire canal will be opened up from one end to the other. The goal is to allow for more flow and give access to the surveyors who will begin mapping the canal for the upcoming sheet pile wall design that is underway. The installation of sheeting to the canal will make it wider and capable of conveying water faster to our pumps at the Reed Canal Stormwater Control Facility.

The Fall Baseball season has begun, and we are looking for volunteers to work at the concession stand. We provide the concession stand as a low-cost service to our residents whose children participate in our program. We feature \$2.00 hot dogs and \$3.00 hamburgers. All proceeds go to the South Daytona Citizens Alert Council, which provides funds to our police and fire departments when needed.

Item 6: City Attorney Report:

City Attorney Wade Vose reported that over the past several weeks, his office has been working with staff on various matters, including code enforcement, utility billing, and multiple public records requests.

He noted that at the last meeting, he mentioned Attorney Garrett Olsen would be attending a court hearing to determine whether the City could recover excess funds from a mortgage foreclosure. Mr. Olsen was successful in that effort, securing an additional \$5,000 for the City.

Attorney Vose further stated that Mr. Olsen will attend the October Code Enforcement Special Magistrate Hearing, as there is an upcoming matter involving unique ordinance issues that his office felt warranted additional legal support.

B. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Mayor Hall said that this is an opportunity for members of the public to address the City Council on any topic, whether it pertains to community concerns, personal perspectives, or general topics like the weather. When invited to approach the podium, please clearly state your name and address for the official record.

He asked that while speaking, direct your comments to the City Council as a whole and not towards any of the audience members or cameras. As the established standard, each person will be given approximately three minutes to speak. Although there is no formal clock, be concise enough without repetition to ensure everyone has had an opportunity to participate. Please note that the City Council will not respond to any viewpoint or question during this time as it is your opportunity to be heard.

Mary and Richard Phinney (2306 Oriole Lane) discussed their home remodeling efforts, in particular their success with a local carpet installer.

Rick Tarrant (905 Wells Drive) thanked the Public Works Department for installing an ADA-accessible ramp at the Reed Canal Park Bridge. He also requested that a crosswalk be added at the park entrance and noted he had previously discussed this with the Public Works Director, who confirmed it is in progress.

Bill Cardamone (2280 Oriole Lane) expressed concerns regarding erosion along the Steven's Canal, stating that each time work is conducted in the area, additional portions of the bank are lost, which is encroaching on his property.

C. CONSENT AGENDA (Items 7-8):

Mayor Hall introduced the Consent Agenda and said the matters included under the consent agenda are self-explanatory and not expected to require discussion for approval. Items will be enacted by one motion. If discussion is desired by any member of the City Council, that item must be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately.

Item 7: Approval of minutes: September 8, 2025, City Council Meeting.

Item 8: Consideration of approving purchases with Florida Health Care Plans, Caton-Hosey Insurance, Vose Law Firm, Metlife Group Benefits, Mutual of Omaha, Metz, Husband & Daughton Attorneys and Infosend for routine yearly expenditures including insurance, attorney services, lobbying and postage services for FY 2025/2026.

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented by Councilman Eric Sander. Second by Vice-Mayor Doug Quartier. Motion carried unanimously.

D. REGULAR AGENDA:

Item 9: Resolution No. 2025-25. A Resolution of the City of South Daytona, Florida, adopting the final millage rate for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026; and providing for severability and an effective date. **First and only reading. Public Hearing.**

City Attorney Vose read the title of Resolution No. 2025-25.

City Manager Gillis explained that Resolution No. 2025-25 is tied to the following agenda item, Resolution No. 2025-26. He explained that the first resolution adopts the final millage rate, while the subsequent resolution adopts the final budget.

Mr. Gillis expressed his appreciation to Council members for their time and collaboration in developing a budget that addresses the City's most critical need, reducing flooding.

He stated that the resolution before Council formally adopts a millage rate of 7.75 mills, which has remained unchanged for the past seven years. Due to increased property assessments, this rate represents a tax increase of approximately \$2.53 per month for the average South Daytona homeowner.

Mr. Gillis emphasized that the City's primary concern moving forward is alleviating flooding. He highlighted several major stormwater projects included in the budget, totaling more than \$16 million:

- Excavation of a stormwater pond at Melodie Park (benefiting Oriole Lane and Kenilworth Avenue residents).
- Acquisition of homes and construction of a pond on Green Street and Brian Avenue.
- Acquisition of homes and construction of a pond in the Sherwood Forest subdivision.
- Widening and armoring of Stevens Canal to reduce flooding City-wide.
- Construction of a pond adjacent to Lantern Park subdivision.
- Expansion of the Aspen Stormwater Pond to address flooding in Big Tree Village.
- Installation of a large stormwater pump at the end of the Pope Avenue stormwater outfall pipe.

He noted that these projects are made possible through funding partnerships with Volusia County and the State of Florida, which will cover the majority of the costs. While these projects require extensive planning, permitting, and compliance steps, all have already entered the initial stages. The City's primary focus for the coming year will remain flood relief.

He concluded with a staff recommendation to adopt the final millage rate of 7.75 mills to support these initiatives. He added for the record; this rate is 4.22 percent greater than the rollback rate of 7.4363 mills.

Mayor Hall opened the Public Hearing. No comments were received. Mayor Hall closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilman Eric Sander. Second by Councilman Brandon Young. Motion carried unanimously at 6:13 pm.

Item 10: Resolution No. 2025-26. A Resolution of the City of South Daytona, Florida, adopting the final budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026; and providing for severability and an effective date. **First and only reading. Public Hearing.**

City Attorney Vose read the title of Resolution No. 2025-26.

City Manager Gillis stated that Resolution No. 2025-26 is a companion to the previous resolution and seeks the adoption of the final budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins on October 1st. He reiterated that the primary focus of the budget is alleviating flooding for residents through major stormwater improvement projects but also highlighted several other important initiatives.

On the staffing side, the budget converts certain supervisory positions into operational roles, including replacing the Public Works Specialist position with an equipment operator, replacing an investigative assistant with a patrol officer, and adding a maintenance worker in water and sewer. Planned capital and infrastructure improvements include resurfacing Spinnaker Circle, Jib Drive, and Louisiana Road, projects identified a decade ago that can now be addressed due to improved finances. The budget also provides for remodeling the Fire Department sleeping quarters, purchasing a grapple truck for debris collection in Public Works, acquiring four new police vehicles to replace aging units, and replacing Lift Station #5 on Violet Street and Lift Station #1 on Palmetto Avenue to accommodate greater sewer flows. Additionally, the City will replace two utility body trucks in the water and sewer department.

Mr. Gillis further noted that funding has been allocated to complete the long-delayed U.S. 1 Streetscape Project, which began years ago but could not be finished until the City's financial stability improved. He concluded by emphasizing that the budget is primarily focused on flood reduction and community improvement projects and said that staff is recommending adoption of the final budget as presented.

Mayor Hall opened the Public Hearing. No comments were received. Mayor Hall closed the Public Hearing.

Councilman Eric Sander said he feels this budget is a beautiful roadmap for South Daytona moving forward, highlighting the importance of long-term planning and capital improvement priorities.

Motion by Councilman Eric Sander. Second by Vice-Mayor Doug Quartier. Motion carried unanimously at 6:17.

Item 11: Ordinance No. 2025-15. Ordinance No. 2025-15. An Ordinance of the City of South Daytona, Florida, amending the City of South Daytona Code of Ordinances Chapter 21 "Consolidated Fee Schedule" to modify certain fees as shown in Attachment A which is attached hereto and incorporated into this Ordinance; and providing administrative actions, codification, conflicts, severability and an effective date. First Reading September 8, 2025. **Second and Final Reading. Public Hearing.**

City Attorney Vose read the title of Ordinance No. 2025-15.

City Manager Gillis explained that several years ago the City consolidated scattered fees from its code books into a single fee schedule, which is reviewed and adjusted annually during the budget process. Ordinance No. 2025-15 identifies those fees that staff recommends revising in order to adequately cover costs, with most of the proposed changes based on the past year's increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). He emphasized the importance of keeping fees aligned with the CPI since the cost of materials such as concrete and asphalt fluctuates with market conditions.

Mr. Gillis noted that not all fees are being modified; pavilion rentals, sports participation fees, and other park-related fees remain unchanged. Among the adjustments, Development Impact Fees will increase according to the CPI, and Utility Rates will rise in accordance with the City's Utility Rate Study, which mandates annual increases of either 5% or the CPI, whichever is greater. This aligns with the City's water and sewer agreement with Daytona Beach, which uses the same CPI index. Utility Fees are therefore proposed to increase to match what South Daytona is being charged by Daytona Beach. The Waste Collection Fee will also increase based on the CPI and fuel price adjustments under the City's contract with Waste Pro. Similarly, Stormwater Fees will be increased by the greater of 5% or the CPI, consistent with the Utility Rate Study.

Mr. Gillis concluded by recommending approval of Ordinance No. 2025-15, with the newly adopted fees becoming effective October 1.

Mayor Hall opened the Public Hearing. No comments were received. Mayor Hall closed the Public Hearing.

Motion by Councilman Eric Sander. Second by Vice-Mayor Doug Quartier. Motion carried unanimously.

E. COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Sander thanked staff for their hard work and expressed appreciation to Finance Director Oliva for excellent work on the budget. He noted that with the budget process completed, he is certainly due for a vacation.

Councilman Young had no comments.

Vice Mayor Quartier highlighted the successful fall baseball season at James Street Park, which runs Monday through Thursday, and invited residents to stop by for a meet-and-greet or to enjoy concessions.

Mayor Hall stated he had no further comments and adjourned the meeting.

F. ADJOURNMENT: Mayor William C. Hall adjourned the City of South Daytona Regular Meeting of the City Council at 6:21 pm.

Deputy City Clerk, Becky Witte

Mayor William C. Hall