

City of South Daytona
City Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 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
Councilwoman Lisa O'Neal

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

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 Public Works Department installed a new stormwater inlet on Boston Avenue that was identified as being necessary to reduce flooding within the neighborhood. Several more inlets are scheduled to be installed so keep following our FaceBook page or checking our website for weekly updates throughout the upcoming year.

The design of the Stevens Canal Bank Stabilization Project has begun. Soil borings were completed along the canal to identify soil types and the locations of unsuitable material such as muck and rock. These findings will be used to determine sheet pile wall installation depths and the proper shoring required to alleviate the ongoing erosion of the canal. The completion of the bank stabilization project will widen the canal, increase flow, reduce erosion, and decrease the possibility of overflow.

While a Public Works crew member was with the geotechnical team walking the canal, a leaning tree was noticed. If this large tree were not removed, it could fall, especially during a storm, and block the flow in the Stevens Canal, resulting in a catastrophic situation. Thankfully, this tree was identified, reported, and removed by our team to ensure proper flow.

Public Works crews replaced an inlet top located on Citrus Avenue that had become rusted and on the verge of collapse. The inlet deficiency was called to our attention by the resident who lived there. If you see an issue that you think needs to be addressed, please do not hesitate to contact our Public Works Department at 322-3080 to make us aware of the issue so that we may take care of it.

The Public Works Department is in the process of cleaning the backflow preventers City-wide. They started in the Stevens Canal. The process of cleaning is no easy task. First, the backflow preventor

must be unfastened and removed. The backflows can weigh up to a thousand pounds depending on their size. The backflow device and pipe are then cleaned out and the backflow reattached. This requires our crews to complete the work while submerged in water. Luckily, we have a dedicated staff in Public Works who are trained to work in difficult conditions to get the job done.

Public Works crews rehabilitated a stormwater inlet on Kenilworth Avenue. It was noticed that the bottom of the inlet was broken and groundwater was infiltrating our stormwater system. Crews injected grout to reform the bottom of the inlet providing a long-lasting repair designed to keep pesky groundwater out of our system.

Public Works crews replaced Lift Station #4 located on Anastasia Drive. This new station has more sewer pumping capacity which alleviates the likelihood of backups into those homes south of Reed Canal Road and in Coventry Forest.

The Public Works Department completed a stormwater pipe replacement at the intersection of Kenilworth Avenue and Alice Place. The old, corrugated metal pipe was replaced with durable HDPE from one basin to another to increase flow and prevent collapse. The project was finished by installing new inlet tops to improve long-term functionality.

Public Works crews cleaned out and repaired a backflow preventor located in Reed Canal that was found to be in a slightly open position. Backflow preventors need to be fully closed when not in use in order to function properly. Our crews removed the device and replaced the failing clamps to ensure the device worked as designed. The repair of this device will help reduce flooding in the Hammock Lakes subdivision.

City Manager Gillis thanked our Public Works Department for all of their hard work throughout last year, improving our drainage system. Over 80 projects were completed in the rain, heat, and somewhat cold without a single complaint. These crews know the devastation that our residents went through in 2022 and 2024, with many experiencing flooding in their own homes located throughout the County. They know each improvement that is made helps to reduce stormwater from entering homes, and they are committed to continuing their efforts in 2026.

City Manager Gillis concluded his report on a sad note, discussing the passing of former Mayor and longtime Councilman George F. Locke III. He asked Councilman Sander to say a few words.

Councilman Sander shared that while many knew Mr. Locke as a Mayor or Council member, he knew him personally as “Captain George Locke.” Councilman Sander explained that he worked for Captain Locke beginning in 1981 as a deckhand on his charter boat, after first meeting him through the local fishing industry. He described Captain Locke as a great and patient mentor who provided not only employment, but guidance, wisdom, and encouragement well beyond the workplace, serving as a father figure to many young people over his 30 years in the charter fishing industry. Councilman Sander noted that Captain Locke influenced numerous individuals, including City Fire Marshal Paul Nelson and others, and was known for his generosity and kindness. He further shared that Captain Locke later encouraged him to run for City Council, which ultimately led to his service on the dais. Councilman Sander concluded by highlighting that Captain George Locke served on the City Council for 20 years beginning in 1990 and as Mayor for an additional six years, totaling 26 years of service, and was recognized as one of Florida’s longest-serving council members. He made a motion to add

a memorial plaque in the City of South Daytona Park of Honor in recognition of Captain and Mayor George Locke's 26 years of dedication and service.

Motion by Councilman Eric Sander. Second by Councilwoman Lisa O'Neal. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 6: City Attorney Report:

City Attorney Vose said that the Florida Legislative Session has convened for its 60-day session. He referenced the adage that no person's life, liberty, or property is safe while the Legislature is in session. City Attorney Vose advised that numerous bills have already been filed, with many more anticipated. He explained that the Florida League of Cities' legislative summary had expanded significantly in recent days, indicating the volume and pace of proposed legislation, and stated that he would provide additional updates at future meetings.

City Attorney Vose highlighted property tax reform as a major issue expected to be debated during the session, with a wide range of bills proposed. He noted that some bills involve narrow or minor changes, while others could potentially overhaul or partially eliminate property taxes without identifying replacement revenue sources. He further observed that several bills include property tax reductions or eliminations that appear unrelated to the stated intent of tax relief for residents, including measures benefiting large businesses.

He also advised the Council on proposed legislation to increase sovereign immunity limits, which could significantly affect all local governments in Florida by increasing exposure to liability and insurance costs and potentially requiring the use of tax revenues to cover personal injury claims. In addition, City Attorney Vose referenced several land-use-related bills, including proposals for so-called "Blue Ribbon" projects that would substantially limit local government control over qualifying large-scale developments, as well as legislation addressing agricultural enclaves that could allow major developments on agricultural lands with limited consideration of infrastructure and local planning impacts. He encouraged the Council to remain attentive to these issues as the legislative session progresses and that he will continue to provide updates during the session.

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.

Frank Amendolia, 791 Aspen Drive, spoke about flooding issues in the Big Tree Village subdivision. He hasn't seen any progress on the Aspen Pond Expansion and asked if it had made the cut for future projects.

John Belden introduced himself as a representative of the Port Orange South Daytona Chamber of Commerce. He commended the Council and City for continued beautification efforts and for attracting new businesses, stating that the community has shown noticeable improvement in recent years. Mr. Belden also announced upcoming Chamber ribbon cuttings, including Mama Cannolis on South Nova Road on Thursday, January 15, at 10:00 a.m.; McDonald's on Saturday, January 17, at 11:00 a.m.; and Zaxby's on January 27. He thanked the Council for its efforts and support of local business growth.

C. CONSENT AGENDA (*Items 7-9*):

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: December 9, 2025 City Council Meeting and December 18, 2025 Special Meeting.

Item 8: Resolution No. 2026-01. A Resolution of the City of South Daytona, Florida calling for a general election to be held August 18, 2026, and a run-off election to be held November 3, 2026 (if necessary); for the purpose of electing council members for Seat 2 and Seat 3; setting forth the dates for qualifying; authorizing appointment of the clerks, inspectors, and deputies; designating polling places for the voters; appointing Lisa Lewis as Supervisor of Elections and custodian of the voting machines; designating the Deputy City Clerk as election official; providing for the dates and times of opening the polls and early voting; designating the Volusia County Canvassing Board as certifying authority for the election; and providing an effective date. **First and only reading.**

Item 9: Consideration of approving and authorizing the Police Chief and City Manager to execute a Volusia County Combined Operational Assistance and Voluntary Cooperation Agreement to provide law enforcement services as a part of a mutual aid arrangement.

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented by Councilman Eric Sander. Second by Councilwoman Lisa O'Neal. Motion carried unanimously.

D. REGULAR AGENDA:

Item 10: Consideration of approving the purchase of sewer wet well mixers manufactured by Smith and Loveless from the sole provider Hydra Service to install inside Lift Station #12, located on Hickorywood Drive in the Big Tree Shores subdivision, and Lift Station #17, located on Magnolia Avenue near Beville Road, in the amount of \$29,471 as budgeted in the current fiscal year.

City Manager Gillis explained that mixers are used to continuously agitate sewer effluent in a lift station wet well to prevent the solidification of grease and oils, which can clog sewer pump motors and interfere with proper operation. While mixers are not a standard component of a lift station, they are considered an enhancement that extends the life of pump motor systems and ultimately

pays for itself over time. He further noted that, because the City is debt-free and has the necessary resources, the installation of mixers is comparable to using cleaner gasoline in a combustion engine to reduce buildup and extend engine life. The City has been installing mixers in lift stations over the past several years, with a goal of equipping all stations within the next seven years.

Lift Station #12, located on Hickorywood Drive in the Big Tree Shores subdivision, and Lift Station #17, located on Magnolia Avenue near Beville Road, were identified as the two stations budgeted this year for mixer installation. These locations were selected based on the frequency with which staff is dispatched to unclog the pumps at these stations. Staff obtained quotes for the mixers prior to the development of the current year's budget to ensure accurate cost projections, and the total cost of \$29,471 reflects the exact amount budgeted.

He concluded with a staff recommendation to approve the purchase of the mixers to extend the service life and improve the performance of Lift Station #12 and Lift Station #17. If approved, installation is expected to occur within the next two months.

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

E. COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Sander said that although it is two weeks into the New Year, it is still the beginning of a new year, and he is excited to see which projects can be moved forward and brought to fruition. He expressed appreciation for everyone's hard work and specifically thanked Luke Strydom and his Public Works crews for their efforts, noting that he sees them working throughout the City.

Councilwoman O'Neal echoed the comments made by Councilman Sander.

Councilman Young expressed his appreciation to the Public Works Department, noting that staff and management consistently step in and get the work done. He referenced recent stormwater-related work and stated that the department has earned recognition for its efforts. Councilman Young shared that it was an honor to serve alongside former Mayor George Locke, extending his thoughts and prayers to his wife and his family.

Vice Mayor Quartier said he hopes everyone enjoyed the holiday season. He discussed the continuation of flag football games and that baseball season will be starting soon. He shared a lighthearted observation regarding City Manager Gillis who was at Melodie Park late Friday evening, acknowledging his dedication.

Mayor Hall stated that earlier in the week he attended the Volusia County Elected Officials Roundtable at the airport, along with other mayors and elected officials, including Councilman Sander. He reported that county department heads provided briefings and highlighted information from the Transform 386 program. Mayor Hall explained that, according to the Transform 386 documentation, South Daytona received grants totaling \$10,775,000, with a total project cost of \$14,740,271, encompassing four major projects. These projects include the Lantern Park Stormwater Pond, the Sherwood Forest Stormwater Pond, Stevens Canal Stabilization, and the Aspen Stormwater Pond expansion. He noted that environmental reviews and design phases are in progress for all projects, with estimated design completion dates. He said that 30 percent of the Aspen Stormwater Pond plans are complete. Mayor Hall also mentioned an upcoming stormwater

study kickoff meeting scheduled for January. Mayor Hall concluded by expressing appreciation to all involved and the progression of the projects.

F. ADJOURNMENT: Mayor William C. Hall adjourned the City of South Daytona Regular Meeting of the City Council at 6:35 pm.

The City Council Meeting Minutes for January 13, 2026, were approved by the City Council on February 10, 2026.

Deputy City Clerk, Becky Witte

Mayor William C. Hall