

City of South Daytona
City Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 6:00 pm

City Council Chambers, 1672 S. 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	Councilman Brandon Young
Vice-Mayor Eric Sander	City Manager James L. Gillis, Jr.
Councilwoman Lisa O’Neal	City Attorney Wade Vose
Councilman Doug Quartier	

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 said the 16th Annual Kailynne Quartier Memorial Ride was held on Saturday, September 14, 2024. Over 100 riders participated in the event, which raised over \$10,000. The proceeds are split between the South Daytona Lions Club and South Daytona Citizens Alert Council; both organizations invest back into the community. He said it was a beautiful day and thanked the volunteers and police motor units for the escort.

He announced that the Fire Department will host a Drive-In Movie Night, presenting “Inside Out 2,” on Friday, October 11th, at Central Park starting at 7:00 p.m. The Citizens Alert Hot Dog Wagon will sell concessions. He discussed some of the recent improvements to the park.

Flag football season begins in November and registration is open, he announced.

Item 6: City Attorney Report:

City Attorney Wade Vose provided a report to the City Council. He said he has been working with staff on land use, real estate, and code enforcement matters, as well as implementation of guidelines for a new statute involving the police department. He mentioned that Garrett Olsen has been diligently working on some collections work and thanked him for his assistance.

B. PRESENTATIONS: Certificate of Appreciation for Jasmine Palmer for repainting the Lantern Park Fire Hydrants.

Mayor Hall discussed the history of the Lantern Park fire hydrants which was started as a community effort organized by Marcia Montgomery. He presented a certificate of appreciation for Jasmine Palmer along with a city pin and challenge coin.

C. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Barbara Ann Heegan (President and CEO of the Port Orange South Daytona Chamber of Commerce) introduced Kelly Moore (Vice Chair of Special Projects and Treasurer). She thanked Mayor Hall for his presentation to the Port Orange South Daytona Leadership Class on the City of South Daytona history last week. She said this Friday's leadership class will be Government Day. She also said the Community Guide has arrived and features South Daytona.

Kelly Moore (Vice Chair of Special Projects and Treasurer) discussed upcoming events including the Mix and Mingle on Friday, October 4, 2024, at the Riverside Pavilion. Her business will be the host/sponsor of the event. She also discussed Casino Night set for Friday October 25th with proceeds earmarked for high school seniors for scholarships.

Marcus Thompson (1965 Menger Circle) discussed a Code Enforcement issue of neighbor complaints in Big Tree Village.

Janet Kisner (1639 Golfview Blvd) thanked Jay, Becky and Les for assisting her today in her storm preparation.

D. CONSENT AGENDA (Items 8-9):

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 8: Approval of minutes: September 9, 2024, City Council Meeting

Item 9: Consideration of approving purchases with Florida Health Care Plans, Caton-Hosey Insurance, Vose Law Firm, Metlife Group Benefits, Mutual of Omaha, Metz, Husband & Daughton, P.A. and Infosend, Inc. for routine yearly expenditures including insurance, attorney, lobbying and postage services for FY 2024-25.

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

E. REGULAR AGENDA:

Item 10: Resolution No. 2024-26. A Resolution of the City of South Daytona, Volusia County, Florida, adopting the final millage rate for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025; and providing for severability and an effective date. **First and only reading. Public Hearing.**

City Attorney Vose read the title of Resolution No. 2024-26.

City Manager Gillis thanked the Council for their one-on-one meetings, suggestions, and input on the 2024/2025 budget. He recounted the numerous meetings, including setting the tentative millage rate, the August budget workshop, and the first millage and budget hearing.

He said this year's budget is a 10.18% decrease from the previous year, as we are now successfully debt-free. He said staff is proposing to maintain the prior year's millage rate of 7.7500 mills to

provide funding for current year operations, adjust wages to reflect the current job market, and continue the City's commitment to capital replacement of the aging infrastructure as construction costs have significantly increased and supply chains continue to be an issue. The proposed rate of 7.7500 mills represents an 8.14% tax increase over the rollback rate of 7.1190 mills. In 2018 the millage rate was 7.8.

City Manager Gillis said personal raises for general employees are budgeted at 3% with a minimum of \$1.00 per the request of Councilwoman O'Neal. He said sworn police officers and fire fighters increased in accordance with the council-approved contract with the International Union of Police Associations (IUPA) and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), respectively. The pay plan for general employees has been increased 3.56% in accordance with the consumer price index. This is predicated on our starting salary being set at \$16.00 per hour to stay above the state-wide minimum wage level to ensure a qualified, dedicated work force. He noted some holiday changes, which included eliminating the perfect attendance and employee birthday holidays and instead honoring Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Veterans Day holidays.

He said the average homestead parcel will see an increase of \$28.08 per year or \$2.34 cents per month. We are not utilizing any unassigned reserves which are designated for emergencies.

Mr. Gillis said now that the City is out of debt, staff wants to continue our commitment of "Investing in Us" which involves the replacement of our aging infrastructure, streets and public places including parks. As such, the proposed budget is heavy on street resurfacing and park improvements.

Mr. Gillis discussed the operating highlights including the roof at City Hall to be replaced (\$300,000), as well as the design and construction of a new evidence room for the Police Department (\$178,000). He discussed improvements to Reed Canal Park including interior wood bridge rehabilitation over the lake (\$30,000), parking lot paving plus sealcoat Nova parking lots (\$85,000), sodding the utility field (\$20,000), renovating and branding the Disc Golf Course (\$25,000), and replacing the picnic tables and trash cans in pavilions (\$30,000). He said at James Street Park we will be replacing the splashpad playground (\$85,000) and the scoreboard on the center field (\$30,000).

City Manager Gillis discussed capital highlights including an automated sandbag filling machine (\$50,000), a Response Vehicle for the Fire Department (\$62,000), adding the yearly contribution towards the replacement of a fire truck (\$50,000), a new, smaller street sweeper (\$300,000) which Public Works Director Thornton wants to make an everyday fixture on our streets. He also said we are planning for a new bucket truck (\$180,000) as the current one is over 15 years old and in need of a replacement.

He discussed some significant cuts to personnel and operating costs. He discussed challenges in keeping up with the CPI and upcoming grants including Reed Canal Road sidewalk, Traffic Camera network, Sauls Street Bridge replacement design. Sea Isle Circle, Coral Circle and Reef Road will be resurfaced utilizing a CDBG Grant.

Mr. Gillis said .4000 mills will be used for street resurfacing which will generate an additional \$275,407 which enabled the budget to be set at a total of \$500,000 for the next fiscal year. Now that the City is out of debt, staff is recommending that we continue to commit .4000 mills to street

resurfacing, he explained. This will allow us to get caught up on our resurfacing program that we were forced to neglect over the last two decades due to our previous level of debt. Cambridge Circle, Bristol Lane, Windle Lane, Hamlin Drive (east), Ponderosa Drive (east), Lambright Road (by the school), as well as Aspen Drive and Boulder Drive (the "U") will be resurfaced he said. Sea Isle Circle, Coral Circle and Reef Road will be resurfaced utilizing a CDBG Grant. He said the average cost of resurfacing a road is \$75,000. He discussed the repaving program.

He explained that we will also be replacing Lift Station #5 and continuing our sewer lining project, which will cost \$750,000. He discussed the rate study for utilities and stormwater noting the study will be presented at an upcoming meeting, but we are on the right track. \$256,000 was set aside for additional sewer capacity with the City of Daytona Beach. Lift Station 12 on Hickorywood Drive and Lift Station 17 on Magnolia Avenue will be replaced.

We have applied for over 31 million dollars in grants, and as they are awarded, we must have the matching funds on hand, so we have set aside contingency funds for those projects, he explained.

With the increase in supply costs, we are excited to hold at 7.75 mills. We have over 4 million dollars in infrastructure improvements and are now debt-free.

He concluded with a staff recommendation of approval. With the increase of asphalt and goods, holding the millage rate at 7.75 for the 7th year in a row will keep us in good standing. Tangible assets are the goal for our residents to see the improvements throughout the City.

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

Motion to approve by Vice-Mayor Eric Sander. Second by Councilwoman Lisa O'Neal. Motion carried unanimously at 6:29pm.

Item 11: Resolution No. 2024-27. A Resolution of the City of South Daytona, Volusia County, Florida, adopting the final budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025; and providing for severability and an effective date. **First and only reading. Public Hearing.**

City Attorney Vose read the title of Resolution 2024-27.

City Manager Gillis said this budget focuses on infrastructure improvements and paying attention to parks, resurfacing projects, and stormwater improvements that we and all residents can be proud of.

He concluded with a staff recommendation to approve Resolution 2024-27.

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

Motion to approve by Vice-Mayor Eric Sander. Second by Councilman Doug Quartier. Motion carried unanimously at 6:31pm.

Item 12: Ordinance No. 2024-06. 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 9, 2024. **Second and Final Reading. Public Hearing.**

City Attorney Vose read the title of Ordinance 2024-06.

City Manager Gillis said we are one of the few cities that have our fees in one place. For many years, our city's fees were scattered throughout our code and policy books, making it difficult for our residents and commercial partners to locate them. In 2021, staff went through our entire library and compiled all fees into a Consolidated Fee Schedule (Ordinance No. 2021-05) which was publicly discussed and approved. The intent was realized by the improvement of customer service and transparency of city operations.

He said the vast majority of the proposed fee changes center around the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). He discussed the water and sewer fees noting staff is working with Willdan to complete the utility rate study. He said the study is showing that we will be in good standing. He said the CPI is estimated at 5% each year. Pursuant to the findings of the rate study, the fee schedule has been modified to say ""Rates shall increase annually by the greater of 5%, or the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics for the Water and Sewer and Trash Collection Services for the twelve (12) months ending on June 30th prior to the effective date of the annual increase."

He discussed the contract with Daytona Beach for Water and Sewer which we must remain solvent. We cannot buy eggs for two dollars and sell them for one dollar. He called attention to the stormwater fees which was increased from \$11.10 to \$12.00 which will be used as matching funds for our many upcoming grant projects.

He concluded with a staff recommendation of Ordinance No. 2024-06, with implementation beginning October 1, 2024.

Mayor Hall opened the public hearing. No public comments. Mayor Hall closed the public hearing.

Motion to approve by Vice-Mayor Eric Sander. Second by Councilwoman Lisa O'Neal. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 13: Ordinance No. 2024-08. An Ordinance of the City of South Daytona, Florida, amending the City of South Daytona Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10, Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions, Article I, In General, Section 10-7.1., Camping Prohibited in Public Places, to expand the public camping prohibition to include sleeping, lodging, or residing overnight in a public place without a tent or temporary shelter; providing for exceptions; revising criteria constituting evidence of camping; providing for findings; and providing for conflicts, severability, codification, and an effective date. **First Reading. Public Hearing.**

City Attorney Vose read the title of Ordinance 2024-08.

City Manager Gillis turned this over to City Attorney Vose.

Attorney Vose discussed a new state law, effective October 1, which prohibits municipalities from allowing persons to camp or sleep in public places. He discussed the changes to the statute and his recommendation to his municipalities to adopt Ordinances prohibiting sleeping, lodging, or residing

overnight in a public place without a tent or temporary shelter. Attorney Vose said our current Ordinance met most of the requirements in the statute with minor edits.

He concluded with a recommendation to adopt pursuant to State Statute.

Councilman Brandon Young questioned the intent of Tallahassee's regulation, to which Attorney Vose responded that this law may be proposed to prevent what many other states are experiencing, where camping in the streets is normal.

Councilman Young provided examples and questioned sleeping, lodging, or residing on sidewalks or private property. Attorney Vose explained existing laws would cover those circumstances.

Councilman Young mentioned panhandling and freedom of speech, which he encounters at the edge of our city. City Attorney Vose replied that these have been issues all municipalities are facing, noting case law from the US Supreme Court.

Mayor Hall opened the public hearing. No public comments. Mayor Hall closed the public hearing.

Motion to approve by Councilman Brandon Young. Second by Councilwoman Lisa O'Neal. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 14: ADDED ITEM: Resolution No. 2024-28. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of South Daytona, Florida, declaring a state of local emergency in response to Tropical Storm Helene; making findings; and providing for penalties, conflicts, severability, an effective date, and a termination date. **First and only reading.**

City Attorney Vose read the title of Resolution 2024-28.

City Manager Gillis explained that Governor DeSantis declared a state of emergency earlier today, as did Volusia County. Mr. Gillis said we are monitoring the storm, sandbags are available, canals are open, inlets are clear, and the street sweeper is out. Sandbags will continue tomorrow from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm at the Piggotte Community Center.

Mr. Gillis concluded by explaining that declaring a local state of emergency will assist with reimbursement from FEMA for the preparations and any cleanup required from the storm.

Motion to approve by Vice-Mayor Eric Sander. Second by Councilwoman Lisa O'Neal. Motion carried unanimously.

F. COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Vice-Mayor Sander said the budget season is over. He thanked Finance Director Oliva and his staff for composing an understandable budget. He said he appreciated the time he spent with staff and the City Manager, who explained the budget, answered questions, and listened to input. He thanked city staff for their work since the meeting earlier in September, as staff is taking care of the city's ongoing needs. He said to stay vigilant and watchful.

Councilwoman O’Neal echoed the sentiments of Vice-Mayor Sander. She said to stay safe during the storm.

Councilman Young said he appreciates the transparency and clear understanding of the budget process. He expressed his approval of the projects the budget will tackle over the ones of the past.

Councilman Quartier echoed the sentiments of the Councilmembers. He said he was appreciative of the support for the 16th annual Kailynne Quartier Memorial Ride. He discussed the upcoming Movie night and holiday events.

Councilman Quartier said Mr. Gillis feels he cannot fix what he does not know is broken. He asked residents to call City Hall to let us know if they see something that needs to be fixed or is unsafe and we will take care of it.

Mayor Hall thanked the South Daytona Port Orange Chamber of Commerce for their invitations to upcoming events. He noted the City is his second favorite topic to discuss (family being first). He recalled the first election in South Daytona was November 1934, which was 80 years ago. He said the first Mayor was elected in 1935, and we will be celebrating these milestones. In 1951, South Daytona had enough people to call ourselves a city, and the Florida Legislature approved.

Mayor Hall thanked staff for the work at Central Park, noting that several parks lack facilities. He said the park will have a facility ready for the October movie. He discussed the purchase of the automated sandbag machine, which should arrive early next week.

Mayor Hall said volunteers are needed at the Citizens Alert concession stand, noting one of the greatest, Jean Klune, who is 94 and works circles around the other volunteers.

Mayor Hall thanked Police Chief Mark Cheatham for the Kailynne Ride and coordinating the officers and motormen.

Mayor Hall concluded the meeting with a slogan he heard: “Don’t be scared; be prepared.” He cautioned residents not to eat all their hurricane snacks tonight.

G. ADJOURNMENT: Mayor William C. Hall adjourned the City of South Daytona Regular Meeting of the City Council at 6:55 pm.

Deputy City Clerk, Becky Witte

Mayor William C. Hall