

**City of South Daytona
City Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 12, 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
Vice-Mayor Eric Sander
Councilwoman Lisa O’Neal
Councilman Doug Quartier

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 recalled that in 2022, Hurricane Ian struck this area and caused widespread flooding throughout Volusia County. They said it was a once-in-a-lifetime storm and called it the storm of the century. Now just two short years later, Hurricane Milton cut a swath through the central portion of the state causing widespread flooding yet again. It appears that these storms are going to start occurring more frequently than we all thought.

We need to evaluate our stormwater system to identify the most effective solutions to reduce the flooding that our residents are experiencing. I am recommending that we hire a drainage consultant to model the City’s stormwater system. Using this interactive model, we can effectively recreate the flooding caused by Hurricanes Ian and Milton and plug in proposed improvements to see their effectiveness. Our goal will be to identify the most effective solutions that have the greatest amount of impact towards reducing the flooding experienced here in South Daytona. The consultant will have drainage engineers on hand at the Piggotte Community Center on select dates where homeowners can discuss the effects of the flooding on their individual properties so that each person willing to participate can be included in the study being conducted.

Following Hurricane Ian in 2022, we applied for over \$31 million dollars in grant funds to make sweeping improvements to our stormwater system. A small city such as ours has to rely on grant funding to be able to stretch every dollar spent. With the partnership that we have developed with Volusia County and their Transform386 program, their staff is proposing four stormwater projects in South Daytona to fund this coming year.

The first project is the vast expansion of the Aspen stormwater pond and the upsizing of the existing pump station there to help reduce flooding in the Big Tree Village subdivision.

The second project involves the acquisition of property, and the creation of additional stormwater ponds and pumping station designed to help reduce the flooding in the Lantern Park subdivision.

The third project is the acquisition of homes and the creation of a stormwater pond and pump station within the Sherwood Forest subdivision to help alleviate the flooding there.

The fourth project being proposed is the sheet piling of the Stevens Canal which runs through the central portion of the City to eliminate bank erosion and increase its capacity in an effort to reduce the flooding experienced by those homes located adjacent to the canal.

Other proposed projects awaiting grant funding include increasing the size of our Reed Canal Stormwater Control Facility pond and pump station, creating a stormwater pond with pump station inside Melodie Park which will greatly benefit those within the central part of our City, installing a large permanent stormwater pump at the lake within Reed Canal Park designed to help those residents in the Orchards, the purchase of homes and the creation of a stormwater pond and pump station to assist those residents on Pike and Bishop Court and the purchase of generators to back up our stormwater and sewer pumps when power outages occur.

The stormwater model being developed will not be stagnant, it will be a living, breathing simulation that we can update as these proposed improvements come on-line, which is extremely important moving forward.

In a moment, we will be moving into the Citizens to be Heard portion of our agenda. As is customary, we will be asking for your name and address for the record so that we will know that John Smith at 803 Carey was flooded. If you have any questions tonight, please see Jay Robinson and leave your contact information so we may get back to you with those answers. He said he wants to assure each of you that we are committed to the improvement of our stormwater system to better accommodate these new breed of storms.

Item 6: City Attorney Report:

City Attorney Wade Vose said in the interest of time he had no report to provide to the City Council.

B. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

The Mayor said he wants to provide everyone with the opportunity to speak. The following people described their flooding experiences from Hurricane Ian in 2022 and Hurricane Milton which struck the area in October 2024.

Justin Douglas, 2235 Green Street

Sherry Clifton, 2134 Pope Avenue

Laurie Anderson, 2940 Lantern Drive

Philip D. Parisi, 913 George Hecker Drive

Robin Schmidt, 2911 Lantern Drive

Kiara Meggitt-Goff, 2927 Carriage Drive

Edwin Perez, 2080 Kenilworth Avenue

Heather Carr, 3409 Country Manor Drive
Joseph Giordano, 9 Applewood Circle
Janet Robinson, 2925 Lantern Drive
Dodie Snodgrass, 2242 Green Street
Denise Kliment, 2165 Sherwood Drive
Richard P. Lydon, 16 Sandusky Road
Andrew Klem, 801 Aspen Drive
Constance Bentley, 2956 Lantern Drive
Frank Amendolia, 791 Aspen Drive
Vicki Leonard, 1736 Jacobs Road
Marcus Thompson, 1965 Menger Circle
Gerald Johnson, 609 Clairmont Lane
Jay Jewell, 2060 Kenilworth Avenue
Kim Torrens, 604 Clairmont Lane
Dan Proctor, 2922 Carriage Drive
Gail Nuzzo, 2236 Green Street
Jon Marquart, 2923 Lantern Drive
Carol A.B.F. Andrews, 900 Carey Drive
Robert Kimmy, 2917 Carriage Drive
Bob Berk, 2241 Sherwood Drive
Ryan Lashway, 2963 Foxcroft Lane
Kimberly Comi, 2463 Oriole Lane
Regina Assaf, 2423 Pope Avenue
Nancy Long, 1967 Red Cedar Circle
Debbie Gill, 2080 Oriole Lane
Ed Langon, 2030 Kenilworth Avenue
Traci James, 2923 Carriage Drive
Floyd Taylor, 1970 Red Cedar Circle
Becca Johnston, 2081 Oriole Lane
Mary and Richard Phinney, 2306 Oriole Lane
Sandra Bayne-Moore, 789 Bennett Road

Bobby James, 2932 Carriage Drive

Danny Wilson, 2005 Oriole Lane

Mike Wright, 2240 Brian Avenue

Howie Snyder, 750 Briar Lane

Ron Croxford, 2020 Graham Street

C. 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: October 8, 2024, City Council Meeting

Item 9: Resolution No. 2024-30. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of South Daytona, Florida, declaring William C. Hall elected as Mayor, Brandon L. Young elected to Seat 1, and Eric Sander elected to Seat 4; providing for conflicting Resolutions; providing for severability; and providing an effective date. **First and only reading.**

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

D. REGULAR AGENDA:

Item 10: Consideration of approving a Work Authorization in the amount of \$148,500 with Mead and Hunt for the evaluation of the City’s stormwater system in an effort to reduce the flooding caused by Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Milton.

City Manager Gillis said when Hurricane Ian struck this area in 2022, it was labeled as a “once in a lifetime storm” for the devastating flooding it caused throughout Volusia County. Just two short years later, Hurricane Milton cut a path across Florida causing widespread flooding yet again. Now that we know these “once in a lifetime storms” have the potential to occur much more frequently than the experts previously thought, staff is recommending that we evaluate our stormwater system to identify the improvements needed to help us better manage these severe flooding rain events.

The best way to perform this evaluation is through the use of stormwater modeling. If the City’s stormwater system could be modeled, then the flooding experienced by the severe rainfall generated by both Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Milton can be recreated. Potential solutions can be introduced into the model to determine their effectiveness towards reducing the flooding experienced from this new breed of storms. The most effective solutions identified could then be added into our capital improvement program for implementation and grant acquisition.

The engineering firm, Mead and Hunt, is one of the City’s consultants under a continuing contract for the provision of engineering services including design. They are a large national firm with staff who have been working with the City on various projects for the past 25 years. Staff believes they

are capable of generating an effective stormwater model as they have performed the same service for other cities throughout Florida.

He explained the process of the City government which limits the spending threshold of the City Manager. He said if the Work Authorization is approved, the creation of the model will begin immediately. The development of the model and identifying those drainage improvements deemed to be most effective will take approximately six months to complete. The consultant will have drainage engineers on-hand at the Piggotte Community Center on select dates where homeowners can discuss the effects of the flooding on their individual properties so that each person willing to participate can be included in the study to be conducted. The select dates and times will be shared on the City's Facebook page, website and message signs located at City Hall and the Piggotte Community Center once they are determined.

He concluded with a staff recommendation that the \$148,500 Work Authorization submitted by Mead and Hunt be approved to evaluate our stormwater system and make effective improvements to reduce flooding.

Councilman Young noted that the evaluation of the drainage system is above and beyond the projects we have going on, which are set to be approved by the County Council on November 19, 2024. The projects are Lantern Park Stormwater Pond, Stevens Canal Bank Stabilization, Aspen Stormwater Pond, and Sherwood Forest Stormwater Pond. City Manager Gillis commented on the benefit of strong partnerships with our County staff and County Council.

Councilwoman O'Neal asked about cleaning out the canals. City Manager Gillis said Stevens Canal is cleaned four times per year, manually which he has done for his 23 years working for the City. He said the County project for Stevens Canal will include the installation of sheet pile walls which will enhance flow and provide more storage.

Councilman Young noted ponds must be wider, not deeper, as we will reach the water table if we go too deep. City Manager Gillis discussed the groundwater table and elaborated that deeper ponds will not help; area is needed. He commented that South Daytona is essentially built out, and unfortunately, it is impossible to regulate the growth of other cities.

Councilwoman O'Neal asked about Reed Canal and Nova Canal. City Manager Gillis said Reed Canal is a county-maintained canal, which is a major outfall for Nova Canal, which the Florida Department of Transportation maintains. He said he had not seen the Nova Canal overflow until Hurricane Ian. He said FDOT has started an \$800,000 project to clean the canal.

Councilwoman O'Neal asked why we could not clean Reed Canal and charge the county. City Manager Gillis replied that simply cleaning the canal would not be enough to prevent flooding, more area (length and width) is needed to hold water.

Vice Mayor Sander said he is excited about the study. He said we will be able to model the potential rainfall. He said this is the first step, and this study will tell us what we need to do to fix the problem

areas. City Manager Gillis said the model will be a living, breathing tool. Once it is created, we will always have it available as a resource.

Councilman Quartier said that citizens will be involved in the evaluation.

Mayor Hall said he hopes every citizen who spoke tonight will come to the Piggotte Center and talk to the engineers who will look at the individual circumstances. He noted that 43 people spoke tonight and hopes all come to the Piggotte Center to discuss with the engineers.

Motion to approve by Vice-Mayor Eric Sander. Second by Councilman Brandon Young. Motion carried unanimously.

E. COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Vice-Mayor Sander said he hears all the citizens, and he, too, had flood water in his garage and home office but cannot say he is in the same boat as what our citizens are going through. He is excited about the study, so we can see what we can do in the future. He said things have changed with the intensity and amount of rain. He said there were sting jets right over us, which squeezed the water out and gave more rainfall than predicted. He said we need to increase pumping. He said areas within the City are bowls, low points where water collects. He discussed the grants that were applied for three months following Hurricane Ian. He said the County Council finally gave us four grants, which will be instrumental in helping everyone. He discussed Reed Canal and Nova Canal, and said there is not much we can do. He addressed the weir gate at the end of Stevens Canal, and the water was 12 inches above the Weir Gate.

Councilwoman O'Neal thanked everyone for attending and making suggestions that we will consider. We must continue to listen to the suggestions and make changes because this cannot be the norm.

Councilman Young said the citizens speaking tonight are heard and were heard before tonight. He discussed knee-high water and cracks in the foundations of homes. He addressed the action items for FPL regarding power restoration, and the City Council will be their voice. He discussed Daytona Beach and Port Orange growth, and City Manager Gillis tries to work with the neighboring jurisdictions. He said he would continue to leverage his connections with County Council and State representatives. Councilman Young said after Hurricane Michael, the first thing we had to do was borrow money before we could begin the cleanup and now that we have healthy reserves, we were one of the first cities to begin cleanup in the County. He said we are working on investing in us, especially through infrastructure improvements. He said we can try to control clean water coming in and drainage as well as good public safety. He discussed the water flow from our streets to the river and then to the ocean. He said the City Manager lowered the ponds as much as possible and the drainage study will provide guidance on how to handle the water. He said it is a priority, and we will move forward.

Councilman Quartier echoed the sentiments of Vice-Mayor Sander, Councilwoman O'Neal and Councilman Young. He discussed the hurricane damage he received which included some house flooding, roof damage and a broken window. He said his heart goes out to our residents. He asked if you hear rumors and have concerns to contact us and to participate in the study. He thanked the audience for attending and voicing their concerns.

Mayor Hall said this is his 8th year serving as Mayor, and he started his new term tonight. He said he spent 38 years driving the city and knows it and its residents. He discussed being sworn in as Mayor for another term earlier tonight and how his mother was in attendance. She stayed for the City Council meeting tonight and I know it hurts her to hear people stand up and say that I do not care about the City because it couldn't be further from the truth. He discussed a recent Homeowners Association Meeting that they were invited to. He asked residents to please call him or email him with any concerns they may have. He said he understands the frustration and stress as he has known stress throughout his career. He discussed why the goal of being debt-free is vital as we need to have matching funds on hand to successfully secure grants for stormwater improvements. He said we went decades without applying for grants because we lacked matching funds. Mayor Hall said he drives his jeep on every street through the city at least once per week. He said we have spent 8 million dollars in the last three years to improve our City and we have an additional 4 million dollars budgeted in the current fiscal year alone.


Mayor Hall quoted his wife, who says you can't look backward, and Rome wasn't built in a day, to which he answered he doesn't know, he wasn't there. He discussed building over the years and at a past Mayor's Roundtable Meeting he suggested spending money on cleaning the Nova Canal, not conducting another study.

He asked if waiving the permit fees could be added to the December agenda but was worried about unlicensed or unethical contractors.

Mayor Hall concluded in 2016 that he had to sign a 1.5-million-dollar loan using a third-rate bank to clean up after Hurricane Michael. He proudly said Ian and Milton were cleaned up quickly because we had the funds on hand.

G. ADJOURNMENT: Mayor William C. Hall adjourned the City of South Daytona Regular Meeting of the City Council at 9:17pm.


Deputy City Clerk, Becky Witte


Mayor William C. Hall