

OCOEE CITY COMMISSION
Ocoee Commission Chambers
1 N. Bluford Avenue
Ocoee, Florida

September 17, 2025

MINUTES

6:00 PM

FINAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

• CALL TO ORDER 6:00 PM

Mayor Johnson called the final budget hearing to order at 6:00 PM in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. The invocation was led by **Assistant City Manager Shadrix**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by **Mayor Johnson**. **City Clerk Sibbitt** called the roll and declared a quorum present.

Present: Mayor Johnson, Commissioner Kennedy, Commissioner Wilsen, Commissioner Firstner, Commissioner Oliver

Also Present: City Manager Shadrix, City Attorney Shafer, City Clerk Sibbitt, Assistant Finance Director Lawitzke, and Chief Accountant Meruena

• PUBLIC HEARING 6:01 PM

A. Mayor's Announcement

This is an advertised public hearing to adopt a final millage rate and finalize the budget for the City of Ocoee for the fiscal year 25-26 commencing October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026. While the original proposed millage rate was 5.5000 mills, as reflected in the TRIM notice and the notice which recently ran in the Orlando Sentinel, the City Commission revised the millage rate down at the Tentative Budget Public Hearing on September 10th. The City Commission has approved a tentative millage rate of 4.9500 mills, which represents a 5.55% increase in millage over the roll-back rate of 4.6898 mills. The tentative millage rate of 4.9500 mills is the maximum millage rate which may be adopted by the City Commission at this Final Budget Public Hearing tonight. I now ask the Assistant Director of Finance to make a brief presentation.

B. Briefing by Assistant Finance Director 6:02 PM

Assistant Director of Finance Lawitzke announced that there have been no changes to the budget since the first public hearing on September 10th. The proposed budget remains balanced at a millage rate of 4.9500 mills, representing a 5.55% increase over the rollback rate of 4.6898 mills. The additional revenue generated from this rate will support both the operational and capital needs of the City in order to maintain a balanced budget. She also expressed her appreciation to the Mayor and City Commissioners for their continued support throughout this challenging budget process.

Mayor Johnson opened the floor for public comments. **6:03 PM**

No speaker reservation forms were received; therefore, the public hearing was closed.

C. Amendments to Proposed Tentative Budget - None

D. Announcement by Assistant Finance Director – No additional announcement needed.

E. Adoption of Final Millage Rate 6:04 PM

City Attorney Shafer announced the name of the taxing authority is the City of Ocoee. The rolled-back millage rate is 4.6898 mills. The percentage by which the proposed millage rate exceeds the roll-back rate is 5.55%. The millage rate proposed by the Ordinance is 4.9500 mills.

City Attorney Shafer read the title of the ordinance.

The ordinance as adopted carries the following title:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-19

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OCOEE, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING A FINAL MILLAGE RATE OF 4.9500 MILLS FOR AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE CITY OF OCOEE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2025, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2026; PROVIDING FOR MILLAGE ADJUSTMENT; PROVIDING FOR COLLECTION OF TAXES; PROVIDING FOR 5.55% INCREASE IN MILLAGE RATE OVER THE ROLL-BACK RATE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Johnson opened the floor for public comments. **6:05 PM**

No speaker reservation forms were received; therefore, the public hearing was closed.

Motion to Adopt an Ordinance Setting Final Millage Rate, followed by vote.

(TIME: 6:05 PM)

Motion: Move to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-19 setting a final millage rate of 4.9500 mills for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026. Moved by Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Firstner. Motion carried 5-0.

F. Adoption of Final Budget 6:06 PM

City Attorney Shafer read the title of the ordinance.

The ordinance as adopted carries the following title:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-20

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OCOEE, ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING
OCTOBER 1, 2025, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2026; PROVIDING FOR
SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Johnson opened the floor for public comments. 6:06 PM

No speaker reservation forms were received; therefore, the public hearing was closed.

Mayor Johnson thanked staff for a great job on the budget and expressed gratitude for their hard work and time commitment. The Commissioners echoed his sentiments.

Motion to Adopt an Ordinance Adopting Final Budget, followed by Vote (TIME: 6:07 PM)

Motion: Move to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-20, approving a final budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026. Moved by Commissioner Oliver, seconded by Commissioner Wilsen. Motion carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 PM.

APPROVED:

Attest:



Melanie Sibbitt, City Clerk

City of Ocoee



Rusty Johnson, Mayor