

OCOEE CITY COMMISSION

Ocoee Commission Chambers
1 N. Bluford Avenue
Ocoee, Florida

April 21, 2026

MINUTES

6:15 PM

REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING

• CALL TO ORDER 6:17 PM

Mayor Johnson called the regular session to order at **6:17 PM** in the Commission Chambers of City Hall. The invocation was led by **Ages Hart**, *Ocoee Resident*, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by **Commissioner Firstner**. **Deputy City Clerk Parks** called the roll and declared a quorum present.

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

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Shadrix, City Attorney Geller, Deputy City Clerk Parks

• PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS 6:18 PM

Presentation of Audit Results for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2025. (**Finance Director Weber**)

Finance Director Weber introduced the audit presenter Matthew Ganoë.

Matthew Ganoë, CPA, *Audit Partner with Purvis Gray*, presented the annual audit for the city. He emphasized that the City was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 2024, and he anticipates the City will also receive the award for 2025. **Mr. Ganoë** summarized the auditor's reports which comprise the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, and detailed significant events and financial highlights, also noting that the City met all compliance requirements.

Commissioner Kennedy sought confirmation that the audit being presented was through September 30th. **Finance Director Weber** confirmed that is correct. **Commissioner Kennedy** asked if the water utility accounts receivable matter discussed at the previous meeting was discovered after September 30th, to which he received further confirmation. **Commissioner Kennedy** then inquired about testing accounts receivable, internal controls, and Purvis Gray's recommendations for standard changes and write-offs. **Finance Director Weber** explained that each year, the Finance Department records a bad debt expense within the utility funds, which is recorded in the general ledger. The write-off information is accounted for within the utility billing system. **Mr. Ganoë** addressed internal controls, stating that risk assessments are done prior to and during the audit, but depending on the situation, items may or may not rise to the level of being written in the audit. **Commissioner Kennedy** asked if, since COVID, it is common among other cities for the age of their accounts receivable to exceed the statute of limitations. **Mr. Ganoë** responded to his question.

Commissioner Wilsen inquired if the City is set to utilize all its ARPA funds by the December 31st deadline. **City Manager Shadrix** responded in the affirmative.

Commissioner Oliver inquired if internal controls are being audited. **Mr. Ganoë** responded in the negative, explaining that it would be outside the scope of a financial audit. **Commissioner Oliver** asked how the City would know if its operations were compliant. **Mr. Ganoë** addressed his question. **Commissioner Oliver** questioned how often the City should have a financial audit and an audit that covers internal controls. **Mr. Ganoë** stated that management should audit internal controls on a consistent basis, and externally it varies. **City Manager Shadrix** pointed out that the City has internally conducted two independent audits within the last year: one for the Fleet Division and the other for Utility Billing. He also stated that an internal audit is ongoing for the Forest Lake Golf Club, which the City recently took over.

Drop Savers 2026 Award Presentation. (Utilities Director Bolling)

Utilities Director Bolling and **Water Conservation Coordinator Carlson** presented the 2026 Drop Savers Contest winners. **Water Conservation Coordinator Carlson** stated that there were over 120 submissions and explained what the winners received in their gift bags. She announced the first, second, and third place winners for each division.

• **STAFF REPORTS AND AGENDA REVIEW 6:51 PM (City Manager's items were heard out of agenda order)**

City Manager Shadrix announced that he will provide an update at the next meeting regarding AED installations throughout the City, as well as the fire station project. He also gave kudos to the Parks and Leisure Services Department for successfully completing the installation of a new playground at Freedom Park on time and within budget. Additionally, he noted that the Utility Department recently hosted an informational meeting for residents in the North Lakewood area regarding the gravity sewer project. The project is expected to begin in early summer and will take approximately two years to complete. Updates, including lane closure information, will be communicated throughout the duration of the project. Both Orange County Public Schools and Innovation Montessori have already been provided with relevant information. He further announced that the Utility Department will host a community meeting on Monday May 4th, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Lakeshore Center to provide details on payment programs available to property owners affected by the downtown septic-to-sewer program. Lastly, **City Manager Shadrix** shared that an online public survey is available on the City's website, inviting residents to rank the importance of various public services. The survey is intended to inform future policy discussions, financial planning, and potential advocacy efforts. It will also be promoted on social media and with flyers featuring a QR code.

• **PUBLIC COMMENTS 6:48 PM**

The following persons addressed the City Commission:

- **Dr. Jim Moyer**, *Water and Soil Conservation District 2 Supervisor*, gave a brief presentation on the importance of clean water.

• **CONSENT AGENDA 6:54 PM**

Consent Agenda Motion

Motion: Move to adopt Consent Agenda Items #1-5; Moved by Commissioner Wilsen, seconded by Commissioner Kennedy; Motion carried 5-0.

1. Approval of Minutes from the Regular City Commission Meeting held April 7, 2026. (City Clerk Sibbitt)
2. Approval of Recommendations to Award Ten (10) Neighborhood Associations an Ocoee Neighborhood Matching Grant, Totaling \$18,546.28. (Community Relations Manager Wright)
3. Approval to Submit Application for Orange County EMS Grant – Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). (Deputy Fire Chief Van Camp)
4. Approval to Award Invitation to Bid (ITB) #26-004 Lakewood Avenue North Gravity Sewer Project Phase 1 & 2. (Procurement Manager Tolbert)
5. Approval of Replacement Vehicle Purchase Request. (Public Works Director Krug)

• **FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 6:54 PM**

6. First Reading of an Ordinance Prohibiting Urination and Defecation in Public Places. (Police Chief Ogburn)

City Attorney Geller read the title of the ordinances, and it was announced this will be presented as a second reading and public hearing at the City Commission meeting scheduled for May 5, 2026, at 6:15 PM or soon thereafter.

• **SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE – PUBLIC HEARING 6:55 PM**

7. Second Reading of Ordinances for 1460 North Lakewood PUD — Annexation, Rezoning from Orange County A-1 (Citrus Rural District) to Planned Unit Development (PUD) & PUD Land Use Plan (LUP); Project No. AX-12-25-09 & RZ-25-12-19. (Concurrency & Commitment Coordinator McFarlane)

Concurrency & Commitment Coordinator McFarlane presented a brief overview of the subject property and the proposed PUD Land Use Plan. The property is considered logical and eligible for annexation, and the proposed rezoning aligns with Florida Statutes, the Joint Planning Area, Comprehensive Plan, and Future Land Use Map. The Development Review Committee (DRC) and Staff have made recommendations of approval.

City Attorney Geller read the title of the ordinances.

The public hearing was opened. As no one wished to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Motion: Move to approve Ordinance 2026-02 for 1460 North Lakewood PUD – Annexation; Project No. AX-12-25-09; Moved by Commissioner Firstner, seconded by Commissioner Oliver; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Kennedy noted that some residents oppose the rezoning due to traffic concerns and requested additional details and clarification regarding potential traffic relief options.

Concurrency and Commitment Coordinator McFarlane responded to his questions. **Development Services Director Lepp** explained that the proposed center turn lane is intended to move the vehicles turning out of the main travel lanes, improving traffic flow. **Commissioner Kennedy** also inquired about the project timeline, which **Development Services Director Lepp** addressed. **Commissioner Kennedy** then requested further clarification on planned intersection improvements, and **Development Services Director Lepp** provided additional information. **City Manager Shadrix** added that the project will require close coordination with Orange County. **Commissioner Kennedy** inquired about the intersection improvements at Wurst Road and Lakewood Ave and **Development Services Director Lepp** stated that when the subdivision plan is submitted a traffic study focusing on the traffic movement count, at that intersection, will be done. This will determine if a left turn lane will be needed. **Mayor Johnson** asked whether a traffic signal would be installed at Wurst Road, and **Development Services Director Lepp** indicated that a signal would be considered if warranted by future traffic studies.

Commissioner Oliver noted that traffic calming measures could be discussed during upcoming budget workshops. He also inquired about the list of projects being coordinated with Orange County, and **City Manager Shadrix** responded to his inquiry.

Motion: Move to approve Ordinance 2026-03 for 1460 North Lakewood PUD – Rezoning; Project No. RZ-25-12-09; Moved by Commissioner Firstner, seconded by Commissioner Kennedy; Motion carried 5-0.

8. Second Reading of Ordinance for the Annual Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment to Adopt Five-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements & Update the Capital Improvement Element (CIE); Project No. CPA-2026-001. (Concurrency & Commitment Coordinator McFarlane)

Concurrency & Commitment Coordinator McFarlane presented a brief overview of the Comprehensive Plan and the associated Capital Improvements Element (CIE). He further explained that the CIE is required to be a part of the Comprehensive Plan by Florida Statutes, and that the proposed five-year capital improvements program was approved by the City Commission as part of the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget.

City Attorney Geller read the title of the ordinance.

The public hearing was opened. As no one wished to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Motion: Move to approve Ordinance 2026-04 for the Annual Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment to Adopt Five-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements & Update the Capital Improvement Element (CIE); Moved by Commissioner Wilsen, seconded by Commissioner Oliver; Motion carried 5-0.

9. Second Reading of Ordinance Amending the City of Ocoee Municipal Police Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement Trust Fund. (**Pension Board Attorney Herrera**)

Chair Pace introduced **Pension Board Attorney Herrera** who stated that there has been no changes since the first reading of this ordinance and he was present to answer any questions and address any concerns.

Commissioner Firstner asked if any assumptions were being changed and **Pension Board Attorney Herrera** confirmed no.

Commissioner Kennedy inquired about when the board met and asked for an illustration of the board's recommendation and **Pension Board Attorney Herrera** addressed his inquiry.

City Attorney Geller read the title of the ordinance.

The public hearing was opened. As no one wished to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Motion: Move to approve Ordinance 2026-05 providing for an Amendment to the City of Ocoee Municipal Police Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement Trust Fund; Moved by Commissioner Oliver, seconded by Commissioner Firstner; Motion carried 5-0.

10. Second Reading of Ordinance Amending the City of Ocoee General Retirement Trust Fund. (**Pension Board Attorney Herrera**)

Chair Cowan stated that on November 6, 2024, the General Employee's Pension Board approved to restate the ordinance. **Pension Board Attorney Herrera** stated that there have been no changes since the first reading of this ordinance, and he was present to answer any questions and address any concerns.

City Attorney Geller read the title of the ordinance.

The public hearing was opened. As no one wished to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Motion: Move to approve Ordinance 2026-06 providing for an Amendment to the City of Ocoee General Retirement Trust Fund; Moved by Commissioner Kennedy, seconded by Commissioner Wilsen; Motion carried 5-0.

• **PUBLIC HEARING 7:23 PM**

11. Approval of Resolution for the Abandonment and Vacation of the Right of Way for North Cumberland Avenue Vacate; Project No. VAC-26-040. (**Concurrency & Commitment Coordinator McFarlane**)

Concurrency & Commitment Coordinator McFarlane stated that this property is located in District 2 and is approximately 18,405 square feet. He stated that this is a staff-initiated request due to the construction of Unity Park and the desire to combine various parcels that make Unity Park into one distinct parcel. He mentioned that on the south side of the vacated right-of-way there is a resident at the entrance of Unity Park, and staff have ensured that they have access to the public right-of-way and that their property remains and is not isolated. Staff recommends

approval of the resolution.

City Attorney Geller read the title of the resolution.

The public hearing was opened. As no one wished to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Motion: Move to approve Resolution 2026-02 for the Abandonment and Vacation of the Right of Way for North Cumberland Avenue Vacate; Moved by Commissioner Wilsen, seconded by Commissioner Oliver; Motion carried 5-0.

• **REGULAR AGENDA - None**

• **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS 7:26 PM**

Mayor Johnson inquired about the July 4th fireworks being a part of the 250-year celebration. **Assistant City Manager Rumer** confirmed that Parks and Leisure Services is working on the celebration and that the July 4th fireworks will be included. **Mayor Johnson** went on to announce the upcoming May City events.

• **COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS 7:28 PM**

Commissioner Kennedy – No further comments.

Commissioner Wilsen – Commented on the following: 7:28 PM – 7:28 PM

- 1) Encouraged residents to take the city survey located on the City website.

Commissioner Firstner – No further comments.

Commissioner Oliver – 7:28 PM – 7:30 PM

- 1) Announced that the Hackney Prairie streetscape is complete and it looks good. He asked if there is a plan to add raisers or if what is there is final. **City Manager Shadrix** stated that he will provide an answer at a later date.
- 2) Stated that he will be soliciting to district 4 residents to fill out applications for the Code Enforcement Board and encouraged residents who desire to be on the board to contact him.
- 3) Read an inspirational quote.

Commissioner Kennedy inquired whether each Commissioner should appoint a set number of members to the Code Enforcement Board and invited input from the Commission. **The City Commission reached a consensus to allow each Commissioner to submit names for consideration.** **Mayor Johnson** added that the Chair of the Code Enforcement Board should provide the list of names referenced in the petition presented at the previous meeting.

Mayor Johnson – Commented on the following: 7:32 PM - 7:36 PM

- 1) Inquired about the status of the demolition of the recording studio, **Assistant City Manager Rumer** provided a brief update.

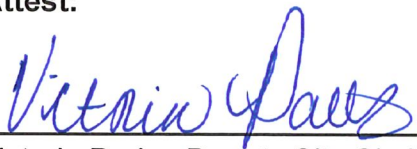
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- 2) Inquired about the power and streetlights on Oakland Avenue and **City Manager Shadrix** addressed his inquiry.
- 3) Asked if the landscaping in front of the Lakeshore Center can be upgraded with pavers and flowers and **City Manager Shadrix** stated that it will be addressed.
- 4) **Mayor Johnson** questioned if light poles can be installed at the Lakeshore Center and Bill Breeze Park to be used during nighttime events and **City Manager Shadrix** stated that it will be put into the May budget amendment.

• ADJOURNMENT 7:36 PM

APPROVED:

Attest:



Victoria Parks, Deputy City Clerk

City of Ocoee



Rusty Johnson, Mayor