

OCOEE CITY COMMISSION

Ocoee Commission Chambers
1 N. Bluford Avenue
Ocoee, Florida

May 19, 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 Oliver**. **Deputy City Clerk Parks** called the roll and declared a quorum present.

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

Absent: Commissioner Kennedy

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

• PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS 6:20 PM

Presentation of John Land Years of Service Award to Mayor Johnson by Florida League of Cities

Eryn Alcorn, *Member Services Coordinator with Florida League of Cities*, presented Mayor Johnson with the John Land Years of Service Award and proclamation. **Mayor Johnson** accepted the award and shared his gratitude and love for the City of Ocoee with the audience.

National Public Works Week Proclamation – read by **Commissioner Wilsen** and proclaimed by **Mayor Johnson**.

Forest Lake Golf Course Update. (Parks and Leisure Services Director Johnson)

Parks and Leisure Services Director Johnson gave an update on the Forest Lake Golf Course, highlighting upcoming improvements, golf operations, aerification, maintenance, food and beverage services, and financials. **Parks and Leisure Services Director Johnson** also acknowledged key golf course staff members that were present.

Mayor Johnson gave kudos to the staff members, stating they are doing a great job.

• STAFF REPORTS AND AGENDA REVIEW 6:40 PM

City Manager Shadrix asked City Attorney Geller to give an update regarding the Ocoee Gateway vs. City of Ocoee lawsuit. **City Attorney Geller** gave a litigation update and requested a motion and approval authorizing the law firm Fishback Dominick to consider, evaluate, and if deemed appropriate, bring a counterclaim to enforce the development agreement governing the property.

Commissioner Oliver inquired about the mention of a Senate Bill 180 claim and whether it had been ratified; City Attorney Geller addressed his inquiry.

Motion: Move to approve and authorize the law firm Fishback Dominick to consider, evaluate, and if deemed appropriate, bring a counterclaim to enforce the development agreement governing the property; Moved by Commissioner Wilsen, seconded by Commissioner Oliver; Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Kennedy absent.

• **PUBLIC COMMENTS 6:44 PM**

The following persons addressed the City Commission:

- **Jim Moyer**, *Water and Soil Conservation District 2 Supervisor*, gave a presentation on water conservation and challenged everyone to practice conserving water.
- **Norine Dworkin**, *Editor in Chief of Vox Populi*, announced and explained the Vox Populi Spring into Summer Fundraiser and encouraged residents to donate.

• **CONSENT AGENDA 6:49 PM**

Consent Agenda Motion

Motion: Move to adopt Consent Agenda Items #1-12; Moved by Commissioner Firstner, seconded by Commissioner Oliver; Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Kennedy absent.

1. Approval of Minutes from the Regular City Commission Meeting held May 5, 2026. **(City Clerk Sibbitt)**
2. Approval of Reappointments to the Human Relations Diversity Board (HRDB). **(Deputy City Clerk Parks)**
3. Approval of a Resolution Supporting U.S. Senate Bill 4505. **(Assistant City Manager Rumer)**
4. Approval of the Utility Easement Agreement for 720 N. Lakewood Ave. **(Development Engineer Keaton)**
5. Notification of Name Change and Request to Move Forward with Piggyback Contract with UES Professional Solutions, LLC f/k/a Universal Engineering Sciences, LLC. **(Development Services Director Lepp)**
6. Approval of Ratification of the Ocoee Professional Firefighters Union, I.A.F.F. Local 3623 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the City. **(Human Resources Director Wilson)**
7. Approval of Ratification of Police Officers and Sergeants Collective Bargaining Agreement, Article 16: Wages. **(Human Resources Director Wilson)**
8. Approval of a 6-month Extension to the Temporary Operator Agreement with SSS Down To Earth OPCO LLC, Extending the Term from June 1, 2026, to November 30, 2026, for Interim Operation of the Forest Lake Golf Course. **(Parks and Leisure Director Johnson)**

Regular City Commission
May 19, 2026

9. Approval of Contract for the 2026 Ocoee Music Festival Entertainment. **(Parks and Leisure Services Director Johnson)**
10. Approval of FDLE Voluntary Cooperation Mutual Aid Agreement S.A.F.E. Initiative. **(Police Chief Ogburn)**
11. Approval of Declaration of Additional City Surplus Property. **(Procurement Manager Tolbert)**
12. Approval of the One (1) Year Optional Renewal of the existing Continuing Contracts for RFQ #21-004 Continuing Contracts for Utilities Engineering Services. **(Procurement Manager Tolbert)**

At 6:50 PM, **Mayor Johnson** handed the gavel to **Commissioner Firstner** and excused himself for the remainder of the meeting. **Commissioner Firstner** continued presiding over the meeting as Mayor Pro Tem.

• **FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE**

13. First Reading of Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2025-26 Mid-Year Budget Amendment. **(Finance Director Weber)**

City Attorney Geller read the title of the ordinance, and it was announced this will be presented as a second reading and public hearing at the City Commission meeting scheduled for June 2, 2026, at 6:15 PM or soon thereafter.

• **SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE – None**

• **PUBLIC HEARING**

14. Approval of Resolution for Vacation of 5-ft Utility Easements on Lots 1, 12, 13, 24, 25, 36, 37, and 48 of the Magnolia Reserve Townhome Subdivision; Project No. VAC-26-041. **(Concurrency & Commitment Coordinator McFarlane)**

Concurrency & Commitment Coordinator McFarlane gave a brief presentation on the requested easement vacation, stating that the townhome subdivision is located in District 1, and the request is relative to the side yards of the eight lots.

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

City Attorney Geller read the title of the resolution.

Motion: Move to approve Resolution 2026-03 for Vacation of 5-ft Utility Easements on Lots 1, 12, 13, 24, 25, 36, 37, and 48 of the Magnolia Reserve Townhome Subdivision; Moved by Commissioner Wilsen, seconded by Commissioner Oliver; Motion carried 3-0 with Mayor Johnson and Commissioner Kennedy absent.

•REGULAR AGENDA

15. Discussion of Reappointment/Appointment of Members of the Planning and Zoning Commission. **(Development Services Director Lepp and Deputy City Clerk Parks)**

Development Services Director Lepp stated that this item is for discussion and appointment of members to the Planning and Zoning Commission. He explained the current vacancies and the expiring terms of seats that need to be filled.

Motion: Move to appoint Kelton Butler and Joel Keller as regular members of the Planning and Zoning Commission to complete their first initial three-year terms, and to appoint Johnmichael Fernandez as an alternate member, with a term expiring in June 2029; Moved by Commissioner Wilsen, seconded by Commissioner Oliver; Motion carried 3-0 with Mayor Johnson and Commissioner Kennedy absent.

16. Discussion of Reappointment/Appointment of Regular Members and Alternate Members to the Code Enforcement Board. **(Deputy City Clerk Parks)**

Deputy City Clerk Parks stated that this item is for discussion and appointment of members to the Code Enforcement Board. She explained the current vacancies and the expiring terms of seats that need to be filled.

Motion: Move to reappoint Warren Lewis as a regular member to the Code Enforcement Board to serve a full three-year term, to appoint Roderick Wilson as a regular member to fill a vacant unexpired term ending in June 2027, and to appoint Annette Brown as regular member to serve a full three-year term on the Code Enforcement Board; Moved by Commissioner Wilsen, seconded by Commissioner Oliver; Motion carried 3-0 with Mayor Johnson and Commissioner Kennedy absent.

17. Discussion and Direction for Funding Emergency Medical Services with a Dedicated EMS Enterprise Fund. **(Deputy Fire Chief Van Camp)**

City Manager Shadrix gave a brief explanation of this item in relation to upcoming tax reforms. **Deputy Fire Chief Van Camp** gave a presentation on the proposal of funding Emergency Medical Services (EMS) with a dedicated EMS enterprise fund highlighting the operational alignment opportunities, division structure, enterprise framework (financial benefits and cost allocations). **Fire Chief Smothers** highlighted the operational benefits of the proposal. He also stated that the Fire Department recommends the City Commission authorize the establishment of an Enterprise Fund to support the EMS Division, approve the hiring of twelve (12) full-time single-cert paramedics and up to six (6) part-time single-cert paramedics to support staffing and overtime coverage as needed, and approve the reassignment of personnel to staff the fourth engine, including the reclassification of three (3) positions to Engineer and three (3) positions to Lieutenant.

Mayor Pro Tem Firstner asked if the fund will allow surplus funds from one budget year to roll over to the next budget year and **City Manager Shadrix** responded in the affirmative. **Mayor Pro Tem Firstner** asked if any other cities have established this type of fund and **Fire Chief Smothers** stated that it is fairly new, but highlighted that the City of Orlando, along with others, have an established fund. **Deputy Chief Van Camp** clarified that while departments such as Orlando are utilizing the operational model, they are seeing the enterprise fund framework more through departments in South Florida. **Mayor Pro Tem Firstner** asked how long it would take to transition, and **Fire Chief Smothers** addressed his question.

Commissioner Oliver asked if during the transition period, this fund would have the ability to hire subcontractors to fill the void until fully staffed and **Fire Chief Smothers** stated that the best benefit would be to take an aggressive approach toward securing permanent staffing. **City Manager Shadrix** mentioned that he has explored private providers; however, this proposed model provides faster, more efficient response times.

Mayor Pro Tem Firstner asked if this proposal will affect ISO rating. **Fire Chief Smothers** stated yes and explained that after approximately nine months of data is pulled, a new evaluation can be requested and the rating restored.

Motion: Move to Bring Back an Ordinance to Establish an EMS Enterprise Fund to include the EMS Division and Enterprise Fund in the Proposed FY 2026-2027 Budget; Moved by Commissioner Oliver, seconded by Commissioner Wilsen; Motion carried 3-0 with Mayor Johnson and Commissioner Kennedy absent.

18. Presentation on the City of Ocoee Fire Services Assessment Fee Program to Include a Revised Methodology and Set June 16th, 2026, as the Hearing Date to Adopt the Initial Assessment Resolution for FY 26-27. (**Assistant City Manager Rumer**)

Assistant City Manager Rumer gave a presentation on the Fire Services Assessment Fee Program, to include a revised Methodology. He highlighted that this methodology is a flat fee rate that would increase revenue and lessen the burden on single-family homes. He stated that the request for this evening is for the Commission to allow staff to return with a resolution to review the demand-availability model and to consider his recommendation for the assessment rate.

Commissioner Wilsen expressed her understanding of having to pay for services.

Commissioner Oliver asked how many years this methodology would sustain the City and **Assistant City Manager Rumer** addressed his question.

Motion: Move to Authorize Staff to Update the City's Existing Fire Services Special Assessment Program and set June 16, 2026, as the Hearing Date to Adopt the Initial Assessment Resolution; Moved by Commissioner Wilsen, seconded by Commissioner Oliver; Motion carried 3-0 with Mayor Johnson and Commissioner Kennedy absent.

• **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS 8:16 PM**

Mayor Pro Tem Firstner announced the Community Survey is available on the City's website and encouraged residents to participate by completing the survey online. He also announced that the Aquatic Center is now open and highlighted several upcoming City events scheduled for May, June, and July.

• **COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS 8:18 PM**

Commissioner Oliver – Commented on the following: 8:18 PM – 8:19 PM

- 1) Reiterated the importance of understanding tax reform.
- 2) Read an inspirational quote.

Commissioner Wilsen – No further comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Firstner – No further comments.

• **ADJOURNMENT 8:19 PM**

APPROVED:

Attest:



Victoria Parks, Deputy City Clerk

City of Ocoee



Rusty Johnson, Mayor