



City Hall Commission Chambers
1100 Park Lane East
Oakland Park, Florida 33334

**DRAFT MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
MAY 6, 2026, 6:30 P.M.**

The regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Oakland Park, Florida, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Arnst.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Mayor Steven Arnst
Vice Mayor Aisha Gordon
Commissioner Letitia Newbold
Commissioner Fitz Budhoo
Commissioner Tim Lonergan

Also Present:

City Manager David Hebert
City Attorney DJ Doody
City Clerk Renee M. Shrout

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A moment of silence was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATIONS

National Small Business Week - May 3-9, 2026

Commissioner Lonergan moved to publish the proclamation. Commissioner Budhoo seconded the motion, which prevailed by the following vote:

YES: Commissioner Newbold, Commissioner Budhoo, Commissioner Lonergan, Vice Mayor Gordon, Mayor Arnst

The proclamation was presented to Maribel Feliciano, Director of the Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development.

Mental Health Awareness Month

Commissioner Budhoo moved to publish the proclamation. Vice Mayor Gordon seconded the motion, which prevailed by the following vote:

YES: Commissioner Newbold, Commissioner Budhoo, Commissioner Lonergan, Vice Mayor Gordon, Mayor Arnst

National Stroke Awareness Month

Commissioner Budhoo moved to publish the proclamation. Commissioner Lonergan seconded the motion, which prevailed by the following vote:

YES: Commissioner Newbold, Commissioner Budhoo, Commissioner Lonergan, Vice Mayor Gordon, Mayor Arnst

The proclamation was presented to Dr. Andrey Lima, neurosurgeon.

ADDITIONS / CHANGES / DELETIONS

Commissioner Budhoo requested a deferral of Item 9 to the next meeting.

Commissioner Budhoo moved to amend the agenda. Vice Mayor Gordon seconded the motion, which prevailed by the following vote:

YES: Commissioner Newbold, Commissioner Budhoo, Commissioner Lonergan, Vice Mayor Gordon, Mayor Arnst

Commissioner Budhoo moved to approve the amended agenda. Vice Mayor Gordon seconded the motion, which prevailed by the following vote:

YES: Commissioner Newbold, Commissioner Budhoo, Commissioner Lonergan, Vice Mayor Gordon, Mayor Arnst

PRESENTATIONS

*** Friends of the Library Scholarship Award**

Heidi Burnett, Director of Library and Cultural Services, reported Friends of the Library had created a scholarship for City high school students. Mary Zalaznik, president of Friends of the Library, presented the \$1000 scholarships to Oakland Park residents Alexandre Gervaud, who graduated from Somerset Academy and will attend Harvard University, and Nia Brown, who graduated from Nova High School and will attend Florida Atlantic University. They both had outstanding grades and volunteer hours.

*** Solid Waste Authority - Master Plan Presentation**

Beam Furr, Broward County Commissioner, introduced presenters Sam May and Daniel Dietch. Mr. May discussed the Master Plan and how this would benefit municipalities. Mr. Dietch added that they had applied a zero-waste lens to their analysis, which meant reducing the waste generated and maximizing the value of the waste stream to minimize reliance on landfills and waste-to-energy facilities. This meant some materials, such as glass and fabric, could be recycled or redirected to new uses, such as glass for road surfacing. They would also increase the collection of hazardous waste, such as prescription medicines. He said that after they constructed the eight recycling centers, they would build a composting facility for organic materials. This could be used to generate methane gas, and the residual could be used for ground cover. Mr. Dietch said they would explore several avenues to encourage recycling. Mr. May discussed the recycling goal for every Florida county, which the State of Florida had set in the 2008 energy bill at 75% by 2020. Only three counties had attained that goal. Mr. May said they had conducted a waste composition study, which revealed that 35% of the residential waste stream was food waste, yard trash, or compostable paper, which is why they were now concentrating on composting vegetative debris. Later on, they could add food waste composting.

The Commission thanked the executive board for doing the hard work on the master plan.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 1. Case #CD26-01A "Vacation of Utility Easement – Powerline Apartments" - A Public Hearing to consider the Powerline Apartments application for the vacation of a 12-foot-wide Utility Easement lying within Parcels C and D of the Googe Plat No. 1, Plat Book 136, Page 15, located on the southwest corner of Northwest 38 Street and North Powerline Road. Advertising for this public hearing appeared in the Sun Sentinel April 25, 2026.**

City Attorney Doody swore in all witnesses. Sierra Marrero, Assistant City Manager, provided the presentation.

The applicant, Josh Dietchman, 2756 Oaktree Lane, invited questions.

Public Hearing

Frank Strutt requested that the applicant require 12-month or longer leases to prevent short-term rentals. He requested that the City limit short-term rentals to the City's east side.

Renee Bod, 3251 NW 18th Street, expressed concern about a possible increase in traffic on Powerline Road.

Ms. Marrero confirmed the vacation would have no impact on the City. Vice Mayor Gordon confirmed the sole purpose of the vacation was to allow the land to be utilized for development.

Mayor Arnst was concerned about short-term rentals at the property. He was also disappointed that the lights on 38th Street could not be resynchronized until the project was built. He discussed the “channelization” of egress from the property onto 38th Street, which could lead people into residential neighborhoods.

Commissioner Lonergan moved to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Budhoo seconded the motion, which prevailed by the following vote:

YES: Commissioner Newbold, Commissioner Budhoo, Commissioner Lonergan, Vice Mayor Gordon
NO: Mayor Arnst

The resolution, as adopted, carried the following title:

RESOLUTION R-2026-056

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND PARK, FLORIDA, VACATING A 12-FOOT-WIDE UTILITY EASEMENT LYING WITHIN PARCELS C AND D OF THE GOOGE PLAT NO. 1, PLAT BOOK 136, PAGE 15; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

<u>2. Ordinance Amending the City's Holiday Leave Ordinance, Section 2-151 of the Code of Ordinances</u>

Sierra Marrero, Assistant City Manager, provided the presentation.

Commissioner Budhoo moved to adopt the ordinance on first reading. Commissioner Newbold seconded the motion, which prevailed by the following vote:

YES: Commissioner Newbold, Commissioner Budhoo, Commissioner Lonergan, Vice Mayor Gordon, Mayor Arnst

The ordinance, as adopted, carried the following title:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND PARK, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION" BY SPECIFICALLY AMENDING SECTION 2-151 ENTITLED "HOLIDAY LEAVE"; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO DESIGNATE THE OBSERVED HOLIDAY AS EITHER THE PRECEDING FRIDAY OR THE SUCCEEDING MONDAY WHEN A HOLIDAY FALLS ON A SATURDAY OR A SUNDAY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time, any person will be allowed to speak on any matter that pertains to City business for a length of time not to exceed four minutes per person.

Carlene Golphin, 2681 NW 19th Avenue, requested that neighborhood participation meetings be recorded and made public to ensure transparency. She said someone was living in their parents' backyard in a tent, and there had been three fires in the backyard. She asked if this was legal.

Jimmy Lee – 4301 NE 1 Terrace – He commended everyone for doing such a great job, but shared his disappointment with the current condition of Bark Park, the dog park. He asked for staff to review the landscaping, especially the overgrowth of the tree canopy, and offered to assist.

Kevin Loud, 1921 NW 36th Street, reported that the County had added traffic-calming devices to 21st Avenue, but cars were still speeding and using the bike lanes as passing lanes. He cited other examples of people acting selfishly with no regard for the community they inhabit. He said the City Commission must be responsive to the needs of the community.

Jacqueline McNichols, 1499 NE 36th Street, Coalition of Oakland Park, discussed the meeting that had taken place on April 14 on NE 33rd Street. She stated someone had characterized the meeting dishonestly, resulting in law enforcement involvement. She claimed the same things had happened after a Zoom meeting regarding filling in a lake for development on the west side of the City. Participants had been characterized as “aggressive” and “inappropriate.” She asked what oversight was used to ensure that interactions with residents were documented accurately and under what circumstances law enforcement reports had been initiated.

Eric Peterson, 1941 NW 36th Street, requested that residents be offered the opportunity to provide input before the City Commission discussed changes to the neighborhood participation meeting protocol. He said the staff's white paper required more rigorous review before it was accepted as the basis for City Commission action.

Stacy Norcross, South Oakland Forest Drive – she requested neighborhood participation meeting standardized procedures to ensure transparency and establish trust. She requested an updated development activity report be added to the website.

Joanne Darling, 1950 NW 34 Court – she expressed dissatisfaction with the recent neighborhood participation meeting because her concern was not addressed by the applicant. She asked if the City Commission members, City Manager, and Assistant City Manager were required to live in the City because their decisions should affect them as they did other residents.

Chris Fisher, 3711 NE 13th Avenue, discussed what he felt was a lack of decorum from City Commission members and claimed a commission member disparaged residents.

Dale Holness, 4325 W. Sunrise Boulevard, said local government, closest to the people, was a critical form of government. He said there was a transformative upgrade taking place in Oakland Park, and they must all work together to strengthen the fabric of the community.

NOTE: The Commission took a brief break.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Lonergan moved to approve the consent agenda, consisting of Items 4 through 7. Commissioner Budhoo seconded the motion, which prevailed by the following vote:

YES: Commissioner Newbold, Commissioner Budhoo, Commissioner Lonergan, Vice Mayor Gordon, Mayor Arnst

4. Approval of Minutes - February 18, 2026

Adopted on consent.

5. Renewal of the Underground Utility Location Services

Adopted on consent.

The resolution, as adopted, carried the following title:

RESOLUTION R-2026-057

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND PARK, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE CONTINUED PIGGYBACKING OF THE TOWN OF PEMBROKE PARK'S CONTRACT ITB 22-04 WITH CRAIG A. SMITH & ASSOCIATES FOR UNDERGROUND UTILITY LOCATION SERVICES, FOR THE SECOND 1-YEAR RENEWAL OPTION PERIOD COVERING MAY 12, 2026, THROUGH APRIL 30, 2027, WHICH INCLUDES A CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) ADJUSTMENT OF 2.60%, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THE BUDGETED AVAILABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

6. Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program Agreement Execution

Adopted on consent.

The resolution, as adopted, carried the following title:

RESOLUTION R-2026-058

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND PARK, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE THE GRANT AGREEMENT AND ALL REQUISITE GRANT-RELATED DOCUMENTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF OAKLAND PARK AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION FOR THE RAILROAD CROSSING ELIMINATION (RCE) GRANT PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

7. Florida Department of Transportation State-Funded Grant Agreement Execution

Adopted on consent.

The resolution, as adopted, carried the following title:

RESOLUTION R-2026-059

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND PARK, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE THE GRANT AGREEMENT AND ALL REQUISITE GRANT-RELATED DOCUMENTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF OAKLAND PARK AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE NE 36TH STREET RAILROAD CROSSING SAFETY PROJECT; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS

8. Board of Adjustment Appointment - Three (3) Regular Members and (1) Alternate Member

Commission members made the following appointments: Commissioner Newbold - Jack Doren; Vice Mayor Gordon - Brendan Keating; Mayor Arnst - Kristen Nowicki. A consensus was reached to appoint Ariel Guimaraens as an alternate.

Commissioner Budhoo moved to adopt the resolution. Vice Mayor Gordon seconded the motion, which prevailed by the following vote:

YES: Commissioner Newbold, Commissioner Budhoo, Commissioner Lonergan, Vice Mayor Gordon, Mayor Arnst

The resolution, as adopted, carried the following title:

RESOLUTION R-2026-060

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND PARK, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENTS OF COMMISSIONER NEWBOLD, VICE MAYOR GORDON, AND MAYOR ARNST TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND BY CONSENSUS, THE COMMISSION APPOINTMENT OF ONE ALTERNATE MEMBER TO COMPLETE THE CURRENT TERM ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2026; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

(Item 9 was deferred to the next meeting.)

9. City Commission Discussion Item: Neighborhood Participation Meetings - Commissioner Budhoo

10. REPORTS FROM THE CITY COMMISSION

Commissioner Newbold commented as follows:

- 1) She thanked residents for communicating with the City Commission.
- 2) She attended Career Day the previous Friday, where the students heard about real-world experiences and asked great questions.
- 3) She thanked her daughter for a wonderful surprise birthday event the past weekend.
- 4) She was looking forward to attending Real Talk With Women.
- 5) She attended the memorial service for the late Corporal Joshua Caruth, a Korean War veteran, whose remains had only recently been released to the United States after 70 years.

Commissioner Budhoo commented as follows:

- 1) He and Mayor Arnst attended the North Andrews Gardens fifth-grade production of Shrek at the Pompano Beach Cultural Center recently. Mayor Arnst remarked that the kids were great.
- 2) He reported that Lloyd Estates Career Day was an awesome event.
- 3) He thanked the staff for their hard work and commitment to public service.

Commissioner Lonergan commented as follows:

- 1) He thanked everyone who had spoken during Public Comments.
- 2) He requested a discussion item regarding short-term rentals as they relate to the Live Local Act. Since Live Local was aimed at Florida residents, he did not believe short-term rentals should be permitted.
- 3) He congratulated Melixsa Acosta, the proprietor of Play and Learn Therapy, and her family on their new office grand opening.
- 4) He congratulated Lloyd Estates Elementary School Principal Allen and Coach Smith on a successful Career Day on May 1st.
- 5) He thanked staff and volunteers for the recent Free Tree Giveaway.
- 6) He thanked businesses, staff, BSO, Fire Rescue, and volunteers who contributed to the success of the recent Taste of Oakland Park event.
- 7) He thanked Mark and the team at Farm Share, Rodrigo and the team at Hands On South Florida, the 40 volunteers, and the Fire Rescue team who participated in the most recent successful food distribution. The next distribution would be on May 30 at 10 AM.
- 8) He reminded everyone of the Oakland Park Art Walk event on May 16 from 6 PM until 9 PM.
- 9) He requested a discussion item regarding kids riding electric bikes recklessly in City streets.

Vice Mayor Gordon commented as follows:

- 1) She thanked everyone who attended this evening's meeting and heard their concerns.
- 2) She thanked all the presenters this evening.
- 3) She thanked Parks and Leisure Services staff for hosting the Tree Giveaway. She thanked Molly Ferch, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator, for making the event successful.

- 4) She also attended Career Day at Lloyd Estate Elementary and shared with the very engaged third and fourth-grade students her career, work experiences, and some life skills.
- 5) She wished all mothers a happy Mother's Day.

FROM THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Hebert thanked the city attorney and members of the city commission for their guidance during the closed-door session earlier in the day. their partners in Tallahassee for handling the mitigation fee issue. He thanked the Commission members for their comments regarding the staff and how hard they work. He noted the City had very limited control over short-term rentals and agreed to work with the city attorney to provide legal guidance on the issue. He will also look into the electric bike issue. He reminded everyone that Battalion Chief Fornash's memorial service will be held this upcoming Friday.

11. Development Activity Report
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REPORTS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY

12. City Attorney Report

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at: 9:30 PM.

CITY OF OAKLAND PARK, FLORIDA

STEVEN R. ARNST, MAYOR

ATTEST:

RENEE M. SHROUT, CMC, CITY CLERK