

City of Melbourne, Florida
Minutes – Regular Meeting Before City Council
January 27, 2026

A regular meeting of the City Council was held in the City Council Chamber, 900 East Strawbridge Avenue, and was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Vice Mayor Julie Kennedy.

A. OPENING

1. The invocation was given by Pastor Dupree Williams, Chief Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call

Present:

Julie Kennedy	Vice Mayor
David Neuman	Council Member, District 3
Rachael Bassett	Council Member, District 4
Jenni Lamb	City Manager
Joan Junkala-Brown	Deputy City Manager
Adam Conley	City Attorney
Kevin McKeown	City Clerk
Justice Stevens	Assistant City Clerk
Rebecca Thibert	Assistant to the City Manager

Absent:

Paul Alfrey	Mayor (out of town)
Marcus Smith	Council Member, District 1 (out of town)
Mark LaRusso	Council Member, District 2 (sick)
Mimi Hanley	Council Member, District 5 (Florida League of Cities Legislative Action Days)

City Attorney Adam Conley noted that based on the roll call, there is no quorum and that will limit the Council's ability to take official action on certain items.

4. Proclamations and Presentations

Employees who reached a milestone of service during the months of September and October 2025 were invited to the Council meeting to accept their service pin and gift card. Brian Hart, Police Department (20 years) and Tammy Still, Senior Accountant (20 years) attended the meeting and was recognized by the Vice Mayor and City Council and City Manager.

5. Approval of Minutes – January 13, 2026 Regular Meeting.

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Due to having no quorum, the approval of the January 13, 2026 regular minutes will occur at the February 10 meeting.

6. City Manager's Report

Mrs. Lamb reported that in addition to what was provided to Council in the agenda package, she had three more items to bring to Council's attention. She noted that there was previous discussion on not having to have consensus for her to add a discussion item to an agenda and with this being said, she reported that at one of the February agendas she will be adding a discussion on the Beautification and Energy Efficiency Board's concerns and possible outcomes.

Mrs. Lamb also added that she was invited to Congressman Haridopolos's municipal workshop on January 29 where she will discuss the city's challenges, concerns and proposed solutions related to the Melbourne community. Council Member David Neuman asked that Mrs. Lamb inquire about funding for the city's infrastructure projects. Vice Mayor Julie Kennedy asked that Mrs. Lamb inquire about anything federally available for the railroad.

Mrs. Lamb reported that the Florida Department of Transportation requested a letter of support from the city for a grant application for a federal rail administration federal/state partnership for intercity passenger rail grant program for safety improvements. She noted that we have provided a letter of support to them before and will reach out to Council prior to sending the letter to ensure there are no concerns.

7. Public Comments

Sean Paul Reyes, Long Island Audit, made several allegations regarding the Mayor's conduct while on the Melbourne Police Department and in his seat as Mayor.

B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8. Consideration of proposals for disposition of 0.08 acres of City property abutting 1015 W. H. Jackson Street. (Public Hearing) (Postponed - 10/28/2025 & 12/9/2025)

City Engineer James Ennis reported that the applicant for this item withdrew their offer; therefore, no action was needed. He also noted that this item will come back to a future agenda due to the same parcel issue existing with the two adjacent parcels and will be resolved in this manner.

Attorney Conley reminded Council that Council approval was requested to do a public notice and request offers due to the property being in the southern portion of the Melbourne Downtown CRA. He also reiterated that this process will come back to Council in the future, but at this point the item is effectively closed.

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9. **Ordinance No. 2026-01, Administrative Final Plat Approval:** (Second Reading/Public Hearing) An ordinance amending the City Code of Melbourne, Chapter 2, Administration; Appendix B, Section 4, Planned Unit Development (PUD); and Appendix D, Chapter 8, Subdivision Code, to address recent State of Florida legislative changes (F.S.177.073) to provide administrative approval of final plats. (Applicant - City of Melbourne) (First Reading - 1/13/2026)

Attorney Conley read the ordinance by its title. Due to a lack of quorum, this item could not be heard and the public hearing could not open. This item will be readvertised for the February 10 meeting.

10. **Ordinance No. 2026-02, Public Participation:** (Second Reading/Public Hearing) An ordinance amending Chapter 2, Article II, Melbourne Code of Ordinances regarding public participation and standards of decorum at City Council meetings. (First Reading - 1/13/2026)

Attorney Conley read the ordinance by its title. Due to a lack of quorum, this item could not be heard and the public hearing could not open. This item will be readvertised for the February 10 meeting.

C. NEW BUSINESS

11. Work Order No. 11 to the Storm Drain Cleaning, Repairs and Maintenance contract for cleaning and video inspection of varying pipe sizes associated with the Roadway Resurfacing Program, Project No. 68024, Shenandoah General Construction, LLC, Pompano Beach, FL - \$440,000.

Attorney Conley noted that due to Council being unable to take any action on the item, this item will be brought back to the February 10 meeting.

12. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Annual Review and Recommendation Report on Affordable Housing Incentives Strategies.

Attorney Conley noted that due to Council being unable to take any action on the item, this item will be brought back to the February 10 meeting.

13. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

14. Sponsorship Agreement between the City of Melbourne and Community Housing Initiative, Inc., through State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) funds in the amount of \$260,000 for the Implementation of the Purchase Assistance Program. (Public Hearing)

Attorney Conley noted that due to Council being unable to take any action on the item, this item will be brought back to the February 10 meeting.

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15. **Ordinance No. 2026-03, Council Districts:** (First Reading) An ordinance amending the City Code, Chapter 22, Elections, by altering the maps of Melbourne City Council Districts Two, Five, and Six, to include annexation ordinances adopted during the 2025 calendar year.

Attorney Conley read the ordinance by its title. Due to a lack of quorum, this item could not be heard and will be brought back to the February 10 meeting.

D. PETITIONS, REMONSTRANCES, AND COMMUNICATIONS

Council Member Rachael Bassett reminded Council that she, along with city staff, will be hosting a farm share event at the Eddie Lee Taylor, Sr. Community Center from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on February 6.

Mr. Neuman thanked the City Clerk and staff for providing a volunteer board attendance report to Council. Mr. Neuman asked if there will be an item on a future agenda regarding this topic. Attorney Conley explained that he interpreted the discussion of creating a code of conduct and code amendments to the charter as one item.

Mr. Neuman asked that these items be separate. Attorney Conley noted that he will bring Council proposed ordinance language for a referendum item to make amendments the City Charter.

Mr. Neuman also asked for an update on why an art festival that was set to occur in Downtown Melbourne is no longer occurring due to the city fees. He asked for a discussion item to be placed on a future agenda about special activities. Mrs. Lamb noted that there is an item on the next agenda that will make some requested changes to business promotions. She also noted that changes to special events are still in the works. Regarding the art festival, Mrs. Lamb stated that the fees for the city support services were too high for the applicant. Staff reviewed the event to try and lessen the fees but was unsuccessful.

Vice Mayor Kennedy, Mrs. Lamb and Attorney Conley noted that these events are typically more costly because of the location, road closures, police officers needed and proximity to the railroad.

E. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

/s/ Justice Stevens, Assistant City Clerk – January 29, 2026

Approved by Council: February 10, 2026