

**MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING
ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA**

**Monday, October 6, 2025
6:00 PM**

Call to Order — Youth Council Chair Matthew Goldfarb

Youth Council Chair Matthew Goldfarb called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call — Assistant City Clerk Eileen Mercado

Present were members Matthew Goldfarb, Mahi Nooka, Na-Kowa Ryals, Hailey Dester, Janelle Lewis, Noah Ringeisen and Brody Bishop. Catherine Shell was not present.

Staff and Mentors Present: Mayor Melonie Bahr Monson, Dr. Randy Stovall, Sam Abrahani, Lydia Ragsdale, Principal Planner Rodney Corriveau and Assitant City Clerk Eileen Mercado.

Guests Speakers: Kathy MacKenzie and Officer Healy (CHIPZ Program).

Invocation —

The Invocation was led by Brody Bishop

Pledge of Allegiance —

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

1. MINUTES

1.1 Approval of Meeting Minutes June 2, 2025

1. Mayor's Youth Council 06022025 Minutes

Na-Kowa Ryals moved to approve the minutes from June 2, 2025. Seconded by Hailey Dester. Motion passed unanimously.

2. BUSINESS ITEMS

2.1 CHIPZ Presentation: Kathy MacKenzie

Kathy MacKenzie, Program Director for CHIPZ (Community Hope and Intervention Program of Zephyrhills), provided an overview of the program's mission, which focuses on outreach and assistance to individuals and families experiencing homelessness, food insecurity, and crisis situations. Ms. MacKenzie described CHIPZ origins in Zephyrhills and noted that the program was established through local collaboration and City support, growing into a full-time initiative with dedicated outreach officers. She explained that CHIPZ partners with the Zephyrhills Police Department to conduct compassionate community policing and connect residents with housing, food, and healthcare resources.

Officer Healy shared statistics from the program, noting that more than 500 individuals have been assisted in the past year. The majority of needs involve food insecurity, housing instability, and mental health challenges. Partnerships with BayCare, The Hope Shot, and the Pasco Housing Authority have strengthened local outreach and created access to rehabilitation and detox services.

Youth Council members asked about youth homelessness and were informed that CHIPZ coordinates closely with the Pasco County School District to identify displaced students and families. The program also partners with the Homeless Coalition, Housing Authority, and community churches for temporary relief efforts.

Discussion followed regarding the importance of unrestricted funds for immediate needs such as temporary lodging and food assistance. Ms. MacKenzie confirmed that CHIPZ operates as a nonprofit funded through City contributions, community donations, and grants from HUD and the Homeless Coalition.

2.2 Discussion of CHIPZ Project: Chairman

- a. Drive Thru Chicken Dinner Event
- b. Determine a date
- c. Sponsorships
- d. Make flyer & tickets

e. Payment discussions

The Youth Council discussed hosting a Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner Fundraiser to benefit CHIPZ. The event will be organized in partnership with BAR-B-Q Express, which will donate and prepare all meals. Key details discussed:

- Event Date: Thursday, November 20, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Meals on Wheels facility in Zephyrhills.

Ticket Price: \$15 per plate or \$50 for a family pack of four.

- Sales: Tickets will be sold by Youth Council members in advance and via a Square QR code for credit card purchases. Physical numbered tickets will also be printed for cash sales.

- Promotion: Flyers will be created using Canva by Mahi Nooka and finalized by City staff.

Promotion will include social media posts through the City, CHIPZ, and community partners, as well as outreach to local businesses, civic clubs, and churches.

- Sponsorships: Members discussed seeking 2–3 event sponsors and additional donations. Sponsor levels will be determined by Mayor Monson and Ms. MacKenzie, with local companies, civic clubs, and mobile home communities identified as potential partners.

- Volunteer Roles: Youth Council members will handle ticket sales, meal assembly, and cash collection. Event proceeds will be donated directly to CHIPZ as unrestricted funds to support emergency needs.

2.3 Volunteer Opportunities: Chairman

a. Veteran's Day Parade: Nov. 8 at 10:00am

b. Christmas Parade: Dec. 6 at 7:00pm

The Youth Council confirmed participation in upcoming community events:

- Veterans Day Parade - November 8, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

- Christmas Parade - December 6, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Members will march together carrying the Mayor's Youth Council banner and distribute candy and giveaways provided by sponsors.

****Legislative Action Days****

Mayor Monson reminded the Council of the Florida League of Cities Legislative Action Days, scheduled for January 26–28, 2026, in Tallahassee.

Members were encouraged to discuss attendance with parents and identify potential chaperones. The City will assist with travel coordination and meeting arrangements with state legislators.

2.4 Next Meeting Date & Agenda Items: November 3rd @ 6:00pm – Finalize Projects

ADJOURN

7:09 PM

Submitted by Ricardo Quiñones (not present)