

MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING

A Regular Mayor's Youth Council Meeting was held on March 2, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Youth Council Chair Na-Kowa Ryals called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Roll call was taken. Present were members Hailey Dester, Brody Bishop, Priya Anand Sowmya, Rayland Milligan, Na-kowa Ryals.

Mentors present: Randy Stovall, Sam Abrahani and Lydia Ragsdale

Staff present: Assistant City Clerk Eileen Mercado.

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance followed.

MINUTES

1 Approval of January 5, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Hailey Dester motioned to Approve the January 5, 2026 Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Brody Bishop. Motion passed unanimously.

1. BUSINESS ITEMS

1.1 Highlights of Tallahassee Trip:

Youth Council members discussed their recent trip to Tallahassee, highlighting their engagement with state leaders and a deeper understanding of the legislative process. Members emphasized the importance of representing youth perspectives at the state level. During the trip, the Youth Council also produced a vaping awareness video aimed at educating peers on the health risks associated with vaping, with a focus on peer influence, prevention, and outreach.

Hailey Dester suggested utilizing the video to target middle school students within the City. Mentor Randy Stovall noted that the East Pasco Chamber of Commerce (EPCC) sponsors a Citizen of the Month program and recommended the Youth Council prepare a written proposal. He offered to present it to the EPCC and a potential sponsor, such as AdventHealth or Orlando Health, to help develop and distribute the message. Posters may also be created with sponsor support. Hailey, Priya, Brody, and Lydia volunteered to begin work on poster development. Na-kowa Ryals added that outreach should also inform parents of the signs of vaping and shared that she has a connection with Dr. Lynn, a pediatrician who could provide additional insight. Na-kowa will begin drafting the proposal.

1.2 Volunteer Opportunities:

The Youth Council reviewed upcoming volunteer opportunities, including the Community Cleanup scheduled for Saturday, March 14, 2026, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Zephyr Park. Members were encouraged to participate and assist with event logistics and community outreach. Members discussed the importance of leading by example in the community and noted that participation is a way to give back and show that young people care about the City.

Mentor Randy Stovall suggested volunteering with Keep Pasco Beautiful and possibly a joint effort with Dade City Youth Council. If considered, he can invite the Director to speak at a future meeting.

1.3 Founder's Day Activities to participate in:

The Youth Council discussed opportunities to participate in upcoming Founders Day events, including the 5K Run/Walk on March 14, 2026 at 8:00 AM at Hercules Park and the parade on March 28, 2026 at 10:00 AM. Members discussed coordinating participation and supporting event Activities. Members expressed enthusiasm for community events, stating that Founders Day is one of the best ways to connect with residents and be visible as the Youth Council.

Na-kowa Ryals suggested using social media to spread awareness of the Youth Council with the help of the City's Public Information Officer. Mentor Randy Stovall provided if the Youth Council created a flyer that he could have the EPCC push it out to the Lutz Laker and Zephyrhills Free Press.

1.4 Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items: April 6, 2026 @6:00pm - **confirmed**

ADJOURN 7:00PM

Submitted by Ricardo Quiñones (not present)