

## CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP

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Council Meeting held a Budget Workshop on April 13, 2026 at 5:00 PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall and Via GoToMeeting (646) 749-3122 - Access Code: 855-960-693. Council President Charles E. Proctor called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

Roll call was taken. Present were members Lance Smith (arrived at 5:06PM), Ken Burgess, Charles Proctor, Jodi Wilkeson, Steven Spina and Mayor Melonie Monson. City Manager William Poe and City Attorney Matthew Maggard were also present.

Staff present: Chief of Police Derek Brewer, Public Works Director Shane LeBlanc, Building Official Calvin Switzer, Airport Manager Nathan Coleman, Library Director Peggy Panak, IT Director Mike Panak, CRA Director Gail Hamilton, Human Resources & Risk Management Director Sandra Amerson, Utilities Director John Bostic III (virtual), Water Superintendent CJ Funnell, Wastewater Superintendent OJ Kurk, Planning Director Todd Vande Berg, Principal Planner Rodney Corriveau, Historic Preservation Specialist/Community Planner Will McCaw, Finance Director Ted Beason, Public Information Officer Kevin Weiss, Assistant City Clerk Eileen Mercado and City Clerk Ricardo Quiñones.

### 1. BUDGET WORKSHOP ITEMS

#### 1.1 Discuss 2026 2027 Budget

City Council conducted a workshop to discuss priorities and direction for the upcoming fiscal year budget. Each member provided input on areas of focus, with staff offering clarification as needed.

Kenneth Burgess commended staff for ongoing project progress and emphasized continuing current initiatives, including sidewalks, parks, Hercules Park, Zephyr Park, and City Yard. He stressed maintaining momentum while prioritizing traffic "hotspots" in coordination with County and State partners. He noted that completing existing projects should remain the focus, with continued discussion on the Alice Hall Community Center.

Steven Spina emphasized keeping major projects on track and continuing park improvements, including enhancements at Krusen Field, landscaping at Ellis Harrold Park and Gunner Paw Park, and additional lighting and waste receptacles. He highlighted the need to advance drainage planning efforts and address traffic hotspots, particularly at Geiger Road and US 301. He also supported CRA alley improvements, continued sidewalk expansion, and revisiting the need for a full-time civil engineer.

Jodi Wilkeson identified traffic hotspots as her top priority and requested project updates. Staff clarified multiple locations are in design with right-of-way, drainage, and permitting challenges. She also inquired about cemetery funding. Staff confirmed revenues are in the General Fund with reserves but no formal long-term plan. She supported park improvements, including potential outdoor fitness equipment at Veterans Memorial Park, and reiterated interest in a north side dog park. She also supported exploring technological solutions to improve Code Enforcement efficiency.

Lance Smith was not feeling well and will follow up with staff separately.

Mayor Melonie Monson emphasized aligning sidewalk design and construction to maintain continuity and supported additional lighting in parks and pedestrian areas. She discussed park needs, including potential dog park space at Hercules Park and ongoing demand for a north side dog park. She highlighted concerns regarding restroom availability and maintenance challenges, noting misuse and vandalism issues, and supported practical solutions including public awareness and reporting tools. She reaffirmed traffic hotspots and the Alice Hall Community Center as top priorities.

Charles Proctor identified traffic hotspots as his primary priority and emphasized improving traffic flow. He supported continued progress on Zephyr Park and City Yard, additional park enhancements, and improved street lighting, particularly in the Uptown area. He also noted the need for direction on the Alice Hall Community Center while maintaining momentum on current projects.

Discussion followed with Council expressing concerns that any reduction in property tax revenue could significantly impact City finances, emphasizing the need to remain conservative and avoid overextending resources while current revenues remain strong. Additional discussion reinforced the importance of intersection and street lighting, particularly in relation to pedestrian safety concerns, as well as the need to advance upcoming drainage planning efforts, including implementation of a future drainage fee.

Council also received updates on several operational matters, including the Water's Edge infrastructure issue, where Staff confirmed that recent improvements have resolved prior off-gassing concerns. Discussion included the importance of applying lessons learned to future infrastructure design. Council discussed the need to evaluate whether inactive projects should remain in the development queue, as maintaining sufficient demand is necessary to retain water use allocations.

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Staff indicated that policy direction may be needed regarding prioritization between in-city and service area projects, along with potential reconsideration of the development moratorium.

Council engaged in an initial discussion regarding the future of the municipal airport, including the status of the Skydive City lease, FAA compliance issues, and potential financial impacts related to grant funding. Staff indicated that prior efforts to resolve compliance through corrective action plans have been unsuccessful, and that further policy direction from Council will be needed soon to determine long-term strategy.

**ADJOURN 5:54 PM**

Submitted by Ricardo Quiñones