

MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING

A Regular Mayor's Youth Council Meeting was held on April 6, 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.

Members present: Na-Kowa Ryals, Hailey Dester, Janelle Lewis, Brody Bishop, Sarah Dorough, Rayland Milligan, Michael Barnes, Adrienna Jones.

Mentors present: Mayor Melonie Monson, Dr. Randy Stovall and Sam Abrahami.

Brody Bishop led the Invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

MINUTES

Hailey Dester motioned to approve March 2, 2026, meeting minutes. Brody Bishop motioned to second approval. Motioned passed unanimously.

1. BUSINESS ITEMS

1.1 Introduction of Newest Member Adrienna Jones.

Adrienna is a Sophomore at Zephyrhills High School, a member of student council and Secretary of Class 2028. She has been a Student Advisory Council member for two years and is also member of the weightlifting team. Mayor Monson stated that she met Adrienna last month, as she was selected Student Citizen of the Month. Each Youth Council member and mentor welcomed and introduced themselves.

1.2 Code of Conduct Adding items and proposals to the agenda:

Chair Nakowa Ryals expressed the need to further detail the current Code of Conduct for clarification and to better prepare the next group of Youth Council Members. It can also serve as a reminder of commitment towards the goals to accomplish and the achievements to be earned. Concerns were also raised about the loss of engagement, especially after the trip to Tallahassee. Mayor Monson thanked Chair Nakowa Ryals for noting that establishing a Code of Conduct would be beneficial. Further discussion of topics for the Code of Conduct included: Attendance requirements for the Youth Council and City Council Meetings as well as participation in the planned activities for the year (Volunteer, Special Project, a Community Project, and 3 City Parades). Mayor Monson noted that all members should participate in at least two parades, making Christmas mandatory. It was also mentioned that Kid's Fest is on June 20th and the last event before the summer break. All agreed to attend the meeting in June, and the selection of the new Chair and Vice Chair should take place. There will be no meetings during July and August. Emphases on communication was also expressed indicating that if the Chair sends out a communication requiring a response, to please do so as soon as possible. Hailey Dester noted that certain expectations should also be met after receiving a college letter of recommendation and/or scholarship. The Dress Code for the Annual Tallahassee Trip should also be upgraded to include long-sleeved shirts. Adrienna Jones also suggested that 24-hour notice of absence to a meeting, with a valid reason, should be sent to all members via email. Chair Nakowa Ryals will create a draft of the Code of Conduct and distribute to all for review and feedback.

1.3 Current Project:

Vaping and E-cigarettes. Youth Council discussed how to spread awareness of Vaping and E-cigarettes. Presentations and/or announcements can be made at the local schools during assemblies or morning announcements. They can also be modified to the appropriate age

audiences. Plans to create a video is also in progress and the hope is to expand this project into the next school year. Advent Health can also provide literature for distribution. Chair Nakowa Ryals along with the rest of the Youth Council, will create a draft of presentations, announcements, and scripts to be reviewed at the next monthly meeting.

- 1.4 Youth Council Social Media Account(s):
Mayor Monson will reach out to the City's Public Information Office for assistance on creating the social media accounts.

Next Meeting Date: May 4, 2026 @ 6pm.

ADJOURN 7:11 PM

Submitted by Eileen Mercado