

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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A Regular City Council Meeting was held on July 27, 2026, at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall and via GoToMeeting at (646) 749-3122, Access Code 855-960-693. Council President Steven F. Spina, Ph.D., called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Roll call was taken. Present were members Lance Smith, Kenneth Burgess, Charles Proctor, Steven Spina and Mayor Melonie Monson. City Manager William Poe and City Attorney Matthew Maggard were also present. Jodi Wilkeson was not present.

Staff present: Chief of Police Derek Brewer, Public Works Director Shane LeBlanc, Building Official Calvin Switzer, Airport Manager Nathan Coleman, IT Director Mike Panak, CRA Director Gail Hamilton, Human Resources & Risk Management Director Sandra Amerson, Planning Director Rodney Corriveau, Historic Preservation Specialist Will McCaw, GIS/Planning Community Planner Hansel Rodriguez, Finance Director Ted Beason, Public Information Officer Kevin Weiss and City Clerk Ricardo Quiñones.

The Invocation was led by Pastor Fran Stubbs of Oasis Church of Zephyrhills.

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Cliff Moffett, President of the Zephyrhills Military Museum, requested that the City waive building permit fees associated with the construction of a pergola on City-owned property adjacent to the museum. He explained that the project was being funded through grant funds and would provide a shaded gathering area with picnic tables for museum visitors, airport personnel, City employees, and the public.

Discussion followed regarding the museum's nonprofit status and the public benefit of the project. Council reached consensus supporting the waiver of the permit fees and thanked Mr. Moffett for the organization's continued contributions to the community.

MAYOR

1 Proclamation - Florida Water Professionals Month

Mayor Melonie Bahr Monson presented a proclamation declaring August 2026 as Florida Water Professionals Month in the City of Zephyrhills. The proclamation recognized the dedication of water professionals who safeguard public health through the production and distribution of drinking water and emergency response efforts during hurricanes and other disasters. Mayor Monson expressed appreciation for the City's Utilities Department and water professionals throughout Florida for their commitment to protecting public health and the environment. Steven Davidson from the City's Water Division received the proclamation.

1. CONSENT ITEMS

Charles Proctor motioned to pull consent items 1.3 and 1.4 for discussion. Seconded by Lance Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

1.1 Budget Workshop Minutes - July 13, 2026

1.2 City Council Meeting Minutes - July 13, 2026

Lance Smith motioned to approve consent items 1.1 and 1.2 as presented. Seconded by Kenneth Burgess. Motion passed unanimously.

1.3 Award of Bid to BRW Construction for Hot Spots Greenslope Dr. & Daugherty Rd. Intersection Improvements

Council discussed the proposed intersection improvements at Green Slope Drive and Daugherty Road. Lance Smith requested additional information regarding the project after reviewing the construction plans, specifically asking about vehicle stacking capacity and existing flooding issues at the intersection.

Planning Director Rodney Corriveau explained that the project would improve traffic flow through turn-lane improvements while addressing long-standing drainage concerns through stormwater system enhancements. Nick Provenzo, civil engineering consultant with Kimley-Horn spoke remotely, advised that the existing manually operated stormwater control system would be automated, allowing water levels to be managed more efficiently during heavy rainfall events. Public Works Director Shane LeBlanc added that the project would include provisions for portable generator backup during power outages, improving resiliency during emergencies.

Council also discussed contractor performance, construction scheduling, and minimizing impacts to motorists during construction. Staff advised that the contractor had successfully completed several previous City projects and that construction sequence would be coordinated to reduce traffic disruptions. Council requested that staff continue monitoring contractor performance and ensure temporary construction signage is removed promptly following project completion.

Lance Smith motioned to approve the award of the bid to BRW Construction. Seconded by Kenneth Burgess. Motion Passed unanimously.

1.4 Award of Bid to BRW Construction for Hot Spots Ft. King & Eiland Blvd.
Intersection Improvements

Council considered the award of a bid for traffic improvements at the Fort King Road and Eiland Boulevard intersection. Staff advised that the project would improve traffic flow through lane reconfiguration while also providing full intersection lighting. Council discussed anticipated vehicle stacking capacity, construction scheduling, and the City's ongoing investment in roadway improvements, including projects located on county-maintained roadways that benefit City residents.

Planning Director Rodney Corriveau indicated that future project updates would be presented to Council earlier in the design process to allow additional opportunities for discussion and technical review before construction begins.

Kenneth Burgess motioned to approve the bid award to BRW Construction. Seconded by Lance Smith. Motion Passed unanimously.

2. BUSINESS ITEMS

- 2.1 Municipal Association of Pasco (MAP) Meeting August 06, 2026 - San Antonio RESOLUTION NO. 874-26 - " **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ZEPHYRHILLS TO PARTICIPATE IN A JOINT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF PASCO TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.** "

City Attorney Matthew Maggard read Resolution No. 874-26 by title.

Charles Proctor motioned to Approve Resolution No. 874-26. Seconded by Lance Smith. Motion Passed unanimously.

3. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

3.1 Approval of Tentative Millage Rate

Finance Director Ted Beason requested Council establish the tentative millage rate for the upcoming fiscal year and schedule the required public hearing for September 14, 2026. Staff presented the option of maintaining the current millage rate of 6.2500 mills or adopting the rollback rate of 6.2375 mills, noting the financial difference would be approximately \$21,000.

Council discussed the City's recent implementation of utility rate adjustments, online payment processing fees, and the upcoming stormwater utility fee, expressing a desire to avoid the appearance of increasing the City's property tax rate when notices are mailed to property owners. Staff clarified that maintaining the existing millage rate would still be considered an effective tax increase under State calculations.

Lance Smith motioned to approve the rollback millage rate of 6.2375 mills and scheduled the first public hearing for September 14, 2026. Seconded by Charles Proctor. Motion Passed unanimously.

4. PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

4.1 Multi-Use Trail Planning Update

GIS Community Planner Hansel Rodriguez presented a conceptual plan for a citywide multi-use trail network intended to improve connectivity between neighborhoods, parks, schools, businesses, and recreational facilities. The proposed trail would begin near Sam Pasco Park, connect to Zephyr Park through the Community Redevelopment Agency's

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planned improvements, continue along 8th Street to Hercules Park, and ultimately connect to the existing U.S. 301 trail toward Dade City.

Staff explained that portions of the system already exist as eight-foot-wide multi-use trails, while other sections would require widening existing sidewalks and constructing new trail segments. Proposed enhancements include wayfinding signage, pavement markings, landscaping, and safety features such as bollards to discourage unauthorized golf cart traffic while creating a more recognizable recreational trail experience.

Council expressed strong support for the project and discussed opportunities to expand the trail system over time by creating additional loops connecting Shepard Park, the Simons Road Trail, Zephyr Park, the Military Museum, and other community destinations. Council also recognized the potential economic benefits of attracting visitors to local businesses and recreational amenities through an interconnected trail system.

MAYOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Monson thanked the City Council, staff, and community for their support, prayers, and encouragement during her recent absence. She also recognized the Zephyrhills Police Department for participating in a backpack giveaway event at Slice of the Hills, noting the positive interactions between officers and local youth, and commended the community organizations that partnered to distribute hundreds of backpacks to area students.

CITY MANAGER ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Manager Poe announced that Trattoria Napoli, a new Italian restaurant on 7th Street that previously received Community Redevelopment Agency incentive funding, had officially opened and was receiving strong community support.

CITY ATTORNEY ANNOUNCEMENTS - NONE

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Lance Smith welcomed Mayor Monson back and expressed appreciation for her service. He voiced support for the approved traffic hotspot projects, stating they would improve traffic flow throughout the City, while also encouraging motorists to remain alert due to increasing traffic volumes and the growing presence of e-bicycles.

Kenneth Burgess also welcomed the Mayor back and expressed enthusiasm for the proposed trail network, noting its potential to improve connectivity throughout the community.

Charles Proctor commended staff on the proposed trail system and stated it would strengthen connections between City parks, neighborhoods, and businesses.

Steven Spina commented that the meeting reflected several positive initiatives underway throughout the City. He recognized three newly elected members of the Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and advised Council that the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council was expected to consider the City's membership request at its upcoming meeting. President Spina also requested that Council formally consider appointing a representative to the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council at a future meeting and suggested revisiting the appointment of an alternate representative for Metropolitan Planning Organization meetings.

Proctor concluded by sharing positive public feedback regarding the City's recently completed downtown lighting improvements, noting residents reported feeling safer walking in the area during evening hours.

5. NOTED ITEMS

5.1 June 2026 Quarterly Investment Report

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 PM.

Submitted by Ricardo Quiñones