

MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL

A Regular Mayor's Youth Council Meeting was held on March 3, 2025 at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Youth Council Vice Chair Mahi Nooka called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

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

Youth Mentors Present: Mayor Melonie Bahr Monson, Ivan Abare, Sam Abrahani and Randy Stovall

Staff present: City Clerk Ricardo Quiñones

The Invocation was led by Brody Bishop. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

1. MINUTES

1.1 Approval of February 03, 2025 Mayor's Youth Council Minutes

Hailey Dester motioned to approve the January 06, 2025 meeting minutes. Seconded by Na-Kowa Ryals. Motion passed unanimously.

2. TOASTMASTERS

Sam Abrahni introduced the Toastmaster philosophy of public speaking, explaining that one of the core aspects is time management. Lydia Ragsdale explained the rules and how the exercise would be timed. Mr. Abrahni led the Youth Council through a practice round to get comfortable with the procedure. The Youth Council then took turns answering their questions within the timed-structured format. The Mentors then reviewed their observations. Mr. Abrahni explained the G.L.O.V.E. tenets of public speaking [G:esturing L:anguage O:rganization V:ocual Variety E:ye Contact/Enthusiasm]. Mayor Monson closed this exercise with lessons she has learned in public speaking and words of encouragement.

3. BUSINESS ITEMS

3.1 Discussion/Next Steps: Positive Message Project

Na-Kowa Ryals updated the Youth Council on the status of the project, Ms. Ryals recommended the pick-up date be pushed back to allow time for more participation at the collection areas. Mayor Monson suggested pushing the pick-up date by a month. Discussion followed regarding communication with trailer parks and pick-up.

3.2 Discussion of Volunteer Opportunities

Mayor Monson shared that the Founders Day Parade is canceled. Main Street Zephyrhills Director Antwon Gildon needs help setting up from 8am to 10am if available. Mayor Monson gave details for the 5K run/walk if the Youth Council would like to participate.

3.3 Next Meeting Date & Agenda Items: April 7th @ 6:00pm - Items TBD

Dr. Stovall shared a story from the Chamber of Commerce about how scholarships and grants were given based on the story and potential of the applicant. Dr. Stovall encouraged the youth Council to continue getting involved.

Mayor Monson reminded the Youth Council that the Chair, Matthew Goldfarb wants to discuss future projects at the next meeting. Details were given at the Community Clean Up event on March 22, 2025.

ADJOURN 7:01 PM

Submitted by Ricardo Quiñones