



AGENDA
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
May 20, 2026
4:00 PM
TAVARES CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
201 E MAIN STREET, TAVARES

(Members of the public wishing to speak on an item that is on the agenda must fill out a Request to Speak form available from the City Clerk or at the Council Meeting prior to the meeting being called to order. In addition, the Mayor will ask for comment under the agenda item titled "Audience to be Heard" for matters not on the Agenda. For further information contact the City Clerk at (352) 742-6209 or susie.novack@tavaresfl.gov)

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Tab 1 Pastor Josh Lane, Astatula Baptist Church

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IV. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Tab 2 Tavares Chamber of Commerce Update

Tab 3 Back the Blue and Red March (Police)

V. SWEARING IN BY CITY ATTORNEY AND DISCLOSURE OF EXPARTE COMMUNICATIONS

VI. READING OF ALL ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS INTO RECORD

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Tab 4 Approval of the May 6, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes (City Clerk)

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

Tab 5 Resolution No. 2026-09 – Second Budget Amendment for FY2026 (Finance)

IX. ORDINANCES - PUBLIC HEARING

First Reading

Second Reading

X. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Tab 6 Update on Lake County's Rural Protection Zones JPA/TDR Program
(City Administrator)

XI. NEW BUSINESS

XII. OLD BUSINESS

XIII. AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD

XIV. REPORTS

Tab 7 City Administrator Report

Tab 8 City Council Member Reports

XV. ADJOURNMENT

F.S. 286.0105 If a person decides to appeal any decision or recommendation made by Council with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, he will need record of the proceedings, and that for such purposes he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Individuals with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk at least two (2) working days in advance of the meeting date and time at (352) 742-6209.

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
5/20/2026**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 1

SUBJECT TITLE: Pastor Josh Lane, Astatula Baptist Church

OBJECTIVE:

Pastor Josh Lane, Astatula Baptist Church, will provide the invocation and lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SUMMARY:

Pastor Josh Lane, Astatula Baptist Church, will provide the invocation and lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPTIONS:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

Attachments not provided are available to the public upon request to the City Clerk.

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
5/20/2026**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 2

SUBJECT TITLE: Tavares Chamber of Commerce Update

OBJECTIVE:

Receive an update from the Tavares Chamber of Commerce.

SUMMARY:

The Tavares Chamber of Commerce will provide an update on Chamber activities.

OPTIONS:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

Attachments not provided are available to the public upon request to the City Clerk.

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
5/20/2026**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 3

SUBJECT TITLE: Back the Blue and Red March (Police)

OBJECTIVE:

To provide a high-level overview of the reasons for having, and highlight a special guest from this year's annual march.

SUMMARY:

A "Back the Blue & Red" event is a community gathering organized by a citizen, Shannon Cook, to show appreciation and support for first responders, specifically law enforcement ("blue") and firefighters ("red") and often EMS personnel. These events typically bring the public together with police officers, firefighters, and paramedics through activities such as meet-and-greets, equipment displays, luncheons, and brief recognition ceremonies. The goal is to strengthen relationships between the community and public safety agencies, highlight the service and sacrifices of first responders, and, in some cases, raise funds for related charities or support programs. Overall, it is a positive, community-focused event centered on recognition, connection, and public safety awareness.

This year, the organizer, Ms. Cook was able to bring in a special guest, Mr. Devarjaye "DJ" Daniel. DJ's dream is to be a police officer.

- DJ is a 14-year-old Houston boy fighting terminal brain and spinal cancer who has become a national symbol of courage by being sworn in as an honorary officer by over 4500 law enforcement agencies across the nation. Diagnosed in 2018 and initially given months to live, he pursues a mission to support law enforcement and defy his prognosis.
- DJ was the guest of POTUS at the 2025 State of the Union Address
- Medical Journey: He has undergone at least 13 brain surgeries to fight brain and spinal cancer. He is widely regarded as a "real-life superhero" for his resiliency.
- Every Police department in Lake County and the Sheriff's Office held a joint ceremony to "Swear-in" Honorary Officer DJ Daniel on Saturday, March 9th. Not to be outdone, our Lake County Fire Departments also "swore-in" DJ as an honorary firefighter, bringing his honorary firefighter status to well over several hundred.

A special thanks to Captain Jon Hall, who worked hand in hand with Ms. Cook and Major Mysinger (LCSO) to ensure the safety of all who attended this event. Tavares PD was also honored to provide transportation to and from the Orlando International Airport, where Captain Hall coordinated with the Orlando Police Department to provide a hero's welcome upon arrival. Captain Hall brought Dj straight to the Public Safety Complex and he was able to visit with TPD nightshift officers.

It was an honor meeting such a well-spoken, courageous young man, and being able to be a small part of making his dream come true.

OPTIONS:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

Attachments not provided are available to the public upon request to the City Clerk.

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
5/20/2026**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 4

SUBJECT TITLE: Approval of the May 6, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes (City Clerk)

OBJECTIVE:

For the Council to consider approval of the May 6, 2026, City Council meeting minutes.

SUMMARY:

Attached are the May 6, 2026, City Council meeting minutes as submitted by the City Clerk.

OPTIONS:

1. Move to approve the meeting minutes under the Consent Agenda.
2. Move to approve the meeting minutes with corrections.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

For the Council's consideration.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Yes.

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. 05-06-2026 CC Minutes
2. 05-06-2026 CC Minutes Exhibit A - Letter from LCBCC to CC

Attachments not provided are available to the public upon request to the City Clerk.



**TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 6, 2026 – 4:00 PM
TAVARES CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
201 EAST MAIN STREET, TAVARES**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

**Lori Pfister, Mayor
Bob Grenier, Vice Mayor
Sandy Gamble, Council Member
Doug Keown, Council Member
Walter Price, Council Member**

STAFF PRESENT

**John Drury, City Administrator
Lindsay Holt, City Attorney
Susie Novack, City Clerk
Antonio Fabre, Community Development Director
Scott Aldrich, Community Services Director
Bob Tweedie, Economic Development Director
Lori Houghton, Finance Director
Richard Keith, Fire Chief
Crissy Bublitz, Human Resources Director
Sarah Coursey, Police Chief
James Dillon, Public Works Director
Mark O'Keefe, Support Services Director
Brian Dykes, Utilities Director**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pfister called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. She asked those who wished to speak on an agenda item to complete and submit a Request to Speak form.

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Tab 1. Pastor Marc E. Kappel, Faith Lutheran Church

Pastor Marc E. Kappel, Faith Lutheran Church, provided the invocation and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Pfister asked if there were any changes to the Agenda. Mr. Drury said the staff had no changes.

MOTION

Doug Keown moved to approve the Agenda, seconded by Bob Grenier. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

IV. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Tab 2. County Commissioner Kirby Smith to Recognize Council for 250-Year Celebration Participation

Lake County Commissioner Kirby Smith expressed appreciation to the City Council and City staff for their partnership and participation in America's 250th celebration efforts. Commissioner Smith read a letter into the record on behalf of the Lake County Board of County Commissioners. (*Meeting Minutes Exhibit A*)

Commissioner Smith said the City of Tavares had consistently demonstrated a willingness to partner with Lake County on projects and initiatives that enhanced the community. He stated that when Lake County requested assistance with patriotic decorating efforts for America's 250th celebration, the City responded enthusiastically. Commissioner Smith specifically recognized Mr. Drury, Mr. Dillon, and Mr. O'Keefe for coordinating and installing banners throughout the downtown area.

Commissioner Smith presented commemorative challenge coins to the Mayor, Council Members, and staff as a token of appreciation for their partnership and contributions to the City of Tavares, the citizens of Lake County, and the America's 250th celebration efforts.

Tab 3. National Public Works Week Proclamation May 17-23, 2026

Mayor Pfister read a Proclamation declaring May 17-23, 2026, as National Public Works Week.

MOTION

Walter Price moved to approve the Proclamation, seconded by Doug Keown. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 4. GFOA Certificate of Excellence

Mayor Pfister said the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting had been awarded to the City of Tavares by the Government Finance Officers Association for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024. Mayor Pfister stated the Certificate of Achievement was the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting.

Mayor Pfister presented the award to Ms. Houghton and the Finance Department staff in recognition of their accomplishment. Mayor Pfister congratulated the department and stated the award reflected the department's continued excellence and dedication.

Ms. Houghton thanked the Mayor, City Council, City Administrator, City departments, and the Finance Department staff for their support and teamwork. Ms. Houghton stated the award represented the hard work and dedication of the Finance Department staff to ensure all financial information was accurate, balanced, and prepared to award standards. She said the support and participation of all City departments contributed to making the achievement possible.

V. SWEARING IN BY CITY ATTORNEY AND DISCLOSURE OF EXPARTE COMMUNICATIONS

Attorney Holt stated there were no quasi-judicial matters before the Council for consideration.

VI. READING OF ALL ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS INTO THE RECORD

Ms. Novack stated there were no ordinances or resolutions before the Council for consideration.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Pfister asked if anyone wished to pull an item from the Consent Agenda for discussion. There were no requests.

MOTION

Doug Keown moved to approve the Consent Agenda [Tab 5. Approval of the April 15, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes], seconded by Walter Price. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 5. Approval of the April 15, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes

Approved on the Consent Agenda.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

IX. ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING

First Reading

Second Reading

X. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Tab 6. Tavares Stormwater Final Vulnerability Assessment Presentation

Mr. Drury stated one of the purposes of the resiliency and vulnerability assessment process was to position the City to be more competitive and successful in obtaining future stormwater grant funding. Mr. Drury said many stormwater infrastructure improvements were located beneath roadways, and if the City secured grant funding for stormwater improvements, it could also allow for upgrades to roads, sidewalks, curbing, lighting, and related infrastructure. He stated the grant agencies required presentations to the City Council as part of the grant process and resiliency program requirements.

Amanda Boone, Senior Project Manager with Woodard & Curran, presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Final Vulnerability Assessment completed through the Resilient Florida Program. Ms. Boone stated the assessment evaluated critical infrastructure, transportation routes, utilities, community facilities, emergency facilities, and historical and cultural assets for flood vulnerability and resiliency planning. She explained the assessment evaluated multiple flooding scenarios for current conditions, the year 2050, and the year 2080, including both 100-year and 500-year storm events. Ms. Boone reviewed the methodology used to determine flood risk, consequence of failure, and sensitivity classifications for City assets. She also reviewed identified focus areas where clusters of vulnerable assets were located throughout the City.

Council Member Price asked whether the Council would receive recommendations regarding particularly sensitive assets and methods to address or improve those areas. Ms. Boone confirmed recommendations and prioritization strategies would be presented during the next portion of the presentation regarding the adaptation plan.

MOTION

Bob Grenier moved to accept the Tavares Stormwater Final Vulnerability Assessment Report, seconded by Doug Keown. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Council Member Gamble asked whether the Council would receive copies of the plan. Mr. Drury confirmed copies would be provided to the Council.

Tab 7. Presentation of DRAFT Adaptation Plan, Including Prioritization of Adaptation Needs

Mr. Dykes stated Woodard & Curran had utilized the findings from the Vulnerability Assessment to identify adaptation needs and develop prioritization recommendations. He stated the presentation would provide an overview of the identified adaptation needs and proposed prioritization strategies.

Amanda Boone, Senior Project Manager with Woodard & Curran, presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Draft Adaptation Plan and Adaptation Project Recommendations. Ms. Boone explained the plan included both citywide resiliency strategies and focus area recommendations. She stated the recommendations intentionally provided flexibility so the City could consider multiple resiliency options for future projects and funding opportunities, including floodproofing, elevation, or relocation of vulnerable infrastructure. Ms. Boone reviewed the methodology used to prioritize projects, including ownership, planning horizon, sensitivity ratings, and priority classifications. She also reviewed the top-ranked assets and roadway segments identified for future resiliency improvements.

Council Member Gamble asked whether roadway width was considered in the evaluation process. Ms. Boone stated the evaluation considered the percentage of roadway inundation rather than roadway width. She explained roadway flooding often occurred along the sides while still allowing traffic movement through the center of the roadway. Council Member Gamble also asked whether the assessment identified City, County, and State-owned roadways. Ms. Boone confirmed ownership classifications were included in the assessment.

Ms. Boone requested comments from the Council and the public regarding the Draft Adaptation Plan and prioritization recommendations.

Vice Mayor Grenier and Council Member Gamble noted their preference to have had a copy of the plan for the presentation.

MOTION

Bob Grenier moved to proceed with the Draft Adaptation Plan, seconded by Doug Keown. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 8. Presentation of Final Stormwater Adaptation Plan

Amanda Boone, Senior Project Manager with Woodard & Curran, stated no public comments had been received regarding the Draft Adaptation Plan and no changes had been made to the prioritization of needs identified within the plan. Ms. Boone stated the Draft Adaptation Plan, as presented, would become the City's Final Stormwater Adaptation Plan.

Council Member Gamble asked whether the prioritization rankings could be adjusted in the future. Mr. Drury confirmed future projects would return to the City Council individually with the Adaptation Plan serving as supporting documentation for grant

applications and project prioritization. Mr. Drury used St. Clair Abrams Avenue as an example and explained the Council would have future opportunities to review and adjust priorities based on the proposed projects, grant opportunities, and community needs. He stated the process was necessary to position the City competitively for future grant funding opportunities.

Ms. Boone added projects benefiting multiple assets would generally rank higher for grant funding consideration than projects benefiting only a single asset. She stated incorporating the Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan into the County's Local Mitigation Strategy Plan would help open additional hazard mitigation funding opportunities for the City. Ms. Boone said the process was important for unlocking additional alternative funding sources.

Council Member Gamble referenced flooding issues near the former church property renovated by Commissioner Smith and stated previous grant-funded stormwater improvements, including catch basins, had corrected flooding and washout conditions in the area. Council Member Gamble stated proactive infrastructure improvements made more sense when grant funding opportunities were available instead of placing the financial burden on taxpayers. He also expressed appreciation to City staff and department directors for pursuing grants that had saved City residents significant funds over the years.

Vice Mayor Grenier asked whether the ownership classifications identified within the plan, including municipal, County, and private ownership, were included for reference purposes. Mr. Drury confirmed privately owned properties would generally not qualify for municipal grant applications and County-owned projects would require the County to serve as the grant applicant. He further stated that state-owned roadways would require the State to apply for grant funding. Vice Mayor Grenier and Council Member Gamble discussed County-owned roadways within the City limits that could potentially benefit from future roadway widening, curbing, and drainage improvements in flood-prone areas.

MOTION

Sandy Gamble moved to approve the Final Stormwater Adaptation Plan, seconded by Bob Grenier. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 9. City Council 2026/2927 Priorities for City Administrator to Accomplish

Mr. Drury stated that the City Council annually identifies priorities and goals for the City Administrator to incorporate and accomplish during the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Drury advised the Council that the goals submitted by each Council Member had been compiled for review and consideration. He stated the Council could read each goal into the record, discuss modifications, or approve the goals as submitted.

Mayor Pfister stated there was no need to read each goal into the record and preferred the Council discuss any additions or modifications.

Council Member Gamble requested the addition of a goal (#8) to continue utilizing a pay-as-you-go approach for City projects and operations, as had been done during the previous three years.

Mayor Pfister requested the addition of a goal (#9) related to economic development infrastructure improvements for the abandoned rail bed corridor.

Council Member Keown expressed concern regarding Mayor Pfister's proposed goal to pause housing permits while addressing infrastructure needs. Council Member Keown stated he supported responsible growth management, although he was concerned about potential legal implications associated with a permit moratorium.

City Attorney Lindsay Holt stated she would discuss the matter further with Mayor Pfister to better understand the intent of the proposed goal and evaluate the available legal options and considerations.

Mayor Pfister asked Vice Mayor Grenier to elaborate on his proposed goal regarding the Major Alexander St. Clair-Abrams home. Vice Mayor Grenier stated the historic home renovations were nearing completion and had exceeded expectations. He stated his goal was for the City to approach the property owner regarding the possibility of purchasing the home as part of the City complex associated with Ridge Park Square, the Civic Center, Public Library, and the Tavares History Research Center. Mayor Pfister stated the item could be further developed and brought back to the Council for future discussion with Mr. Drury.

Mayor Pfister asked Mr. Drury whether the proposed goals were acceptable from an administrative standpoint. Mr. Drury stated he would implement the collective wisdom of the Council and work diligently to bring forward projects and initiatives consistent with the goals approved by the Council.

MOTION

Doug Keown moved to accept with additions, seconded by Bob Grenier. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

The following goals were approved by the Council:

Sandy Gamble:

1. Deliver a Balance Budget with pay increases the city can afford.
2. Continue to lower the tax rate.
3. Continue the same level of service or better.
4. Continue to lower the debt service.
5. Continue to develop the two parks, (YMCA, and Woodlea).

6. Continue to actively seek grants for projects throughout the city in all departments.
7. Continue with the effort to secure the property by city hall for the parking facility needed for the downtown area.
8. Continue utilizing a pay-as-you-go approach for City projects and operations, as had been done during the previous three years.

Bob Grenier:

1. St. Clair Abrams Avenue: Plan, design, and research budget resources for the St. Clair-Abrams Avenue (The Boulevard) gateway beautification and improvement from Hwy 441 to Main Street to include landscaping, sidewalks, burying utilities, lighting, street signage, a gateway sign similar to west Main Street, etc.
2. Rifles, Rails & History Event: 2027 will mark ten years since the last highly successful Rifles, Rails & History event took place. Requests around the state have been enthusiastically overwhelming to revive this event for a one-time only 10-year reunion in 2027.
3. Tavares Cemetery and Arboretum: Design and create in the Tavares Cemetery and Arboretum, a military veterans plaza with a monument, flags, floral landscaping, etc. Also, a total refurbishing of the American Legion pavilion to include electric, paint, etc., as well as a plaque honoring the history of the Tavares American Legion Post.
4. Major Alexander St. Clair-Abrams home: With the incredible renovations of Tavares and Lake County founder, Major Alexander St. Clair-Abrams home almost complete, that once completed, we approach the owner about purchasing the historic house as part of the Ridge Park Square complex that also includes, the Civic Center, Public Library, and the Tavares History Research Center.
5. Waterfront signage: The five-themed lands signage along beautiful Lake Dora designed and installed.

Doug Keown:

1. To continue to lead Tavares to be a city that sets the bar for other cities as evidenced by the awards won for superior performance in areas such as budget, the America in Bloom project and other programs the city is part of.
2. Work with Department Heads to ensure a balanced budget.
3. Continue working to pay down city debt.
4. Work with Economic Development to bring new businesses into the city and continue improving the downtown area and other areas for business.
5. Continue to ensure that Tavares City employees are compensated fairly and have the right benefits to retain good people working for the city.

Lori Pfister:

1. Golf cart crossing bridge over new 441
2. Economic Development through commercial growth
3. Acquire property within the city to commit as green space
4. Support arboretum beautification and staffing
5. East Regional Park design and funding
6. Mayor's Youth Council restructuring
7. America in Bloom support to compete

8. Pause housing permits while addressing infrastructure
9. Economic development infrastructure improvements for the abandoned rail bed corridor.

Walter Price:

1. Continue to prevent further deterioration of home rule authority through government relations efforts.
2. Continue to attract new commercial development into the city to appropriate locations.
3. Continue to work with our partners to acquire the right-of-way for the rails to trails program.
4. Pursue grants for infrastructure and capital improvement projects.
5. Completion of the State Road 19/County Road 561 traffic signal.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

XII. OLD BUSINESS

Council Member Keown referenced recent correspondence from the Mayor of Mount Dora regarding joint planning efforts and requested an update on the ongoing discussions.

Mr. Drury stated the Lake County Board of County Commissioners had been working with the municipalities to identify transitional areas surrounding cities, rural protection areas, and wildlife corridors. He stated quarterly meetings were held in Leesburg at the Venetian Gardens facility, with participation from mayors, former mayors, city administrators, and other municipal representatives.

Mr. Drury said consultants were currently identifying transitional areas and wildlife corridors for all 14 municipalities within Lake County. It was anticipated that within approximately one year, joint planning agreements would be presented to each municipality for review and consideration. Mr. Drury stated the agreements would address matters such as transfer of development rights and long-term planning coordination between the County and municipalities. He further stated the proposed agreements would ultimately come before the City Council for consideration and direction on how to proceed. Mr. Drury stated the City of Tavares had been well represented at the quarterly meetings.

Council Member Keown said he planned to attend the upcoming May 18 meeting and would be happy to represent the City Council.

XIII. AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD

Ashley Ramey, General Manager of Jones Brothers Seaplanes, addressed the Council regarding the ongoing aquatic midge infestation and the impacts on waterfront businesses, tourism, and recreation. Ms. Ramey acknowledged current mitigation

efforts by the City and encouraged additional coordinated environmental strategies to address the issue long-term.

Dee Gretzler, 1004 Lakeview Drive, Eustis, spoke on behalf of Habitat for Humanity regarding affordable housing initiatives and invited the Council and public to attend the Women Build kickoff event at the Heritage Grove community. Ms. Gretzler stated Habitat for Humanity continued providing affordable housing opportunities throughout Lake and Sumter Counties.

Debi Weinert, 724 Lake Dora Drive, Tavares, provided a first quarter 2026 update regarding enrollment in the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program. Ms. Weinert stated the program continued to expand throughout Lake County and had distributed 3,681 books during the first quarter of 2026.

Mayor Pfister asked the Council if there were any comments or questions. There were none.

XIV. REPORTS

Tab 10. City Administrator Report

Chief Coursey congratulated Council Member Keown on graduating from the Citizens Police Academy and thanked Council Member Price and Council Member Gamble for attending the recent graduation dinner. Chief Coursey stated the next Citizens Police Academy session would begin on August 25.

Chief Coursey also stated Detective Courtney Sullivan had been recognized at the Leesburg Rotary Service Above Self awards program. She further advised that DJ Daniels, a young man battling terminal brain cancer, would be sworn in by local law enforcement agencies during the upcoming Back the Blue March event at the Lake County courthouse.

Mr. Aldrich reported the Library had hosted the AARP tax assistance program during the spring season and stated 1,125 individuals had received tax preparation assistance through the program at the Library.

Tab 11. City Council Member Reports

Council Member Gamble wished all mothers a Happy Mother's Day and congratulated the recent Citizens Police Academy graduates. Council Member Gamble stated he had asked Captain Hall to enroll him in the next Citizens Police Academy session beginning August 25.

Council Member Gamble said the proposed West Side Campus project was anticipated to return to the City Council for future discussion and noted he continued receiving input

from citizens regarding the project and the proposed November referendum. He said he believed the referendum would provide long-term savings opportunities for the City.

Council Member Keown thanked Chief Coursey, Captain Hall, Commander Bell, and the Tavares Police Department staff for the Citizens Police Academy program. He said the program provided valuable insight into police department operations and highly recommended that residents participate.

Council Member Keown announced his community office hours would move to the first Monday of each month from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Library conference room beginning June 1 to provide additional opportunities for public engagement. He further congratulated the Finance Department on receiving the GFOA recognition and acknowledged Public Works Week.

Council Member Price stated he had attended the Water Day event at Wooton Park and described it as a successful community event with strong attendance and public participation. Council Member Price also attended the Citizens Police Academy graduation and stated the program was highly informative and worthwhile.

Council Member Price commended the Planning and Zoning Department for its responsiveness and customer service, stating staff had been helpful in answering questions and providing assistance. Council Member Price wished all mothers and grandmothers a Happy Mother's Day.

Vice Mayor Grenier thanked Mr. Drury and City staff for their continued communication and transparency with the City Council. He said the regular updates and emails from staff helped keep the Council informed about City operations and community matters. Vice Mayor Grenier expressed appreciation for the professionalism and responsiveness of staff and wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business, and Mayor Pfister adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully,

Susie Novack, MMC, FCRM
City Clerk

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
5/20/2026**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 5

SUBJECT TITLE: Resolution No. 2026-09 – Second Budget Amendment for FY2026 (Finance)

OBJECTIVE:

To approve Resolution 2026-09, amending the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 City of Tavares Annual Operating Budget.

SUMMARY:

The attached resolution represents increases and/or decreases to the Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2026. Appropriation increases represent capital projects, and prior year/project encumbrance rollovers. In addition, the Resolution also reflects transfers between individual accounts within adopted budgets for all departments.

This resolution represents the SECOND AMENDMENT to the Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: Approve Resolution 2026-09 amending the FY 2025-2026 City of Tavares Annual Operating Budget.

Option 2: Do not approve Resolution 2026-01.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Move to approve Resolution 2026-09, amending the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 City of Tavares Annual Operating Budget.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Estimated final budget amounts are included with the budget detail for this amendment.

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

The resolution has met legal sufficiency.

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. Resolution 2026-09
2. Exhibit A

Attachments not provided are available to the public upon request to the City Clerk.

RESOLUTION 2026-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE 2026 FISCAL YEAR ADOPTED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF TAVARES, REPRESENTING THE SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE ADOPTED BUDGET, AND PROVIDING FOR A REPEALER, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR, AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA:

Fund Name	Fund Number	Estimated Revenues ¹	Reserve Appropriations ³	Unappropriated Revenues ²	Estimated Appropriations/ Expenditures
General Fund	001	29,392,097	\$ 2,733,066	\$ -	\$ 32,125,163
Water/Wastewater Utility	401	14,365,987	1,905,566	-	\$ 16,271,553
Water/Wastewater Impacts	441	1,415,419	-	(474,689)	\$ 940,730
W/WW RR&I Fund	443	400,000	189,470	-	\$ 589,470
SRF Construction Fund	444	-	8,322,315	-	\$ 8,322,315
W/WW SRF Loan	445	2,575,052	-	-	\$ 2,575,052
Sunset View Fund	447	-	-	-	\$ -
Solid Waste	402	4,848,980	14,125	-	\$ 4,863,105
Stormwater	403	2,446,542	40,239	-	\$ 2,486,781
Seaplane Base Fund	405	1,046,608	21,257	-	\$ 1,067,865
Pavilion Fund ⁵	406	851,720	13,255	-	\$ 864,975
Police Education	102	4,991	-	-	\$ 4,991
Community Redevelopment	105	292,326	24,085	-	\$ 316,411
Police Impacts	110	132,178	18,986	-	\$ 151,164
Fire Impacts	111	145,962	-	(66,984)	\$ 78,978
Park Impacts	114	322,769	-	(152,769)	\$ 170,000
Building Permits	115	185,481	-	(185,481)	\$ -
Citizen Donation Fund	119	300	-	-	\$ 300
Fire Assessment Fund	122	2,064,182	-	-	\$ 2,064,182
Infrastructure Sales Tax ⁵	150	-	124,000	-	\$ 124,000
Grant Fund	151	2,010,049	982,875	-	\$ 2,992,924
Infrastructure Sales Tax	152	2,487,958	1,537,366	-	\$ 4,025,324
ARPA	155	-	21,139	-	\$ 21,139
GTRP East Lake County Assistance	157	293,000	118,090	-	\$ 411,090
Debt Service Fund	201	1,114,477	-	(41)	\$ 1,114,436
Capital Project Fund	303	-	805	-	\$ 805
Capital Project Fund (Public Works Facility)	304	-	65,213	-	\$ 65,213
Municipal Police Pension ⁴	601	3,260,106	-	(1,397,900)	\$ 1,862,206
Firefighter's Pension ⁴	602	4,052,667	-	(1,847,977)	\$ 2,204,690
General Employee Pension ⁴	603	94,584	-	(51,419)	\$ 43,165
Mildred Hunter Trust ⁴	605	425	-	(75)	\$ 350
Wooton Park Playground ⁴	606	450	-	-	\$ 450
		\$ 73,804,310	\$ 16,131,852	\$ (4,177,335)	\$ 85,758,827

¹ *Estimated Revenues = anticipated revenue collections.*

² *Negative Reserve Appropriations assumes unappropriated revenues.*

³ *Positive Reserve Appropriations assumes appropriating (spending) an amount of reserves.*

⁴ *Special Revenue Fund.*

Section 1. Whereas the adopted budget for the City of Tavares for Fiscal Year 2026 should be increased from \$69,424,677 to \$85,758,827 in both revenues and expenditures where the increase represents increases or decreases in estimated revenues and expenditures due to prior year project/encumbrance rollovers previously approved by the City Council.

Section 2. Whereas this resolution represents the Second amendment to the Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2026. (Exhibit A)

Section 3. Whereas any resolution or portion of a resolution in conflict with this resolution or any portion of this resolution is hereby repealed.

Section 4. Whereas if any section, sentence, clause, phrase or word of this resolution is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the resolution shall not be affected and remain in full force and effect.

Section 5. Be it be resolved that this resolution shall be effective upon its adoption.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 20th day of May 2026, by the City Council of the City of Tavares, Florida.

Lori Pfister, Mayor
Tavares City Council

ATTEST:

Susie Novack
City Clerk

Approved as to form:
Lindsey Holt
City Attorney

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
5/20/2026**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 6

SUBJECT TITLE: Update on Lake County's Rural Protection Zones JPA/TDR Program (City Administrator)

OBJECTIVE:

To provide an update on Lake County's Rural Protection Zones

SUMMARY:

Previously, Council Member Doug Keown requested an update on Lake County's Rural Protection Zones and their proposed Joint Planning Area Agreements (JPA's).

Lake County Commissioner Sean Parks introduced the idea of identifying Transitional Areas and Wild Life Corridor "Protection Zones" in Lake County about three years ago and has subsequently hosted quarterly public meetings in Leesburg with his fellow County Commissioners and the 14 cities in Lake County to discuss this. As a result, Lake County hired a consultant to identify the protection zones. The consultant is in the process of accomplishing this work.

The County is also exploring the crafting of Joint Planning Area Agreements between Cities and the County, where the County and Cities would agree to protect the identified lands from development through several mechanisms including no annexation agreements without County Commission approval and Transfer of Development Rights (TDR's) from protected rural areas to urban areas.

A quarterly County/City meeting was recently conducted on Monday May 18th in Leesburg to provide updates at which Council Member Doug Keown and City staff attended. An opportunity is provided for Council member Keown to update Council on that meeting, the JPA process and TDRs.

OPTIONS:

- 1) Receive the update
- 2) Do not receive the update.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Receive the update

FISCAL IMPACT:

None to receive the update

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

yes

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

Attachments not provided are available to the public upon request to the City Clerk.

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
5/20/2026**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 7

SUBJECT TITLE: City Administrator Report

OBJECTIVE:

The City Administrator will inform the City Council on city-related matters.

SUMMARY:

The City Administrator will provide a summary at the meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

City Council Meeting	June 3, 2026, 4:00 p.m., Tavares City Council Chambers June 17, 2026, 4:00 p.m., Tavares City Council Chambers
Planning and Zoning Board Meeting	May 21, 2026, 3:00 p.m., Tavares City Council Chambers
Library Board Meeting	June 10, 2026, 4:00 p.m., Tavares Library Expansion Room
Code Enforcement Special Magistrate Hearing	May 26, 4:00 p.m., Tavares City Council Chambers

OUTSIDE AGENCY MEETINGS:

Heartland League of Cities Meeting	June 12, 2026, 12:00 noon, Location to be Determined
Lake Sumter MPO Governing Board Meeting	June 17, 2026, 2:00 p.m., Suite 175, 1300 Citizens Boulevard, Leesburg
Tavares Chamber of Commerce Business Meeting	May 27, 2026, 11:30 a.m., Tavares Civic Center

Attached is the current 2026 Event Calendar.

OPTIONS:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. Tavares_EventCalendar_2026_Rvsd 5.14.2026

Attachments not provided are available to the public upon request to the City Clerk.

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
5/20/2026**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 8

SUBJECT TITLE: City Council Member Reports

OBJECTIVE:

To inform the Council on city-related items.

SUMMARY:

The Council will be offered an opportunity to provide a report at the meeting.

OPTIONS:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

Attachments not provided are available to the public upon request to the City Clerk.