



AGENDA
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
August 5, 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 Brooks Braswell, First Baptist Church of Umatilla

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IV. PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

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

VI. READING OF ALL ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS INTO RECORD

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Tab 2 Approval of the July 15, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes (City Clerk)

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

IX. ORDINANCES - PUBLIC HEARING

First Reading

Tab 3 Ordinance 2026-04 Interlake Business Park - Annex and Rezone 19.18 Acres East of County Road 561, Approximately 200 Feet North of Frankies Road Intersection (Community Development)

Tab 4 Ordinance 2026-05 Interlake Business Park - Comprehensive Plan FLUM Amendment 19.18 Acres East of County Road 561, Approximately 200 Ft. North of Frankies Road Intersection

(Community Development)

- Tab 5 Ordinance 2026-06 Fisherman's Cove - Rezone 50+/- Acres West of North Eichelberger Road, South of Lane Park Road and Northwesternly of State Road 19 (Community Development)**

Second Reading

X. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

- Tab 6 Update to Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget Calendar - TRIM Compliance (Finance)**
- Tab 7 Board Appointments (Mayor)**
- Tab 8 Council Consideration of Proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Tavares and the Tavares Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 3245 (Fire)**
- Tab 9 Extension to the Interlocal Agreement with Lake County for the Provision of Library Services (Community Services)**

XI. BUDGET WORKSHOP

- Tab 10 Budget Workshop – Present Enterprise and Special Revenue Fund Budgets, and Discuss the General Fund Budget (City Administrator)**

XII. NEW BUSINESS

XIII. OLD BUSINESS

XIV. AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD

XV. REPORTS

- Tab 11 City Administrator Report**
- Tab 12 City Council Member Reports**

XVI. 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
8/5/2026**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 1

SUBJECT TITLE: Pastor Brooks Braswell, First Baptist Church of Umatilla

OBJECTIVE:

Pastor Brooks Braswell, First Baptist Church of Umatilla, will provide the invocation and lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SUMMARY:

Pastor Brooks Braswell, First Baptist Church of Umatilla, 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
8/5/2026**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 2

SUBJECT TITLE: Approval of the July 15, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes (City Clerk)

OBJECTIVE:

For consideration of approval of the July 15, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes.

SUMMARY:

Attached are the July 15, 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. 07-15-2026 CC Minutes

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



**TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 15, 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
Sarah Coursey, Police Chief
James Dillon, Public Works 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 Michael Watkins, Friendship C.M.E. Church

Pastor Michael Watkins, Friendship C.M.E. 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 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. November 3, 2026, Election Proclamation

Mayor Pfister read the following Notice of Election Proclamation in its entirety:

NOTICE OF ELECTION

The 2026 City of Tavares Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, at the Tavares Civic Center (Precinct 360), Tavares Community Church – Activities Center (Precinct 345), Lake County Agriculture Center (Precinct 365), Lake Frances Estates Clubhouse (Precinct 350), Imperial Terrace (Precinct 340), and Royal Harbor Social Hall (Precinct 370), for the purpose of electing three non-partisan Council Members to Seat 1, Seat 3 and Seat 5 to serve at large for the term 2026-2028.

Voters must be registered with the Lake County Supervisor of Elections on or prior to October 5, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Nominations to Seat 1, Seat 3, and Seat 5 shall be by petition, signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified electors of the City of Tavares, and must name the individual and the specific Council seat sought. A candidate may qualify for only one seat. The petition and all other required election documents must be filed with the City of Tavares City Clerk beginning August 1, 2026, at 12:00 noon and ending August 15, 2026, at 12:00 noon. If August 15th should fall on a weekend day or holiday, the deadline will be extended to the next business day at 12:00 noon. Election packets may be obtained from the City Clerk from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, Tavares City Hall, 201 E. Main Street, Tavares.

In addition, the ballot shall include a referendum question regarding Ordinance 2026-03, which proposes amending the City Charter to

provide for the extension of Council Member terms from two years to four years, with Council Members thereafter to be elected every two (2) years in even-numbered years consistent with statewide general election cycles.

Tab 3. Presentation and Resolutions from the City of Lakeport, CA, and Lake County CA, for Tavares' Participation in the 2026 Clear Lake Seaplane Splash-In and Collaboration with Community, City, and County Leaders on the Expansion of Seaplane Access and Infrastructure for their Community

Mr. Tweedie made the following presentation:

The economic development director was recently invited to attend, present and collaborate with local aviation, community leaders and city and county officials at the 2026 Clear Lake Seaplane Splash in Lakeport, California, on June 4th through 7th. Similar to Tavares, Lakeport is the county seat of Lake County, California and located in the North central region of the state on the shore of Clear Lake, California, the largest natural lake in the state. Also, similar to Tavares, this community has a historical connection with seaplanes dating back to the days of the Pan Am Airways clippers utilizing this lake and shores as an alternate landing site for trans-pacific flights unable to land at their normal San Francisco Bay base due to excessive fog.

Inspired by the success story of Tavares in the development and growth of America's Seaplane City, their community has an interest in similarly building upon its rich seaplane history and natural lakefront setting, to potentially build public infrastructure and amenities to create their own unique vision of a seaplane-friendly community on the West Coast of the U.S.

During the 4-day event, the economic development director had the opportunity to present the Tavares success story to attendees, collaborate with local officials and community and civic leaders, the seaplane flying community and pilots and promote America's Seaplane City to an audience far beyond our local area and region.

In appreciation for our participation, collaboration and support of their event, both the Lakeport City Council and Lake County Board of County Commission passed resolutions of appreciation at their respective commission meetings which were formally presented to the economic development director, receiving them on behalf of the City of Tavares, at the event.

Mr. Tweedie provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding his participation in the 2026 Clear Lake Seaplane Splash-In in Lakeport, California. He said City of Lakeport officials, Lake County officials, aviation leaders, and community members had reached out to the City of Tavares approximately a year and a half earlier to learn how Tavares developed

into America's Seaplane City. Following several collaborative meetings, he was invited to attend the event and present Tavares' success story.

Mr. Tweedie said it was an honor and privilege to represent the City of Tavares. He stated he was humbled by the respect, admiration, and reverence the Lakeport community had for the City's accomplishments and said they viewed Tavares as the model they hoped to emulate. He commended the City Council, Mr. Drury, and City staff for their vision and leadership over the past two decades in creating America's Seaplane City.

Mr. Tweedie said the event also provided an excellent opportunity to promote Tavares to the seaplane community. He stated many pilots were already familiar with Tavares, several had previously visited, others planned to visit in the future, and a number expressed interest in attending the City's upcoming Oktoberfest Monster Splash Seaplane Fly-In. He added that Lakeport and Lake County officials intended to send a delegation to the event.

Mr. Tweedie displayed photographs from the four-day event, including presentations, community activities, and the formal presentation of resolutions from both the City of Lakeport and Lake County recognizing the City of Tavares for its participation and collaboration. He said he delivered an hour-long presentation highlighting not only the City's seaplane program, but also the downtown, entertainment district, business community, public safety complex, and other community improvements. He remarked that walking through Lakeport reminded him of Tavares when its seaplane initiative first began, noting the similarities in community size, lakefront setting, and historic character.

Vice Mayor Grenier requested copies of the photographs for inclusion in the City's Research Center archives.

Council Member Gamble commended Mr. Tweedie for representing the City and stated that the success of America's Seaplane City would not have been possible without Mr. Drury's leadership. Mr. Drury responded that it had been a team effort.

Mayor Pfister thanked Mr. Tweedie for making the trip and for representing and promoting the City of Tavares.

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 City Council for consideration.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Pfister asked if anyone wished to pull an item from the Consent Agenda for discussion. Council Member Gamble asked to pull Tab 5 for discussion.

MOTION

Doug Keown moved to approve the Consent Agenda with Tab 5 pulled for discussion [Tab 4. Approval of the June 17, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes], seconded by Bob Grenier. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 4. Approval of the June 17, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes

Approved on the Consent Agenda.

Tab. 5. Florida League of Cities Annual Conference 2026 Voting Delegate

Mr. Drury said that each year the City designates an official voting delegate to represent Tavares during the business meeting at the Florida League of Cities Annual Conference. He stated that while one or more Council Members typically attend the conference, staff recommended continuing the City's tradition of designating the Mayor as the official voting delegate.

MOTION

Bob Grenier moved to have the Mayor act as the City's voting delegate.

Council Member Gamble asked whether Mayor Pfister planned to attend the conference, noting that he had served as the City's voting delegate in recent years when the Mayor was unable to attend. Mayor Pfister confirmed that she planned to attend this year's conference. Mr. Drury added that several Council Members would be attending and that any one of them could be designated as the City's voting delegate.

The motion died for lack of a 2nd.

Mayor Pfister stated she would support Council Member Gamble serving as the City's voting delegate.

MOTION

Bob Grenier moved to have Council Member Gamble act as the City's voting delegate, seconded by Doug Keown. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

IX. ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING

First Reading

Second Reading

X. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Tab 6. Request for Reduction of Code Enforcement Liens at 1000 Caroline Street

Ms. Houghton made the following presentation:

Chapter 2, Article 3, Section 2 of the City Code sets forth the Enforcement of Municipal Codes.

Ordinance 2011-12 established the provision for the creation, establishment and levy of liens against properties which have unpaid Code Enforcement Fines and/or unpaid utility charges by the property owner.

Currently, there are two outstanding Code Enforcement Liens with fines assessed on the property located at 1000 E. Caroline St. Lake County Property Appraiser property records identifies the property with Alt Key No. 1806381.

Emma Adkins of DSR Property Management LLC has requested to be placed on the City Council Agenda for Council's consideration of a reduction in the Code Enforcement lens recorded to the property at 1000 E. Caroline Street, Alt Key No. 1806381.

Ms. Houghton said Louis Garcia was present to speak on behalf of the property management company.

Mayor Pfister clarified that the matter had previously been heard by the Code Enforcement Magistrate, who had found the violations and fines to be legitimate. Ms. Houghton confirmed that was correct.

Mr. Garcia, representing DSR Property Management, LLC, read a letter requesting a reduction of the code enforcement lien. The letter stated the property owner believed they had not been properly notified and requested the Council consider reducing the penalty.

At Mayor Pfister's request, Code Enforcement Officer Chris McCormick provided the case history. He said the case originated in April 2022 after a City-initiated inspection found a dumpster enclosure violation and debris accumulated outside the dumpster. He stated notices of violation were sent by certified and first-class mail to the property's registered agent in accordance with Florida law and confirmed delivery was received. Mr. McCormick said follow-up inspections documented that the violations remained uncorrected, requiring the case to be brought before the Code Enforcement Magistrate.

Mr. McCormick stated the Magistrate found the property in violation and granted additional time for compliance; however, the violations were not corrected until January 9, 2023, when the daily fines ceased. He added that the lien was recorded after the fines remained unpaid.

Council Member Keown stated the property owner had not complied with the required corrective actions and that the Magistrate had properly found the property in violation.

Council Member Price commented that the dumpster enclosure door and debris appeared to have been relatively simple issues to correct and expressed support for leaving the lien in place.

MOTION

Walter Price moved to retain the lien due to the city in the amount of \$10,484.38, seconded by Doug Keown. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 7. Request for Capital Charge Finance Agreement Outstanding Balance Forgiveness

Ms. Houghton made the following presentation:

On October 21, 2021, Janice Robinson initiated a Building Permit for a single-family residence at 2113 Bexley Dr., Tavares. (Alt Key 3854772). Contractor Rickard Construction & Land applied for and was issued Permit Number 21-00001589 for the new home construction at the property.

Section 17-44.1 of the Land Development Regulations allows for any new City of Tavares utility customer who is the subject of a Forced Connection to be eligible to finance the payment of his water and/or wastewater capital charges over a 5-year term at a fixed interest rate equal to prime (as established by LIBOR), plus 1%, at the beginning of the term.

As Ms. Robinson was required to connect to City water and City sewer, Ms. Robinson requested a financing plan for payment of the capital charges and impact fees. Ms. Robinson executed a Capital Charge Financing Agreement in the amount of \$4,800.00. The agreement was executed for a five- year term. Monthly payments are set at \$86.78 (see attached amortization).

On August 16, 2023, Ms. Robinson requested Council forgiveness of the financing agreement. The Council heard Ms. Robinson's request, held discussion, and did not provide approval for forgiveness. (see Council Minutes attached)

On June 2, 2026, Ms. Robinson contacted the City of Tavares Finance Department requesting forgiveness of the Capital Charge Financing Agreement

outstanding balance of \$516.04. Ms. Robinson was requested to forward her request to the City Finance Director in writing.

Finance Staff informed Ms. Robinson that her request would require approval by the City Council. A copy of Ms. Robinson's email requesting forgiveness of the outstanding balance in the amount of \$516.04 as of June 2, 2026, is attached. Related documents are also attached.

Ms. Robinson has made the June 1, 2026 payment since her request for forgiveness. Ms. Robinson's current outstanding balance for Principal and Interest is \$427.42. This amount is \$3.24 less than the amount shown on the Amortization Schedule due to additional payment amounts totaling \$3.24.

The following items are attached for Council's review:

- Email from Ms. Robinson requesting forgiveness of outstanding balance for Capital Financing Agreement*
- Capital Charge Financing Agreement*
- Financing Agreement Amortization Schedule*
- 08-16-2023 City Council Minutes*
- Accounts Receivable Payment History for the Financing Agreement as of 07-09-2026*
- Utility Account billing and payment history, Aug 2023 – June 2026*
- LCPA Property Record Card for 2113 Bexley Dr.*

Mayor Pfister asked for comments from the Council.

Council Member Price noted a concern that forgiving the remaining balance could establish an unfavorable precedent and encourage similar requests from others with outstanding finance agreements.

Vice Mayor Grenier said he viewed the request on its own merits and supported granting forgiveness in this instance. While acknowledging that similar requests could come before the Council in the future, he stated each request should be evaluated individually. He noted the remaining balance was relatively small and believed the applicant should be given the benefit of the doubt.

Council Member Keown said the applicant had consistently made payments over the years and had reduced the balance significantly. He noted she was now living on Social Security income and believed she had made a good-faith effort to satisfy the obligation. He supported considering the request on a case-by-case basis and granting the remaining balance forgiveness.

MOTION

Bob Grenier moved to approve forgiveness, seconded by Keown. The motion carried 4 to1 as follows:

Lori Pfister:	Yes
Bob Grenier:	Yes
Sandy Gamble:	Yes
Doug Keown:	Yes
Walter Price:	No

Tab 8. Board Appointments – Planning and Zoning Board and Library Board

Mayor Pfister stated that three seats on the Library Board had expired. She noted the City had received one request for reappointment. She recommended reappointing Michael Watkins to the Library Board for a two-year term expiring June 2028.

MOTION

Sandy Gamble moved to approve the reappointment of Michael Watkins to the Library Board, seconded by Bob Grenier. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Mayor Pfister stated the Planning and Zoning Board appointments had three terms that expired June 2026, and one seat that had been vacated, leaving four (4) positions to fill. She said the City had received two requests for reappointment and three new applications. She recommended the reappointment of Deb Murphy and Gary Santoro, and new appointments of Anthony Testa and Kinsley Nicholas.

MOTION

Grenier moved to approve the Mayor's recommendations for the reappointment of Deb Murphy and Gary Santoro, and the appointments of Anthony Testa and Kinsley Nicholas, seconded by Council Member Keown.

Council Member Gamble noted that when the item had previously been considered, only one new application had been received. He asked if the vacancies had been readvertised. Mr. Drury said there was one advertisement and the applications came in after the postponement at the previous meeting.

Council Member Price said he was familiar with Ms. Buigas, who was the initial applicant, and believed she would be a valuable addition to the Planning and Zoning Board.

Mayor Pfister said that when she initially reviewed the applications, she understood Ms. Buigas was serving on the Library Board and wanted to provide other residents with an opportunity to serve. She added that she later learned Ms. Buigas was no longer serving in that role.

Vice Mayor Grenier stated that because the appointments had been tabled, he believed it was appropriate to consider the additional applications that had been received.

The motion failed 3-2 as follows:

Lori Pfister:	Yes
Bob Grenier:	Yes
Sandy Gamble:	No
Doug Keown:	No
Walter Price:	No

Mr. Drury advised that the Mayor could present a revised recommendation for Council consideration.

Mayor Pfister recommended reappointing Gary Santoro and Deb Murphy to the Planning and Zoning Board and bringing the remaining appointments back for consideration at a future meeting.

MOTION

Doug Keown moved to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Gary Santoro and Deb Murphy to the Planning and Zoning Board, seconded by Sandy Gamble. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 9. Lake County School Board Contract – SRO

Chief Coursey made the following presentation:

The Tavares Police Department provides a School Resource Officer to Tavares Elementary. The Lake County School Board funds this position, including healthcare benefits and overtime for 10 months. The officer is available to work at the agency for the remaining 2 months. This agreement/contract has been in place for the last 8 years.

Mayor Pfister asked for comments from the Council.

Council Member Gamble recalled a previous discussion initiated by Mayor Pfister regarding the possibility of expanding the City's School Resource Officer program to include the middle and high schools. He asked whether the matter had been explored with the School Board.

Chief Coursey said she had discussed the concept with the Director of Safety and Security for Lake County Schools. She explained that due to the student populations at the middle and high schools, more than one officer would be needed at each campus to ensure adequate coverage during absences, training, or other staffing needs. She

added that the Lake County Sheriff's Office currently maintains a dedicated School Resource Unit serving those schools.

Council Member Gamble said he believed Mayor Pfister's idea had merit because the schools are located within the City. Chief Coursey explained that the Sheriff's Office assumed primary responsibility for school resource officers following implementation of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas School Safety Act. She also noted that the middle school served students from both the City and unincorporated areas of the County, making the Sheriff's Office the appropriate agency to provide coverage. She added that the Tavares Police Department works well with the Sheriff's Office and would continue to evaluate future needs.

MOTION

Sandy Gamble moved to approve the Lake County School Board School Resource Office contract, seconded by Doug Keown. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Tab 10. Approval of the 2027 Annual Meeting Calendar

Mr. Drury made the following presentation:

The Mayor has requested that the City Calendar for 2027 be reviewed and approved by Council early to better plan out the year. The following is a list of the proposed 2027 City Council regular meeting dates for Council's review and approval. Months with an astric indicate one meeting that month. Months with no astric indicate 2 meetings that month:

**January 20, 2027
February 3, 2027
February 17, 2027
March 3, 2027
March 17, 2027
April 7, 2027
April 21, 2027
May 5, 2027
May 19, 2027
June 16, 2027

**July 21, 2027
August 4, 2027
August 18, 2027
September 1, 2027
September 15, 2027
October 6, 2027
October 20, 2027
*November 17, 2027
December 1, 2027
December 15, 2027*

This schedule is proposed to accommodate holidays, summer scheduling, and the timing of the municipal election certification. Attached is the 2026 Annual Meeting Calendar that was approved by the City Council January 21, 2026.

Mayor Pfister asked for comments from the Council. There were none.

MOTION

Doug Keown moved to approve the 2027 Annual Meeting Calendar, seconded by Bob Grenier. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

XII. OLD BUSINESS

XIII. AUDIENCE TO BE HEARD

John Labriola, representing the Christian Family Coalition and a resident of Citrus County, addressed the Council regarding the BookPage magazine available at the Tavares Public Library. He stated that he had previously worked with Citrus County officials to discontinue that county's subscription to the publication, describing it as politically biased and asserting that it promoted left-leaning viewpoints while excluding conservative authors. He noted that the magazine was available online at no cost and said Citrus County had eliminated its approximately \$3,300 annual subscription. He encouraged the Council to consider discontinuing the City's subscription as part of the upcoming budget process.

Kristen Nelson, 2928 Tangerine Court, Leesburg, introduced herself and noted that her great-grandfather, Pickett Butler Weaver, had served as a Lake County Commissioner. She read a passage from Genesis 1:9 before addressing the Council. Ms. Nelson also requested that the City discontinue its subscription to the BookPage magazine, stating that she believed the publication promoted political viewpoints she opposed and represented unnecessary use of taxpayer funds because it was available online without charge. She also requested that the City consider recognizing October 14 as Charlie Kirk Day of Remembrance and to consider adopting a resolution or future Charter language declaring Tavares a "Personhood City."

Gary Santoro, a resident of Royal Harbor, thanked Mayor Pfister for recommending, and the Council for approving the recommendation, his and Deb Murphy's reappointments to the Planning and Zoning Board. He reflected on the recent departure of three board members, noting that the retirements and resignations would make the coming year a period of transition. He paid tribute to the late Jim Sweezee, describing him as a dedicated public servant who asked thoughtful questions, cared deeply about the City, and had been both a colleague and friend. Mr. Santoro also commented on Mr. Sweezee's service on the Firefighters' Pension Board, where he had consistently advocated for the firefighters and carefully evaluated matters affecting their retirement benefits.

Mr. Santoro said the Planning and Zoning Board operated as a team by reviewing information provided by City staff, conducting its own evaluations of projects, and making informed recommendations to the City Council, while recognizing that final decisions rested with the Council. He stated that although the Board and Council did not always agree, the Board respected the Council's decisions. He emphasized the

importance of appointing members who were committed to working collaboratively as team players.

XIV. REPORTS

Tab 13. City Administrator Report

Mr. Drury expressed condolences on the passing of Jim Sweezea, noting his dedicated service on two City boards, his engagement in the community, and his genuine care for the City.

Mr. Drury announced that the City had received a Florida League of Cities award recognizing the City's partnership with the Lake County Technical College. He said the award would be formally presented at an upcoming Council meeting and recognized during the Florida League of Cities Conference. He congratulated Mr. Dillon on the statewide recognition.

Mr. Drury also commended Mr. Tweedie for representing the City at the Clear Lake Seaplane Splash-In in California. He said Mr. Tweedie's presentation was well received and highlighted the City's leadership in seaplane aviation and economic development.

Ms. Novack announced that candidate qualifying packets were available in the City Clerk's Office.

Mr. Tweedie congratulated Mr. Dillon on the Florida League of Cities award.

Mr. Aldrich:

- Reminded the public that the third and final Golden Triangle Regional Park community meeting would be held on Tuesday, July 21, at the YMCA.
- Reported on the success of the Fourth of July celebration, noting there were 49 parade entries, 151 walkers, and more than 700 items collected for KISS Kids in Support of Soldiers.
- Thanked the Council for participating in the parade and judging activities and recognized staff and volunteers for making the celebration a success.
- Thanked Vice Mayor Grenier for participating in the evening festivities and America's 250 celebration with Lake County.

Ms. Houghton:

- Thanked Mr. Aldrich and staff for their efforts in coordinating the Fourth of July celebration.
- Congratulated Mr. Dillon on the Florida League of Cities award.

Mr. Fabre stated that Mr. Sweezea's absence would leave a significant void on the Planning and Zoning Board.

Attorney Holt offered her condolences to Mr. Sweezea's family and friends.

Tab 14. City Council Member Reports

Council Member Gamble

- Expressed condolences to the family and friends of Jim Sweezea.
- Congratulated Mr. Tweedie and Mr. Dillon on their accomplishments.
- Announced the upcoming Backpack Giveaway at the Tavares Police Department on August 1, recognizing the partnership between community churches, the Police Department, and volunteers who provide school supplies to children in need.

Council Member Keown

- Commended staff, public safety personnel, and volunteers for another successful Fourth of July celebration and recognized Chief Willis for serving as master of ceremonies.
- Thanked Ms. Houghton and Mr. Jones for their preparation of the upcoming budget, noting their thorough knowledge during Council's budget review.
- Congratulated Mr. Tweedie and Mr. Dillon.

Council Member Price

- Expressed condolences to the family and friends of Jim Sweezea.
- Congratulated Mr. Tweedie and Mr. Dillon.
- Requested an update on the County Road 561/SR 19 traffic signal project. Mr. Aldrich responded that underground work had been completed, equipment had been installed, and the project was expected to be completed within approximately one to one-and-a-half months.
- Commented on the Fourth of July parade and thanked the Tavares Fire Department for its quick response to the fireworks event.

Vice Mayor Grenier

- Expressed condolences to the family and friends of Jim Sweezea.
- Commended the Tavares Fire Department for its response during the Fourth of July fireworks event.
- Reported that Miss Florida 2025 visited the Tavares Public Library to read her book to children and shared historical trivia that both Cheryl Johnson, a former Miss Florida from Tavares, and her daughter later earned the Miss Florida title.
- Commended the Library staff for hosting the event.

Mayor Pfister

- Expressed condolences to the family and friends of Jim Sweezea, recalling his dedication to the City, his service on City boards, and his interest in serving the community.
- Commended City staff for organizing another successful Fourth of July celebration despite unfavorable weather.
- Congratulated Mr. Dillon on the Florida League of Cities award recognizing the City's partnership with the Lake County Technical College.
- Thanked City staff and department directors for their continued professionalism and dedication, stating they consistently represented the City well and reflected positively on the Council.

Mayor Pfister adjourned the City Council meeting at 5:14 p.m. and called for a 5-minute recess before the Budget Workshop.

Mayor Pfister called the Budget Workshop to order at 5:23 p.m.

XI. BUDGET WORKSHOP AND SETTING OF TENTATIVE MAXIMUM MILLAGE RATE

Tab 11. Budget Workshop - General Fund Presentation

Mr. Drury made the following General Fund presentation:

The City of Tavares operates and oversees several enterprises, including:

1. *General Government – (High Level Overview of Services but not limited to those listed).*
 - *Public Safety Police Services – crime prevention, community safety resources, school safety resources, criminal investigations, community outreach, crime scene investigations, road safety patrol*
 - *Public Safety Fire Services - Fire Suppression Services, Fire Advanced Life Support Services, Fire Emergency Services*
 - *Public Safety Emergency Operations Services – storm preparation, disaster preparation and response, community outreach, hurricane preparedness*
 - *Support Services Department - Information Technology Services oversight, technology implementation, digital security, software maintenance.*
 - *Finance Department – General Accounting, Reporting, Grants Management, Grants reporting, Budget Management, budget preparation, budget implementation and budget management, TRIM compliance, Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, Business Tax Receipts, Fire Assessments, utility accounts billing. for Annual audit, ACFR preparation, and reporting. City Purchasing initiatives, including preparation of RFPs, RFQs, and Formal Quotes.*

- *Human Resources Department– employee recruitment, employee benefits, employer reporting, workers’ compensation, risk management, accident claims. Auto and General Property Liability program.*
- *City Clerk Department– City elections, city candidate applications, coordination with Supervisor of Elections. Prepares City Council Agendas for City Council meetings, posts meeting advertisements. Meeting minutes for all City Council, Planning and Zoning Board, and Code Enforcement Special Master meetings. City Records Custodian. Maintains a Contract database. Record retention programs.*
- *Community Development – Building Permit services and inspections. Planning services for City, Residential, and Commercial Development. Annexation and Zoning changes. Special use permit requests. Master Plan changes.*
- *Community Services – Recreational activities. City Parks and Park Facilities Maintenance – playgrounds, tennis courts, basketball courts, volleyball sand courts, soccer fields, picnic pavilions, shuffleboard courts, picnic tables, and boat ramps. Wooten Wonderland, Ingraham Park Playground, and Aesops Park Playground, Golden Triangle Regional Park and the Golden Triangle Regional Park West ballfields. History museum.*
- *Library - Free access to Wi-Fi, Laptops for Library Members Program. Balanced Reading Material Collection program. Educational, cultural, and recreational programs. Digital Library Program - E-books, E-audiobooks, E-magazines, etc. Assistance Program -re-employment applications, court forms, social service applications, tax forms, free volunteer tax preparation and more. Three Little Free Libraries. Member of Lake County Library System – interlibrary loan program.*
- *Economic Development Department – recruits new businesses, maintains initiatives to retain business and commercial activity. Community Redevelopment District (TIF). Property Grant Program for improving blight in the TIF District. Maintains City Marina, Seaplane Base, and Pavilion on the Lake and Wedding Facility, provides Special Event programs.*
- *Public Works Department – Maintains a public works complex for Fleet, Solid Waste, Roads and Street Department operations. Maintains public facilities such as a Civic Center, City Hall, Pavilion, Seaplane Prop Shop, and all other city buildings and structures. Road maintenance and construction program. Road re-pavement and sidewalk replacement program. Traffic signal operations and streetlight operations. Fleet maintenance services for all city vehicles. Park*

Landscaping program for all parks and City-Wide Beautification America-In-Bloom Program.

- *Debt Service Program - Maintain all city debt service.*
- *City Administration: Oversee all aspects for the delivery of all city services, maintenance of all city assets the budgetary process and to implement the collective will of the City Council.*

2. *Utilities: Sewer Plant, Water Plant, Reclaimed Water Plant, water distribution system, sewer collection system, a reclaimed water distribution system and a utility bill collections department, and a fully certified wastewater, water and public health Laboratory.*
3. *Stormwater: A stormwater retention, detention, collection, maintenance system, right of way mowing and tree trimming maintenance department. Street Sweeping program.*
4. *Garbage and recycling collection system: There is a residential garbage collection program, a recycling program, and a commercial garbage collection program.*
5. *Capital Program: A five (5) year capital program utilizing grants and other sources of funds to replace and build public infrastructure.*

At this first budget workshop, the Finance Department will present the General Fund Proposed Budget (#1 above), and at the following budget workshops, the remaining funds (enterprises #2-#5) will be presented.

The City Council previously developed broad budget priorities for the City Administrator to use as guiding principles in developing next year's FY 2027 proposed budget (see attached).

The City Administrator, Finance Director, and Budget Department have collaborated with each Department Director to develop departmental budgets that are included in this General Fund budget. Some proposed items were cut to balance the budget and are shown in the attached comprehensive "FY 2027 Cut List." Many of the Council's goals have been achieved. As in previous years, the cut list is organized into several categories.

1. *"Reduction" means the item is still in the proposed FY 2027 budget and the City Administrator has reduced the amount that the Department Director requested.*
2. *"Cut" means the City Administrator has removed the entire item from the budget.*
3. *"Similar" means the item was provided for in the prior year.*
4. *"Enhanced" means the item is a higher level of service than provided in the prior year.*
5. *"Personal Services" means a new position*
6. *"Operating Expenses" means general operating and maintenance expenses.*

7. "Capital Equipment" means operating and maintenance equipment with a value over \$5,000 and a lifespan of more than five years.
8. "Capital Projects": These are over \$5,000 in value and generally require designing, engineering, bidding, construction, or fabrication, and project oversight during the procurement, construction, and installation.
9. "Debt Service" The annual repayment cost toward a loan for a capital item.

It is recommended that the City Council review the Cut List carefully. Although the items on the list were initially identified by the City's professional Department Directors as necessary for efficiency and productivity, the City Administrator ultimately removed them to maintain a balanced budget and align with the Council's goals. The cut list includes some items that were part of the City Council's goals but were cut to maintain a balanced budget.

Proposed Budget Highlights:

1. *The proposed budget maintains the current level of service, consistent with Council direction. (Note: Requests for new or enhanced levels of service are not included. See Exhibit B – Cut List and the "Enhanced" items)*
2. *The FY 2027 budget increases by 7.93% over the FY 2026 Adopted Budget to maintain the current level of service while addressing increases in operating costs, including health insurance (estimated at 4.0%), property insurance (estimated at 20.0%), workers' compensation (estimated at 10.0%), and inflation.*
3. *The proposed General Fund millage rate is 6.9500, an increase from the current rate of 6.6850.*
4. *The Debt Service millage rate is proposed to decrease from 0.1467 to 0.1335.*
5. *General Fund operating reserves total \$8,218,888, exceeding the two-month reserve level recommended by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) by one month.*
6. *Employee salary increases are budgeted at 4.0%.*
7. *Health insurance costs are budgeted to increase by 4.0%, with the additional cost shared between employees and the City.*
8. *Four new public safety positions are proposed: one Police Lieutenant and three Firefighter/EMTs. The proposed budget continues the City's investment in public safety by fully funding the City's local cost share associated with the six firefighter positions added during FY 2026 through a FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant, while also funding three additional Firefighter/EMT positions with an anticipated start date of April 1, 2027. Collectively, these nine firefighter positions will support the implementation of an additional shift within the Fire Department and transition operations from*

a 24-hours-on/48-hours-off staffing schedule to a 24-hours-on/72-hours-off staffing schedule.

9. Citywide street paving is budgeted at \$400,000.
10. Additional infrastructure improvements include \$108,000 for alleyway improvements; \$245,000 for the design of the West Main Street streetscape; \$121,764 for irrigation improvements at the cemetery and arboretum; and \$43,222 for the design of the Veterans Memorial columbarium wall.
11. The Fire Assessment is proposed to increase as presented below. A study is currently being finalized for Council review and approval that will approximate this amount to pay for fire service. The assessment has remained unchanged since its adoption in 2012, while the Fire Department's operating costs have increased over this period of time.

Residential Unit			
		Annually	Monthly
Current Rate		\$142.00	\$11.83
Estimated annual rate increase at 40%		\$198.80	\$16.57
Additional Amount		\$56.80	\$4.73
Standard Small Business - 100 - 1999 Sq Ft			
		Annually	Monthly
Current Rate		\$300.00	\$25.00
Estimated annual rate increase at 40%		\$420.00	\$35.00
Additional Amount		\$120.00	\$10.00

Proposed property tax millage rate with a balanced budget

This proposed budget is balanced and reflects a property tax millage rate increase from 6.6850 mills to 6.9500 mills (a 3.96 % increase), along with a proposed decrease in the debt service rate from 0.1467 to 0.1335 (a 9% decrease). At these millage rates, homeowners with a house valued at \$200,000 and a standard homestead exemption (\$50,000) would pay \$1,042 annually, or \$86.88 per month, in City Ad Valorem Property Taxes for the budget presented to the Council for FY 2027.

This first budget workshop, on July 15, 2026, will deliver, present, and discuss the General Fund budget. The second budget workshop, on August 5th, 2026, will deliver, present, and discuss the enterprise funds (Water, Wastewater, Reclamation, Stormwater, Solid Waste, Seaplane Base/Marina, Pavilion on the

Lake) and the General Fund Budget. A high-level overview of Special Revenue Fund budgets will also be presented.

The maximum tentative millage rate will be set at the first budget workshop on July 15, 2026, after the budget presentation. A third Council budget workshop is scheduled for August 19, 2026, to discuss all budgets and the Five (5) Year Capital Improvement Plan, followed by two Public Hearings on the budget on September 2, 2026, and September 16, 2026.

Current estimates for State Shared revenues, general liability insurance, workers' compensation insurance, and grants will change over the next few weeks. As new estimates become available and grants are awarded, staff will update the budget and provide the city council with a list of revised estimates and their impact on the proposed budget.

It is recommended that the Finance Director present details of the General Fund budget to the Council, department by department.

Ms. Houghton provided a PowerPoint presentation on the General Fund Budget.

Mr. Drury stated that the presentation marked the formal delivery of the proposed budget to the Council and that four additional budget meetings would be held. He said the Council would spend the next several weeks reviewing more than 600 pages containing over 300,000 individual figures. He described the proposed budget as a detailed, zero-based, line-item budget that accounted for expenses down to individual uniforms and firefighter bunker gear.

Mayor Pfister asked for comments from the Council.

Council Member Price stated that he had not yet had an opportunity to review the budget as thoroughly as he intended. He noted that property values had increased by approximately eight percent and said he was not in favor of increasing the millage rate. He added that during all but one year of his service on the Council, the Council had reduced the millage rate and said he hoped that trend could continue.

Council Member Gamble asked for the approximate difference in revenue between the proposed millage rate and the prior year's rate. Ms. Houghton responded that the difference was approximately \$530,000.

Council Member Keown asked how much revenue one-tenth of a mill would generate. Ms. Houghton responded that it would generate approximately \$204,000.

Council Member Gamble said identifying an additional \$500,000 in reductions would be difficult given the cuts already included in the proposed budget. He stated that he did not support adding new events during the upcoming fiscal year and noted that future revenue reductions could require more significant cuts. He suggested that the City

pursue stronger partnerships with the Chamber of Commerce and other community organizations for parades, fireworks, and similar events. He also said the Council would need to distinguish between required services and discretionary activities when considering future reductions.

Council Member Keown expressed concern regarding Police Department staffing. He noted that the previous plan had been to add two officers each year and was concerned that reducing the commitment would move the City in the wrong direction.

Vice Mayor Grenier stated that the millage rate had increased and decreased over the years and emphasized that the proposed rate was tentative. He said the Council needed to establish a sufficiently high maximum rate to preserve flexibility while it reviewed the budget over the following two months. He supported beginning with the proposed tentative rate and working toward a lower final rate without requiring staff to recreate the budget.

Council Member Keown concurred and stated that setting the tentative rate too low could limit the Council's options and potentially require the use of reserves.

Mr. Drury clarified that the agenda item before the Council concerned the proposed budget and that the following item would address the tentative maximum millage rate. He acknowledged that the millage rate directly affected the budget.

Mayor Pfister stated that several matters not currently included in the proposed budget deserved consideration. She noted that the proposed budget included a four-percent employee increase and asked the Council to consider a healthcare benefit for department directors who had served the City for at least 20 years. She proposed that the City continue paying the retiree's existing HMO or PPO coverage for up to five years following retirement.

Mr. Drury said director-level retirements occurred infrequently and estimated that coverage for one retiree could cost approximately \$20,000 per year. He added that only a limited number of directors would likely qualify.

Mayor Pfister said the benefit could help retain experienced directors and recognize their long-term dedication and the responsibilities and stress associated with their positions.

Council Member Gamble noted that some non-director employees had served the City for 30 years or longer and could face greater financial difficulty paying for healthcare after retirement. He suggested that the Council also consider whether long-serving employees should be included.

Council Member Price stated that directors received salaries commensurate with their responsibilities and would generally become eligible for Medicare upon retirement.

Vice Mayor Grenier asked whether staff could provide information concerning potentially eligible employees, anticipated retirement dates, and estimated costs.

Mr. Drury stated that he would prepare a summary of the Council's discussion and provide an estimated fiscal impact.

Mayor Pfister said the Council could review the figures before deciding whether to include the benefit. She reiterated that she preferred establishing a higher tentative millage rate so the Council would retain flexibility to add or remove items during the budget review process. She noted that the Council had historically reduced the tentative rate before final adoption.

Mayor Pfister also proposed establishing a conservation fund with an initial allocation of approximately \$150,000. She said the fund could be supplemented by grants and private endowments and used to purchase development rights on selected properties. She stated that the intent would be to preserve agricultural land and green space while allowing property owners to retain ownership and continue existing uses. She expressed concern that the City would lose valuable open space unless it took proactive steps.

Council Member Price stated that approximately 45 percent of Lake County was subject to conservation easements or other development restrictions. He also noted that new residential construction in Tavares had declined by approximately 19 percent and said the market was responding to supply and demand. He supported smart growth but cautioned that the City could not stop growth entirely because additional revenue would be needed to support municipal services.

Mayor Pfister said the City should identify strategic properties where preservation would protect infrastructure and quality of life. She specifically expressed concern regarding further residential development along Dead River Road and stated that existing roads, utilities, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure were already strained.

Council Member Price noted that County mapping overlays could identify wetlands, wildlife corridors, and other protected areas.

Council Member Gamble asked Mr. Tweedie about the \$12,000 budgeted for pyrotechnics at the Planes, Tunes and Barbecue event and asked how many minutes of entertainment the expenditure provided. Mr. Tweedie said he would verify the exact duration but estimated it was approximately 15 minutes.

Council Member Gamble asked Mr. Aldrich about the proposed \$61,000 Fourth of July event budget, including \$33,500 for fireworks and approximately \$27,500 in operating expenses.

Mr. Aldrich stated that the operating expenses included bands, tent rentals, professional entertainment, awards, and other event-related costs.

Council Member Gamble asked whether a drone show could replace the Fourth of July fireworks within the existing budget. He said drone shows could reduce noise, smoke, fire hazards. He noted that other communities had hosted successful drone shows and said he would support the option if the cost did not exceed the current budget.

Mr. Drury stated that staff could bring back a comparison of drone and fireworks options for the Fourth of July and Planes, Tunes and Barbecue events. He said the Council could consider fireworks, drones, or a combination of both, and staff would attempt to keep the options within the existing budget.

Council Member Price stated that the City's Fourth of July fireworks display was a long-standing tradition that attracted visitors to Tavares and said he preferred to continue it.

Council Member Keown stated that the Council should review the matter in greater detail before making a decision.

Mr. Drury said staff would prepare the requested comparisons and include the options in the budget materials so the Council could determine whether to retain, remove, or modify the proposed expenditures.

Tab 12. Budget Workshop – Setting of Maximum Tentative Millage Rate

Mr. Drury made the following presentation:

The Draft FY 2027 General Fund budget that was presented earlier at this City Council meeting, had a draft tentative millage rate of 6.9500 mills. The Voted Debt Service millage rate for FY 2027 was calculated at 0.1335. Council is presented an opportunity to set the maximum tentative millage rate for General Fund and voted debt for FY 2027.

Once the City Council sets the Maximum Tentative Millage Rates, they may be decreased as the budget process continues; however, they may not be increased.

- The proposed General Fund millage rate of 6.9500 mills represents an increase from the prior year of 0.265 mills (6.9500 - 6.6850), a 3.96% increase over the prior year, and 7.90% above the estimated rollback rate of 6.4412 mills.*
- The proposed Voted Debt Service millage rate of .1335 mills represents a decrease from the prior year of .0132 mills (.1467 - .1335), a 9.00% decrease over the prior year.*
- The total increase is .2518 mills, a 3.69% increase over the prior year adopted millage rates (General Fund and Voted Debt).*

Council Member Keown stated that the difference to the average taxpayer would be approximately \$38 per year and supported beginning with a higher tentative rate to preserve flexibility during the budget review process. Mayor Pfister agreed and stated

that reducing the rate close to, or below, the balanced-budget rate would be considered a successful outcome.

Council Member Price stated that he would support beginning at 6.9500 mills as revenues and expenses often changed during the budget process and historically allowed the Council to reduce the final rate.

Mayor Pfister stated that setting the tentative rate at 6.9500 mills would effectively accept the proposed budget as presented and would leave little room to consider additional priorities. She reiterated her preference to begin with a higher tentative rate and work downward.

MOTION

Vice Mayor Grenier moved to set the maximum tentative operating millage rate at 7.2000 mills. Council Member Keown seconded the motion.

Attorney Holt advised that approval of a 7.2-mill rate would require a unanimous vote under the newly effective statutory voting requirements.

The motion failed by a 3-2 as follows:

Lori Pfister:	Yes
Bob Grenier:	Yes
Sandy Gamble:	No
Doug Keown:	Yes
Walter Price:	No

Attorney Holt and Ms. Houghton reviewed the voting thresholds applicable under the new state law. Mr. Drury stated that the law had taken effect on July 1 and changed the number of affirmative votes required to establish certain millage rates. He requested a recess so staff could verify the calculations through the State's website.

Mayor Pfister recessed the Budget Workshop at 6:56 p.m.

Mayor Pfister reconvened the Budget Workshop at 7:01 p.m.

Mr. Drury stated that the Legislature had established thresholds to encourage local governments to move toward the rollback rate. He reviewed the findings of the staff and stated that staff would further verify the requirements with the State and would schedule a special meeting if any corrective action became necessary.

Vice Mayor Grenier asked whether the thresholds also applied when setting the maximum tentative millage rate. Mr. Drury and Attorney Holt said that is how they understood the requirement.

Mayor Pfister noted that the balanced budget presented at 6.9500 mills would require approval by four Council Members.

MOTION

Bob Grenier moved to set the maximum tentative operating millage rate at 7.0852 mills, seconded by Doug Keown. The motion failed by a 3-2 as follows:

Lori Pfister:	Yes
Bob Grenier:	Yes
Sandy Gamble:	No
Doug Keown:	Yes
Walter Price:	No

Council Member Gamble stated that he would support a maximum tentative rate of 7.0000 mills.

MOTION

Council Member Gamble moved to set the maximum tentative operating millage rate at 7.0000 mills. Council Member Keown seconded the motion.

Vice Mayor Grenier noted that residents could participate in the upcoming budget hearings and provide comments before the final rate was adopted. He emphasized that the Council could reduce the rate following further discussion.

Mr. Drury clarified that the motion required four affirmative votes.

The motion passed by a 4-1 as follows:

Lori Pfister:	Yes
Bob Grenier:	Yes
Sandy Gamble:	Yes
Doug Keown:	Yes
Walter Price:	No

MOTION

Council Member Gamble moved to set the debt service millage rate at 0.1335 mills. Council Member Keown seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business, and Mayor Pfister adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully,

Susie Novack, MMC, FCRM
City Clerk

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
8/5/2026**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 3

SUBJECT TITLE: Ordinance 2026-04 Interlake Business Park - Annex and Rezone 19.18 Acres East of County Road 561, Approximately 200 Feet North of Frankies Road Intersection (Community Development)

OBJECTIVE:

Approval of Ordinance 2026-04 annexing approximately 19.18 acres of non-contiguous property located east of County Road 561 and approximately 200 feet north of Frankies Road Intersection into the City of Tavares and rezoning the property from Lake County MP (Planned Industrial) and HM (Heavy Industrial) to City of Tavares PD (Planned Development).

SUMMARY:

The subject property is located east of County Road 561 and approximately 200 feet north of Frankies Road Intersection. It is approximately 19.18 acres in size and is non-contiguous to the city boundary (see attached ISBA Boundary Map). The land is presently used as light industrial, warehousing and vacant land. The subject property is located within the Interlocal Service Boundary Area (ISBA) established through the Interlocal Service Boundary Agreement between the City of Tavares and Lake County, which allows for the annexation of non-contiguous properties under specified conditions. The applicant proposes a development plan consisting of a mix of light industrial, manufacturing, indoor/outdoor storage, retail commercial, professional service/offices and recreational commercial uses. The Planned Development (PD) zoning ordinance establishes development standards including setbacks, building height limitations, impervious surface requirements, landscaping, lighting, access management, and utility service requirements. The ordinance provides a framework for future site development while ensuring compliance with City regulations related to traffic, drainage, landscaping, lighting, concurrency, and public facility capacity. The City is concurrently processing a future land use map amendment to re-designate the property from Lake County Industrial to City of Tavares Industrial (I) on the Future Land Use Map 2040. The proposed annexation and rezoning are consistent with the provisions of the Interlocal Service Boundary Agreement and support the City's long-term economic development objectives by providing opportunities for industrial and commercial growth.

OPTIONS:

1. That the City Council move to approve Ordinance 2026-04.
2. That the City Council moves to deny Ordinance 2026-04.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

On July 16, 2026, the Planning & Zoning Board met and voted unanimously (4-0) to recommend approval of Ordinance 2026-04 as presented (see attached DRAFT Minutes).

Therefore, staff recommends that the City Council moves to approve Ordinance 2026-04 annexing

approximately 19.18 acres located east of County Road 561 and approximately 200 feet north of Frankies Road Intersection into the City of Tavares and rezoning the property to Planned Development (PD).

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

This ordinance has been reviewed by the City Attorney and approved for legal sufficiency.

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. Ordinance 2026-04
2. Location Map
3. Aerial Map
4. Zoning Map
5. ISBA Boundary Map
6. Newspaper Ad 26-04
7. Conceptual Development Plan
8. Architectural Concept
9. Traffic Study
10. Environmental Report
11. DRAFT 07-16-2026 PZ Minutes - Ord 2026-04

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

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
8/5/2026**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 4

SUBJECT TITLE: Ordinance 2026-05 Interlake Business Park - Comprehensive Plan FLUM Amendment 19.18 Acres East of County Road 561, Approximately 200 Ft. North of Frankies Road Intersection (Community Development)

OBJECTIVE:

Approval of Ordinance 2026-05 amending the City of Tavares Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map 2040 to change the Future Land Use designation of approximately 19.18 acres located at East of County Road 561, Approximately 200 Ft. North of Frankies Road intersection from Lake County Industrial (I) to City of Tavares Industrial (I).

SUMMARY:

The applicant is concurrently requesting voluntary annexation and rezoning into the City of Tavares. The subject property is non-contiguous and currently located in unincorporated Lake County. It is also located within the Interlocal Service Boundary Area (ISBA) established through the Interlocal Service Boundary Agreement between the City of Tavares and Lake County, which allows for the annexation of non-contiguous properties under specific conditions. Upon annexation, the property requires assignment of a City Future Land Use designation consistent with the proposed development and surrounding land use patterns.

The applicant is seeking to maintain the Industrial Future Land Use designation currently assigned by Lake County by redesignating the property to the City of Tavares Industrial (I) Future Land Use category. The proposed amendment is consistent with the existing and surrounding land use pattern, which includes industrial and employment-related uses. Therefore, the requested Industrial designation will provide continuity between the County and City future land use classifications and support future industrial and commercial economic development opportunities within the City.

OPTIONS:

1. That the City Council move to approve Ordinance 2026-05.
2. That the City Council moves to deny Ordinance 2026-05.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

On July 16, 2026, the Planning & Zoning Board met and voted unanimously (4-0) to recommend approval of Ordinance 2026-05 as presented (see attached DRAFT Minutes).

Therefore, staff recommends that the City Council moves to approve Ordinance 2026-05, a Future Land Use Map amendment of approximately 19.18 acres from Lake County Industrial (I) to City of Tavares Industrial (I) located East of County Road 561, approximately 200 Ft. North of Frankies Road intersection.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

This ordinance has been reviewed by the City Attorney and approved for legal sufficiency.

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. Ordinance 2026-04
2. Location Map
3. Aerial Map
4. FLU Map
5. Newspaper Ad 26-05
6. DRAFT 07-16-2026 PZ Minutes - Ord 2026-05

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

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
8/5/2026**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 5

SUBJECT TITLE: Ordinance 2026-06 Fisherman's Cove - Rezone 50+/- Acres West of North Eichelberger Road, South of Lane Park Road and Northwesterly of State Road 19 (Community Development)

OBJECTIVE:

Approval of Ordinance 2026-06 amending the Fisherman's Cove Planned Development (PD), previously governed by Ordinances 2003-25 and 2013-21, and replacing those ordinances with a newly stated Planned Development ordinance establishing updated development standards and a revised Master Development Plan.

SUMMARY:

The subject property consists of approximately 50 acres currently operating as a recreational vehicle (RV) resort with supporting recreational facilities, marina uses, and dry boat storage. The applicant is requesting approval of an amended Planned Development (PD) to allow expansion and modernization of the existing resort while maintaining its recreational and tourism-oriented character. The proposed amendment supersedes the existing PD ordinances and establishes a new regulatory framework governing future development of the property. The existing Future Land Use designations of Commercial and Mixed-Use are consistent with the proposed development.

The proposed development plan allows for continued operation of the existing resort and authorizes additional resort-related amenities, including expansion of the dry boat storage facility, construction of resort cottages for short-term rental accommodations, expansion of recreational facilities, and additional RV accommodations. No conventional residential dwelling units are proposed. All cottages are intended as short-term resort accommodations associated with the operation of the recreational vehicle resort.

The PD amendment establishes development standards addressing setbacks, building height, landscaping, buffering, architecture, lighting, signage, parking, tree preservation, and environmental protection. The amendment requires future site plan approval for all development activity and compliance with applicable City regulations, environmental permitting requirements, and concurrency standards. Utility service will continue to be provided through existing on-site potable water and wastewater systems, subject to regulatory capacity limitations and permitting requirements. Should the existing systems become inadequate, connection to City utility services will be required.

OPTIONS:

1. That the City Council move to approve Ordinance 2026-06.
2. That the City Council moves to deny Ordinance 2026-06.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

On July 16, 2026, the Planning & Zoning Board met and voted unanimously (4-0) to recommend approval of Ordinance 2026-06 as presented (see attached DRAFT Minutes).

Therefore, staff recommends that the City Council moves to approve Ordinance 2026-06 amending the Fisherman's Cove Planned Development and adopting the revised Master Development Plan and development standards as presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

This ordinance has been reviewed by the City Attorney and approved for legal sufficiency.

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. Ord 2026-06
2. Location Map
3. Aerial Map
4. Newspaper Ad
5. Master Development Plan
6. Environmental Report
7. Traffic Study
8. Abutting Residents Opposing Letter
9. Ord 2003-25 - Annex & Rezoning - Fisherman's Cove
10. Ordinance 2013-21 - PD Zoning - Fishermans Cove

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

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
8/5/2026**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 6

SUBJECT TITLE: Update to Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget Calendar - TRIM Compliance (Finance)

OBJECTIVE:

Update to Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget/Millage Rate Calendar TRIM Compliance for Public Hearing Dates

SUMMARY:

Previously, the calendar for the two (2) annual Tavares Budget/Millage rate Public Hearing Dates reflected the first and third Wednesdays of September as the dates for these Public Hearings, both at 5:05pm at City Hall.

To meet the Florida Trim requirements, the first Public Hearing that was previously set to be Wednesday, September 2 at 5:05pm has to be moved to Thursday, September 3 at 5:05pm because the Trim compliance rules call for the First Public Hearing for the Millage Rate and for the Budget to be held no earlier than September 3, 2026.

Therefore, staff recommends that the Calendar be updated to be consistent with the certified DR420 with the following:

- First Public Hearing date: September 3, 2026, at 5:05 pm (Thursday)
- First Public Hearing location: City of Tavares City Hall Council Chambers, 201 East Main Street, Tavares, FL 32778

All other September meetings dates remain the same. For September, this results in the following three meetings in September:

- 1) A City Council Regular Meeting on Wednesday, September 2 at 4:00pm
- 2) A Public Hearing for the Millage Rate and for the Budget on Thursday, September 3, at 5:05pm
- 3) A Regular 4pm City Council meeting and 5:05pm Public Hearing for the Millage Rate and for the Budget on Wednesday, September 16th.

OPTIONS:

1. Approve and ratify the Calendar Update as Certified to the LCPA on TRIM Form DR-420

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve and ratify the Calendar Update as Certified to the LCPA on TRIM Form DR-420

FISCAL IMPACT:

No Fiscal impact when Public Hearing Dates meet TRIM Compliance

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Legally Sufficient

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. FY 2027 TRIM Calendar - 7-30-26 Update

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

CITY OF TAVARES
UPDATED TRIM COMPLIANCE CALENDAR SCHEDULE
For Fiscal Year 2027 Proposed Budget

February 11, 2026	Budget Module opened for department budget entry
February 11, 2026	Budget Memo and Handbooks distributed to departments
February 18, 2026	Council sets Broad Budget Priorities
April 6, 2026	Budget Module closes for department entry
April 7 – 30, 2026	City Administrator Department Budget Workshops with Finance and Department Directors (including CIP)
May 31, 2026	Receive Property Appraiser “Best Estimate” of taxable values for FY 2027 (2026 Tax Year)
June 30, 2026	Receive Certified DR-420 (Taxable Value from Lake County Property Appraiser)
July 1, 2026	Official start of Department of Revenue TRIM Calendar
July 7-11, 2026	Deliver electronic budget and printed proposed budget binders to City Council
July 13 - 15, 2026	Individual Budget Meetings with Council Members with Proposed Budget Summary
July 15, 2026	Proposed Budget Presentation to City Council (General Fund)
July 15, 2026	Budget Workshop to set <u>Tentative Maximum Millage Rate for DR-420 Submittal</u>. The proposed millage rate may be lowered after submitting the DR-420, but it may not be increased.
August 1, 2026	DR-420 Maximum Millage Form due to Property Appraiser
August 5, 2026	Proposed Budget Presentation to City Council (Enterprise Funds & Special Funds) Discuss GENERAL FUND
August 19, 2026	Proposed CIP Budget Presentation to City Council (City Council Meeting)
August 19, 2026	City Council Budget Workshop to finalize budget in anticipation of First Public Hearing – 4:00 PM (City Council Meeting)

September 3, 2026 First public hearing to adopt Tentative Millage Rate and Tentative Budget (5:05 PM)

September 13, 2026 Advertise the Final Hearing to adopt Millage Rate and Final budget. SUNDAY Advertisement.

September 16, 2026 Hold second public hearing to adopt Millage rate and Final Budget (5:05 PM)

September 18, 2026 Deliver resolution adopting budget, and resolution adopting millage rate (electronic submission) **(3 DAYS OF ADOPTION)**.

October 1, 2026 Complete E-TRIM Final Certification for DR-422

October 13, 2026 Forward certification to the State of Florida Department of Revenue, Property Tax Administration Program.

Municipal Budget Hearings are prohibited by state statutes from being held on the same dates that County and School Board Hearings will be held.

1. 2026 School Board Hearing Dates: July 27, 2026, and September 14, 2026
2. 2026 Lake County Budget Hearing Dates: September 8, 2026, and September 22, 2026.

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
8/5/2026**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 7

SUBJECT TITLE: Board Appointments (Mayor)

OBJECTIVE:

For the Mayor to appoint members to the Fire Pension Board and the Planning and Zoning Board, subject to City Council approval.

SUMMARY:

Fire Pension Board (Four-Year Term)

The Fire Pension Board currently has one (1) vacancy for the remainder of a four-year term expiring in November 2028. The City received one (1) application from:

- Bruce Peterman

Planning and Zoning Board (Three-Year Terms)

The Planning and Zoning Board currently has three (3) vacancies. One (1) appointment is for a full three-year term expiring in June 2029. Two (2) appointments are for the remainder of unexpired terms ending in June 2028. The City received applications from:

- Anthony Testa
- Erika Buigas
- Kinsly Nicolas

If all appointments are approved, there will be no remaining vacancies on either the Fire Pension Board or the Planning and Zoning Board.

The vacancies were advertised in the *Daily Commercial* and will remain open until filled.

OPTIONS:

1. For the Mayor to appoint one (1) member to the Fire Pension Board and three (3) members to the Planning and Zoning Board, one (1) to a full three-year term expiring June 2029 and two (2) to the remainder of terms expiring June 2028, subject to City Council approval.
2. Do not make appointments at this time.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Option 1. Appoint one (1) member to the Fire Pension Board and three (3) members to the Planning and Zoning Board, subject to City Council approval.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Yes.

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. Fire Pension Board Application - Bruce Peterman
2. PZ Board Application - Anthony Testa
3. PZ Board Application - Erika Buigas
4. PZ Board Application - Kinsly Nicolas
5. Display Ad - Board Appointments

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

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
8/5/2026**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 8

SUBJECT TITLE: Council Consideration of Proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Tavares and the Tavares Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 3245 (Fire)

OBJECTIVE:

To consider approval of the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement (C.B.A.), between the Tavares Professional Firefighters Local 3245 (I.A.F.F.) and the City of Tavares, authorizing the City Administrator to execute the contract on behalf of the City. This contract is proposed to become effective on October 1, 2026 with an effective period of one year.

SUMMARY:

Representatives of the City and the Tavares Professional Firefighters Union met on several occasions for collective bargaining sessions. City Council member Walter Price, City Administrator John Drury, Finance Department Director Lori Houghton, Human Resources Department Director Crissy Bublitz, and Fire Chief Richard Keith served as the negotiating team representing the City. Local 3245 President Madison Leary and Vice-President Joe Maleski represented the Union. President Madison Leary has authorization from the members of the Union Local to sign the proposed contract on behalf of the Union. Proposed changes to the contract are indicated by strikethrough (~~example~~) for deleted language, and underlined (example) for new language.

The salient points of this proposed contract are:

- Under Article 33, bargaining unit members agree to the same cost of living adjustment proposed for other city employees (proposed to be 4%, effective October 1, 2026).
- Under Article 33, bargaining unit members agree to participate in the health insurance plan, including cost adjustments, consistent with the plan adjustments proposed for other city employees.
- Under Article 33, for the safety and health of fire department Operational Division personnel, both parties agree to begin to work toward creating a 42-hour typical workweek for all Fire Department Operations Division personnel working 24-hour shift; creating a Labor/Management committee to meet, discuss, and formulate a plan for the implementation of the 42-hour work week.

OPTIONS:

Option 1:

City Council may move to approve the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented between the Tavares Professional Firefighters Local 3245 and the City of Tavares, authorizing City Administrator John Drury to execute the contract on behalf of the City.

Option 2:

Do not approve the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement and direct Staff to pursue a different

course of action as defined by Council.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends option 1: Move to approve the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented between the Tavares Professional Firefighters Local 3245 and the City of Tavares, authorizing City Administrator John Drury to execute the contract on behalf of the City.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fiscal impact is incorporated into the proposed 2026 / 2027 budget for the City of Tavares.

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

This item has been reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by City Attorney Lindsay Holt.

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. IAFF 2026 Union Contract 29 JUN 2026 DRAFT

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

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
8/5/2026**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 9

SUBJECT TITLE: Extension to the Interlocal Agreement with Lake County for the Provision of Library Services (Community Services)

OBJECTIVE:

To extend the existing Interlocal Agreement with Lake County, FL for the provision of library services at the Tavares Public Library.

SUMMARY:

On September 10, 2019, the City of Tavares entered into an Interlocal Agreement with Lake County, FL for the provision of library services to join other communities in providing equal access to public library services, without charge, for all residents of Lake County. Tavares is one of sixteen libraries in the Lake County Library System that provides coordinated library services throughout the county, and offers consistent plans, programs, policies, and procedures in the operation, maintenance, and development of library services throughout the area.

The previous agreement signed in 2019 with the county was a three-year term, expiring on September 30, 2022. Subsequently, the City and County then entered into four separate 12-month extensions, with the fourth one expiring on September 30, 2026. County officials are requesting to extend the agreement for an additional 12-month period while they continue to review the funding metrics of their annual appropriations. Staff is seeking approval to extend this agreement for another year. A copy of the agreement is included in your agenda packet.

OPTIONS:

1. Move to approve and extend the Interlocal Agreement with Lake County, FL for the provision of library services.
2. Do not approve extending the Interlocal Agreement.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Move to approve and extend the Interlocal Agreement with Lake County, FL for the provision of library services.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Meets legal sufficiency

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. Amendment to the Interlocal Library Services Agreement_2026-2027
2. Interlocal_Agreement_Library Services_2019-2022

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

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
8/5/2026**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 10

SUBJECT TITLE: Budget Workshop – Present Enterprise and Special Revenue Fund Budgets, and Discuss the General Fund Budget (City Administrator)

OBJECTIVE:

To deliver, present, and discuss the Utility Funds & Special Revenue Fund Budgets for Fiscal Year 2027 (October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027), and discuss the General Fund budget.

SUMMARY:

At the July 15, 2026, City Council meeting, the Council received the proposed General Fund budget and voted on a tentative millage rate of 7.2 mills (see attached legal opinion related to the vote on the millage rate). Staff will now present the proposed FY 2027 budgets for the Utility Funds and Special Revenue Funds. Following the presentations, the Council will have an opportunity to discuss the proposed FY 2027 General Fund Budget and the proposed FY2027 millage rate as well as the Utility Funds and Special Revenue Funds budgets.

The Utility Funds include Water, Wastewater, Stormwater, Solid Waste, and the Seaplane Base/Marina. The Special Revenue Funds include Community Redevelopment (TIF), Infrastructure Sales Tax, Grants, Debt Service, and the Pavilion Fund.

The tentative maximum millage rate was discussed and established at the July 15, 2026, City Council meeting. The Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan will be presented and discussed at the August 19, 2026, budget workshop, followed by public hearings on the proposed budget on September 2, 2026, and September 16, 2026.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Finance Director present the Enterprise and Special Funds.

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Legally Sufficient

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. City Attorney Opinion - FY 2027 Tentative Max. Millage Rate

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
8/5/2026**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 11

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 and Budget Workshop	August 19, 2026, 4:00 p.m., Tavares City Council Chambers
Planning and Zoning Board Meeting	August 20, 2026, 3:00 p.m., Tavares City Council Chambers
Library Board Meeting	September 9, 2026, 4:00 p.m., Tavares Library Expansion Room
Code Enforcement Special Magistrate Hearing	August 25, 2026, 4:00 p.m., Tavares City Council Chambers

OUTSIDE AGENCY MEETINGS:

Heartland League of Cities Meeting	August 14, 2026, 12:00 noon, Location to be Determined
Lake Sumter MPO Governing Board Meeting	October 28, 2026, 2:00 p.m., Suite 175, 1300 Citizens Boulevard, Leesburg
Tavares Chamber of Commerce Business Meeting	August 26, 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 7.16.2026

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

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
8/5/2026**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 12

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.