



AGENDA
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
September 3, 2026
5:05 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 Sandy Gamble, Church of God of Prophecy

III. BUDGET HEARING - FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 TENTATIVE MILLAGE & BUDGET 0
READING OF TENTATIVE MILLAGE AND BUDGET RESOLUTIONS - 5:05 P.M.

Tab 2 Approve Resolution 2026-12 for Tentative Millage Rate for FY 2027
 – First Reading (City Administrator)

Tab 3 Approve Resolution 2026-13 for Tentative Budget for FY 2027 –
 First Reading (City Administrator)

IV. 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
9/3/2026**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 1

SUBJECT TITLE: Pastor Sandy Gamble, Church of God of Prophecy

OBJECTIVE:

Pastor Sandy Gamble, Church of God of Prophecy, will provide the invocation and lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SUMMARY:

Pastor Sandy Gamble, Church of God of Prophecy, 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
9/3/2026**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 2

SUBJECT TITLE: Approve Resolution 2026-12 for Tentative Millage Rate for FY 2027 – First Reading (City Administrator)

OBJECTIVE:

To receive public input and consider the approval of Resolution 2026-12 to adopt the Tentative Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2027.

SUMMARY:

The City Administrator and staff have developed a budget for Fiscal Year 2027 for Council's consideration totaling \$74,740,342 that is fully balanced (all funds). The proposed budget for FY 2027 includes, among many other items, the following:

1. Maintains a similar level of service.
2. General Fund millage rate increase from FY 2026 of 6.6850 mills to FY 2027 of 6.9922 mills, which is 8.55% above the rollback rate.
3. Debt Service millage rate decrease from FY 2026 of 0.1467 mills to FY 2027 of 0.1335 mills, a reduction of approximately 9%.
4. Estimated reserve balances that exceed GFOA recommendations.
5. Employee cost-of-living adjustment of 4.0%.
6. Six new Public Safety positions: three Police positions and three Fire positions.
7. \$400,000 for street paving from the Infrastructure Sales Tax Fund.

Previously, the City Council discussed the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget at the following public meetings:

- **July 15, 2026** – General Fund Budget Workshop and establishment of the maximum tentative millage rate.
- **August 5, 2026** – Budget Workshop for General, Utility, and Special Revenue Funds
- **August 19, 2026** – Budget Workshop for Capital Improvement Plan presentation and continued discussion of the FY 2027 Proposed General Fund Budget.
- **September 2, 2026** – Budget Workshop for Continued budget deliberations and updates to the FY 2027 Proposed Budget.

A Tentative Budget for all City funds has been prepared for the City Council's consideration. Exhibit A summarizes the changes made to the Proposed Budget since it was first presented to the City Council on July 15, 2026.

The Final Public Hearing to adopt the FY 2027 Millage Rate and the FY 2027 Budget will be held at 5:05 p.m. on September 16, 2026, at which time the City Council will adopt the final millage rates.

An updated Resolution and Exhibit A will be provided on the day of this meeting if any changes were

made at the previous September 2, 2026 Budget Workshop.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: Take public input and approve the Tentative Millage for Fiscal Year 2027 as reflected in Resolution 2026-12.

Option 2: Take public input and approve the Tentative Millage for Fiscal Year 2027 as reflected in Resolution 2026-12, with any additional changes directed by the City Council.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Option 2: Take public input and approve the Tentative Millage for Fiscal Year 2027 as reflected in Resolution 2026-12, with any additional changes directed by the City Council.

FISCAL IMPACT:

At this point, all budgets are balanced. Changes will require revisions to the Tentative Budget.

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Legally Sufficient.

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. (Resolution) Resolution 2025-12 - Tentative Millage Rate

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

RESOLUTION 2026 - 12

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A FINAL MILLAGE RATE OF 6.9922 FOR THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, FOR AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027; SETTING FORTH THE PERCENT BY WHICH THE MILLAGE RATE IS GREATER THAN THE "ROLLED-BACK" RATE.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA:

WHEREAS, the City of Tavares of Lake County, Florida on September 3, 2026, adopted the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Tentative Millage Rate following a public hearing as required by Florida Statute 200.065.

WHEREAS, the City of Tavares of Lake County, Florida, following due public notice as required by law, held a second public hearing on September 16, 2026, as required by Florida Statute 200.065 on the 2026-2027 Millage Rate; and

WHEREAS, the gross taxable value for operating purposes not exempt from taxation within Lake County has been certified by the County Property Appraiser to the City of Tavares as \$2,045,510,510.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Tavares of Lake County, Florida, that:

1. The City of Tavares Fiscal Year 2026-2027 operating millage rate to be levied is hereby set at 6.9922 mills, which millage rate is greater than the rolled back rate of 6.4412 mills by 8.55%.
2. The voted debt service millage rate is set at .1335 mills for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.
3. This Resolution will take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND RESOLVED this 16th day of September 2026 by the City Council of the City of Tavares, Florida. Time Adopted: _____.

Lori Pfister, Mayor
Tavares City Council

ATTEST:

Susie Novack
City Clerk

Approved as to form:
Lindsay Holt,
City Attorney

**AGENDA SUMMARY
TAVARES CITY COUNCIL
9/3/2026**

AGENDA TAB NO.: 3

**SUBJECT TITLE: Approve Resolution 2026-13 for Tentative Budget for FY 2027 – First Reading
(City Administrator)**

OBJECTIVE:

To receive public input and consider the approval of Resolution 2026-13 to adopt the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2027.

SUMMARY:

The City Administrator and staff have developed a budget for Fiscal Year 2027 for Council's consideration totaling \$74,740,342 that is fully balanced (all funds). The proposed budget for FY 2027 includes, among many other items, the following:

1. Maintains a similar level of service.
2. General Fund millage rate increase from FY 2026 of 6.6850 mills to FY 2027 of 6.9922 mills, which is 8.55% above the rollback rate.
3. Debt Service millage rate decrease from FY 2026 of 0.1467 mills to FY 2027 of 0.1335 mills, a reduction of approximately 9%.
4. Estimated reserve balances that exceed GFOA recommendations.
5. Employee cost-of-living adjustment of 4.0%.
6. Six new Public Safety positions: three Police positions and three Fire positions.
7. \$400,000 for street paving from the Infrastructure Sales Tax Fund.

Previously, the City Council discussed the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget at the following public meetings:

- **July 15, 2026** – General Fund Budget Workshop and establishment of the maximum tentative millage rate.
- **August 5, 2026** – Budget Workshop General, Utility, and Special Revenue Funds.
- **August 19, 2026** – Budget Workshop for Capital Improvement Plan presentation and continued discussion of the FY 2027 Proposed General Fund Budget.
- **September 2, 2026** – Budget Workshop for Continued budget deliberations and updates to the FY 2027 Proposed Budget.

A Tentative Budget for all City funds has been prepared for the City Council's consideration. Exhibit A summarizes the changes made to the Proposed Budget since it was first presented to the City Council on July 15, 2026.

The Final Public Hearing to adopt the FY 2027 Millage Rate and the FY 2027 Budget will be held at 5:05 p.m. on September 16, 2026, at which time the City Council will adopt the final millage rates.

An updated Resolution and Exhibit A will be provided on the day of this meeting if any changes were made at the previous September 2, 2026 Budget Workshop.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: Take public input and approve the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 as reflected in Resolution 2026-13.

Option 2: Take public input and approve the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 as reflected in Resolution 2026-13, with any additional changes directed by the City Council.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Option 2: Take public input and approve the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 as reflected in Resolution 2026-13, with any additional changes directed by the City Council.

FISCAL IMPACT:

At this point, all budgets are balanced. Changes will require revisions to the Tentative Budget.

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Legally Sufficient.

ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST:

1. Resolution 2026-13

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

RESOLUTION 2026-13

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF TAVARES, FLORIDA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 - 2027.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAVARES,
FLORIDA:

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the tentative 2026-2027 budget was held at the Tavares City Hall Council Chambers in the City of Tavares, Florida, Lake County, Florida on Thursday, September 3, 2026 at 5:05 p.m., as required by Florida Statutes 200.065; and

WHEREAS, the general public was given an opportunity to express its views pertaining to the tentative budget, and

WHEREAS, the City Council approved the tentative budget for 2026-2027,
and

WHEREAS, a second public hearing on the proposed 2026-2027 budget was held in the Council Chambers at the Tavares City Hall, 201 East Main Street in the City of Tavares, Florida, on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 5:05 p.m.,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Budget for 2026-2027 fiscal year for the City of Tavares, Florida is hereby adopted by the Tavares City Council in the amount of \$74,740,342 at public hearing this 16th day of September 2026.

Fund Name	Fund Number	Estimated Revenues ¹	Reserve Appropriations ³	Unappropriated Revenues ²	Estimated Appropriations/ Expenditures
General Fund	001	32,543,264	\$ -	\$ (17,002)	\$ 32,526,262
Water/Wastewater Utility	401	15,164,576	-	(139,602)	\$ 15,024,974
Water/Wastewater Impacts	441	1,979,730	-	(779,730)	\$ 1,200,000
W/WW RR&I Fund	443	400,000	300,000	-	\$ 700,000
SRF Construction Fund	444	-	-	-	\$ -
W/WW SRF Loan	445	2,691,262	-	-	\$ 2,691,262
Sunset View Fund	447	-	-	-	\$ -
Solid Waste/Sanitation	402	5,026,066	-	(26,245)	\$ 4,999,821
Stormwater	403	2,537,825	-	(53,252)	\$ 2,484,573
Seaplane Base Fund	405	1,127,794	-	(14,383)	\$ 1,113,411
Pavilion Fund	406	841,414	-	(1,751)	\$ 839,663
Police Education	102	-	-	-	\$ -
Community Redevelopment	105	317,061	-	-	\$ 317,061
Police Impacts	110	132,178	-	(113,201)	\$ 18,977
Fire Impacts	111	145,962	-	(126,985)	\$ 18,977
Forfeiture Fund	112	-	-	-	\$ -
Park Impacts	114	322,769	20,391	-	\$ 343,160
Building Permits	115	75,245	-	(75,245)	\$ -
Facility Impacts	116	-	-	-	\$ -
Citizen Donation Fund	119	-	-	-	\$ -
Fire Assessment Fund	122	2,932,953	-	-	\$ 2,932,953
Grant Fund	151	318,201	-	-	\$ 318,201
Infrastructure Sales Tax ⁵	152	2,600,000	318,827	-	\$ 2,918,827
ARPA	155	-	-	-	\$ -
GTRP East Campus Fund	157	-	-	-	\$ -
Debt Service Fund	201	1,048,380	-	-	\$ 1,048,380
Capital Project Fund	301	-	-	-	\$ -
Capital Project Fund ⁶	302	-	-	-	\$ -
Municipal Police Pension ⁴	601	3,357,044	-	(1,368,775)	\$ 1,988,269
Firefighter's Pension ⁴	602	4,376,586	-	(1,121,365)	\$ 3,255,221
General Employee Pension	603	55,429	-	(55,429)	\$ -
Mildred Hunter Trust	605	480	-	(330)	\$ 150
Wooton Park Playground Trust	606	452	-	(252)	\$ 200
		\$ 77,994,671	\$ 639,218	\$ (3,893,547)	\$ 74,740,342

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.

This resolution will take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND RESOLVED this 16th day of September 2026, by the City Council of the City of Tavares, Florida. Time Adopted: _____ P.M.

Lori Pfister, Mayor
Tavares City Council

ATTEST:

Susie Novack
City Clerk

Approved as to form:
Lindsay Holt.
City Attorney