



CITY OF OKEECHOBEE

55 SE THIRD AVENUE
OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974

SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

6:00 PM

FIRST BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING OFFICIAL AGENDA

Mayor

Dowling R. Watford, Jr.

Vice Mayor

Monica Clark

Council Members

Noel Chandler

Bob Jarriel

David McAuley

Mission Statement:	The mission of the City of Okeechobee is to provide accommodating services that enhance the quality of life for our citizens and businesses in a fiscally sound manner.
Vision Statement:	The City of Okeechobee will maintain a vibrant and prosperous community built on our heritage, history, unique character, and small-town atmosphere.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ATTENDANCE

III. AGENDA AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. Requests for any modifications to the agenda.
- B. Motion to adopt the agenda as published or amended.
- C. Public participation for any issues not on the agenda requires an Agenda Item Form or Comment Card. Citizen comments are limited to 3 minutes per speaker unless otherwise approved by the Mayor.

IV. PROCLAMATIONS

- A. Proclaim the week of September 17-23, 2026, as Constitution Week **(Exhibit 1)**.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Dispense with the reading and approve the August 18, 2026, Minutes **(Exhibit 2)**.
- B. Motion to appoint Mr. Anthony Smith to the General Employees' Retirement System Fund Board of Trustees, City resident 2 of 2, replacing Caya Ortega, term September 4, 2026, through December 31, 2028 **(Exhibit 3)**.

VI. FISCAL YEAR 2026-27 FIRST BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Mayor Watford announces the purpose of this Public Hearing is to consider the first reading of ordinances for the proposed Millage Rate levy and proposed Budget for Fiscal Year October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027.
- B. Mayor Watford announces the proposed Millage Rate levy represents the rollback rate of 5.8321 computed pursuant to FL Statutes 200.065(1).
- C. Motion to read by title only, approve the first reading, and set September 21, 2026, at 6:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter as possible, as the second reading and final Public Hearing date for proposed Ordinance No. 1331, levying a Millage Rate of 5.8321 on all real and tangible personal property for proposed FY October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027. **(Exhibit 4)**.

- D. Motion to read by title only, approve the first reading, and set September 21, 2026, at 6:00 P.M., or as soon thereafter as possible, as the second reading and final Public Hearing date proposed Ordinance No. 1332, adopting the annual Budget for FY October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027 **(Exhibit 5)**.

Close the First Budget Public Hearing

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Motion to accept a Right-of-Way Dedication from Park Street Property Owners Association, Inc, for Roadway Tract as shown on Park Street Commence Center Plat Book 8, Page 91, 0.386+/- acres located along the East Boundary line of Lot 5 and Stormwater Tract "B" **(Exhibit 6)**.
- B. Motion to approve a Federal Financial Assistance Subrecipient Agreement with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in the amount of \$22,500.00 to plant sixty-nine trees at seven different locations in the City **(Exhibit 7)**.
- C. Motion to approve and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a Subordination of City Utility Interest as requested by FDOT for vacated alleyways lying East to West in Block 1 between Lots 1 to 4 and 5 to 8, and Block 2 between Lots 1 to 10 and 17 to 26, and a portion of vacated NE 3rd Avenue between NE 13th and 14th Streets, OKEECHOBEE, Plat Book 5, Page 5, Okeechobee County public records **(Exhibit 8)**.
- D. Motion to approve Prime Contract Potential Change Order #006 to Proctor Construction to purchase Door Panic Hardware **(Exhibit 9)**.
- E. Discussion the opportunity to purchase of the property located at 501 SE 2nd Street, Okeechobee, owned by the American Legion Post 64 and provide direction to staff **(Exhibit 10)**.
- F. Discussion regarding the application packet and timeline for recruitment of a City Clerk **(Exhibit 11)**.

VIII. CITY ATTORNEY UPDATE

IX. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

X. COUNCIL COMMENTS

XI. ADJOURN MEETING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED that if any person desires to appeal any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at this proceeding, such an interested person will need a record of the proceeding, and for such purpose may need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. City Clerk recordings are for the sole purpose of backup for official records of the Clerk. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Clerk's Office in person or call 863-763-9814, Hearing Impaired: Florida Relay 7-1-1 no later than four business days prior to proceeding.**BE ADVISED** that should you intend to show any document, picture, video, or item to the Council in support of or opposition to any item on the agenda; a copy of the document, picture, video, or item must be provided to the City Clerk for the City's records.