



**CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA**  
**JUNE 2, 2026, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Watford called the regular meeting of the City Council for the City of Okeechobee to order on June 2, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, located at 55 Southeast 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue (AVE), Room 200, Okeechobee, Florida (FL). The invocation was offered by Council Member McAuley; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member Chandler.

**II. ATTENDANCE**

City Clerk Lane Gamiotea called the roll. Members physically present to establish a quorum: Mayor Dowling R. Watford, Jr., Vice Mayor Monica M. Clark, Council Members Noel A. Chandler, Robert "Bob" Jarriel, and David R. McAuley.

**III. AGENDA AND PUBLIC COMMENTS**

A. There were no modifications made to the published agenda, although Exhibits 8 and 9 were added and noted with their item.

B. Motion by Council Member Jarriel, seconded by Council Member Chandler to adopt the agenda as published.

**Motion Carried Unanimously.**

C. No comment cards were received for public participation for issues not on the agenda.

**IV. PRESENTATIONS**

A. Mayor Watford and Police Chief Donald Hagan recognized School Resource Officer Kelley Cortez for her twenty years of service. She was presented with a monetary award of \$2,185.15, [three percent of her current annual salary], and a framed Longevity Service Certificate, read into the record as follows: **"Longevity Service Certificate presented to Kelley Cortez in recognition of your twenty years of service, hard work, and dedication to the City, its citizens, and your fellow employees from May 17, 2006, through May 17, 2026."** [A copy of the certificate has been added to the official Minute File, labeled **Exhibit 8**].

**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Motion by Council Member McAuley, seconded by Vice Mayor Clark to dispose of an obsolete computer from the Administration Department [as presented in **Exhibit 1**].

**Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**VI. MAYOR WATFORD OPENED THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:09 P.M.**

A. Motion by Council Member Jarriel, seconded by Vice Mayor Clark to adopt proposed Resolution No. 2026-04, revising the Residential Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services Preliminary Rates as provided in the Restated Franchise Agreement with Waste Management, the Assessed Cost for Services, and the estimated Assessment Rate for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026- 27 [as presented in **Exhibit 2**].

Assistant City Attorney Stephen Conteagüero read into the record the title of proposed Resolution No. 2026-04 as follows: **"A PRELIMINARY RATE RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, FL; PURSUANT TO SECTION 2.08 OF ORDINANCE NO. 784 RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SERVICES; SETTING FORTH A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES PROVIDED; DETERMINING THE SOLID WASTE ASSESSED COST FOR THE UPCOMING FY; ESTABLISHING THE ESTIMATED ASSESSMENT RATE FOR THE UPCOMING FY; AUTHORIZING AND SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC CONCERNING ADOPTION OF AN ANNUAL RATE RESOLUTION; DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO UPDATE THE ASSESSMENT ROLL, AND TO PROVIDE NECESSARY NOTICE THEREOF TO AFFECTED LANDOWNERS IN THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE."**

There were no public or City Council comments.

**Motion Carried Unanimously.**

B. Motion by Vice Mayor Clark, seconded by Council Member McAuley to adopt proposed Resolution No. 2026-05, revising the Residential Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services Rates as provided in the Restated Franchise Agreement with Waste Management, Continue Imposition of the Assessment, and Certifying the Solid Waste Assessment Roll for FY 2026- 27 [as presented in **Exhibit 3**].

## VI. PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED

- B. Continued. Assistant City Attorney Conteagüero read into the record the title of proposed Resolution No. 2026-05 as follows: **"A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, FL; RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SERVICES; CONTINUING IMPOSITION OF THE SOLID WASTE COLLECTION ASSESSMENT PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED BY RESOLUTION NO. 2001-08; ADOPTING THE ANNUAL RATE RESOLUTION AS PERMITTED BY ORDINANCE NO. 784 FOR FY 2026-27; APPROVING THE PRELIMINARY RATE RESOLUTION; AND CERTIFYING THE SOLID WASTE ASSESSMENT ROLL AS AUTHORIZED BY THE FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE."**

Mayor Watford read one public comment received via email by Deputy City Clerk Katie Rogers on May 27, 2026, into the record. Mrs. Raia Black wanted to share that she would like the City's continued Waste Management services to continue with recycling, as well as regular garbage pickup and yard pickup. A copy of the email has been incorporated into **Exhibit 3** of the official Minute File.

**Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**MAYOR WATFORD CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 6:13 P.M.**

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Motion by Council Member Jarriel, seconded by Council Member Chandler to adopt proposed Resolution No. 2026-06, revising the Rate Schedule for Commercial Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services for FY 2026-27 as provided in the Restated Franchise Agreement with Waste Management [as presented in **Exhibit 4**].

Assistant City Attorney Conteagüero read into the record the title of proposed Resolution No. 2026-06 as follows: **"A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE, FL; REVISING THE COMMERCIAL RATE SCHEDULE FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SERVICES WITHIN THE CITY OF OKEECHOBEE FOR FY 2026-27; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE."**

**Motion Carried Unanimously.**

- B. Motion by Vice Mayor Clark, seconded by Council Member Chandler to award to CAS Governmental Services a Grant Management and Administrative Services Agreement for the Public Safety Facility Improvement Phase 2, FY 2025-26 Legislative Appropriations Grant No. MS1252 (Agreement #FM1252) in the amount of \$25,000.00 [as presented in **Exhibit 5**].

**Motion Carried Unanimously.**

- C. Motion by Council Member Jarriel, seconded by Council Member McAuley to approve Amendment No. 11 to the Florida Department of Transportation Traffic Signal and Maintenance Agreement Contract No. ARW85, as adopted by Resolution No. 2015-02; and further authorizing the City Administrator to approve and execute each year Exhibit A of the Agreement (List and Location of Traffic Signal Devices within the City Limits and Compensation Amount) [as presented in **Exhibit 6**].

**Motion Carried Unanimously.**

- D. Motion by Council Member Jarriel, seconded by Vice Mayor Clark to approve the City Administrator Employment Agreement with Ms. Denise Whitehead [as presented in **Revised Exhibit 7**]. **A motion to amend the motion on the floor was made by Council Member Jarriel, seconded by Council McAuley to amend the Employment Contract Section 8, page four, Accrued Leave Benefit, from 140 hours to 120 hours.**

**Motion to Amend Carried Unanimously.**

**Motion as Amended Carried Unanimously.**

## VIII. CITY ATTORNEY UPDATE

A copy of the update was added to the official Minute File, labeled as **Exhibit 9**.

- The first draft of the Business Tax Receipts (BTR) enhanced enforcement Ordinance was sent out to staff earlier this afternoon. The Ordinance includes verbiage allowing the City to file suit in Civil Court upon receiving the Code Enforcement Special Magistrate's findings of fact and conclusions of law confirming a violation for non-renewals of BTRs.
- Reviewed the Florida Power and Light Lighting Agreement for the electrical costs pertaining to the streetlights being erected on Northeast (NE) 13<sup>th</sup> AVE and NE 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (ST) in the Park Street Commerce Center.
- Currently reviewing the Request For Proposals documents for the upcoming Landscape Maintenance and Installation Services Bid Packet.

**IX. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE**

- Advised the City Council there will be an item on the next meeting agenda to discuss changing the City Council meeting times to 5:00 P.M. to cut down on employee overtime.
- Proctor Construction hopes to begin work on the Public Safety Building next month.
- The windows and doors for City Hall will be installed in phases and worked around the City Council meeting schedule. City Hall staff will be temporarily displaced as the window installation moves between departments.
- Public Works staff is working on the next set of roads to resurface, beginning with the SE section, and will bring the Proposal from C.W. Roberts Contracting, Inc (CWR). to the City Council for approval.
- Advised that the construction within the right-of-way along North Park ST is being done by a contractor hired by the Okeechobee County School Board (OCSB) to lay dark fiber.

**X. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

- Council Member Chandler stated the Red, White, and Blue BBQ was a great event. He also congratulated Mayor Watford and Council Member McAuley for receiving the Home Rule Hero Award from the Treasure Coast Regional League of Cities (TCRLC).
- Council Member Jarriel reminded the Council to attend the Treasure Coast Council of Local Governments and TCRLC Joint Meeting and Luncheon, at First Methodist Church of Okeechobee tomorrow.
- Mayor Watford advised the presentations being offered at the Joint Meeting will be on Data Centers and an update on the new Okeechobee High School by OCSB Superintendent Dylan Tedders.
- Council Member McAuley added that the speaker for Data Centers is non-biased and is strictly presenting pertinent information on the topic.
- Vice Mayor Clark stated CWR did a great job with the resurfacing work in the City Commerce Center and NE 9<sup>th</sup> ST; however, they left behind 20 orange cones on her property.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items, Mayor Watford adjourned the meeting at 6:47 P.M.

Submitted By:



Lane Gamiotea, CMC, City Clerk

Please take notice and be advised that when a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, s/he may need to ensure that 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 media are for the sole purpose of backup for official records of the Clerk.