



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

Ponce Inlet Town Council

Reported by Deb Atkian

July 16, 2026

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Tallahassee Update – Presented by Chase Tramont, Ponce Inlet’s State Representative.

- An Amendment to the State of Florida Constitution regarding property tax reform is proposed. This amendment would increase Homestead deductions to \$250,000.00. The increase would significantly impact tax dollars received by towns, especially towns like Ponce Inlet, who have few businesses.
- Representative Tramont apologized for his inability to get other initiatives (the House of Representatives had eight other propositions) reviewed and accepted by Governor DeSantis.
- Representative Tramont stated that he is thankful that the voters will make the final decision regarding this proposed amendment on the November ballot.

Resolution 2026-11 – Adopting a proposed millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 and establishing dates for the tentative and final millage rate hearings.

- Tentative millage rate established as 6.3720 mills.
Passed 4-1.
- It is hoped this rate will decrease significantly by the final date for establishing millage. The next millage review meeting date is September 16, 2026 at 6:00 PM. The final millage review meeting date is September 30, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

NATURAL RESOURCES

- Second Reading of Ordinance 2026-2 - Amending Code of Ordinances Chapter 78 to create a townwide stormwater utility and stormwater assessment program. Second Reading is the end of the process for establishing this stormwater initiative. It will create a dedicated source of revenue for stormwater management.
Passed 5-0
- Resolution 2026-09 – Adopting the stormwater utility rate assessment. Annual rates were established for 2027 through 2031. It was clarified that condo and townhome owners will not pay this assessment as an HOA fee. It will be a component of their property tax.
Passed 5-0

- Resolution 2026-10 – Adopting the stormwater utility mitigation credit policy manual. Establishes the mechanisms by which a resident can apply for credit of a portion of their assessment based on the quality of individual property's stormwater mitigation as permitted by the St. Johns Authority and or based on the quantity of stormwater managed by their mitigation. It further establishes a decision appeal process. Passed 5-0.
- Ponce Inlet has hired the engineering firm Kimberly – Horn and Associates for design and engineering of the stormwater retention area planned for properties previously purchased by Ponce Inlet at 54 and 58 South Turn Circle.

ENVIRONMENT

- Resolution 2026-03 – First Reading – Amendments to outdoor entertainment, outdoor entertainment permits and noise regulation. Code of Ordinances Sections 34-91 through 34-98. Discussion involved Ponce Inlet being a haven for privacy and quiet. Police Chief Glazier presented his department's findings related to noise pollution from outdoor events in Ponce Inlet. He found that Ponce Inlet regulations were more lenient than surrounding communities. He presented proposed enhancements to regulations. Town Council thanked him for this work and asked that he redesign these enhancements, ensuring that Ponce Inlet's regulations are equally as restrictive as any of the surrounding communities. He will return to Council with his findings. Passed 5-0

A resident spoke requesting that some action be taken regarding noise that comes from the river. The City Attorney will return at Second Reading with advice on how to manage sound levels from the water.