



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT
New Smyrna Beach City Commission
Reported by Rice S. Wagner

February 10, 2026

The city of NSB is preparing for the annual strategic planning and will hold a State of the City address on April 7th. Among projects coming to a close was the reopening of the dock area at the Brannon Center.

During the Public Participation of the meeting Michael Don Johnson presented his concerns regarding the area's current member of the House of Representatives, Cory Mills, and how his actions are reflecting on the voters of New Smyrna Beach. Commissioners were encouraged to carefully consider the location of a Certified Recovery Residence, taking care to designate actual businesses as opposed to religious institutions.

Applications are being updated for sidewalk bricks. Check with the city for further information.

Due to SB784 which was passed last summer approval of plats will now be administrative. "Local governments must adopt ordinances or resolutions designating a staff authority to approve plats administratively, update submittal and notice procedures, and implement the new review timelines. This eliminates the need for final-plat public hearings before governing bodies for plats that meet technical requirements." One objection to this is leaving out input by the public and Planning and Zoning. Notification will now be through Development Activity Reports so as to promote full transparency. Sleeping in cars from 11 PM to 6 AM is now prohibited. The move is an effort to control homelessness as are First Step, the Mayor's Task Force and the resident clinical psychologist.

Multiple volunteer city vacancies are open and the public is encouraged to apply. Commissioner Martin brought attention to the city's use of Turnbull Bay proceeds to buy and place land in Conservation in Perpetuity, thus protecting the property from development. She also asked if the city would like to pass an ordinance to prohibit toilet to tap water.

Commissioner Ashley spoke highly of Upward Trend Academy which teaches children with special needs.

Mayor Cleveland promoted the April 9 Pro-Am Surf Festival and explained his roll in a recent visit to Tallahassee. He addressed several House and Senate bills, speaking in particular to Representatives Tramont and Partington along with Senators Leek and Wright.



January 27, 2026

On January 12 Mayor Cleveland and City Manager Cowper attended the Volusia County Elected Officials Roundtable. Included in the meeting were the Sheriff, Tax Collector, Tax Appraiser, Election's Supervisor and Clerk of the Court. Important topics included an update on pending legislation in Tallahassee and concerns relating to flooding in Volusia County. The next meeting will be March 9.

A number of annexations were approved on second reading and an ordinance which would prohibit sleeping on sidewalks was presented at a first reading.

Please note that appointments to city boards are given as an on-going process. If you have an interest in volunteering, please check your city's website for openings