



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT
Ormond Beach City Commission
Reported by Pam Breault

July 28, 2026

Resolution No. 2026-85: Adoption of Tentative Millage Rate.

2026/2027 fiscal year, the proposed rate is 4.302 mil (flat rate).

Public Comments:

Flat rate millage does not translate to no increase in real estate taxes because of the debt service. More transparency is needed for the method of determining millage. Outside legal counsel is more expensive than in-house counsel. The budget for the fire department is inadequate considering the city's growth.

Some support the flat millage rate; being the 2nd lowest in Volusia County. The taxes provide for investment in the city's infrastructure, safety, recreation, etc. Rollback rate of 4.1794 mil. would reduce the services that are needed and would save only \$10/year per household.

Passed unanimously

General Audience Remarks:

Allowing only 3 minutes to make a comment on all of the consent agenda items is not reasonable; there are 11 items. Lack of transparency on budget items (no documentation) is not in the spirit of Sunshine Laws.

River Bend golf club has economic benefits to the city; and a "clean-up" day where the OBCC would seek organizations that can provide volunteers is requested.

Tomoka Oaks; why are they repaving now? Congestion will ensue with the construction vehicles and other vehicles pedestrians and bikes will make traffic unbearable in that area. Assistant City Manager Sean Finnley weighed in at the request of Mayor Leslie: the repaving is done on a bi-annual basis.



Two people commented that the Airport needs an environmental study (NEPA), and this is required regardless of whether the funding is from FDOT or FAA.

Consent Agenda:

Items pulled:

Resolution 2026-88 - Halifax Humane Society Agreement Funding Increase:(pulled by Commissioners Tolland and Deaton) The \$160,000 budgeted total as part of it is the \$75,000 work authorization for the Humane Society. The City seeks services from Edgewater Shelter because the services they provide for wayward animals is less than Halifax Humane. When Edgewater is full, the City needs the services of Halifax Humane. Ormond Beach is working toward coordination between Halifax Humane and Edgewater.

Passed Unanimously

Resolution 2026-92 - Authorization to Accept a Settlement Related to the National Opioid Litigation Matter. (pulled by Commissioner Sargent) City Attorney Randy Hayes stated that with the additional receipt of funds from Publix the resolution is needed and for it will allow the City Attorney to execute future participation forms and litigation documents.

Passed Unanimously

Resolution No 2026-95 - Naming the multipurpose fields 9-12 at the sports center in honor of the Lohman Family due to their continued philanthropy toward the city for parks and recreation. (pulled by Commissioner Briley and Tolland)

Passed unanimously

Public Hearings:

Ordinance No. 2026-11 - Eighteen-Month Moratorium on Data Centers

Randy Hayes states that a moratorium on the large-scale data center ban is needed to work with the State agencies. A final decision on this is expected to come in July 2027. The City will determine if there are affected properties. The Planning and Development department will be reviewing the comprehensive land development and will be heavily



involved in the process. Senate Bill 484, enacted in July 2026, authorizes local governments to regulate data centers, including their impact on the environment and scarce resources. Amending the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Land Development Code through public hearing is needed because the current code does not address data centers. The moratorium is needed to buy time to get the changes made to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Land Development Code, which is required prior to initiating any ban on data centers. Currently, there are no data centers within City limits. Senate Bill 180 - which prevents local governments from proposing or adopting more restrictive or burdensome amendments to the land development code or comprehensive plan, sunsets October 2027.

With the moratorium, the city will not receive, process, consider or approve any application, order, permit for data centers. All the Commissioners are concerned about the prospect of data centers in the City. Some suggested workshopping on this issue; maybe even a charter amendment banning data centers.

Public Comment:

Residents are concerned about the drain on water and electricity that would hinder the quality of life. A moratorium does not protect the residents; the Commission needs to use the 18-month moratorium to create real solutions.

Many request that a total and complete ban on data centers be considered now. Some stated that three of Florida's counties currently have a ban data centers.

City Planning Director Steven Spraecker stated that he will bring a realistic schedule on the comprehensive plan amendment process for approval; but this could take several months.

Passed unanimously

Ordinance 2026-97 - Seward Johnson 2026 Sculpture Tour Timeframe Extension: Downtown Public Art.

Steven Spraecker stated that this would extend the time for public display of the art.

Passed unanimously



Florida League of Cities Voting Delegate:

This event will be held in South Florida. Commissioner Sargent stated that there is no need to send a delegate, Commissioner Tolland concurred; this will save the City funds. A motion was made for the City to decline the invitation.

Unanimous approval to not send a delegate to the Florida League of Cities.

Reports, Suggestions, Requests:

Commissioner Tolland: 1) Ormond Beach is a true vacation and retirement destination with short-term rentals beachside through Airbnb and VRBO increasing; someone needs to ensure property managers working with vacation rental companies to ensure they are cognizant of the City restrictions. 2) She also thanked the public service officers.

Commissioner Sargent: 1) Shout-out to the Ormond Art Museum, which was started by veterans returning from war; spear-headed by Malcolm Frazier. 2) He also thanked the public service officers.

Commissioner Deaton: 1) Shout out to the Parks and Recreation Department for the work completed on the ballfields.

Commissioner Briley: 1) The Ormond Beach July 4th 250-year anniversary celebration was a resounding success; from the music provided by bands to the fireworks display .

Mayor Leslie: 1) The City needs an ordinance in reference to E-Bike usage. Randy Hayes will research Daytona Beach's ordinance. Deltona has restrictions on E-Bikes, whereby if the speed is over 15 mph, the rider must be 18 years or older. 2) The City needs to monitor the dock accessibility. 3) Commissioners should personally look at the condition of the River Bend golf course. City Manager Joyce Shanahan stated that the FAA has not responded to the City's inquiries about permitted uses of the airport. The Commissioners should reach out to Joyce Shanahan to coordinate visits to the River Bend Golf course condition. 4) Mayor Leslie inquired if there is any interest in doing a "Time Capsule" for Ormond Beach in honor of the nation's 250th anniversary.