



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

April 28, 2026

NSB is proud to be a support for both the Fair Housing Act and Tree City USA.

According to City Manager, Kevin Cowper, the first public workshop on the city's budget will take place on July 16th. More information to follow. FDOT work on 44 from I95 to Walker Street will probably begin around August. The city is holding a painting exhibit which features prominent artists. The artwork will change every three months.

During Public Participation the commissioners were asked to follow up on a 10-year-old neighborhood request to provide a sidewalk between Ocean and Flagler on Pine Street. The area continues to be dangerous for pedestrians and bikers.

Regarding the city's financial report, there is a concern about money not being set aside for the West Side of town with the removal of stormwater at the top of the list.

Several citizens asked that evening hours be extended beyond 9 PM at Detwiler Park where the pickleball courts are in constant use. A compromise of 10 PM was suggested even though there are homes surrounding the area. Note that the noise ordinance is 10 PM. Jason McGuirk favored the longer hours and Resolution No. 07-26 was approved.

Other resolutions, all of which passed, included—

- the application for a F.I.N.D. (Florida Inland Navigation District) Grant for Riverside Park seawall and docks
- Memorandum of Agreement with FDOT for highway maintenance
- renewal of the Emergency Debris Hauling and Disposal along with the Emergency Debris Monitoring Agreement
- proposal from Dredging Marine Consultants (DMC) for the design of the replacement seawall and docks along Riverside Park
- renovation of and furniture for the Finance Department at City Hall
- purchase of natural gas generators for Police and Fire Departments
- Flagler Tavern events—Cinco de Mayo and Summer Solstice Celebration 2026 (June 20, 2026)
- Purchase of land on 5th Street

First readings—

- Ordinance No. 27-26 would allow amendments to sections 803.03, 803.05 and 804.03 of the Land Development Regulations, which pertain to hedges, pool pumps and heaters, pool decks



—No. 28-26 would amend 305.05 of the Land Development Regulations, amending setbacks

Vacancies on city boards include Historic Preservation Commission and Planning and Zoning Board. Information should be on the city's website.

Lisa Martin recommended that the city prepare a letter in support of banning data centers within the city limits. Jason McGuirk said that he knew little if anything about data centers and would welcome information. He implied that issues such as the centers, along with toilet to tap water, were politically driven rather than an ongoing concern throughout the country.

According to the city's attorney, Tallahassee is moving right along with a special session which will cover Congressional redistricting (gerrymandering), medical 'freedom' (vaccines) and an AI Bill of Rights.