



**OBSERVER CORPS REPORT**  
Daytona Beach City Commission  
Reported by Cindy Wakeland

**March 4, 2026**

Mayor Henry chaired the meeting remotely, as both he and City Manager Feacher were out of town.

The Finance Department requested approval of two ordinances related to funding through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). The first ordinance authorized an application for a maximum loan amount of \$81,965,000 under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to support the **Storm Hardening and Resiliency Project at the Bethune Point and Regional Water Reclamation Facilities**. The loan includes 100% principal forgiveness and requires no repayment. The ordinance was approved unanimously, 7–0.

The second ordinance authorized an application for up to \$42,575,000 through the FDEP Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for planning, design, and construction associated with the **Storm Hardening and Resiliency Project at the Brennan Water Treatment Plant**. This loan also includes full principal forgiveness and requires no repayment. The ordinance passed unanimously, 7–0.

Commissioner Paris commended the Utilities Department for identifying these funding opportunities and presenting them to the Commission.

The Commission also considered an ordinance proposing an amendment to the City Charter to **prohibit the City's utility from using reclaimed blackwater** as a direct source water for either aquifer injection or introduction into the potable water system. The proposed amendment would be placed on the ballot for the November 3, 2026, general election. The public hearing and final action are scheduled for March 18, 2026, Commission meeting.

Utilities Director Eric Smith presented an **overview of the City's reclaimed water outlook**. He explained that the proposed ordinance would prohibit reclaimed water from being injected into the potable water supply or underground aquifers. Potable reuse is not included in the City's 20-year growth projections, and underground injection options continue to be evaluated to meet regulatory requirements.

Reclaimed water in Daytona Beach meets Advanced Wastewater Treatment standards and undergoes high-level disinfection. It is currently used for wastewater treatment plant processes, residential and commercial irrigation, golf courses, landscaping, and Bennett Swamp rehydration.



In Fiscal Year 2025, the city produced an average of 14.1 million gallons of reclaimed water per day. Of this total, an average of 8.1 million gallons per day was discharged into the Halifax River, while 5.7 million gallons per day—approximately 40%—was beneficially reused.

The Utilities Department continues to monitor regulatory changes, including Senate Bill 64, which requires all communities to eliminate non-beneficial surface water discharges by January 1, 2032. Additionally, Consumptive Use Permit No. 8834-14, issued in May 2025, establishes beneficial reuse targets of 60% by 2030, 70% by 2035, and 80% by 2040.

Potential reclaimed water management strategies include expansion of public access reuse systems, full utilization of Bennett Swamp rehydration, implementation of spray fields and rapid infiltration basins, retrofitting public access release systems, and development of above-ground storage tanks and surface reservoirs. Certain options—including salinity barrier wells, aquifer storage and recovery wells, and Class I deep well injection—would be prohibited under the proposed ordinance.