LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF VOLUSIA COUNTY

OBSERVER CORPS REPORT
Ormond Beach City Commission
Reported by Pam Breault

Date: October 7, 2026

Audience Remarks:

Volusia County Councilperson Kent, who represents Ormond Beach, came to the meeting to:

Congratulate Ormond Beach for the $1 million in ECO Funding for Ormond Beach Sports Program

Comment on the following:

- The DR Horton development has overgrown grass in Ormond Beach, which is unsightly
- The delays of the Andy Roman Park renovation are complete
- The delays in cutting down the frozen palm fronds

One person commented on the ALPR (Auto License Reader) better known as Flock cameras:

- Have they all been removed
- Where is the data that is stored in Daytona Beach

One person commented on the use and sale of the conservation land held by The City as it relates to Volusia Forever; Amendment 5 on the ballot.

Six people commented on adult soccer:

- Several adults want to play soccer and are searching for an affordable place to play for a reasonable fee
- Robert Carroll, Director of Parks and Recreation, stated that a rough figure of 100 players for a 5-week season (1 practice a week/1 game a week) would cost each player $175. Considerations are:
    - Insurance requirements
    - Proximity to youth soccer play
    - Field availability
    - Specific requirements for field (size, chalking, etc.)

The mayor and all of the Commissioners stated that they seek solutions by looking to other jurisdictions and how they handle this. There are adult soft-ball leagues and there has to be a reasonable solution.

Five people commented on re-opening River Bend Golf Course:

- People are clearly frustrated that this item is not on the agenda for this evening, and that there has been no progress.
- The website has no link for updates on the River Bend Golf Course issue.
- Delaying the Master Plan to 2027 would further delay any possible purchase/sale/management of the facility
- City Manager Joyce Shanahan and Commissioner Deaton have been in contact with the FAA on this and will continue to do this periodically. The FAA has staffing issues and there is no time-line as to when the needs of Ormond Beach.

Consent Agenda: Unanimously approved

Public Hearings:
Ordinance No. 2026-21 - Tomoka Commerce Park, Planned Business Development Amendment (Second Reading)
No Audience Comments
Passed: Commissioners Tolland, Sargent, Deaton, Briley - Yes; Mayor Leslie - No

Resolutions:
Resolution No. 2026-127: 2027 Florida Healthcare Plans Employee Health Insurance Coverage
Resolution No. 2026-129 2027 Mutual of Omaha Vision Insurance Coverage
Resolution No, 2026-130: 2027 Mutual of Omaha Employee Dental Insurance Coverage
Resolution No. 2026-131: 2027 Mutual of Omaha Employee Life Insurance Coverage
Resolution No. 2026-132: 2027 Mutual of Omaha Long Term Insurance Coverage
Resolution No. 2026-133: 2027 Mutual of Omaha Voluntary Life Insurance Coverage
Resolution No. 2026-134: 2027 Mutual of Omaha Voluntary Short Term Disability Insurance Coverage

No Audience Comment
Commissioners Tolland and Commissioner Sargent abstained from voting due to conflict of interest: Resolutions passed with all remaining Commissioners and Mayor Leslie voted Yes.

Reports, Suggestions, Requests

Commissioner Sargent: Inquired about E-Bike regulations. Randy Hayes, City Attorney stated that they were close to completion.
Law Enforcement has a need to access roofs of buildings for training exercises, but the City's insurance cannot allow this use. He asked Randy Hayes if making a formal request to Tallahassee for a "hold harmless" exception for liability. He also thanked Debbie Cotton for 10 years of service as president and CEO of the Ormond Beach Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Deaton: Some residents on social media have commented that she was not paying attention when they were speaking at Commission meetings. She wants to set the record straight; while they are speaking, she is taking notes, either on her iPad or by hand on a notepad. She is paying attention.

Commissioner Briley: Kudos for the $1 million grant money for ECO and congratulated Debbie Cotton for her 10 years of service to the Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Tolland: Congratulations to Debbie Cotton for her 10 years of service at the Chamber of Commerce. She also understands the frustration of the delays with the completion of work on Andy Romano Park. Short Term rentals (i.e. Through Airbnb and VRBO) are illegal in the City limits. Randy Hayes stated that the current ordinance which prohibits short-term rentals predates the State's allowance of short-term rentals. Any changes to the ordinance would remove the "grandfathered" prohibition. Code enforcement in this area is lacking, but the homeowners are entitled to due process when there is a violation. A series of fines need to be developed with each violation. At this point, additional public information and education is warranted.

Commissioner Tolland also mentioned that DeLand has an interactive site for residents to use while analyzing the effects of Amendment 3 on the community (financial, reduced services, etc.). She asked Police Chief Godfry if the Flock cameras were still up; he stated that they were all removed.

Mayor Leslie: He requests that residents be patient with respect to re-opening River Bend Golf Course. He is also in favor of an adult soccer league.

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Resolution No. 2026-102: Proposed Millage Rates for 2026-2027 Fiscal Year (Second Reading)

Millage rate of 4.3202; which is 3.37% increase from 4.1794 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year Debt millage for the sinking fund is 0.0590.

Audience Remarks:

Not adhering to the roll-back millage rate is akin to a tax which would financially harm overstretched residents.

Passed unanimously

Ordinance No. 2026-15: Approval of Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget (Second Reading)

Fiscal year begins October 1, 2026, ending September 30, 2027. Annual budget of $152 million.
Passed: *Commissioners Tolland, Sargent, Deaton and Briley* voted yes
Mayor Leslie voted no

Audience Remarks:
Fourteen people, including neighborhood residents, professional golfers and golf course developers in Florida spoke in favor of re-opening the River Bend Golf Club:

- Important to the community
- Golf is making a surge in popularity
- Selling the property to a private company would allow it to be refurbished and not languish
- River Bend Golf Club had a community connection; hosted charity events and golf leagues
- River Bend Golf Club is to be a public golf course

The Commission's Comments:

- *Commissioner Deaton:* She reached out to the FAA and response came back that the Master Plan needs to be updated; costing more than $580,000. City Manager Shanahan stated that this was placed in the 2027-2028 budget, but the FAA would provide some funds for this. Commissioner Deaton also stated that the deed restrictions were communicated to the FAA.
- *Commissioner Sargent:* Stated that he is willing to use reserve funds to update the Master Plan now to fast-track this. He proposed to have the website post updates on the progress
- *Commissioner Briley:* He would like to see this as an agenda item for future meetings
- *Commissioner Tolland:* She is not in favor of using reserve funds to update the Master Plan due to potential loss of $8 million in revenue if Amendment 3 passes
- *Mayor Leslie:* He contacted the Federal Department of Transportation about this possibility. He is in favor of moving forward putting River Bend Golf Course into the Master Plan

One person stated that he is concerned about soccer fields. He also stated that re-election signs for Mayor Leslie had been taken down and doesn't know who did it or why.

Community Development Agency

Resolution No. 2026-114: Ormond MainStreet Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Funding Agreement - This authorizes the execution of an annual service agreement for Ormond Beach Main Street, Inc. between the parties for the promotion of economic, physical and aesthetic redevelopment and maintenance of the Ormond Beach Main Street District. Passed unanimously

Consent Agenda

Passed unanimously, **except** for the following resolutions:

Resolution No, 2026-121 - Property, Casualty, Liability and Workers' Compensation Insurance FY 2026-2027 - pulled by Commissioners Tolland and Sargent. This is to accept proposals for various City insurance policies.

Commissioner Tolland - Abstained due to conflicting legal

Commissioner Sargent - Abstain; he works for insurance provider

Commissioners Deaton and Briley and Mayor Leslie voted yes. The resolution passed.

Disposition Item: Ormond Memorial Art Museum Gulf War Sculpture - pulled by *Commissioners Tolland, Sargent and Briley* - They are thanking the committee for the rendering of the sculpture and there will be posters of the sculpture signed by the artist; possibly for sale

Disposition Item: Capital Improvement Program Fiscal Years 2027 through 2031 - pulled by *Commissioner Tolland*; comments on the new fire trucks from her and City Manager Shanahan

Public Hearings

Ordinance No. 2026-16: Building Code Amendment and Permit Schedule of Fees (Second Reading) -Passed unanimously

Ordinance No. 2026-17: Cliffhaven Court Parcels Annexation (Second Reading) Passed unanimously

Ordinance No. 2026-21: Tomoka Commerce Park Planning Business Development Amendment- City Planning Director, *Steven Spraker* stated that the prior approvals for this had expired. The number of buildings have been reduced from 11 to 6 and there are protections for wetlands and reduced tree removal. The anchor store is Tractor Supply

Audience Remarks

Five people spoke at the opposition of this:

- This is too close to Nova Road and Tomoka Oaks
- Original site was to be restaurants and other local small businesses, warehouse suites, light industrial
- Duplicative, since there are local feed stores and two locally owned Ace Hardware stores just a few miles away
- Local feed stores could fold due to competition from Tractor Supply
- Lighting for security will be intrusive to the residents in the area
- Trucks would be delivering at all hours of the night

Commissioner Tolland asked *Public Works Director Shawn Finley* to comment on the light pollution and delivery trucks. He stated that the lighting should not be a cause for concern and the delivery trucks would not be delivering past the time of store operation (8 am to 8 pm).

Passed: *Commissioners Tolland, Sargent, Deaton and Briley* voted yes; *Mayor Leslie* voted no

Resolution 2026-122: Florida Urology, Outdoor Activity - Mobile Imaging Trailer - Fourth amended special exception for an electrical mobile imaging trailer, allowing for PET/CT imaging in the trailer.

Passed unanimously

Ordinance No. 2026-18: Firefighters' Pension Ordinance Amendment (Second Reading) Passed unanimously

Ordinance No. 2026-19: Police Officers' Pension Ordinance Amendment (Second Reading) - Passed unanimously

Ordinance 2026-20: FY 2025-2026 Budget Amendments (Second Reading) -

Passed unanimously.

Reports, Suggestions, Requests

Commissioner Tolland - The State will have legislation about E-Bike enforcement, which the city will work on finalizing the drafts of ordinances

Commissioner Sargent - Ormond Airport; trees need immediate removal. In 2009, there was a task force for the Ormond Airport; a task force is important to provide for community involvement.

Commissioner Deaton - reminder of Bike/Walk workshop for bike and pedestrian safety

Commissioner Briley - in light of the attack on two elderly residents at their business, this proves that reverse 911 works.