



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT
Ponce Inlet Town Council
Reported by Deb Arkian

August 20, 2026

ENVIRONMENT

Matt Reinhart, Volusia County Council Vice Chair, announced:

- A 3-year Army Corp of Engineers Federal Beach Management Feasibility Study has been approved and will be 100% funded by the Federal Government. It is hoped that at the end of this study, the Federal Government will fund ongoing management of our beaches.
- Volusia County staff presented additional information related to this study and thanked Jessica Fentress, Volusia County Coastal Division, for her work that led to this approval. Ms. Fentress was unable to attend today's meeting due to a prior commitment.

Ordinance 2026-03 – 2nd Reading – Amendments to outdoor entertainment, outdoor entertainment permits, and noise regulations, Code of Ordinances Sections 34-91 through 31-98.

- Numerous residents and 2 business owners spoke in opposition to the decibel level limits set by this ordinance. Their argument being that the decibel levels set are too low.
- Council passed the ordinance 5-0, omitting the decibel level section. The decibel levels are tabled and will be revisited after completion of a citizen participation workshop.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Resolution 2026-15 – Authorization to apply to the Resilient Florida Grant Program for construction of the South Turn Circle Stormwater Retention project. Passed 5-0.

- This grant if obtained would pay 50% of the cost of construction. The remaining 50% would be the responsibility of the town.



Town Manager Mike Disher announced that the Beach Street Retention Pond Enlargement Project is completed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Volusia County Coastal Division Construction Manager, Nyles Cyzycki and Public Works Director, Ben Bartlett announced:

- Volusia County will be replacing some sections of Lighthouse Point Park boardwalk and building additional new boardwalk. This 7-million-dollar project will be funded by Volusia County Marine Authority. Construction will begin in early 2027.
- Lighthouse Point Park will be renamed. It will be named James Milton Hunt Lighthouse Point Park in honor of the man who first conceived the idea for the park. The renaming ceremony will be in October 2026.

Council announced that Ponce Inlet's September 11th commemorative event will be held at the Firehouse at 8 AM.

Agreement with the Volusia County Tax Collector for Utilization of the Uniform Method of Collection of Non-Ad Valorem Assessments. Passed 5-0.

Fire Chief Scales presented:

- Fire Non-Ad Valorem Assessment – Consultant Proposal and Authorization to Proceed. Chief Scales stressed that would be a study to decide if a Fire Fee is feasible, not to impose a Fire Fee. Given the possibility that Amendment #3 to the Florida Constitution may pass in November 2026, the information obtained from this study would be helpful in making future decisions.
- The study would be funded by a transfer of funds from the Police Department making it revenue neutral for residents. Chief Scales thanked Chief Glazier for this support.
- Proposal passed 5-0.

Councilmember White asked Chief Scales to review the Volusia County 5 City EMS Transport Agreement. His concern is that Ponce Inlet may not be receiving adequate reimbursement for transports done outside of Ponce Inlet.