



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT
Ormond Beach City Commission
Reported by Pam Breault

Date: June 9, 2026

Audience Remarks (Over 20 speakers):

Five speakers talked in support of re-opening the *River Bend Golf Course*, which is on FAA leased property. There are 2600 residents supporting this. Suggestions include: transferring the property to the Parks and Recreation Department, request FAA to allow recreational use, create a business model to determine real cost; could be millions to repair and renovate the golf course and the restaurant. The golf course, which has wetlands and is subject to flooding, would be less hazardous to wildlife than if it were operated as an airport.

Five speakers talked about the *Tomoka Oaks/Tomoka Reserve* development. One speaker mentioned that areas within Tomoka Oaks are labelled as parks which the HoA is paying to maintain, however, this is owned by the City and the HoA should not be paying for upkeep, insurance, etc. Others are concerned about traffic issues, nonconforming homes with low-lot lines. One speaker felt that the City did not consider the residents' concerns when it was approved.

Four speakers talked about *The Falls* management intimidation, retaliation, elder abuse, ADA non-compliance and the City should open an inquiry to protect the residents safety.

Two speakers raised concerns about the *Ormond Beach city employees benefits contract (Resolution No. 2026-78 on Consent Agenda)*; two bids differed by over \$200,000 and the bid from Foundation Risk Partners (FRP), which was the higher bid, was accepted. Two commissioners abstained from vote due to conflict of interest; Commissioner Tolland's son works for FRP and Commissioner Sargent works for FRP.

One speaker each commented on the following issues: 1) that the City has sufficient potable water, and with water conservation and desalination that "*Toilet to Tap*" is not needed to reclaim waste water. 2) on the poor condition, pest infestation of the *Makai Beach property* which is adjacent to his business, 3) on the speeding traffic on West Granada; speed limit should be 30 mph (down from current 35 mph) in the downtown area: "*slow down, enjoy the town*"; 4) on traffic and speeding on Arlington Way which is a shortcut from Halifax to A1A. 5) that the City should consider land development amendment and a *moratorium on building data centers in the City*, 6) on concerns about the *City's use of glyphosate (Roundup)* and it should be banned in the City; it's detrimental to the water, grass, pollinators, endangered species. 7) on thanking the sponsors of the Police Athletic League event; 2500 in attendance and it was successful.



Community Development Agency

Resolution No. 2026-70 - Cassen Park - Additional work

Resolution No. 2026-71 - CRA Downtown Medians Landscape Renovation - Additional Work

Shawn Finley - Assistant City Manager - stated that as work was being completed on these projects, "change orders" were submitted for work that needed to be completed that was not included in the original bid. Commissioner Tolland asked if there should be more oversight of the bidding and contract process to prevent this from happening again.

Consent Agenda

Pulled from the Consent Agenda:

Resolution No. 2026-78 - Employee Benefits Broker of Record. Discussion about the benefits package from Foundation Risk Partners (FRP) and the conflicts of interest requiring Commissioner Tolland (her son is employed by FRP) and Commissioner Sargent (employed by FRP) were required to abstain. No public comment

Vote:

Commissioner Tolland - Abstain, Commissioner Sargent - Abstain, Commissioner Deaton - Yes, Commissioner Briley - Yes, Mayor Leslie - No

The resolution passed.

Resolution No. 2026-81 - Andy Romano Beachfront Park Seawall and ADA Ramp Reconstruction - Additional Work

No public comment. The resolution passed unanimously.

Public Hearing:

Second Readings:

Ordinance No. 2026-09 - Small Scale Comprehensive Plan Amendment, 651 South Ridgewood Avenue. This ordinance moves to change the density of a 0.39 acre lot from "urban medium intensity" to "low density residential". No audience remarks. This passed unanimously with no abstentions.

Ordinance No. 2026-10 - Administrative Amendment to Section 22-86, Regulations, of Article II, Sewers of Chapter 22,, Water and Sewers This ordinance is to adjust the language in regulations in reference to prohibition of hazardous waste pharmaceuticals within the sewer system, to make it consistent. No audience remarks. This passed unanimously with no abstentions.



Reports, Suggestions Requests:

Mayor Leslie stated that the City Attorney is in discussion with current owners of *Makai Beach* resort to work on clean-up.

Commissioner Briley: 1) he made the decision to accept the bid for the employee benefits plan from *FRP* because he researched other municipalities in Florida (Deltona and Flagler Beach) that have FRP because in the long-run, FRP saved employees money by having a high deductible plan and funding the employee's HSA account. 2) he has been getting heat on social media because he went to *The Falls* on an invitation. 3) he is requesting that the July 21, 2026 meeting to be moved to July 28, 2026 (both workshop and commission meeting); the other Commissioners and Mayor consented to the change.

Commissioner Tolland: 1) she supports banning data centers but believes it should be accomplished through the development/zoning code and maybe a Charter amendment (also suggested by *Commissioner Briley*).

Commissioner Sargent: 1) he also supports banning data centers, 2) River Bend Golf Course - the City needs to find independent and non-taxpayer funding (likely to be \$2-\$4 million investment) and he wants to request City Manager to provide a list of qualifications for a "project manager" for the golf course; he is still awaiting the results of the FOI request from FAA on this, 3) he believes that the "tree ordinance" where if a resident removes a tree, three trees need to be planted to replace that tree. *Commissioner Briley* commented that the purpose was for developers just clearing property to build and maybe a different standard is needed for residents and developers/commercial owners.

Commissioner Deaton: 1) she asked City Manager (CM) Joyce Shanahan about the April 21, 2026 request from the family of the founder of the bridge to create a plaque, bench, or other remembrance in his honor. CM Shannahan - no update.

Mayor Leslie: 1) should "Toilet to Tap" be on the ballot in November? *Commissioner Sargent;* no need, the City has reverse osmosis and with the aquifer and conservation, the water needs of the City are covered. 2) *River Bend Golf Course;* he consulted others on the potential financial success of the golf course and since golf is a sport that can be enjoyed throughout life, having the golf course could be good for the residence and financially successful for a 3rd party operator. The issue is that, according to Brian Rademacher, Director of Economic Development, there are pending discussions (next week) with FAA; is the golf course a permitted use?