



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

Ponce Inlet Town Council

Reported by Deb Atkian

May 14, 2026

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Ordinance 2026-01 First Reading – Amendment to the Land Use and Development Code (LUDC) to address Certified Recovery Residences as required by Florida Senate Bill 954. Ordinance approved 5-0. The second reading will be held after 5PM, pursuant to state law.
- Mayor Paritsky Proclaimed June 1, 2026 – June 5, 2026, Code Enforcement Officer Week.

NATURAL RESOURCES

- During Citizen Participation - Residents spoke in support of Florida friendly landscaping to increase water uptake, provide cooling shade, expiratory oxygen and pollination. These residents stated this landscaping would support Ponce Inlet's designation as a Tree City and would be more beneficial than relying solely on retention ponds and swales. Council thanked the residents for their input.
- Presentation by consultants Raftelis, Inc. - Discussion of stormwater utility implementation, including preliminary rates, credits and billing policy options. Numerous options were presented and discussed. Residents voiced questions and concerns, as did Members of the Town Council. Council consensus was for staff to continue gathering information in response to questions raised during the meeting.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Staff presented the idea of starting a Summer Civics Program event for 5th to 8th grade students that live in Ponce Inlet. Staff stated this idea is in the conceptual stages and asked for Town Council input. Council consensus was to move forward

with the title “Inside Public Safety: Meet Your First Responders” and to invite participants to attend a future Council Meeting.

TRANSPORTATION

- Design plans for the South Peninsula Drive sidewalk mobility project were presented for Town Council consideration. Previously discussed during the February 19, 2026, Town Council Meeting and returned by the council for further study, the plan is returned today for council consideration. Approved 5-0.

June 18, 2026

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Matt Reinhart, Volusia County Council Vice Chair, presented the Volusia County Domestic Violence Database Transparency Initiative and requested input and support from Ponce Inlet Town Council. Members of the Town Council voiced strong support for this initiative including support for the inclusion of first offense data. The Council will draft and submit a letter of support for this initiative.
- Mayor Paritsky presented a Proclamation recognizing the 250th Anniversary of our Nation’s Founding to the Vice Regent of the of the Sugar Mill Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.
- Ordinance 2026-01 – 2nd Reading – Amendment of the Land Use and Development Code (LUDC) to address Certified Recovery Residences. Heard after 5:00 PM per F.S. 166.041(3). Council Approved 5-0.
- Resolution 2026-08 – Amending Town rates for sewer service and sewer development fees enacted by the City of Port Orange. Council Approved 5-0.

NATURAL RESOURCES

- The finalized Town of Ponce Inlet’s Adaptation Plan was presented by BRIZAGA Consultants. Council Approved the Plan 5-0.
- Ordinance 2026-02 – 1st Reading – Amending Code of Ordinances Chapter 78 to create a townwide stormwater utility and stormwater assessment program. Raftelis, Inc. presented information answering questions resulting from their May 14, 2026, presentation and stated that most communities utilize this revenue source. Town Attorney presented information regarding legality questions raised

during the May 14, 2026, presentation. City Manager, Town of DeBary spoke regarding that town's experience utilizing a stormwater utility and stormwater assessment program. Two residents spoke requesting further information and voicing opposition to the Code Amendment. Council Approved further exploration of this Code Amendment 5-0.

- Fire Chief Scales presented the update on hurricane season preparation activities. Chief Scales stated (1) that Ponce Inlet Town Staff will be present in the Volusia County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during hurricanes to promote communication (2) that Ponce Inlet has coordinated with FPL and has identified staging areas for equipment (3) Critical Ponce Inlet Infrastructure has been identified (4) Contracts have been established with tree haulers (5) Drainage pipes have been cleaned (6) retention ponds have been dredged (7) Swales have been restored and (8) Sandbag Saturdays have been initiated. He encouraged residents to get their sandbags early.

TRANSPORTATION

- Lighting on South Atlantic Avenue was discussed. Chief Scales stated that the non-functioning streetlights have been repaired by FPL but that there are still areas that would benefit from additional lights. Mayor Paritsky requested that discussions with FPL include asking about the potential for amber lights instead of bright white. Chief Scales will begin these discussions with FPL.