

MINUTES
City of Cocoa
Special Meeting of The City Council
Annual Financial Analysis/Balanced Budget Proposal

July 15, 2025

A Special City Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, in Cocoa City Hall, in City Council Chambers, located at 65 Stone Street, in Cocoa, Florida, 32922, as publicly noticed.

I. Opening Matters:

Mayor Blake called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Councilmember Hearn provided the invocation, and members of the Fire and Police Department led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The City Clerk took the roll.

PRESENT:	Michael C. Blake	Mayor
	Patricia Weeks	Deputy Mayor
	Alex Goins	Councilmember
	Lavander Hearn	Councilmember
	Lorraine Koss	Councilmember
	Kristin Eick	Asst. City Attorney
	Stockton Whitten	City Manager
	Monica Arsenault	City Clerk

ABSENT:

OTHER STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Abby Morgan, Public Works Director; Rebecca Bowman, Finance Director; Lora Howell, Deputy Finance Director; Brian Dale, Purchasing Manager; Charlene Neuterman, Community Services Director; Jonathan Lamm, Fire Chief; Roderick Moore, Deputy Fire Chief; Evander Collier, Police Chief; Katie Ennis, Deputy Utilities

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Director; Samantha Senger, Communications and Economic Development Director; Lorne Stinnett, HR Director; Rob Beach, Chief Technology Officer; Devin Fritts, Records Technician; and Dalyn Sims, Helpdesk Support Tech.

II. Approval of Agenda:

1. Agenda: Special Meeting of July 15, 2025. (25-564).

* **MOTION by Deputy Mayor Weeks; Seconded by Councilmember Goins to approve the agenda for the Special City Council meeting of July 15, 2025 as written.**

THE VOTE ON THE MOTION WAS:

AYES: Blake, Weeks, Goins, Hearn, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

City Manager Whitten asked to make a few announcements prior to reviewing the budget. He shared that the State DEP was able to make recommendations to the Federal agency for the homeowners' side of the J&K project. Furthermore, the City has moved forward in applying for grant funding.

He also gave a brief update on the Brightline station and gave a shoutout to all of those involved who have supported the City, the County and the station.

III. Stantec's City of Cocoa Financial Analysis

Peter Napoli, Senior Manager, Stantec, gave a presentation and reviewed the agenda for their analysis for the evening. They reviewed the foundations of the analysis and talked about the importance of the annual review. They provided a General Fund analysis and highlighted the key planning observations and considerations.

Additionally, they shared the City's fire assessment results for the FY25 adopted budget as well as projections for the FY26 proposed budget.

Mr. Napoli provided an analysis on the City's water/sewer rate and revenue sufficiency and highlighted the key planning observations and considerations. The financial management plan was discussed to address fund cash flow needs, operating reserves and debt service coverage.

Mr. Napoli shared the stormwater forecast and highlighted the key planning observations and considerations. He also reviewed the annual residential stormwater fee rate survey at 1 ERU (Tier 2).

IV. FY 2026 Balanced Budget Proposal Overview

Ms. Bowman provided the FY 2026 Balanced Budget Proposal. The FY26 General Fund major revenues, including new money increases, were discussed. The FY26 General Fund significant expenditures were talked about in detail as well as major capital requests.

Additionally, a comparison of the FY26 proposed budget vs. the FY25 adopted budget was shared and discussed. Additionally, challenges and changes were highlighted such as:

- Waste Management Bulk Greenwaste Pickup (Negotiating Contract Change)
- Recruiting and Retaining Police & Fire Personnel
- Recruiting and Retaining General Employees with Appropriate Education and/or Experience
- Funding Capital Requirements with Reoccurring Revenues
- Insurance Premium Cost - City is paying than 77% of the dependent medical premiums and the policy states the City portion is 50%
- Keeping up with Growth- Developing Long Term Plans for additional Public Safety Staff and Infrastructure

V. Council Discussion

Councilmember Hearn shared that he would like Public Works to have funding to update signage, specifically signage at the entry and exit points of the city limits.

In response, Deputy Mayor Weeks agreed and shared that there is no signage at the entry point on SR524. They both asked if Public Works could increase their small budget for signage to address these concerns.

Councilmember Hearn shared that streetscaping is important as well. He'd like to see Bracco Pond receive some upgrades and he'd also like to see personnel out cleaning up trash on the sides of the road to try and clean up the city.

Councilmember Koss would like to see the City's corridors cleaned up. They are well traveled and need to be cleaned up to pick up the City's image. She would also like to see continued funding for the museums. She feels that the City's attractions are important and wants to make sure we continue to take care of them.

Deputy Mayor Weeks would still like to discuss the Conservation Area and having a footbridge installed. Additionally, she talked about the rolled-back rate and shared that she is asking because she has many constituents who are on a fixed income. With costs rising everywhere, it is hitting their wallets really hard. She would like to try and find a way to give them a break.

Councilmember Hearn showed some photos of venue renderings and would love to see something like these at Bracco Pond or somewhere in the City. A lot of event coordinators are no longer hosting their events in Brevard County due to a lack of event space and he would love to address this issue by creating event space here in the City.

Councilmember Goins asked about street and park signage for our autistic residents and asked if we are still on track for those signs. In response, Ms. Morgan replied affirmatively.

Additionally, Councilmember Goins talked about the Leon and Jewel Collins Museum. He would like to staff a curator/attendant position for the museum, similar to the position held at the Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science. Additionally, he would like a committee to be formed, built by community volunteers, who will be in charge of advertising the museum and creating and maintaining community engagement. In about six months or a year, the Council can review the museum's progress and reassess at that time.

In response, City Manager Whitten shared that before a committee can be formed the staff situation will need to be figured out. Additionally, this will need to be brought back as a formal item to a Council meeting as there are several different avenues that could potentially be explored and considered.

Councilmember Hearn asked if a Special Council meeting could be held at the Leon and Jewel Collins Museum to speak solely on this item alone. He feels this would be a special place to have the meeting since the museum is the topic up for discussion.

Mr. Gregg Stoll provided a brief presentation on Cocoa's museums. He shared that he created this presentation to try and apply the knowledge that he's learned from volunteering at the Brevard Museum to the Leon and Jewel Collins Museum.

VI. Public Input/Citizen Participation

No members of the public spoke.

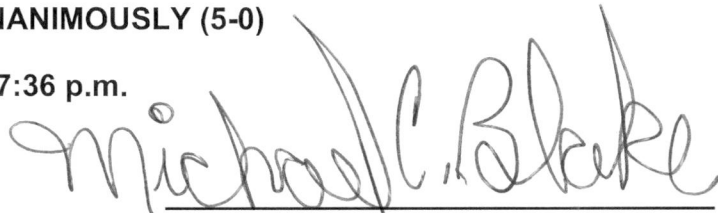
VII. Adjournment:

- * **MOTION by Councilmember Koss; Seconded by Mayor Blake to adjourn the Special meeting of July 15, 2025.**

AYES: Blake, Weeks, Goins, Hearn, Koss

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.



Michael C. Blake, Mayor

ATTEST:


Monica Arsenault, CMC, City Clerk