

CITY OF FLORIDA CITY
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MAY 26th, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER /ROLL CALL

The City Commission of the City of Florida City, Florida, met in regular session April 28, 2026, beginning at 6:30 PM in the Commission Chambers, 404 West Palm Drive, Florida City, FL 33034.

The following members of the City Commission were present: Mayor Charlotte Thompson, Vice Mayor Ronda Cobb, Commissioner James Gold, Commissioner Trina Wilborn, Commissioner Richard Brown, Jr.

2. INVOCATION

Pamela McLean delivered the invocation.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited in unison.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Commission Minutes of May 12th, 2026.

Motion offered by Commissioner Gold, seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the minutes passed and carried by a 5 to 0 vote of the City Commissioners.

5. ORDER OF BUSINESS - (NONE)

6. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

*** Duane Thwaites: Steer Ahead Workshop – 9825 NE 2 Ave, Miami, FL 33153

Mr. Thwaites spoke on behalf of his organization and thanked the Commission for their support and commitment to providing opportunities for the community. He highlighted the success of the Steer ahead program, an initiative created by Mayor Daniela Levine Cava and Commissioner Eileen Higgins to assist residents with

obtaining or reinstating driver's licenses.

Key points included:

The Commission previously approved workshops to be held at the City facility

Workshops were conducted on February 21st and May 9th

More than 300 residents attended the workshops

Over 110 participants have successfully obtained their driver's licenses

An additional 24 individuals are expected to have their licenses reinstated in the coming weeks.

Mr. Thwaites expressed gratitude to the entire Commission and specifically thanked Commissioner Gold, Saving Generations and Commissioner Wilborn for their support and assistance in making the program successful.

*** Cheryl Walker- Item 12A)- Reso: 26-38 – 795 NW 6th St, Florida City, FL 33034

Ms. Walker began by thanking the Mayor and City leadership for their efforts in ensuring repairs were completed on Davis Parkway noting that the residents greatly appreciated the improvements.

She then addressed the proposed Florida Highway Patrol agenda item. Speaking on behalf of herself and other residents who had contacted her through social media and phone calls, she stated:

The matter had previously been tabled

Residents have concerns regarding the proposed agreement

Community voices have not been sufficiently prioritized

Many residents do not support the increased Florida Highway Patrol presence through a formal contract

If Florida Highway Patrol already has access to Florida City, she questioned the necessity of entering into a formal agreement.

Ms. Walker acknowledged and thanked the Mayor for her service and background with the Florida Highway Patrol but urged the Commission to vote against the item, stating that many residents oppose the proposed contract.

***Brady Ramirez: Item 12A) – 2231 SE 1st St, Homestead, FL

Ms. Ramirez thanked Commissioner Wilborn, the Mayor and City Commissioners for supporting the driver's license reinstatement event, noting that more than 100 city residents benefited from the program. She also expressed appreciation to:

The Clerk of Courts office

The Tax Collector's office

Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez

Community volunteers and active community members

The Commission and City staff for their involvement in community activities

Regarding the Florida Highway Patrol agenda item, Ms. Ramirez stated she remains in contact with over 1,200 residents and has received numerous inquiries concerning the proposal.

Her comments included:

A request for greater transparency regarding the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

A reminder that copies of the MOU had been requested at a previous meeting but had not yet been provided

A belief that distributing the MOU would help residents better understand the proposal and demonstrate transparency

Clarification that her concerns are not personal or directed against the Florida Highway Patrol

A request for assurances that any MOU approved would not be related to immigration enforcement activities involving undocumented Florida City residents

Ms. Ramirez concluded by thanking the Commission and respectfully requesting additional clarification for the community.

*** Kernique Moore- Florida City Elementary School- 364 NW 6th Ave, Florida City, FL 33034

Ms. Moore addressed the Commission on behalf of Florida City Elementary School. She expressed appreciation to Mayor Thompson, the Commissioners, Dr. James Poag, Jennnifer Evelyn, Chad Burkhalter, and Superintendent of Public Works, Darin Baldwin for their assistance in addressing sidewalk and roadway concerns near the school.

Ms. Moore reported that repairs to the sidewalks and street along NW 5th Avenue and 3rd Terrace were recently completed. She noted that these conditions had been a concern since the beginning of the school year and that some parents had chosen

alternative pickup locations to avoid the poor road conditions.

She stated that the improvements have enhanced safety for students and families, allowing parents to walk their children to the designated pickup area without concerns about tripping hazards or unsafe conditions. Ms. More thanked the City officials and staff for their responsiveness and continued support of the school community.

***Pamela Ella McLean- 766 NW 3rd Terrace, Florida City FL 33034

Ms. McLean spoke regarding the proposed Florida Highway Patrol agenda item. She expressed support for bringing additional law enforcement resources into Florida City, regardless of the agency involved.

Ms. McLean stated that she has lived in Florida City since the 5th grade and has observed significant changes within the community. She expressed concerns about increases in violence, shootings and other criminal activity and stated that residents are not accustomed to experiencing these types of incidents.

Ms. McLean commented that additional law enforcement presence could help improve public safety and emphasized the importance of following and enforcing the law. She thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak.

The Mayor asked whether there were any additional speakers wishing to address the Commission. No further comments were recorded in this portion of the meeting.

8. **ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING (NONE)**
9. **ORDINANCE(S) FOR SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING (S)
(NONE)**
10. **CONSENT AGENDA (NONE)**
11. **RESOLUTIONS/PUBLIC HEARING (S) NONE**
12. **RESOLUTIONS**

- 12A) **26-38: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FLORIDA CITY, FLORIDA, APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A VOLUNTARY COOPERATION AND OPERATIONAL ASSISTANCE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF FLORIDA CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

Motion to defer to commission meeting of 06/01/26 offered by Vice Mayor Cobb.

Seconded by Commissioner Wilborn. Passed and carried by a 5 to 0 roll call vote of the City Commission.

Mayor Charlotte Thompson	Yes
Vice Mayor Ronda Cobb	Yes
Commissioner James Gold	Yes
Commissioner Trina Wilborn	Yes
Commissioner Richard Brown, Jr.	Yes

- 12B) **ORDINANCE NO: 26-04:- FIRST READING: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FLORIDA CITY, FLORIDA, APPROVING A SMALL SCALE LAND USE AMENDMENT FROM THE MEDIUM-HIGH MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL LAND USE CATEGORY TO THE COMMERCIAL CATEGORY, A ZONING DISTRICT BOUNDARY CHANGE FROM THE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT TO THE C-2 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT AND THREE (3) ZONING VARIANCES FOR THE 12.7-ACRE PROPERTY LOCATED SOUTHWEST OF THE INTERSECTION SOUTH KROME AVENUE AND U.S. HIGHWAY NO. 1; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE (SPONSORED BY THE CITY MANAGER)**

Memo from Administrative Services Director dated May 6, 2026 and Staff Report from the City Planner with attachments and dated April 27, 2026 are on file for the record.

Motion offered by Commissioner Gold for approval of Ordinance No: 26-04 **ON FIRST READING**. Seconded by Vice Mayor Cobb. Passed and carried by a 5 to 0 roll call vote of the City Commission.

Mayor Charlotte Thompson	Yes
Vice Mayor Ronda Cobb	Yes
Commissioner James Gold	Yes
Commissioner Trina Wilborn	Yes
Commissioner Richard Brown, Jr.	Yes

- 12C) **26-42: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FLORIDA CITY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF THE STOP GRANT, CONTRACT NUMBER LN340 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$224,410.54; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT**

Memo dated May 1, 2026 from Chief Pedro Taylor, Jr. with attachments are on file for the record.

Motion offered by Vice Mayor Cobb for approval of Resolution No: 26-42. Seconded by Commissioner Gold. Passed and carried by a 5 to 0 roll call vote of the City Commission.

Mayor Charlotte Thompson	Yes
Vice Mayor Ronda Cobb	Yes
Commissioner James Gold	Yes
Commissioner Trina Wilborn	Yes
Commissioner Richard Brown, Jr.	Yes

12D) 26-43: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FLORIDA CITY, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE APPLICABILITY OF THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY JUVENILE CURFEW ORDINANCE WITHIN THE CITY OF FLORIDA CITY; SUPPORTING ENFORCEMENT BY THE FLORIDA CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT; ESTABLISHING A SIX-MONTH IMPLEMENTATION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A CURFEW ENFORCEMENT PLAN; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

The Miami-Dade County Juvenile Curfew Ordinance is intended to protect the health, safety and welfare of juveniles and the public by regulating the presence of juveniles in public and semi-public places during certain late-night and early-morning hours.

The Mayor and City Commissioners recognize the importance of protecting juveniles from circumstances that may endanger their health, safety and welfare, including unsupervised late-night activity in public and semi-public places.

Further, the Mayor and City Commission find that supporting and implementing enforcement of the Miami-Dade County Juvenile Curfew Ordinance within the City of Florida City will promote public safety, assist parents and guardians, deter juvenile-related nighttime disturbances and protect the general welfare of the community.

The City Commission desires to establish a six-month implementation plan for enforcement of the Miami-Dade County Juvenile Curfew Ordinance within the City of Florida City.

Motion offered by Vice Mayor Cobb for approval of Resolution No: 26-43. Seconded by Commissioner Wilborn. Passed and carried by a 5 to 0 roll call vote of the City Commission.

Mayor Charlotte Thompson	Yes
Vice Mayor Ronda Cobb	Yes
Commissioner James Gold	Yes
Commissioner Trina Wilborn	Yes
Commissioner Richard Brown, Jr.	Yes

12E) PUBLIC HEARING: FAIR HOUSING WORKSHOP – FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES - (SPONSORED BY THE CRA DIRECTOR)

FIRST PUBLIC HEARING: CDBG – FLOOR OPENED AT 7: 55 PM

CRA Director, Jon Ward briefed that the City is considering applying to the Florida Department of Commerce for a FFY 2023 and 2024 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

Document is on file for the record.

The floor opened for public comments. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Thompson offered a Motion to close the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing closed at 8:05 PM.

The CRA Director then conducted the Fair Housing Workshop (document on file for the record).

The Fair Housing Act (FHA) of 1968 prohibits discrimination in renting, buying, financing, or advertising housing based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, or disability. It ensures equal opportunity, allowing for reasonable accommodations and modifications for people with disabilities. Violations can lead to severe penalties, including hefty fines.

12F)

26-45: A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FLORIDA CITY, FLORIDA, APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH ENVIROWASTE SERVICES GROUP, INC. FOR CITYWIDE STORM DRAIN CLEANING AND STORMWATER SYSTEM MAINTENANCE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWO HUNDRED SEVEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$207,600.00); BASED ON A PIGGYBACK ON THE AGREEMENT FROM THE CITY OF AVENTURA, FLORIDA AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS RESOLUTION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Memo from Edel Villar, Superintendent of Water and Sewer dated May 12, 2026 is on file for the record.

Motion offered by Commissioner Gold for approval of Resolution No: 26-45. Seconded by Commissioner Brown. Passed and carried by a 5 to 0 roll call vote of the City Commission.

Mayor Charlotte Thompson	Yes
Vice Mayor Ronda Cobb	Yes
Commissioner James Gold	Yes
Commissioner Trina Wilborn	Yes
Commissioner Richard Brown, Jr.	Yes

13) QUASI-JUDICIAL ZONING MATTERS (NONE)

14) REPORTS OF MAYOR AND COMMISSION MEMBERS

***Vice Mayor Cobb announced the upcoming First Annual Law Enforcement Basketball Tournament scheduled for Saturday, May 30th and invited the Commission and community members to attend and support the event. The tournament will be a free community event designed to promote positive interaction between residents and law enforcement officers.

Vice Mayor also provided an update on the upcoming Midnight Game Zone Program intended to provide youth with a safe environment during the summer months when school is not in session. The program was originally proposed to operate from 9 PM to 1AM but concerns were raised regarding the late pickup time for participants. Vice Mayor indicated that community feedback would be sought to determine whether an adjusted schedule of 8PM-12AM would be more appropriate.

Vice Mayor noted that the program is intended to help keep young people off the streets during summer months and reduce opportunities for criminal activity. The program is anticipated to begin in late June or early July 2026 pending final preparations to the facility and surrounding landscaping improvements.

***Commissioner Wilborn reported that discussions had been initiated with City Manager, Dr. James Poag, regarding participation in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Community Rating System (CRS) Program.

The commissioner explained that the CRS Program rewards communities that implement flood plan management and disaster preparedness activities. Through participation, property owners and businesses may qualify for discounts on flood insurance premiums, potentially as much as 45 percent depending on the City's ratings.

Commissioner Wilborn acknowledged Dr. Poag's assistance in coordinating meetings with program representatives and noted that an initial meeting had already taken place. The Commissioner expressed optimism regarding the City's participation and the potential benefit for Florida City residents and businesses.

The Commissioner requested that staff explore the creation of a Community Policing Advisory Board. The purpose of the board would be to strengthen communication and collaboration between law enforcement officers and community members and promote greater community engagement regarding public safety issues.

Continuing Commissioner Wilborn announced plans to host monthly Community Chat sessions beginning on the first Tuesday of each month. The meetings would provide residents with an opportunity to:

- Speak directly with City department heads
- Ask questions regarding City services and projects
- Receive updates on community initiatives and ongoing projects
- Participate in open dialogue regarding matters affecting the community

The Commissioner suggested that future discussions regarding the Florida Highway Patrol agreement could be included as part of these sessions to allow for additional public input and questions.

***Commissioner Gold asked the CRA Director, Jon Ward for an update on the construction project- Loren Roberts Park.

Mr. Ward input completion is anticipated in late June or early July. He reported that paint color selections for the building were scheduled to be reviewed and that several landscaping

improvements remain to be completed. Based on the remaining work, the projected completion date is expected to be near July 1 if not shortly thereafter.

***Mayor Charlotte Thompson provided an update regarding efforts to improve street lighting throughout Florida City. The Mayor stated that meetings had been held with Florida Power and Light (FPL) along with Dr. Poag, to discuss conducting a lighting study throughout the city. The study will identify areas requiring additional lighting improvements including both older and newer sections of Florida City.

It was noted that the city is also exploring opportunities for utility infrastructure improvements, including potential underground utility transitions in certain areas.

Mayor Thompson emphasized the importance of unity and collaboration among Commission members. She stated that the Commission has been serving together for approximately three months and remains committed to learning, working together and advocating for the residents of Florida City.

The Mayor expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Commission and staff and reaffirmed the City's commitment to providing accurate information and addressing constituent concerns.

Vice Mayor Cobb requested an update regarding efforts to establish a library presence in Florida City.

CRA Director, Jon Ward reported that a meeting was scheduled for the following week with the Director of the County Library System to discuss potential participation and partnership opportunities. Mr. Ward further indicated that discussions continue regarding incorporating library services into the proposed Cultural Center project.

Additional information and recommendations are expected to be presented to the Commission in the coming months as planning progresses.

- 15) REPORTS OF CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY/CITY CLERK
NONE
- 16) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss before this body, the meeting adjourned without objection at 8:55PM.

CHARLOTTE THOMPSON, MAYOR

JENNIFER A. EVELYN, CITY CLERK