

DRAFT

CITY OF BROOKSVILLE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Joseph E. Johnson III, Council Chambers
201 Howell Avenue, Brooksville, FL 34601

7:00 pm

ORDER OF BUSINESS

January 5, 2026

Present: Mayor Christa Tanner; Vice Mayor W. Thomas Bronson; Council Member Betty Erhard; Council Member Louis Hallal

Absent: Council Member John McKethan III

Also: City Manager Lisa Hendrickson; City Attorney Becky Vose, Via Phone; City Attorney Chloe Berryman; City Clerk
Attending: Jennifer Battista; Deputy City Clerk Lisa Morris; Finance Director Autumn Sullivan; Community Development Director David Hainley; Public Works Director Richard Weeks; Parks & Recreation Director Jared Marsdsen; HR/Risk Management Director Kyle Martin; IT Administrator Brenda Nelson

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tanner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

B. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pastor Scott Harris, First Baptist Church of Brooksville, offered the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. APPROVAL/MODIFICATIONS OF THE AGENDA

(Limited to City Council and City Manager)

Motion made by Council Member Betty Erhard, seconded by Council Member Louis Hallal to accept the agenda as modified with item K.3-Council Meeting Agenda Items Policy, being tabled until the next City Council Meeting on January 26, 2026.

Vote: 4 - 0

D. CERTIFICATES AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. 2025 Holiday Decoration Winners

Richard Ross, Beautification Board Chairman, presented the winners as follows:

Residential

Holly Jolly Christmas - Dirksen Family - 205 Sunset Dr.
Clark Griswold - Araniecke Family - 251 Pryor St.
Jingle Bell Best - Conley Family - 469 Rogers
Frosty's Favorite Chown Family - 3052 Meetinghouse
Christmas in Paradise - Drake Family - 157 Mt. Fair Ave.

Commercial

Merry & Bright Business - Mulligan & Associates, 140 S. Main St.

Baby It's Cold Outside, Come Inside - Brooksville Health Care, 1114 Chatman Blvd.
Hometown Holiday - Lowman Law Firm - 31 S. Main St.

Honorable Mention

624 Erin Way - The Buff Family

2. Proclamation - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - January 19, 2026

Council Member Erhard read a proclamation in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day which was accepted by Leechelle Booker, Principal, Hernando High School and Parade Committee Member, who made a brief statement. She invited everyone to the parade on January 19th, adding that the theme is "Boots on the Ground".

3. Proclamation - Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Vice Mayor Bronson read a proclamation in honor of Human Trafficking Awareness Month which was accepted by Janine Kell, You-Thrive Florida, who made a statement. She distributed a flyer about an event to be held on January 21, 2026 that would bring awareness to human trafficking.

E. CITIZEN INPUT [limited to 3 minutes per speaker about anything on agenda or any other matter]

Sign at St. John's Episcopal Church [on S. Brooksville Ave.]

Al Bonne came forward to speak about a missing church [directional?] sign at the corner of Lulu Street and S. Main Street. He thinks it may have been taken down during installation of the trail. He was requesting the City reimburse them for the cost of the sign and to install it. He submitted documents to the City Manager.

Firefighter Pension

Joe Pecora, former Firefighter Pension Trust Fund Board of Trustees Chair, spoke about the firefighters' pension. He believed there was misinformation circulating and he felt that the City and the City's pension attorney did not keep him and the pension board informed during this process.

Law Enforcement Impact Fee

Richard Ross wondered if the City has been collecting the Hernando County law enforcement impact fee and whether what is collected could offset what the City pays the HCSO for law enforcement services.

Gas Tax

Mr. Ross also spoke about a one cent municipal gas tax and wondered if the City was receiving that.

F. RESPONSE BY CITY MANAGER, STAFF/COUNCIL

Firefighter Pension

In response to Council Member Erhard's question about the Fire Pension, City Manager Hendrickson noted that the City Attorney and pension attorney communicated with the pension board attorney several times.

Sign at St. John's Episcopal Church [on S. Brooksville Ave.]

City Manager Hendrickson stated that staff would review the documents and followup with Mr. Bonne.

Gas Tax and Law Enforcement Impact Fees

She stated that her administrative assistant would contact Mr. Ross to schedule a meeting.

G. PRESENTATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Audit Presentation for Year ended September 30, 2024

Julie Fowler, CliftonLarsonAllen, presented the annual audit report. She went over the City's financial statements, internal controls, management and governance letter as well as a report on compliance with investment of public funds. She noted a recommendation was made on internal accounting and inventory records that will be resolved by software reporting adjustments. Overtime calculation processes would be corrected by specific code implementation instead of a more manual process.

The following findings were noted from the PowerPoint:

2024-003 — Noncompliance with Investment Policy and Florida Statute 218.415 Criteria:

The City should conform with all requirements within its investment policy and requirements of Section 218.415, Florida

Statutes.

Condition: The City did not comply with its investment policy or the continuing education requirements of Section 218.415, Florida Statutes. The policy and statute require the Director of Finance or designee responsible for investment decisions to complete eight (8) hours of annual continuing education related to investment practices and products. No continuing education was completed during the fiscal year.

Cause: The City did not have adequate monitoring procedures in place to ensure compliance with its investment policy and the continuing education requirements outlined in Section 218.415, Florida Statutes. Specifically, there was no process to track or verify that the Director of Finance or designee completed the required eight (8) hours of annual continuing education related to investment practices and products.

Effect: The City is not in compliance with Section 218.415, Florida Statutes.

Recommendation: The City should implement procedures to ensure compliance with its investment policy and Section 218.415, Florida Statutes. Specifically, the City should establish a process to track and verify that the Director of Finance or designee completes the required eight (8) hours of annual continuing education related to investment practices and products. This may include maintaining a compliance calendar, requiring documentation of completed training, and periodic review by management.

Views of responsible officials and planned corrective actions: Staff will provide quarterly updates to the City Manager on the progress of the continuing education requirements for the Director of Finance or designee to complete (8) hours of continuing education related to investment practices and products.

2024-001 — Financial Statement Adjustments Type of Finding:

- Material Weakness in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting Condition: As part of the audit, we proposed adjustments to correct the following errors in the City's financial statements:
- Revenue and related receivables were recorded in the Utility Fund for non-exchange transactions that did not meet the eligibility or time requirements for recognition as of the year ended September 30, 2024.
- Asset disposal was not properly recorded in the Sanitation Fund, and related insurance recoveries were incorrectly classified as operating revenue. This resulted in misstatement of fund activity and overstatement of assets.

Criteria or specific requirement: The City's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls to ensure that transactions are properly recorded and reported in the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

Effect: Prior to audit adjustments, revenues and receivables in the Utility Fund were overstated, causing misstatement of assets and fund balance. Additionally, misclassification of insurance recoveries and failure to record asset disposal resulted in an overstatement of assets and fund balance in the Sanitation Fund.

Cause: Reconciliation and review processes did not detect errors in account balances.

Recommendation: The City should update fiscal year—end and monthly closing checklists to address those items noted herein. Trial balances should be reviewed to ensure that all accounts are reconciled, and any related adjustments are posted.

Views of responsible officials and planned corrective actions: Staff will review an end of the year report to ensure proper balancing of the general ledger funds and accounts. Procedures will be added to the end of the year checklist to ensure the general ledger accounts are balanced properly.

2024-002 — Inventory Valuation Type of Finding:

- Significant Deficiency in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting Condition: During our audit of the City's financial statements, we noted certain items included in the City's inventory listing did not have an associated cost recorded in the accounting system. Management was unable to provide historical cost information or other documentation to support the valuation of these items. To obtain a reasonable estimate for these items, a current replacement cost approach was used, applying average costs of comparable items with similar type and utility.

Criteria or specific requirement: The City's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls to ensure that transactions are properly recorded and reported in the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

Effect: The absence of adequate controls over inventory valuation increases the risk of material misstatement in the

financial statements. Using estimated costs without a documented methodology or supporting evidence may result in misstated inventory values in the financial statements, potentially impacting the accuracy of reported assets and related disclosures.

Cause: The City does not have sufficient procedures in place to ensure that all inventory items are recorded on an appropriate basis.

Recommendation: Management should conduct regular reviews to ensure inventory records are complete and accurate.

Views of responsible officials and planned corrective actions: Finance staff will work with the Utility Department and Inventory Specialist to ensure proper cost is included on all items in the inventory system.

2024-004 — Inadequate Controls Over Overtime Calculation for Firefighter Type of Finding:

● Significant Deficiency in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Condition: During our audit, we noted that the City does not have effective controls in place to ensure overtime compensation for bargaining unit firefighters is calculated in accordance with the executed labor agreement between the City of Brooksville and the Brooksville Professional Firefighters Local #4661 of the International Association of FireFighters (IAFF), specifically Article 15-3.

Criteria or specific requirement: The labor agreement requires overtime to be calculated based on specific hour thresholds and pay rates outlined in Article 15-3 internal control standards require management to design and implement controls that ensure compliance with contractual and legal requirements. The City's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls to ensure that transactions are properly recorded and reported in the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

Effect: The absence of adequate controls over overtime calculation outlined in the executed labor agreement between the City and Brooksville Professional Firefighters Local #4661 of IAFF increases the risk of noncompliance with contractual and legal requirements, and misstatement of payroll expenses in the financial statements.

Cause: The City does not have sufficient procedures in place to document that overtime calculations comply with the labor agreement.

Recommendation: Management should establish a formal review process to verify overtime calculations against the labor agreement before payroll is finalized, evaluate payroll system configuration to align with overtime provisions in Article 15-3, periodically test system settings for accuracy, and maintain evidence of management's review of overtime compliance as part of payroll approval.

Views of responsible officials and planned corrective actions: Finance staff will review payroll calculations for overtime prior to posting to the general ledger. Finance has set up a shift code in the finance software to calculate and document overtime properly.

Council Member Erhard noted that Council had just received the audit document this day and would not feel comfortable voting on it.

Motion made by Council Member Louis Hallal, seconded by Vice Mayor W. Thomas Bronson to accept the audit, acknowledging the deficiencies and corrective actions taken, and that the corrective actions would be completed in twelve months.

Vote: 3 - 1

NAY: Council Member Betty Erhard

2. Appointment of Advisory Board Members to:

Brooksville Housing Authority

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Firefighter Pension Trust Fund Board of Trustees

City Clerk Battista advised as follows:

a. Brooksville Housing Authority. Staff proposes:

Appointment of alternate Kelly Wooldbridge to a full-time position for unexpired 4-year term through June 25, 2029.

b. Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - There have been two resignations from full time members. Staff proposes: moving up alternate Sue Loveday to a full-time position for a four-year term through December 31, 2029 and moving up alternate Jan Knowles to a full-time position for a four-year term through December 31, 2029 and also appointment of a new applicant, Gene Kelly, to one of the alternate positions for an unexpired four-year term through December 31, 2027

c. Firefighter Pension Trust Fund Board of Trustees. Staff proposes:
Ratification of appointment of Brad Sufficool as "fifth member" (appointed by FFPTF on December 3, 2025) for an unexpired 4-year term through December 31, 2026.

Motion made by Vice Mayor W. Thomas Bronson, seconded by Council Member Betty Erhard to approve appointment of alternate Kelly Wooldbridge to a full-time position on the Brooksville Housing Authority for unexpired 4-year term through June 25, 2029.

Vote: 4 - 0

Motion made by Vice Mayor W. Thomas Bronson, seconded by Mayor Christa Tanner to approve appointment to Parks and Recreation Board moving up alternate Sue Loveday to a full-time position for a four-year term through December 31, 2029, moving up alternate Jan Knowles to a full-time position for a four-year term through December 31, 2029 and appointment of a new applicant, Gene Kelly, to one of the alternate positions for an unexpired four-year term through December 31, 2027

Vote: 4 - 0

Motion made by Council Member Louis Hallal, seconded by Council Member Betty Erhard to ratify appointment of Brad Sufficool as "fifth member" (appointed by FFPTF on December 3, 2025) for an unexpired 4-year term through December 31, 2026.

Vote: 4 - 0

H. **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of minutes:
 - a. October 20, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - b. November 3, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - c. November 17, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - d. August 4, 2025 - correction to Great Brooksvillian motion on page 9 (Year 2028 should be 2027)
2. Nevco Piggyback Agreement with Sourcewell - Scoreboard at TVP
3. Sierra Container Group Piggyback Agreement with OMNIA - Standardized Garbage Bins
4. Auditing Services One Year Contract Extension - CliftonLarsonAllen, Inc. - for FY ending 9/30/2024
5. Smarsh annual renewal for archiving communications as required by Florida Statute.
6. Independent Contractor's Agreement for Solenis LLC - Polymer for Bio-Solids at the wastewater treatment plant.

Motion made by Council Member Betty Erhard, seconded by Council Member Louis Hallal to approve the Consent agenda as presented with a synopsis of each contract on the Consent Agenda. Council Member Erhard explained that Council Members are stewards of taxpayer dollars and for the benefit of the residents, she would like a synopsis on each contract and its costs. Mayor Tanner offered that she did not support that since these are budgeted items, it is a public agenda and the agenda memos are included in the agenda packet. She noted that if there are any questions, Council Members can contact staff to get any answers needed.

Motion failed.

Vote: 2 - 2

NAY: Mayor Christa Tanner

Vice Mayor W. Thomas Bronson

Motion made by Vice Mayor W. Thomas Bronson, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Failed for a lack of a Second.

City Manager Hendrickson advised that she could review each staff memo that is attached to the agenda that was published online if that was the desire of Council.

Motion made by Council Member Louis Hallal, seconded by Vice Mayor W. Thomas Bronson to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Vote: 3 - 1

NAY: Council Member Betty Erhard

I. DISCUSSION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (IF ANY)

J. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Approval of Resolution No. 2026-01 Approving a Roadway Transfer Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation

City Clerk Battista read the proposed Resolution by headnote only as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA APPROVING THE ROADWAY TRANSFER AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO TRANSFER CERTAIN PORTIONS OF US 41 AND US 98 OFF OF THE STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM TO THE CITY OF BROOKSVILLE.

The City Clerk advised that per the requirements of the Florida Department of Transportation, FDOT had done their required advertising.

Public Works Director Weeks provided an overview of the proposed roadway transfer. He advised that FDOT currently owns and maintains several roadway segments within the City of Brooksville, including portions of U.S. 41 and U.S. 98 in and around the downtown area. The proposed Roadway Transfer Agreement removes these roadway segments from the State Highway System and transfers jurisdiction and maintenance responsibility to the City upon completion of FDOT's planned improvements. The purpose of the transfer is to provide the City with greater local control over roadway operations and long-term planning, while supporting efforts to manage truck traffic within the downtown area. As part of the agreement, FDOT has committed to completing operational and safety improvements along U.S. 98 near Broad Street, as well as resurfacing portions of U.S. 98/East Jefferson Street. These improvements are tentatively scheduled for early Fiscal Year 2027. FDOT will retain responsibility for maintenance of the vehicle bridge and associated infrastructure over the CSX railroad tracks on North Broad Street. Following completion of the FDOT improvements and execution of final transfer documents, the City will assume maintenance responsibility for the roadway segments identified in the agreement. The City of Brooksville and the Florida Department of Transportation have finalized a Roadway Transfer Agreement to transfer jurisdiction, ownership, and maintenance responsibilities for

certain portions of U.S. 41 and U.S. 98 located within the City limits. In conjunction with the transfer, FDOT has committed to completing operational, safety, and resurfacing improvements on adjacent roadway segments prior to the final transfer.

Director Weeks advised this was originally approved by Council on January 8, 2024 and this resolution and public hearing is part of the formal process required by FDOT. Council Member Hallal wondered if this would guarantee that large trucks would not come through the downtown. Weeks advised that there is no guarantee, but detouring trucks out of the downtown is the goal of this one-way pair reversal. Mayor Tanner agreed, adding that another goal is so that the City can have control of the roads in the downtown area. Weeks confirmed Hallal's comment that the FDOT would be maintaining the bridge on US 41 even after the reversal occurs. FDOT also will repave and then the City will maintain the sections that will be transferred to the City. The lifespan of the repaving will be 10 - 15 years and would be added to the CIP in the future.

Public Input

Robert Battista spoke about the proposed transfer, specifically asking about Alternate 50 to Cobb Road. He advised that the transfer agreement only addresses Jefferson Street from the Hilltop to Ponce de Leon. He wondered how any drainage and flooding problems in that Alternate 50 area not covered by the agreement would be handled.

Mayor Tanner reminded those present that this is a formal acceptance of what has already been decided by City Council in conjunction with FDOT and the MPO. Brian Hunter, FDOT, went over the specific area of Broad and Jefferson that would be transferred. He stated that the segment from Ponce de Leon to Cobb will stay with FDOT as well as drainage issues. The long-term plan is to move US 98 to Cobb Road and at that point, FDOT would come back to the City and see if they are willing to take that piece of SR 50.

Public Works Director Weeks stated the City cannot stop truck traffic but there would be signage installed and the Mayor suggested that perhaps they could lower the speed limits.

Motion made by Council Member Louis Hallal, seconded by Vice Mayor W. Thomas Bronson to approve Resolution 2026-01 - Roadway Transfer Agreement between the City of Brooksville and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

Upon Roll Call Vote as follows:

Council Member Louis Hallal	Aye
Council Member Betty Erhard	Aye
Vice Mayor Thomas Bronson	Aye
Mayor Christa Tanner	Aye

Vote: 4 - 0

2. Second Reading - Ordinance No. 1008—LDC 2025-03 Land Development Code Amendment

City Clerk Battista read the proposed Ordinance by headnote only as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA, AMENDING SUBPART B, "LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE" OF PART II OF THE CITY OF BROOKSVILLE CODE OF ORDINANCES, ARTICLE VII, "SIGNS": REVISING STANDARDS FOR PROHIBITED, NONCONFORMING, TEMPORARY, AND PERMANENT SIGNS; ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR SIGNS IN THE HISTORIC OVERLAY DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS AND REPEALER, SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

She advised that it had been properly advertised.

Community Development Director Hainley advised that this petition is a City-initiated request to modify various sections of Land Development Code (LDC) Article VII, "Sign Regulations." Article VII was substantially amended in 2023 and, as often occurs with complex regulatory documents of substantial size, issues have been identified that require modifications to the regulations. The modifications to Article VII include Part 7-1, "Sign Regulations," Section 7-1.6, "Prohibited Signs," Section 7-1.7, "Nonconforming Signs," Section 7-1.9, "Reserved," Section 7-1.10, "General Provisions." Section 7-1.6, "Prohibited Signs," is amended to add pole signs as not allowed in the City, Section 7-1.7,

"Nonconforming Signs," is modified to address the circumstance of when and how damaged nonconforming signs are to be replaced and Section 7-1.9, "Reserved," is amended to add from Article III provisions for signage on properties in the City's historic overlay districts. Table 7-1.10.1 "Permanent Signs Permitted for Non-Residential Uses" and "Table 7-1.10.4 "Temporary Signs" of Section 7-1.10. "General Provisions," are amended to address the amount of sign area allowed for wall-mounted, marquee, projecting and suspended signs and to reduce the number of feather flag signs allowed per parcel.

Public Input

There was none.

Motion made by Council Member Louis Hallal, to approve Ordinance 1008 on Second and Final Reading.

Failed for lack of Second.

Council Discussion

Mayor Tanner advised that the existing pole signs are grandfathered in and would not have to be replaced unless they get damaged, which Hainley confirmed. If they have to get them replaced, they have to follow code. Vice Mayor Bronson felt that if pole signs are damaged, the owner should be able to build the signs back the way they were. Mayor Tanner stated that this ordinance is mainly to re-arrange the code and make it more usable and easier to understand and not about changing the sign regulations. She stated that it would be a discussion for a different time.

Motion made by Council Member Louis Hallal, seconded by Vice Mayor W. Thomas Bronson to approve on Second and Final Reading.

Upon Roll Call Vote as follows:

Council Member Louis Hallal	Aye
Council Member Betty Erhard	Aye
Vice Mayor Thomas Bronson	Aye
Mayor Christa Tanner	Aye

Vote: 4 - 0

3. Second Reading - Ordinance No. 1009—LDC 2025-04 Land Development Code Amendment

City Clerk Battista read the proposed Ordinance by Headnote only as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA, AMENDING ARTICLE II, PART 2-2, SECTION 2-2.2, TABLE 2-2 OF THE CITY'S LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE TO CHANGE THE USE DESIGNATION OF CAMPS FROM A PERMITTED USE TO A CONDITIONAL USE IN ZONING DISTRICTS AG, C-1, C-2, AND C-4; AMENDING ARTICLE IV, PART 4-8, SECTION 4-8.17 OF THE CITY'S LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE TO REQUIRE CAMPS TO PROVIDE ADA COMPLIANT RESTROOMS AND BATHING FACILITIES ATTACHED TO CITY SEWER SYSTEM; AND PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The City Clerk advised that this had been properly advertised.

Community Development Director Hainley advised that this petition is a City-initiated request to amend Subpart B, "Land Development Code," (LDC) of Part II of the City of Brooksville Code of Ordinances, Article II, "Zoning Districts, Uses and Lot Requirements," Part 2-2, "Zoning District Uses," Table 2-2, and modify Article IV, "General Requirements and Supplemental Regulations," Part 4-8, "Supplemental Design Standards for Conditional Uses, Special Exceptions and Special Uses," Section 4-8.17, "Camps." Table 2-2 of Article II indicates that "camps" are a Permitted Use in zoning districts AG, C-1, C-2, and C-4, which is inconsistent with the additional design standards set forth for "camps" in Article IV, Part 4-8, Section 4-8.17. Staff is of the opinion that it is appropriate to amend LDC Section 2-2.2, Table 2-2 to change the use designation of "camps" from a permitted use to a conditional use in zoning districts AG, C-1, C-2, and C-4 and to amend Article IV, "General Requirements and Supplemental Regulations," Part 4-8, "Supplemental Design Standards for Conditional Uses, Special Exceptions and Special Uses," Section 4-8.17, "Camps" to require camps to provide restrooms and bathing facilities.

Public Input

There was none.

Motion made by Vice Mayor W. Thomas Bronson, seconded by Council Member Betty Erhard to approve Ordinance 1009 on Second and Final Reading.

Upon Roll Call Vote as follows:

Council Member Louis Hallal	Aye
Council Member Betty Erhard	Aye
Vice Mayor Thomas Bronson	Aye
Mayor Christa Tanner	Aye

Vote: 4 - 0

4. First Reading – Ordinance No. 1010 (Termination of Firefighters’ Retirement Trust Fund)

City Clerk Battista read the proposed ordinance by headnote only as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA, TERMINATING THE CITY OF BROOKSVILLE FIREFIGHTERS’ RETIREMENT TRUST FUND, ADOPTED PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 525-I, AS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED” with “ADOPTED PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 525 AND AMENDED AND RESTATED BY ORDINANCE NOS. 525-C AND 525-I, AS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION BY THE TRUST FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND CITY STAFF; REVOKING THE CITY’S PARTICIPATION AND PREMIUM TAX UNDER CHAPTER 175, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Manager Hendrickson stated at the December 1, 2025 City Council meeting, Council reached consensus to proceed with termination of the City of Brooksville Firefighters’ Retirement Trust Fund following the consolidation of fire services with Hernando County Fire Rescue. The consolidation agreement became effective October 1, 2025. Ordinance No. 1010 implements that direction by formally terminating the pension plan in accordance with Chapter 175, Florida Statutes, protects the members accrued and vested benefits, and authorizes the Pension Board of Trustees in collaboration with City staff, the City Attorney and the City's Pension attorney, to complete all required actions and state filings and administrative steps.

She noted that the agenda item presents the ordinance for First Reading and the Second and Final Reading will be scheduled for January 26, 2026.

Public Input

Pension plan retiree, James Adkins, Pension plan retiree, James Daughtery and Pension plan retiree, Frank Phillips spoke about the proposed ordinance. Susan McCrary, Pension Plan Administrator, spoke about the ordinance and the fact that this will be a long process.

Council Discussion

Council Member Erhard read an email submitted by retired firefighter, Dennis Wilfong.

Good day,

Thank you for reviewing this email, I wanted to give you a little prospective on the proposal of terminating the Firefighter pension plan.

A perspective of the time we served the citizens of the City of Brooksville

We were hired and tasked with providing protection for the residents of the City of Brooksville and anyone who required emergency assistance. We were the keepers of our city's fire station and the equipment to provide fire protection, emergency medical care, rescue from buildings, vehicles, along with other hazards both below the ground or high above it. We carried the "jaws of life" many miles within our county and sometimes Citrus and Pasco counties to rescue citizens and guests in our community. Many times, we provided these services before specialized training and equipment that today's firefighters routinely utilize, the desire to serve runs deep within us.

We saved our citizens/taxpayers money by utilizing and refurbishing retired military trucks, generators, and other tools to do these jobs. We built our specialized equipment, and specialized apparatus such as heavy rescue units and wildland fire units. We welded steel containers with baffles, welded boxes on the bed of trucks to carry our specialized equipment, rebuilt motors and pumps.

We remodeled and with the aid of inmates, we built our second fire station on south Brooksville Avenue, thus offering our citizens additional protection and the feeling of safety and security. Much of this work was done on our days off and we didn't even get paid for much of the work that was completed. We used our own personal tools and trades that we brought with us from other jobs and experiences. We painted our fire stations, built training prompts to teach the children fire prevention, in some cases we used our own money, it was a matter of pride for our city and our profession.

When the jail moved to Spring Hill Drive where it is today. Our city police officers would leave the city and only one officer was left to answer calls. The Sheriff's office wasn't staffed much better around the city to help at that time as well. We would hear this on our radio and move to the area of our city officers and back them up, as we were a team in protecting our city.

We spent hours burning old houses, wooded lots, and the quarry. To save the citizens money and to reduce blight in their city, thus saving them money and keeping theirs well as the city's property values from declining.

We gave up raises to keep our pension alive and strongly funded it to be there when we retired. We were the pioneers that built the fire service you have today both within this county and in the state. We trained many new fire fighters that started in Brooksville and left to do great things and provide great benefits to other departments after receiving advanced training from us.

We did all of this and still performed the job that today's fire fighters routinely do day to day, we just had to do it sometimes at a greater risk which we accepted to be a part of this city and to serve our community and state.

Without the background of where we came for you to even consider the termination of the pension benefits that we have sacrificed so much for, leaving behind our own blood sweat and tears to serve the city is a crime of honor and dignity. The dedication and loyalty that we put into ensuring the protection of the citizens of the City of Brooksville shows a lack of dedication and appreciation by current City Council for what all of us have put forth with the pride of being the Brooksville Fire Department.

With the decision to move forward with dissolving the pension system as it stands will have a large financial impact on all who have put everything into the city. By doing a buyout or an annuity to each pensioner it would greatly reduce the amount of income to each due to the reduced amount that would be available to invest for a monthly return thus causing a financial burden to each of us. The firefighter pension has always been financially solvent and would remain so with the current funds along with the current and future management.

As an employer you expect and demand that your employees are dedicated and loyal to the city and the position and task that they will provide. As an employee it is only fair that we receive the same loyalty and dedication from you to continue to honor what was promised to us.

Sincerely
Dennis Wilfong.

Council Member Hallal noted that the pension plan is not fully funded currently and it would be an estimated \$3.7 million buy out to fully fund the pension. He added that Council's sole responsibility is whether the plan is closed or terminated. It is the Firefighter Pension Board's responsibility to determine how the payouts occur.

Council Member Erhard read another statement from a retired firefighter [did not announce who it was from], as follows:

It seems that the longer a retiree has been retired the less of value of our payout or the annuity. There are 20 actively retired members or survivors that the concern is that some of them might lose their benefits, plus some of the members have taken less initial benefits at the time of their retirement for survivor benefits. This will make

them double taxed by the annuity. Please encourage the rest of council to give more time to the retirees to get their questions answered.

Council Member Erhard felt that the City owed the pension members answers and assurances. City Manager Hendrickson stated that each member has the opportunity to speak to the pension actuary and/or to a financial planner and agreed they need expert advice on these important decisions.

Susan McCrary, Pension Plan Administrator, stated that it will take the actuary a while to work things out before retirement benefits are determined. She suggested that Council could postpone the decision to terminate until more answers are available, but she was unsure on what City time requirements entailed.

City Manager Hendrickson touched on where the money would come from, including fire assessment monies and loan options. She reminded all that City Council could not give any financial advice; instead, that information would need to come from the pension board actuary and/or to a financial planner.

Motion made by Vice Mayor W. Thomas Bronson, seconded by Council Member Louis Hallal to approve on First Reading Ordinance No. 1010 terminating the City of Brooksville Firefighters' Retirement Trust Fund and setting the Second and Final Reading for January 26, 2026.

Upon Roll Call Vote as follows:

Council Member Louis Hallal	Aye
Council Member Betty Erhard	Aye
Vice Mayor Thomas Bronson	Aye
Mayor Christa Tanner	Aye

Vote: 4 - 0

K. **REGULAR AGENDA**

1. **Approval of Interlocal Agreement for Use of Tennis and Volleyball Courts between City of Brooksville, Henando High School, and Parrot Middle School**

City Manager Hendrickson advised that the agreement is to allow the use of the City of Brooksville's tennis and volleyball courts by Hernando High School and Parrot Middle School. There is a fee associated with this contract as it takes these spaces away from public use during the scheduled times. The school will schedule their seasons through the Parks and Recreation Department. This agreement will also require that the proper insurance is provided for the City of Brooksville. The agreement renews at the current use rates approved by Council at the time of renewal. She added that it has not gone to the School Board for approval yet.

Motion made by Council Member Louis Hallal, seconded by Council Member Betty Erhard to approve the interlocal agreement for usage of the City of Brooksville Courts by Hernando High School and Parrot Middle School.

Vote: 4 - 0

2. **RFP Bid Packet acceptance for Proposed Impact Fees Study**

City Manager Hendrickson stated that as requested by Council at the November 17, 2025 meeting, staff is presenting the draft impact fee study RFP for consideration. She advised that the last impact fee study was implemented on January 2023, which took about 2 years to prepare. Council Member Hallal advised if it takes another 2 years, that would put the current impact fees at 2028, which is at the recommended 5-year review point. Hendrickson advised that the cost of the study can be paid out of impact fees, funds 110 - 115.

Procurement Administrator Bennett advised of the timeframe for the RFP and City Attorney Berryman went over Florida Statutes timelines for impact fees. She suggested that a timeline for the study to be completed could be added to the RFP [no direction given on this suggestion]. She brought up for discussion the composition and the role of the evaluation committee once the RFP comes in. City Manager Hendrickson stated that she has seen in the past a Council member appointed to sit on the evaluation committee.

Motion made by Council Member Louis Hallal, seconded by Council Member Betty Erhard to approve the RFP bid packet, select a council member to be on the evaluation committee and staff to follow procurement policy for solicitation.

Council Discussion

Vice Mayor Bronson suggested Council Member Hallal be on the evaluation committee. Mayor Tanner did not feel it is in the current procurement process and was not sure a Council Member needed to be on the evaluation committee.

Motion rescinded.

Motion made by Council Member Louis Hallal, seconded by Council Member Betty Erhard to approve RFP bid packet, and direct staff to follow procurement policy for solicitation.

Vote: 4 - 0

3. FY 2025/2026 Quarterly Budget Amendment

Finance Director Sullivan went over the transfers as follows:

- General Government - Decrease Uncapitalized Equipment and transfer the funds to Legal Services to cover the cost of the pension attorney.
- Fire Truck Loan Funds 203 and 314 - Increase the pass through loan Funds 203 and 314 to reflect the payoff amount for the Fire Truck loan with USDA.
- Fire Department Fund 143 - Increase Interest and Principal expense to reflect the payoff amount for the Mini-Pumper loan with Truist. Increase Transfer Out to Fund 314 for the payoff amount for the Fire Truck loan with USDA. Increase Other Contractual Services expense to reflect the contractual obligation with Hernando County Fire and Rescue for fire service. Decrease personnel expense and transfer those funds within Fund 143 to cover the cost of the quarterly budget amendments.

Motion made by Council Member Louis Hallal, seconded by Vice Mayor W. Thomas Bronson to approve the quarterly budget amendments.

Vote: 4 - 0

4. Council Meeting Agenda Items Policy

Tabled until January 26, 2026 City Council Meeting.

L. CITIZEN INPUT (Limited to 3 Minutes per Speaker)

There was none.

M. RESPONSE BY CITY MANAGER AND STAFF/COUNCIL

None required.

N. ITEMS BY CITY ATTORNEY

No items to discuss.

O. ITEMS BY CITY MANAGER

Discussion of traffic data at Zoller and Highland

Tabled until the January 26, 2026 Council meeting.

P. **ITEMS BY COUNCIL**

COUNCIL MEMBER ERHARD

She thanked all for coming.

Contracts

Council Member Erhard spoke about the contracts that were approved via the Consent Agenda. She had concerns about the auditing contract, the purchase of the garbage bins and the archiving software purchase. She felt these should not be on the Consent Agenda but under the Regular meeting agenda. She does not agree with meeting with staff and only supported discussing them at a Council meeting.

Mayor Tanner noted that all contract items on the Consent Agenda had been previously approved through the budget process. She reminded those present that the garbage bins are coming out of the sanitation enterprise fund.

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLAL

He thanked staff.

Garbage Cans and Consent Agenda

Council Member Hallal spoke about the cost of the garbage bins and the safety assist unit that will be used. He did not have a problem with the other contracts being under consent, adding that he meets with staff if he has any questions.

He noted that he gains valuable information by meeting with staff to review items.

Fire Pension Ordinance

He acknowledged the hard decision and stated that Council has the burden of looking after the City and future Councils.

VICE MAYOR BRONSON

He encouraged all to seek faith in Christ.

Consent Agenda

He felt meeting with staff is important to ask questions about agenda items.

Fire Pension Ordinance

The Vice Mayor was proud that staff and Council are able to research and make hard decisions for the future of Brooksville.

Mayor Tanner

Thanked staff, looks forward to 2026 and Brooksville's 170's birthday.

Fire Pension Ordinance

She understands hard decisions are being made.

Q. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Council the meeting adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Jennifer Battista, CMC, City Clerk

Attest: _____
Christa Tanner, Mayor

Approved: _____