MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, HELD IN THE CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 100 NORTH U.S. #1, FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, AT 9 A.M. ON MONDAY, JULY 13, 2026.

1. **Call to Order**

Mayor Hudson called the July 13, 2026, Day Meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call**

Present: Commissioner Michael Broderick; Commissioner Chris Dzadovsky; Commissioner Curtis Johnson, Jr.; Mayor Linda Hudson

Absent: Commissioner Arnold Gaines

Staff Present: Richard Chess, City Manager

Sara Hedges, City Attorney

Linda Cox, City Clerk

Commissioner Gaines came in at 9:26 A.M.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

A. Approval of the minutes from the June 8, 2026, Day Meeting.

Motion was made by Commissioner Curtis Johnson, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Michael Broderick to approve the minutes for the June 8, 2026, Day Meeting.

AYE: Commissioner Michael Broderick, Commissioner Chris Dzadovsky, Commissioner Curtis Johnson, Jr., Mayor Linda Hudson

Passed

5. **Additions or deletions to agenda and approval of the agenda.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Chris Dzadovsky, seconded by Commissioner Curtis Johnson, Jr. to approve the agenda as presented.

AYE: Commissioner Michael Broderick, Commissioner Chris Dzadovsky, Commissioner Curtis Johnson, Jr., Mayor Linda Hudson

Passed

6. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Any person who wishes to comment on any subject may be heard at this time. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes or less, as directed by the Mayor, as this section of the Agenda is limited to thirty minutes. The City Commission will not be able to take any official actions under Comments from the Public. Speakers will address the Mayor, Commissioners, and the Public with respect. Inappropriate language will not be tolerated.

Curtis Moore
Gregory Jones

7. **Consent Agenda**

8. City Commission

A. Strategic Plan Update

City Manager, Richard Chess, introduced City Manager's Executive Assistant, Marilyn Wiggins, who assisted in presenting the Strategic Plan Update to the Commission. He let the Commission know they have conducted interviews for the Public Works Director and Deputy Manager positions and are close to a decision. The Mayor expressed concern about the Indian River Drive construction causing an impact on the revenue for the Backus Museum and Manatee Center as their attendance is down. The Commissioners expressed concerns with the asks from the development agreement for the Kings Landing project. Deputy City Manager, Devoshay Johnson, updated the Commission on the Tyler software launches for EAM, which is the equipment management software and the Parks and Recreation software. He mentioned upcoming releases of 311 that will replace See, Click, Fix and the Tyler Notify system that will help with sending notifications to the public as well as internally. Mr. Chess discussed future and pending action items as well as streamlining the City processes, the budget proposal for the Swimming Grants Program, the Landscape Code, Port Redevelopment, and the design and permitting contract award for the Marina expansion.

9. City Commission Budget Workshop

A. Presentation of Proposed FY 2026-2027 General Fund Budget

Finance Director Johnna Morris presented the proposed fiscal year 2026-2027 General Fund Budget. She discussed the budget development process that included reviewing capital project needs, addressing reserve use, and preparing detailed capital project worksheets. The budget is balanced without the use of reserves. They discussed recent legislative changes affecting the budget process, including Senate Bill 4F, which changed the requirements for calculating property tax millage rates. The rollback rate is now the starting point for determining the maximum allowable millage rate. The millage rate is currently 6.5461. The proposed budget uses a 6.9 millage rate, which makes a balanced General Fund budget totaling $69,366,722 that is increased 2.34% from the current fiscal year. However, the increase does align with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and reflects cost increases.
Taxable property values increased 6.91%, which increased ad valorem revenues. The budget maintains the City’s 10% reserve policy, adds three General Fund employees, and does not include an employee cost of living increase.
The Police Department's budget totals 24,067,045, which is 34.7% of the General Fund. Annual debt service is declining with all outstanding City debt projected to be paid off by 2031.
The Commissioners discussed the Animal Shelter's high operating costs and long-term funding and operational solutions, as well as long-term planning, annexation opportunities to expand the tax base, and reviewed the Capital Improvement Program and enterprise fund budgets.
Ms. Morris presented potential fiscal impacts of the proposed property tax amendment, and everyone expressed concerns about future funding for different City services.
They chose to go with Proposal 2, which approves the budget at $73,193,810 and uses reserves to fund one-time capital projects totaling $3,827,088.

10. Adjournment

Immediately following adjournment, please move toward the doors and exit the chambers. This allows for the safe and courteous exit of all persons, and those on the dais. Conversations after the meeting should be held outside of chambers, in the foyer or elsewhere, but not in the commission chambers where lights will be out as soon as the chambers are empty.

Mayor Hudson adjourned the meeting at 12:00 P.M.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK	MAYOR COMMISSIONER