

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL 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 6:30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2026.

1. **Call to Order**

Mayor Linda Hudson called this meeting to order at 6:30pm.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call**

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

Staff Present: Richard Chess, City Manager
 Camille Wallace, Interim City Attorney
 Linda Cox, City Clerk

4. **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion was made by Commissioner Arnold Gaines, seconded by Commissioner Chris Dzadovsky to approve the agenda as set.

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

Passed

5. **BUDGET HEARING**

- A. Proposed 2026-27 General Fund Budget and Millage Rate for the City of Fort Pierce. The City of Fort Pierce is proposing a millage rate of 6.9 and tax rate exceeds the roll-back rate of 6.5461 mills by 5.41%.

Mayor Linda Hudson announced the proposed millage rate of 6.9 exceeds the roll-back rate of 6.5461 mills by 5.41%. Mayor Hudson asked Johnna Morris, Finance Director, to present the proposed 2026-27 budget.

Ms. Morris gave a brief overview of the proposed budget. The budget is balanced at \$73,263,742. We had an increase of 6.91% in taxable property values. The City of Fort Pierce is 29% of the total annual tax bill. We are budgeted to receive \$34,263,767 in Ad Valorem revenue and there is a decrease of \$844,520 of overall taxes and state distributed revenue due to legislative and economic changes. The budget includes two new general fund positions, 2 Code Enforcement officers which are being funded by FPRA. There is no cost of living increases for bargaining and non-bargaining employees or sworn officers. The operating budget for all departments was evaluated and adjusted. Capital costs for building improvements and replacement of equipment is funded at \$,956,501. Spending plans for the enterprise funds were reviewed and explained along with the special revenue funds.

Mayor Hudson opened the Public Hearing. Seeing no one, she closed the Public Hearing.

1. Consider any proposed amendments to the 2026-27 General Fund Budget

There are no proposed changes to the 2026-27 budget.

- 2. Adopt proposed Millage Rate of 6.9 and recompute if necessary.

There are no changes to the millage so no recomputation is necessary.

Motion was made by Commissioner Michael Broderick, seconded by Commissioner Curtis Johnson, Jr. to adopt millage rate.

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

Passed

- 3. Adoption of tentative 2026-27 General Fund Budget

Motion was made by Commissioner Curtis Johnson, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Arnold Gaines to adopt tentative budget.

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

Passed

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Legislative Hearing - Ordinance 26-019 providing for the levying and collecting of taxes for the City of Fort Pierce for Fiscal year beginning October 1, 2026 and ending September 30, 2027 and adopting the final millage rate of 6.9. FIRST READING

City Clerk Linda Cox introduced Ordinance 26-019, read in its entirety, into the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-019 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR THE LEVYING AND COLLECTING OF TAXES FOR THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2026 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING SUCH AMOUNT AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO CARRY ON THE GOVERNMENT OF SAID CITY DURING SAID FISCAL YEAR AND TO PAY FUNDS SO COLLECTED INTO THE ACCOUNTS PROVIDED THEREFOR; ADOPTING THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE 2026-27 FISCAL YEAR FINAL MILLAGE RATE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. The final millage rate of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2026 and ending September 30, 2027 is hereby levied at the rate of 6.9000 per thousand-dollar valuation for general City purposes, which is greater than the roll-back rate of 6.5461 mills by 5.41%.

SECTION 2. The City Commission of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida hereby levies a tax of 6.9000 per thousand-dollar valuation on all real and personal property within the corporate limits of said City, subject to tax on the first day of January 2026, provided however that such 6.9000 shall not be levied upon property in the City of Fort Pierce exempt under state statute or federal constitution.

SECTION 3. That the City Manager is hereby instructed and directed to certify to the St. Lucie County Property Appraiser the above and forgoing enumerated Millage to be levied for all purposes, for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2026 and ending September 30, 2027 in the said City of Fort Pierce, Florida, pursuant to the provision of the laws of the State of Florida and the Charter of the City of Fort Pierce.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall be and become effective October 1, 2026.

Mayor Hudson opened the Public Hearing. Seeing no one, she closed the Public Hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Curtis Johnson, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Michael Broderick to adopt Ordinance 26-019.

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

Passed

- B. Legislative Hearing - Ordinance 26-020 adopting the final budget for the City of Fort Pierce for fiscal year beginning October 1, 2026 and ending September 30, 2027.
FIRST READING

City Clerk Linda Cox introduced Ordinance 26-020, read in its entirety, into the record.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-020 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA; ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2026, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. The City Commission of Fort Pierce, Florida after having held a public hearing, hereby adopts as its final budget for the operation of the government of said City for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027, the estimates made by the City Manager of said City presented to the City Commission on September 08, 2026, which detailed amended estimates are now on file with the City Clerk and the Director of Finance.

SECTION 2. That it shall be the duty of the City Manager to set up the aforesaid appropriation of revenues and expenses on the account records of said City, to keep such accounts thereof, as required by the Charter of said City, as may be directed from time to time by the City Commission.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be and become effective October 1, 2026.

Ms. Cox made a correction to Section 1 of Ordinance 26-020, noting that the presented date should be changed from September 8, 2026, to September 15, 2026.

Mayor Hudson opened the Public Hearing. Seeing no one, she closed the Public Hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Chris Dzadovsky, seconded by Commissioner Arnold Gaines to adopt Ordinance 26-020 as amended.

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

Passed

7. 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.

No comments.

8. **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 this meeting at 6:51pm.

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

MAYOR COMMISSIONER