

The City Council of the City of Titusville, Florida met in regular session in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 555 South Washington Avenue, on Tuesday, March 24, 2026. Mayor Connors called the City Council meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were Mayor Andrew Connors, Vice-Mayor Herman A. Cole, Jr., Col USAF Retired, and City Council Members Jo Lynn Nelson and Megan Moscoso. Council Member Dr. Sarah Stoeckel arrived later in the meeting. Also present were City Manager Thomas Abbate, City Attorney Andriene Treasure, and Assistant City Clerk Jolynn Donhoff.

Pre-recorded procedures for public comment, participation, and orderly conduct were played for all individuals that were in attendance or watching the meeting. Mayor Connors requested a moment of silence. He then led those present in the *Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag*.

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SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation - Water Conservation Month - No action was requested. Mayor Connors presented a proclamation to a representative of the St. Johns River Water Management District. The proclamation declared April 2026 as "Water Conservation Month" in the City. The proclamation was also read aloud by City Manager Abbate upon introducing the agenda item. Additionally, the SJRWMD Representative gave an overview on the types of activities and behaviors the public could undertake to support water conservation, such as turning off sprinklers when rain was expected, conserving water while brushing teeth, etc.

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Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) - No action was requested. City Manager Abbate introduced the item. Background information was also provided in the Council agenda packet. A representative of the accounting firm of James Moore & Company gave a presentation on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 annual audit of the City of Titusville. A copy of the presentation was made part of the public records of the meeting.

Member Moscoso and the accounting firm consultant discussed her viewpoints and questions related to her desire for a copy of the presentation to be included with the publishing of the Council agenda packet, any recommendations from the accounting firm on items the City might complete to prepare for the next audit, such as were related to purchase cards, asset management, balancing decentralizing controls or having oversight mechanisms, secondary reviews to ensure processes were clear and followed, internal oversight of transactions, etc. Discussion continued on the consultant's professional familiarity with municipal accounting, various financial processes and activities, Titusville was steps ahead of other cities by having an internal auditor, if using or having a centralized physical inventory system, for example and to avoid any amount of waste may mean

a high cost to the City, the importance of education and communication with staff and preventable behavior, it was impossible to have a zero fail-safe situation, etc.

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Brevard County's Space Coast Wastewater System Expansion Feasibility Report - No action was requested. City Manager Abbate introduced the item. Background information was also provided in the Council agenda packet. Representatives of the Brevard County Utility Services Department gave a presentation and update on the Space Coast Wastewater System Expansion Feasibility Report. A copy of the presentation was made part of the public records of the meeting. To this, Council discussion ensued with the representatives on the following:

- A decision for Council at a later date on whether to join or participate with the County or the collective regional project participants, in some capacity or varying level of commitment
- The City having paid off a prior 30-year debt related to water or wastewater
- Finding common ground with the County and regional stakeholders or participants
- The City and others were working to get property owners off septic tanks, who lived near the Indian River Lagoon
- Concern for a conceptual idea for extending pipes across the river
- Having sewer infrastructure near the river could cause additional issues
- Monetary costs or with commitment as a participant
- Expansion project estimated timeline
- Whether a location was proposed in Titusville
- Space related industry had not stepped forward yet toward objectives or indicating collaboration
- Space related industry wastewater and working to understand long term goals of the space industry
- Hypothetical legal questions, such as if the City could set environmental rules if a facility was established in Titusville
- A desire for the Federal government to fund the objectives or reaching or entering into possible cost-sharing agreements, etc.

No further discussion.

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Comprehensive Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) Update - No action was requested. City Manager Abbate introduced the item. Background information was also provided in the Council agenda packet. Community Development Department Principal Planner Eddy Galindo gave a presentation on the Comprehensive Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) Update. A copy of the presentation was made part of the public records of the meeting. Brief Council discussion ensued on the State's response to the City's EAR, the next hearings would be scheduled in approximately two or three months, an informal indication was the State may not have liked strong words, such as "prohibit, require, etc.", whether the City Council could work within present regulations to achieve items or goals they may want to achieve, whether the Council might be able

to adopt more restrictive rules or show grandfathering of rules in place that the State might allow, etc.

No further discussion.

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PETITIONS AND REQUESTS FROM THE PUBLIC PRESENT

Stan Johnston commented on concerns for fraud, his dislike that citizens and the public were not able to comment on presentation agenda items, for which no formal action was requested from City Council, his desire to speak to the external auditing firm on his concerns for fraud, ongoing concerns on the Stormwater Master Plan and related maintenance, his prior conversations with a former Public Works Director on budgeting, his opinion the City was ignoring his concerns with and/or including the budget, his research on how to report fraud over years, repetition of the concerns, etc.

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Keith Edwards, a longtime citizen, business owner, and former City employee, expressed disgust and felt there was fraud and theft in the City government. He wanted to see where the money went and he desired any person that committed fraud to be held accountable. Mr. Edwards also commented on his dislike of a police staffing appointment(s), his belief that a particular City Council member had not acted ethically, his belief there was funny business in departments, Council representation should represent the people, etc.

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Kathleen O'Rourke read from a prepared statement that discussed viewpoints and concerns on fraud, improving the internal auditing process, following facts to determine if issues were isolated or broad within the City government, breaking the public's trust, her desire for a full, forensic, independent audit to be completed that was not controlled by internal staff, citizens wanted transparency, the importance of accountability and restoring public trust, having more oversight or scrutiny, being more considerate of the public, etc.

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Elizabeth Baker commented on City staffing changes, her viewpoints on the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) was a bare minimum analysis, the City Council should review internal audits every year, citizens wanted good roads and improvements, City staff should not investigate themselves, having actual facts, concerns for the City government losing a truck or equipment, her desire and request for a forensic internal audit, etc.

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Toni Shifalo commented on the Space Coast Wastewater System Expansion presentation, the presentation slides that discussed minimum regulatory rules, and her doubt (implied) of recommendations causing more than minimum impacts. Next, Ms. Shifalo commented on why she

felt the State failed the City's proposed *Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR)* of the City's *Comprehensive Plan*, which she felt was due to bike trail crossings, native and Florida friendly landscape, and the urban forest being alarming as it was related to yellow light (viewpoint unclear). These things were intended to protect the City's population. Ms. Shifalo also felt the Florida Legislature was against citizens, due to each law imposed was against the people living in the State.

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Member Nelson initiated discussion with City Manager Abbate on a recent independent or internal audit that indicated that collectively, over a 54-year period, from 1970 to 2024, there was inaccurate record keeping and poor asset management tracking for approximately 30 items that over 54 years was calculated or estimated to have a previous value of \$1.2 million. In today's terms, those 30 items had a residual value of roughly \$80,000. There was no indication that theft was involved. Theft could also not be proven from 30-40-50 years ago. To this, the City Manager was implementing several internal control improvements to alleviate this scenario and concern.

Second, Member Nelson and City Manager Abbate discussed a recent issue of employee misconduct. She confirmed the prosecution was moving forward, full restitution was being made and sought, most of the property was recovered, the employee was arrested and was being held accountable, the City was working diligently with the State Attorney's Office to ensure justice prevailed, etc.

Member Nelson also confirmed if the State Attorney's Office was provided an audit related to the matter of employee misconduct, a typical item the State Attorney's Office sought with financial crimes. The City government had thus far provided all of the information the local government had on this matter. Member Nelson also asked whether it would be worth doing a fraud audit from a Council or local government viewpoint, to which the City Manager indicated his desire to communicate with the City's internal auditor on the next step and report back to Council with this information.

Member Moscoso indicated the internal auditor recommended a forensic audit. Member Moscoso also supported completing a forensic audit. Even if there was nothing to hide or nothing wrong, it would be an act to show transparency. To this, she desired looking into having a forensic audit, including the scope that might be sought, the cost, reporting back to Council with the information, etc.

Member Stoeckel advised these were the kinds of topics that she desired discussing at a Council retreat, to collectively come together as a Council, and avoid directing staff on many various tasks, or before Council could discuss and decide what was happening in the community. Council may need to take into consideration whether there were other factors, such as culture, whether to hire a consultant or an industrial engineer, etc. Even if Council put newer policies in place, the culture needed to be considered and making sure there was a safe place for people to feel comfortable. At the retreat, she desired discussing what direction the City Council desired for the future of the City.

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With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

ATTEST:

Andrew Connors, Mayor

Wanda F. Wells, City Clerk