

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, April 22, 2025. Vice-Mayor Cole called the City Council meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were Vice-Mayor Herman A. Cole, Jr., Col USAF Retired and City Council Members Jo Lynn Nelson, Megan Moscoso, and Dr. Sarah Stoeckel. Mayor Andrew Connors was absent.

Also present were Interim City Manager Tom Abbate, City Attorney Richard Broome, and City Clerk Wanda Wells. Assistant City Clerk Jolynn Donhoff completed the minutes of the meeting.

Vice-Mayor Cole 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

National Community Development Week 2025 Proclamation - No action was requested. Neighborhood Services Department Director Terrie Franklin gave a presentation and highlighted information on National Community Development Week, as followed:

- The importance related to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the history of the CDBG Program
- Who benefitted from CDBG
- The CDBG impact(s)
- HOME Program history
- Pressing need in current economy for CDBG and HOME Programs
- Jobs created between 2005-2024 (nationwide) from CDBG Programs
- From 2005 – 2025 CDBG met the housing needs of an estimated 2.1 million households (nationwide)
- CDBG contributed to infrastructure improvements benefitting 59 million persons (nationwide)
- Grant allocation percentages and collaboration with non-profit agencies (15% of grant to provide various public services), developers (65% to create affordable housing), City departments (to improve infrastructure and facilities)
- Local accomplishments 2015-2024 and the number of persons, and households that were served or benefitted from the grant funding
- Publicly highlighting and drawing attention to the CDBG Programs, etc.

Vice-Mayor Cole and staff discussed whether budget cuts were anticipated for the CDBG Program from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Member Nelson and staff discussed funding for Community of Hope – a two phase, affordable housing project, which also received funding from the federal *American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)* for Phase II.

Interim City Manager Abbate read the proclamation aloud, which Vice-Mayor Cole presented to City staff. The staff members included:

Kent Bernaw	Compliance Specialist
Terrie Franklin	Neighborhood Services Director
Sheila Martin	Housing Program Specialist
Jas`n Pouncy	Housing Program Manager
Elyssa Yero	Social Recreational Coordinator

Staff member Tracy Davis, Neighborhood Services Manager, was unavailable.

The proclamation recognized April 21 – April 25, 2025 as National Community Development Week.

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State Housing Initiative Partnership Grant Program (SHIP) - No action was requested. The information provided at this meeting was intended to share basic regulatory information on the SHIP program, in preparation of an agenda item scheduled on the regular City Council meeting agenda of April 22, 2025 at 6:30 p.m., which was the submittal of the City's triannual Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP).

Neighborhood Services Department Director Franklin gave a presentation and highlighted the following information:

- State Housing Initiative Partnership Grant Program (SHIP) and background (history)
- SHIP Statute and rule requirements on funding
- Special housing needs based on *Florida Statutes* 420.9075(1)(a)
- SHIP Program description and Housing Element
- Housing Element - supply and demand
- Green and innovative design *Florida Statutes* 420.9075(3)(d)
- Green Program considerations
- Administrative functions
- Developing and implementing programs
- SHIP administrative calendar

Vice-Mayor Cole and staff discussed that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provided a chart and criteria that differentiated or defined categories for low income. For example, a household of one would have different definitions or criteria than a household of four. Member Moscoso desired receiving more information following the meeting on items such as *housing stock*, *today's housing demand*, etc. Member Nelson and staff discussed the last amount of funding the City received (each July) was estimated at \$387,141. Approximately 50% of this funding went toward the rehabilitation of housing.

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Status Update on Economic Development Projects - No action was requested. Economic and Redevelopment Coordinator Nicholas Gow gave a presentation that highlighted the following information:

- Various current projects
- Brownfield grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the grant's purpose, project phases, etc.
- Economic Development Strategic Plan - Scope of Work
- Economic Development Strategic Plan – 2024 Stakeholder Workshops
- Marketing, Communications, and Public Relations Strategy
- ReSimplify Real Estate Software that would show the public all available commercial and industrial property that was available in North Brevard (target launch date June 1, 2025)
- Economic Development liaison reports and involvements

Member Stoeckel discussed her excitement on grant funding and the importance of having a written economic strategic plan. She and staff also discussed her questions on current and past economic development strategies, it was not yet determined whether a new and upcoming economic development plan being drafted would plan for the next 3-5-10 years, etc., the role that factoring in the rate-of-change may apply to writing a plan, marketing, tourism, residents, business as a primary focus, the importance of the creation of jobs and careers, tourism, the importance of communities having quality of life in order to attract talent (new residents), the ReSimplify real estate software contract would begin on a 1-year trial basis and if desired after the trial period, the software would cost \$6,000 per year, etc.

Member Moscoso and staff discussed her questions on the purpose of the ReSimplify real estate software and how it may work with the *State Live Local Act* and the City's Codes for rezoning property, etc. The City website presently had an interactive zoning map available to the public, which investors and any individuals could use to see the current land use and zoning designations on properties in the City.

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Annual Update on the Sustainability Action Plan - No action was requested. Sustainability Planner Lily Galleo gave a presentation that highlighted information on the following:

- Annual Update on the City's Sustainability Action Plan for 2024/2025
- Plan implementation matrix and framework – 6-focus areas:
 - Community & livability
 - Ecosystems & resiliency
 - Infrastructure & energy
 - Water
 - Smart growth
 - Sustainable economy
- Sustainability nominations
- Urban Forestry Grant

- Progress of action items underway (44% of 87 action items that had started)
- 23 Targets amongst the focus areas, etc.

Vice-Mayor Cole commented on an event held earlier in the day where sustainability awards were given to individuals and the importance of sustainability. Member Stoeckel discussed Sustainability Planner Lily Galleo (a relatively new employee) having inherited and was now championing the City's Sustainability Plan, not all of the plan's objectives were easily measurable, working to improve the plan, etc.

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Ordinance - School Zone Speed Enforcement Program - No action was requested. Staff distributed additional information. Police Major Jeremy Gonzalez and Police Chief John Lau gave a presentation that highlighted information on the use of school zone speed enforcement cameras, as followed:

- State Legislation signed into law on May 31, 2023 established specification for speed detection systems in school zones to improve safety
- Initial studies performed by three different vendors that indicated speeding in school zones was an issue in Titusville
- Florida's dangerous ranking, local impacts, and fatality statistics
- Legal definitions for a speed detection system
- How the program worked
- How a \$100 civil citation fine was allocated to five government agencies
- Offsetting an old common perception such systems were put in place to generate revenue (money-grab). This was not true and inaccurate
- The focus of changing driver behavior
- Traffic Citation Penalties
- Vendor partnership
- Program benefits
- Proven effectiveness
- Next steps for implementation

Member Moscoso desired data on the estimates of children walking or riding their bikes to each of the individual schools in the City. Her concern was proper placement of speed detection equipment, due to there may be some schools where no children routinely walked or biked to or from school.

Major Gonzales understood Member Moscoso's viewpoint. The City could be flexible where they placed equipment. Staff were also concerned that if a sole fatality or serious injury occurred where there was no speed detection equipment, the hardship, difficulty, and/or challenge the City may face having to explain the justification to parents and the community would be difficult.

Member Stoeckel commented on data that had been provided to Council. She also commented on various items, whether penalty points would be incurred against individuals' drivers licenses, the \$100 civil citation fine, the speed detection equipment was in essence like having a cop car present

at school zones (30 minutes before and after school), but it did not take police officers away from other areas and responsibilities in the community, how vendors of the speed detection equipment benefitted or made their income from having their equipment installed at school zones (more would need to be discussed and decided on this question), eliminating the issue was the goal, the City could stop the program if desired in the future, the City paying a potential annual fee to the vendor estimated for \$7,000 per year; however, if the City did not issue any (zero) civil citations for speeding in school zones during a given year, the City was not obligated to pay the vendor (the City paid nothing) and the vendor would take a loss in revenue, the vendor could remove their equipment in these scenarios, etc.

Member Nelson commented on being shocked by the studies and how the studies revealed there was a current issue with speeding in school zones. Member Stoeckel agreed and confirmed that when speeders were detected going over 10 miles per hour in a school zone, this was when a civil citation would be issued.

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City Clerk Wells read the procedures for public comment and participation.

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PETITIONS AND REQUESTS FROM THE PUBLIC PRESENT

Stan Johnston distributed information. He indicated there was an addendum issued or subsequently published to the City's current Sustainability Plan or a 2019 Sustainability study that was not presented or provided to the City's new Sustainability Planner. His concern was for the alleged published addendum, the aquifer, the Areas of Critical Concern, etc.

Trenton Mansfield commented on the Police Department's presentation on the *Ordinance - School Zone Speed Enforcement Program*. He clarified whether points would incur against individuals' drivers' licenses, he was opposed to taxation, he supported safety, etc.

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With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Andrew Connors, Mayor

ATTEST:

Wanda F. Wells, City Clerk