City Council
Special Meeting
April 24, 2025

The City of Titusville City Council met in special session on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at Titusville City Hall, second floor, Council Chamber, 555 South Washington Avenue, Titusville, Florida 32796. Mayor Connors called the City Council meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Those present in the Council Chamber included Mayor Andrew Connors, Vice-Mayor Herman A. Cole, Jr., Col USAF Retired, and City Council Members Megan Moscoso, Jo Lynn Nelson, and Dr. Sarah Stoeckel.

Interim City Manager Tom Abbate, City Attorney Richard Broome, City Clerk Wanda Wells, and the City's Executive Leadership Team (department heads) or their designees were also present. Assistant City Clerk Jolynn Donhoff completed the minutes of 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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Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Strategic Planning and Budget Workshop – Interim City Manager Tom Abbate gave a presentation that reviewed the following information:

- The schedule of topics that would be discussed during the meeting (agenda)
- The City's vision and mission statements
- The City's FY 2025 Strategic Goals & Objectives (the baseline for Council's discussion on the pending FY 2026 goals and objectives)
- Strategic Planning Model for FY 2026
- *Titusville Talking Points* video (a sub presentation) and discussion on content within
- FY 2026 Budget environment
- FY 2026 Budget challenges
- Aging City Facilities and challenges
- Next Steps

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Kristin Bakke, President and Chief Executive Officer of LEAD Brevard, facilitated the next portion of the meeting's discussion with the purpose of Council discussing and developing the City's Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Strategic Goals & Objectives. She was a neutral party and her role was to only facilitate discussion and keep the meeting on task.

The discussion would begin with information received from citizens at small informal workshops hosted by individual Council Members during the past several weeks, as well as from the City's FY 2025 Strategic Goals & Objectives. The City's FY 2025 Goals included the following:

1. *Quality of Life*
2. *Efficient and Effective Services*
3. *Financial Stability*
4. *Economic Development*

5. *Effective Governance*
6. *Community Design*

Mayor Connors began by highlighting the information that he received at his individual meeting(s) with the community, which included questions from an after school program, an individual(s) that expressed concern for pot holes on their street, street lights, etc. Additionally, the City's vision, mission, promoting more economic growth, and concerns for the growth of businesses was also discussed.

Vice-Mayor Cole summarized the information that he received at his individual meeting(s) with the community, which included providing more activities for youth and supporting the arts.

Member Moscoso summarized the information that she received at her individual meeting(s) with the community, which included improving cosmetic issues, such as trash, irrigation, community building, activities for families in the parks, sidewalk maintenance and improvements, public engagement, citizen participation, infrastructure, having a town hall meeting to discuss infrastructure or "how to" and education meetings, etc.

Member Nelson summarized the information that she received at her individual meeting(s) with the community, which included Canaveral Heights and making a new plan for the area fit in with the old buildings, the proposed development for the old Royal Oak Golf Course and concerns for flooding, informing and communicating with the community on what was going on in the City, such as cleaning-up the Indian River Lagoon (IRL), etc.

Member Stoeckel summarized the information that she received at her individual meeting(s) with the community, which she advised were mostly single-issue items from individuals. She must take into consideration there were approximately 50,000 residents in Titusville. Member Stoeckel further commented on social media, community engagement at events, observing progress on the City's high-level Strategic Plan Goals the last few years, individual Council Members and/or individuals having personal philosophies about the role of government and how this would shape the path forward to navigate such, etc.

Next, Member Stoeckel reviewed her desires and philosophies on each of the FY 2025 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives, as followed:

- *Goal 1 and quality of life* – important items: the IRL, drinking water, and public safety.

Objectives like enhancing opportunities or activities for youth came along or manifested by providing a good environment using what funding was available with the current tax base. Member Stoeckel was hesitant about supporting the arts, only because it was not defined or clear if this meant providing financial support, etc.

- *Goal 2 efficient and effective services* and *Goal 3 financial stability* – went hand-in-hand and were important, in order to be efficient with available funding.

- *Goal 4 and economic development* – important for making Titusville prime for employment opportunities. Subsequent to this was redevelopment.

- *Goal 5 and effective governance* – had been challenging and indicated to be a work-in-progress. Member Stoeckel felt the Council was trying to grow in this role and it was challenging due to differing viewpoints on what this goal was supposed to look like, etc.

- *Goal 6 and community design* - important for preserving wetlands, commercial space, etc.

Member Stoeckel commented on the importance of two-way communications with the community, the City having hired a Public Information Officer (PIO) to help disseminate correct and accurate information, the use of "flash-vote" online surveys for the purpose of collecting instant and more regular feedback from residents, social media, focusing on future State legislation with many preemptions affecting cities and the ability to regulate local issues, there seemed to be a strained relationship with the State, the importance of asking for State appropriations moving forward, etc.

Member Stoeckel advised the overall and recent feedback from the community indicated the importance of the City's appearance, entryways, signage, improving communication, and educating residents on what the local government was doing.

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Facilitator Bakke thanked the Council for providing feedback on their recent individual meetings with residents. She was taking notes and turned the attention to how the community's feedback and Council's desires would develop the FY 2026 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives.

1. *Quality of Life* and *Objective Nos. a, b, c, d, e, f, and g* –

The discussion included:

- Council agreement and the rationale for eliminating *Objective No. d - enhance emergency preparations and management.*
- Differing viewpoints on whether to keep, move, or reword *Objective No. g – support the arts.* The consensus was to reword this for FY 2026 to *Encourage a vibrant downtown and the arts.*
- Whether to add an objective to have a connected walkway along the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) as a special feature unique to Titusville (an idea from past discussions by prior Councils or others, etc.). No consensus.
- Stormwater parks being higher in priority than a connected walkway along the IRL. A possible idea for Goal 6 - *community design*.

2. *Efficient & Effective Services* and *Objective Nos. a, b, and c* –

The discussion included:

- Council agreement and the rationale for adding an *Objective No. d – leverage technology.*
- The rationale and purpose of keeping *Objective No. b – Continuing partnerships and coordination with public, private, and non-profit entities.*

3. *Financial Stability* and *Objective Nos. a and b* – No changes or discussion.

4. *Economic Development* and *Objective Nos. a, b, c, d, and e* – No changes or discussion.

5. *Effective Governance* and *Objective Nos. a, b, c, d, and e* –

The discussion included:

- Council agreement and the rationale for eliminating *Objective No. b – continue the effectiveness of current advisory boards.* The institutional and community culture had improved by receiving more applications from applicants and board members taking their roles more seriously.
- Reword *Objective No. c – continue to broadcast advisory board meetings, expanding the broadcasts when appropriate.* Consensus to remove words "*when appropriate*". The discussion touched on the rationale why not all meetings were streamed or broadcast and that other cities might only record audio for some of their meetings.
- Reword *Objective No. d – "continue to use the City website and social media…".* The discussion touched on using more tools than the City website and replacing the word "continue" with "expand", as well as inform or include the community on the *communication tools* used by the municipality and which could be tracked.
- Consider providing funding for a lobbyist in FY 2026 budget---a brief comment made on *Objective No. e – strengthen relationships with the State to include appropriations and lobbying*.

6. *Community Design* and *Objective Nos. a, b, and c* –

The discussion included:

- Council agreement to reword *Objective No. a – preserve wetlands* to *"preserve wetlands and conservation areas".* Multiple factors and policies addressed these matters.
- Council agreement and the rationale for adding an *Objective No. d* and that was related to *stormwater infrastructure* and keeping freshwater or stormwater from going into the IRL and address flooding, etc. Based on discussion with Public Works Deputy Sandy Reller, Objective No. d would read "Seek opportunities to reduce flooding and stormwater runoff into the Indian River Lagoon."

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Member Stoeckel requested hearing from staff on anything they needed, such as information for the City's performance measures, clarification on the Council's strategic goals and objectives, communicating anything new staff was doing at a high-level to make Council aware, etc.

Interim City Manager Abbate advised that staff desired doing much more; however, resources were constrained. For example, staff did not have resources to work toward Council's goal of *supporting arts*. As done in the past, the Council could conduct an exercise to prioritize the goals and objectives. Member Stoeckel remembered doing this in the past with the "the dots" exercise. It was revealing on where the Council were and were not in agreement on their priorities and objectives. Member Nelson commented that the Council's FY 2025 goals and objectives perpetuated the prior framework of the "dots exercise" and the prior Council prioritizing the goals and objectives.

Mayor Connors, the Council, and staff briefly discussed how Goal 1, Objective No. A and a new objective added to Goal 6 (No. D) were similar.

Interim City Manager Abbate advised the next step was for Council to affirm the *2026 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives,* which would be advanced to Council as a draft following the meeting and which would also be presented for Council's consideration at a regular Council meeting in May 2025 (next month).

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Public Comment –

Stan Johnston distributed information. He commented on doing more to advertise the special City Council meeting, testing the lagoon for herbicides and pesticides, leaving a healthy environment for the future generations, his concerns for the public's health and safety related to a prior sewer spill, being displeased staff did not communicate with him the way he wished they would, his sending multiple emails and the general purpose of each, etc.

Toni Shifalo read from a prepared statement on being displeased with the way the Council's strategic planning meetings were conducted in the past and present, she and others pushing for changes, staff receiving praise for working on the goals along with and salary increases, while she felt environmental conditions worsened, her desire for all board meetings being broadcasted and the rationale, many ways the municipality could support the arts, etc.

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With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

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Andrew Connors, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Wanda F. Wells, City Clerk