

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, May 27, 2025. 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, Megan Moscoso, and Dr. Sarah Stoeckel.

Also present were Interim City Manager Tom Abbate, Interim City Attorney Chelsea Farrell, and City Clerk Wanda Wells. 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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SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Employee of the Month - May 2025 - No action was requested. Police Chief John Lau recognized Police Department 911 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Supervisor Heather Queen as the City's Employee of the Month for May 2025. He highlighted the nomination and together, he and Mayor Connors presented Ms. Queen with a plaque and gift.

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President's Gold Volunteer Service Award - No action was requested. Council Member Moscoso acknowledged Ms. Addisyn Mayer for volunteering 397 hours to the community. Member Moscoso also presented Ms. Mayer with the President's Gold Volunteer Service Award certificate and pin. Additionally, Ms. Mayer highlighted the various ways in which she volunteered, including making foodbank food deliveries, participating in book collection events, picking up trash, volunteering at a childcare facility, etc.

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Proclamation - Historic Preservation Month - No action was requested. Interim City Manager Abbate read aloud a proclamation that proclaimed the month of May 2025 as Historic Preservation Month. Mayor Connors, joined by the other Council Members, presented the proclamation, which was accepted by Historic Preservation Board Member Toni Shifalo.

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Marine Resources Council Low Impact Living - No action was requested. Dr. Laura Wilson, Executive Director of the Marine Resources Council (MRC) and Chris Bodgan, Green Stormwater Infrastructure Manager at Ferguson Waterworks, gave a presentation on Protecting the Indian River Lagoon with Low Impact Living (strategies and tools), which highlighted the following information:

- The purpose of the Marine Resources Council (MRC)
- Science Education Advocacy (SEA) Change
- Indian River Lagoon (IRL) basin, 2024 report, and overall health
- Two types of pollution in the IRL: nutrients (nitrogen, phosphate) and fresh water
- MRC educating the public, empowering citizens, advocating for change, and demonstrating how to live a low impact life, etc.
- Older underground pipes or public drainage systems designed for once smaller populations
- Some older pipes that led out to the IRL, once perched above the water line, were below the water line now and prevented the flow of water
- Average rainfall amounts for most rainfall events
- Green ponds and new water drainage improvements (designs) intended to mitigate flash flooding, meet nutrient discharge requirements, reduce pressure on municipalities to clean other people's stormwater runoff, added tax revenue, enhanced urban corridors, etc.
- Examples of low impact improvements made in City of Cocoa Beach. Some including new stormwater and street infrastructure improvements (above and below ground) to mitigate stormwater runoff
- Advocating for change
- MRC Offices in South Brevard County and various examples of low impact tools being used in the area, such as floating wetlands, buffers around retention ponds, rain barrels, etc.

Vice-Mayor Cole and Dr. Wilson discussed funding to afford low impact living improvements may be available through the Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Dr. Wilson advised that she and others were awaiting the approval and details of the next State adopted budget, which if funds were approved for such objectives, the City could apply for grants and funding would filter down to municipalities.

Member Nelson was impressed by the underground tank project in Cocoa Beach. She desired the overall cost of the tank project (reported as \$5.2 million) and the volume of water the tank could facilitate or offset going into the IRL. The presentation representatives would report back with this information.

Members Nelson and Member Stoeckel praised the location for where the underground tank improvement(s) was made in Cocoa Beach. It was placed in an area where there was substantial public use and enjoyment and where flooding sometimes occurred. Member Stoeckel desired whether strategies and locations for similar equipment were identified for Titusville. Flooding was one of her biggest concerns.

Dr. Wilson discussed that one of Titusville's strategies or incentives included trees and tree canopy, which stopped about 15% to 35% of rainwater flooding an area. She used a mature live oak tree as an example, which could hold a large amount of water. On techniques and providing

recommendations on the size of parcels or land, the representatives were working on providing input on different techniques, on different scales, some nature-based solutions, working with City staff to complete green infrastructure maps to pinpoint prior projects, their locations, what worked well, etc.

Member Stoeckel and the representatives of the Marine Resources Council further discussed her questions on whether the representatives would provide their input on future planning for 100-year and 500-year storms, etc. The representatives advised that every City and their goals were different. Green infrastructure was typically appropriate for retrofitting infrastructure in problem areas. There were menus that cities could review and select from for what was appropriate for their needs, as well as discussions to have, such as identifying the cost of maintenance, identifying funding and partners to assist with goals and improvements, etc.

Member Stoeckel and Dr. Wilson briefly discussed an upcoming conference on these matters scheduled for October 29 and 30, 2025. A half-day field trip was planned on October 28, 2025.

Mayor Connors and Dr. Wilson discussed that Titusville had the highest amount of adopted low impact development or projects undertaken in Brevard County.

Member Nelson and Dr. Wilson discussed the status of sea grass in various areas of the Indian River Lagoon (IRL). The southern part near St. Lucie, being shallower, presently had more sea grass, while the northern part of the IRL was dealing with algae blooms and fish kills. The St. Johns River Water Management District was doing their 2-year study in 2025 and updated maps with sea grass information would be available later in the year.

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FlashVote Public Input Presentation - No action was requested. Interim City Manager Abbate advised that the City recently contracted with FlashVote to conduct random scientific surveys. These surveys would solicit input directly from Titusville citizens, allowing City Council to make data-driven decisions.

Community Relations Director Jim Thomas commented on the City's collaboration with Jeff Sereni of FlashVote to develop a survey using a topic from the Public Works Department, in order to create and provide an example of what a future survey may look like. The Council agenda packet included an example survey detailing Public Works' suggested amenities for Harrison Street Park along the river. Community Relations Director Thomas provided further background information on the evolution of City surveys since 1999. He also commented on the usefulness of FlashVote as a tool.

Kevin Lyons and Jeff Sereni of FlashVote joined the meeting via virtual technology. The FlashVote representatives gave a presentation that highlighted the following information:

- Public input challenges---whether prior community feedback represented or matched the whole community's sentiments

- Using FlashVote to get statistically valid community input in 48 hours and making the community feel like they were taking part in a real thing
- History of developing FlashVote and customization by customers
- Inviting residents to join
- FlashVote captured basic demographics, residents' physical addresses, etc.
- All questions were quality controlled, readable, intended to be unbiased, etc.
- There were several ways to participate
- Pioneering scientific panels
- FlashVote advantages, frequency of use, and flexibility

Member Stoeckel requested having the FlashVote representatives email the City Council with others' surveys that were good or successful following the Council meeting. There was also a range of survey styles. Some surveys were intended to capture more general information and which were not necessarily intended for "hot topics". Then, there were surveys that were department specific (examples included focusing on a senior center, parks, budgeting---precise department or topic feedback). The representatives would provide 3-survey style examples following the Council meeting.

Member Nelson and Mr. Lyons commented on her desire to ensure and receive true, professional, random, population statistics sampling and feedback from future community surveys. Her concern was hearing from the same participants every time and not receiving a wider or true statistical random sample. There was nothing against hearing from the same individuals each time; however, the goal was to seek the sentiments of the entire community and other residents that did not routinely talk or provide feedback to the City Council.

The tactic recommended by FlashVote to attract a wider response was to not bait and not lead with a specific topic, but to instead begin by asking a basic, quick, and simple question about community spirit, etc. This tactic also provided demographic information on who was responding, such as male or female, the areas in town where survey respondents lived, etc. Subsets of information like this could assist the Council to determine or compare differences amongst the responses, shape a picture of any differences, determine if the City was equitably serving or receiving responses from all or only some residents, etc.

In addition, Mr. Lyons advised that when FlashVote was building a survey panel and beyond the broad reach, FlashVote could access or had a political or other database of Titusville residents, which the municipality could use to randomly select individuals to participate in a survey. There was a combination of efforts taken to achieve the best sample; however, no sample was perfect.

Member Nelson was interested in scenarios or that suggested getting feedback on how many times people were going to a particular park (as an example). She felt hearing from individuals that went to the park were more valid than individuals that did not go to the park and did not plan on using the park. Mr. Lyons was aware of such a survey used for residents of Naples, FL. FlashVote could apply a filter to the first survey question that was written using this kind of filter.

Community Relations Director Thomas advised he and the representatives had discussed writing a question, such as “*have you been to the park in the last 12-months*”. This could be helpful gauging the types of individuals that may or may not go to the park. Age filters were also useful, such as peak ages for parents of young children, etc.

Member Moscoso advised that the City’s population was estimated at 50,000 residents and presently, 270 individuals were signed up on the new FlashVote platform. Since it was not likely 50,000 residents would participate, she and Mr. Lyons discussed Mr. Lyons’ estimate that having at least 96 individuals respond to a survey was a useful and beneficial number of people representing the population and factoring in plus or minus 10% of the population. There was no rationale to explain the number 96. The “sweet spot”, explained Mr. Lyons, was 200 to 600 individuals responding to a survey. Survey designers could also estimate percentages and results did not depend on the size of a community.

Member Stoeckel advised that it was beneficial that initial demographic information would be provided as individuals signed up on FlashVote. She also commented on a park or proposed area that may become a park, but which was not a park yet. It may be more useful to ask whether individuals visited parks (for the scenario she discussed).

Member Stoeckel advised the idea was to also keep surveys short, in order to get responses. About achieving randomization through FlashVote (with the goal to obtain random population statistics), Member Stoeckel felt it was difficult to do, but she felt the City could be successful using multiple tools to collect feedback, such as through citizens’ water bills, etc. Nothing would be perfect, but increasing the opportunity to collect feedback from the community and obtaining a larger sample size to get a pulse on what citizens were thinking was important. Member Stoeckel also liked the turn-around time for receiving feedback from a FlashVote survey.

Community Relations Director Thomas advised that having 200 to 600 individuals respond to a survey was also a normal or acceptable response to national surveys. He discussed tools to communicate with the public for prior surveys over years past, including newspapers, social media, the City’s *Talking Points Magazine*, the water bill (4-cycles of water billing per month), etc.

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PETITIONS AND REQUESTS FROM THE PUBLIC PRESENT

Stan Johnston commented on an email he sent to City Council on May 21, 2025 that discussed his concerns on the 2024 City Council elections and candidates, which discussed concerns or allegations for a candidate(s) digging holes in public rights-of-ways, placing signage on public property, sign ownership not being legible, using political party labels for dirty politicking (not illegal just observations about candidate behavior), the appearance of dishonesty, getting a response on his concerns, etc.

Dr. Kathleen O’Rourke desired more information on FlashVote surveys. She desired knowing whether individuals were just volunteering to sign-up, her not caring for how survey questions were written right now as much as she was more concerned for volunteer bias, a concern or

example that various groups could have many opinions and could all sign-up in an effort to control the direction of a survey(s), concern for the way feedback was collected, surveys not being perfect, a survey on housing that she was involved with or familiar with utilized sending emails to individuals on the voter registration list, contacting people repeatedly to get feedback, achieving a 13% response rate was phenomenally good for an internet response rate, she was not comfortable with people self-selecting to take the FlashVote surveys, getting the numbers of participants -up would not necessarily provide what the population of Titusville “thinks”, she had expertise in this area, etc.

Jason Miller, a mountain bike activist, desired mountain bike trails in Titusville, for which he felt was a missing activity in the City. He had identified properties that might be used for having such trails. Mr. Miller requested Council authorize him to work with staff to identify properties that might be used now and during future development for mountain bike trails.

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With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Andrew Connors, Mayor

ATTEST:

Wanda F. Wells, City Clerk