

City Commission Regular Meeting
November 18, 2025
Video and Agenda Packet

Present: Vice Mayor Jason McGuirk; Commissioners Lisa Martin, Valli Perrine, Brian Ashley. **Excused:** Mayor Fred Cleveland.

Staff: Kevin Cowper, City Manager; Sharon Harding, City Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Vice Mayor Jason McGuirk.

The City Manager stated that there were no changes to the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATION/RECOGNITION

4.A Ms. Regis Sloan was presented with a framed certificate to recognize her long service to our community. Citizens Academy graduates were also recognized for participating in the seven-week program that taught them about our local government.

4.B Samantha Bergeron, CRA/Economic Development Director reported on the 1.2 million dollars in grants awarded in 2025. The city's Strategic Plan is being updated. There was some discussion about the lack of job opportunities in the city.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Cowper thanked his budget team for getting the [digital budget document](#) online quickly. The annual audit was started several weeks ago. Mr. Cowper attended the NSB Veterans Day ceremony, and the Advent Charity Ball and he thanked them for their support.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATIO - Six citizens spoke.

- A building permit took over two months to approve.
- A resident complimented Sam Bergeron on her presentation to the Citizens Academy and spoke about the low pay rates for Volusia County teachers
- A citizen thanked the NSB Fire Department and the Citizens Academy. She also spoke against the proposed parking garage and spot zoning.
- Several residents spoke against ordinances 11A, 11B and 11C and changing setbacks and zoning rules for specific projects.
- Two speakers disagreed with the decision to change the starting time for City Commission meetings from 6:30 to 5:30 pm.

CONSENT AGENDA - all items were unanimously adopted

7.A Resolution No. 40-25: amended the FY2024-2025 budget.

7.B Resolution No. 41-25: implemented a budget-neutral adjustment to the FY2026 budget by transferring previously approved revenues and expense appropriations to a new fund for clearer tracking and oversight.

7.C Approves the US 1 & Inlet Shores Drive Roundabout Feasibility Study.

7.D Approved a contract with Ultimate Kronos Group (UKG) for an Human Resources Information System (HRIS) and Payroll System to Streamline Processes, Improve Compliance, Enhance Employee Experience, and Reduce Operational Costs.

7.E Approved a Piggyback Agreement with MES Service Company, LLC and City of New Smyrna Beach Fire Department.

ORDINANCES FIRST READINGS - The City Clerk read the following:

11.A Ordinance No. 83-25: Conduct a First Reading an Ordinance, which, if adopted, upon Second Reading and Public Hearing would amend the New Smyrna Beach Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, City Commission, Sec. 2-51, Time and Place.

11.B Ordinance No. 84-25: Conduct a First Reading of an Ordinance, which, if adopted, upon Second Reading and Public Hearing would amend The City of New Smyrna Beach November 18, 2025 Land Use designation from Commercial to Medium Density Residential in the City's Comprehensive Plan for approximately 1.01 acres located at 1300 S. Atlantic Avenue.

11.C Ordinance No. 85-25: Conduct a First Reading of an Ordinance, which if adopted upon the Second Reading and Quasi-Judicial Hearing, would rezone approximately 1.01 acres of commercial property from B-2, Neighborhood Business District to R-3A, Single Family and Two Family (Zero Lot Line) Residential located at 1300 S Atlantic Avenue.

The Second readings will be January 13, 2026.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

12.A Appointment -Turnbull Creek Land Preservation Committee: to consider the appointment of one (1) citizen to serve an unfulfilled term set to expire on July 30, 2027. Sharon Taylor Harding stated that there are two applicants. Randy Hartman was appointed to the committee following a nomination and vote by the commissioners.

12.B Board Vacancy Notice: Building Trades Examining Board will be brought to the commission at the next meeting.

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- Commissioner Perrine sees pros and cons to changing the start time for City Commission meetings to 5:30 pm. There is a cost to having employees stay later but also, she understands that it is hard for some citizens to get to the earlier meetings. Mr. Cowper feels that people will come to the meetings if they are motivated and the time is not that important. Ms Martin added that the citizens should be considered the most important to accommodate.
- Commissioner Martin discussed visiting local schools where atlases and thesaurus were distributed and how much the students appreciated them.
- Commissioner Ashley discussed the Volusia County Schools meeting he attended and the introduction of AI into the schools via a state grant. Mr. Ashley is also participating in the school teach-in presentations at NSB High School.
- Vice-Mayor McGuirk commented on the Commission meeting start time change. He also expressed his opinion that students need to have reading and writing time as well as using AI for education.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT

- Ms. Harding discussed some public comments being made by citizens about Sunshine laws not being followed for the special election for the charter review. She stated that there was always an effort made to allow citizen input into city planning and procedures.
- A federal lawsuit involving the City of New Smyrna Beach was settled in favor of the city but no further details were given.

