



CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, October 7, 2025 * 6:30 PM
MINUTES

Present was:

Mayor – Jason Carson
District 1 Commissioner – Frank Vertolli
District 2 Commissioner – Holly Bobrowski
District 3 Commissioner – Karl Shuck
District 4 Commissioner – Bobby Lance
District 5 Commissioner – Beth Lowell
District 6 Commissioner – Stan Smith
District 7 Commissioner – Jim Partin

Absent was:

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1. Call to Order

Mayor Carson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., and the Clerk confirmed the presence of a quorum. City Manager Rudometkin, Chief Grimm, Attorney Langley, Public Works Director Phil Price, and City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno were also present.

2. Invocation and Pledge to Flag

Comm Smith gave the Invocation and led the Pledge to the Flag.

3. Public Comments & Announcements

Mayor Carson opened for public comment.

- Former Commissioner Anthony Carugno, residing at 2372 Hoffner Avenue, shared safety and liability concerns regarding E-bikes and golf carts using sidewalks. He shared a personal incident where he was hit by an E-bike while blowing leaves on their sidewalk and narrowly avoided being hit by a car after falling into the street. He asked about liability procedures when a pedestrian is injured by an E-bike or golf cart, especially involving uninsured or underage drivers. He questioned what protections are in place for injured pedestrians. He further inquired about previously discussed plans for raised and lighted crosswalks for traffic calming and pedestrian safety, and expressed concern about visibility issues during sunrise due to sun glare. He requested updates on planned crosswalks at Hoffner Avenue, Dorian, and the corner of Trentwood & Daetwyler.

With no further comments, Mayor Carson closed the public comments.

4. Presentations

Appeal of CE 25-0432: 1612 Idaho Avenue

City Manager Rudometkin gave a summary of the Code Violation issued to the homeowner of 1616 Idaho Avenue. Michael Litchfield gave testimony and addressed the council regarding a recent parking violation. He explained that due to ongoing construction near their home and contractor vehicles occupying nearby space, they were unable to maneuver their boat trailer into the driveway safely and had to park it temporarily on the street. He said he is a new resident and obtained a decal after the fact; however, he acknowledged understanding and support for the parking signage and regulations, which help maintain resident-only access. He appeared before the council to request understanding and forgiveness as a first-time homeowner, unfamiliar with the entire process and parking limitations at the time.

The council then discussed the appeal for a \$150 parking fine. After discussion, Comm Bobrowski moved to waive the \$150 parking violation but kept the \$50 administrative fee. Comm Shuck seconded the motion, which passed 5:2 with Comm Lowell and Comm Smith, nay.

Mayor Carson noted that the courtesy will only be extended one time and that he should adhere to the parking rules.

5. Consent Items

- A. Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes – September 30, 2025**
Mayor Carson called for a motion to approve the consent items.
Comm Shuck moved to approve the consent item as presented.

Comm Lance seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 7:0.

6. Unfinished Business

a. 3904 Arajo Condemnation Update

City Manager Rudometkin spoke on the ongoing concerns regarding the condition of a residential property being worked on by homeowner Ms. Lizer. He stated that Ms. Lizer has been attempting to secure funding for continued repairs but has faced delays. She had cleaned up the property in the past week, which was appreciated, though residents expressed a desire for more frequent maintenance. The roof has been repaired; however, Mr. Bernard reported that exterior wall damage is more extensive than expected, requiring reconstruction before painting can begin. Ms. Lizer said she can provide photos and plans to use annuity funds to help finance the ongoing work. She was unclear about how much she owed on her mortgage and unsure about the annuity fund disbursement for home repairs and was undecided whether to sell the home. CM Rudometkin emphasized to Ms. Lizer that the current state of the property is not sustainable, and it must either be fully repaired on an ongoing basis or potentially demolished.

The council discussed whether to proceed with demolition or assist Ms. Lizer with renovations. They agreed that the situation has been ongoing for far too long and that it is important to approach it with utmost care and consideration. The Council shared that they wouldn't want to see the homeowner spend their last resources trying to save a home that may be ultimately demolished. The Council discussed with the City Attorney finding an attorney or law firm that will offer pro-bono assistance to ensure Ms. Lizer will not be taken advantage of in the process. CM Rudometkin stated that he and the staff have visited the home and in their professional opinion, the house will need significant funds to make it habitable. The Council discussed with Ms. Lizer the consideration of seeking pro-bono legal assistance, as well as exploring the option of selling the house to someone who can remodel it and live in it without financial burden. A discussion ensued regarding the city's estimated cost of approximately \$20,000 to demolish the home or find a way to mitigate the situation. The Council discussed a 30-day extension with a timeline for the work plan moving forward.

After discussion, Commissioner Partin moved to grant 30 days for the city manager and attorney to work together with Ms. Lizer to explore a solution to resolve the issues with her property, including options for pro bono legal assistance. Commissioner Lance seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 7:0.

7. New Business

a. Going Paperless in 2026

City Manager Rudometkin said the staff is recommending a trial phase and a paperless process for handling agenda packets, to be environmentally friendly and utilize iPads. A brief discussion ensued. **Following the discussion, the Council reached a consensus to move forward with the recommendation and provide a copy of the agenda sheet only during sessions.** Packets can be made available upon request.

8. Attorneys' Report

Attorney Langley discussed the possibility of holding an executive session before the next council meeting to provide an update and answer questions regarding the Quevedo litigation. The proposed time for the session is 6:00 PM. The executive session would be limited to Council Members, the Mayor, Rick, the City Attorney, and would require the presence of a court reporter. All discussions must be transcribed and will remain exempt from public record until the case concludes. Members were reminded that everything said during the session is on record and must pertain strictly to the litigation; no other topics may be discussed. Of the two lawsuits filed, one has been dismissed entirely. A motion to dismiss the second case has been filed. Council was asked to confirm interest in holding the executive session at 6:00 PM before the next meeting.

After discussion, the Council reached a consensus to hold the Executive Session at 5:30 p.m. on October 21, 2025, following a Council meeting that starts at 6:30 p.m.

9. City Manager's Report

City Manager Rudometkin gave an update on Hurricane Ian recovery efforts. He has been in ongoing discussions with KPMG regarding documentation requests; some concerns have been raised, but a resolution is expected in the coming weeks. A future workshop will be scheduled for a more in-depth discussion. He noted that he and the Mayor met with Commissioner Scott, who shared a copy of the new Orange County redistricting maps. Commissioner Mike Scott (District 6) discussed the redistricting process, briefly touching on annexation and fire services. Copies of the maps were provided for Council review. Members are encouraged to stop by the office to review and discuss them further.

10. Chief's Report

Chief Grimm reported that staff met with FDOT and their consultant last Thursday regarding Hansel Road improvements, particularly near the school. While the city has limited jurisdiction, FDOT will conduct a traffic study starting in approximately two weeks. The study will evaluate options such as school zone designation, improved signage, lighted crosswalks, or traffic signals at

the Wallace intersection. He further added that the traffic flow around the school has improved this year, though peak times still see congestion. He shared dates of upcoming events:

- **Oct 8:** Annual PD Agency Training
- **Oct 9:** Homecoming Golf Cart Parade
- **Oct 18:** "Always Wear Your Seatbelt" 5K
- **Oct 25:** DEA Drug Take-Back Day
- **Oct 25:** Ducktoberfest
- **Oct 29:** "Boogie on the Bridge" – City annual event with extended road closures from 3:30 PM through the evening. All event-related closures and updates will be shared via the city website, police department social media, and digital signage in advance.

A full September report will be presented at the next meeting.

11. Public Works Report

Phil Price, Public Works Director, gave an update on the Orange County force main installation project along Judge Road. The contractor anticipates completing main construction by mid-next week, with night work at the Conway/Judge intersection scheduled to begin around October 20. Lane closures will occur overnight from 9 PM to 5 AM.

Final site restoration, including sodding and cleanup, is expected to be completed by the second week of November. Minimal additional work remains near Arajo and at the lift station tie-in point. This is an Orange County project taking place within the city right-of-way. No permanent sidewalk improvements are included; however, some sections were temporarily removed to facilitate the installation of pipes. Public safety has been maintained, and overall traffic control (MOT) has been effective.

12. Council Report

The council thanked staff, PD, and Public Works for their hard work and for moving projects forward. Comm Lowell thanked Lizary Simons, the City Hall Administrative Assistant, for her positive and disarming demeanor when helping residents and visitors. Comm Lance also commented on what a great job Lizary is doing. He also reported that the Daetwyler Shores Association has installed its playground equipment with the money from the BING Grant. It really looks good and is an asset to the neighborhood.

Comm Smith reminded Council to attend the Tri-County meeting on October 16th.

Comm Vertolli announced that he will not be running for re-election for his district and welcomes the residents to apply.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Carson called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, which passed unanimously at 8:15 pm.