



CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 * 6:30 PM

MINUTES

Present was:

Mayor – Jason Carson
District 1 Commissioner – Ed Gold
District 2 Commissioner – Holly Bobrowski
District 3 Commissioner – Karl Shuck
District 4 Commissioner – Bobby Lance
District 5 Commissioner – Beth Lowell

Absent was:

District 6 – OPEN
District 7 – OPEN

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum

Mayor Carson called the Council Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., and the City Clerk, Yolanda Quiceno, confirmed the presence of a quorum. City Manager (CM) Rudometkin, Sgt Wasmund, Attorney Shafer, Public Works Director Phil Price, and City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno were also present.

2. Invocation and Pledge to Flag - Commissioner Karl Shuck, District 3

Comm Shuck led the invocation and Pledge to the Flag.

3. Presentations

a. Swear In – Ed Gold

Mayor Carson opened the Swearing-In of Ed Gold as District 1 Commissioner. Honorable McGinnis performed the ceremony.

b. Special Events Appointment - Sarah Colson

Mayor Carson presented the Special Events member application for Sarah Colson. He informed the Council that she was not able to attend; however, he asked if the Council would like to still consider her appointment tonight. Council consensus was to move forward with the appointment and thanked Ms. Colson for her commitment to the city and its residents.

Comm Bobrowski moved to appoint Sarah Colson to the Special Events Committee.

Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 5:0.

4. Public Comments & Announcements

Mayor Carson opened for public comments and announcements. There being none, Mayor Cason closed public comments.

5. Consent Items

a. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes - March 17, 2026

Comm Lance made the following changes,

Page 4, Paragraph 8 reads, Comm Lowell moved to adopt Resolution 26-04 as presented.

Comm Lance seconded the motion.

Should read, Comm Shuck moved to adopt Resolution 26-04 as presented.

Comm Lance seconded the motion.

Comm Lance moved to approve the amended minutes as discussed.

Comm Gold seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 5:0.

6. Unfinished Business

a. 3904 Arajo Court Condemnation Update

CM Rudometkin provided an update on the Arajo property, stating that the City has continued moving forward with the previously approved condemnation process. He explained that although there had been interest from outside investors in purchasing the property, those efforts were discontinued after the property owner, Mr. Bernard, was reminded of the Council's direction to proceed with demolition. CM Rudometkin reported that a demolition permit was issued to the owner's contractor earlier that day, following the submission of the required application and Duke Energy's confirmation that all utilities had been disconnected. The owner has indicated he is prepared to begin demolition immediately upon receipt of the permit. The City will follow up to ensure work begins promptly, with an expectation that demolition could be completed within several days once it starts. If the owner fails to proceed in a timely manner, the City is prepared to move forward with demolition and recover costs through a lien on the property. CM Rudometkin clarified that the demo will be performed by a contracted company, not by the homeowner.

7. New Business

a. Amendment to City Manager Employment Agreement

The Council discussed a potential salary adjustment and the amendment of the City Manager's contract. Comm Bobrowski stated that, based on the recently adopted step pay policy for employees, she believed the City Manager's compensation should reflect a position above the highest-paid staff member and suggested aligning the salary at two grades above the highest non-uniformed employee. Comm Lowell asked, and CM Rudometkin clarified that, according to the classification and compensation study, the position is recommended to be set above the highest classified employee overall, not limited to non-uniformed staff, and that the role of city manager remains a contract position outside the step pay system. He further explained that the study provides guidance on maintaining appropriate salary separation for executive roles but does not mandate a specific salary amount.

CM Rudometkin said, as a rule of thumb, it should be a couple of grades higher to keep the decompression and maintain the preservation of the organizational hierarchy, ensure appropriate executive level differentiation, and avoid compression at the top of the structure. He noted that the City Manager's current salary falls within the recommended range identified in the study.

The Council discussed salary adjustments under the contract, prior cost-of-living adjustments, and typical merit increases.

After discussion, Comm Lance moved to increase the City Manager's salary to 180,000, approximately a 6 1/2 % increase. The motion died for lack of a second.

Comm Lance moved to increase the City Manager's salary to \$177,712.50, an approximately 5% increase. Comm Gold seconded the motion. The motion passed 4:1 with Comm Bobrowski, nay.

b. Appointment of Board Member and Alternate on PRM Board of Directors

The Council discussed appointing a Council representative to serve on the PRM Board of Directors. It was noted that former Vice Mayor Partin is not currently serving the Council and therefore cannot be considered for re-appointment at this time. Consensus was reached to table the item until the next meeting to allow for consideration with a full Council present.

Comm Gold moved to table the item until the next meeting to allow for consideration with a full Council present. Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

c. Second Amendment to Interlocal Agreement for Street Sweeping Services

CM Rudometkin presented the second amendment to the interlocal agreement for street sweeping services, noting that it adds an additional service area, as shown on the referenced map. He explained that the request for expanded street sweeping originated from the neighborhood and was approved by the Nuisance Abatement Board, which has agreed to fund the service at no cost to the City. Orange County will continue to provide street-sweeping services under the agreement. This amendment formalizes the addition of the new area, which is already being serviced.

Comm Bobrowski moved to approve the second amendment to include the additional streets within the Conway Shores neighborhood in the agreement. Comm Lowell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 5:0.

8. Attorney's Report

Attorney Shafer reported on the ongoing Quevedo case and on the Motion for Judgment on the pleadings. It was reported that the court denied the City's motion to dismiss following a recent hearing. However, the City has since filed a motion for summary judgment and believes it has a strong case to resolve the matter without proceeding to trial. The trial is currently scheduled for late July, and a ruling on the summary judgment motion is expected within a set timeframe prior to trial. It was also noted that no response has yet been filed by opposing counsel regarding the motion. Council was advised that further detailed discussion could be conducted in executive session if needed.

9. City Manager's Report

a. City Manager's Report and Work Plan

CM Rudometkin reported that the agreement with Orange County/Jetport Drive is currently under legal review, with staff and attorneys working through language revisions; the finalized agreement will be brought back to the Commission for approval. He also noted that discussion regarding potential updates to the City Charter will be scheduled once the full Council is seated, with workshops planned to review possible changes and additions. The City currently has four active RFPs, including one for an upgraded audio-visual system, with which staff is preparing to move forward. CM Rudometkin reported progress on the Sol Avenue reimbursement, noting that final documentation has been submitted and approval is anticipated.

b. Chief's Report

Sgt Wasmund provided updates on recent and upcoming community events. The Easter event was reported as successful, with strong attendance and overall positive feedback from participants. Upcoming events include a recycling event scheduled at City Hall from 9:00-11:00 a.m. next Saturday. On the 25th, the City will host the DEA Take Back event and the Hearts Against Hunger 5K, which will include temporary road closures from approximately 7:30-9:30 a.m. along the route from the school to Lake Conway Point and back. He noted that notifications, including signage, will be implemented to inform residents of the road closures.

c. Public Works Report

Phil Price, Public Works director, reported on recent maintenance and operations. Bridge lighting has been repaired, including replacing globes and bulbs, restoring visibility in the area; additional lighting is still pending. The fountain has been repainted, including the interior, and will be refilled following sufficient curing time, though recent rainfall has partially filled it. He noted that fountain lighting remains inoperable and will require future funding for repairs. Mr. Price provided an update on yard waste collection, which had experienced delays due to high volume. He noted that collections are now substantially caught up, with only minor issues remaining related to oversized or improperly prepared materials. Normal collection schedules are expected to resume. Comm Lowell asked for an update on the Heron Fountain. Mr. Price noted that he and the City Manager discussed placing the statue (not the water feature) at the front of City Hall, by the flagpole. He will update Council once a location has been determined.

10. Mayor's Report

Mayor Carson provided safety practices regarding the start of the swimming season, encouraging families to ensure children receive proper swimming and water safety instruction. He noted that scholarships and programs are available through state and local organizations to assist with swimming lessons and encouraged residents to take advantage of these resources. Mayor Carson also commended the success of the recent Easter event, recognizing the efforts of the Special Events Committee, Police Department, and City staff. The event was well attended and received positive feedback from the community.

11. Commissioners' Report

The Mayor, Council, and staff welcomed Comm Gold to the Council. Council echoed the sentiments about the Easter event.

Comm Lowell raised concerns regarding an increase in pet owners not properly cleaning up after their animals in public areas. Comm Lowell spoke of the importance of public awareness and encouraged efforts to remind residents of their responsibility to clean up after their pets to maintain community cleanliness.

Comm Lance spoke about the news on the state law regarding cell phone use while driving. He reported that a recent traffic accident he and Cindy sustained involving a driver who ran a red light was suspected of being on their cell phone, resulting in a three-car collision. Minor injuries were sustained. He reminded everyone of the importance of safe and attentive driving.

Comm Shuck addressed landscapers who were blowing all their leaves into the street. He noted that he witnessed this on Hoffner one morning. He encourages efforts to remind residents and landscapers about the rules for picking up yard waste.

Comm Bobrowski reminded Council that she will be out of the Country for the following two Council sessions.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Carson called for adjournment, unanimously approved at 8:00 pm.