CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, November 5, 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
District 6 Commissioner – Christopher Oller
District 7 Commissioner – Jim Partin

Absent was:

1. **Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum**
   Mayor Carson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, and the Clerk confirmed quorum.
   City Manager (CM) Rick Rudometkin, Attorney Langley, Chief Grimm, Public Works Director Phil Price, and City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno were also present.

2. **Invocation and Pledge to the Flag** - Comm Shuck led the invocation and Pledge to the Flag.

CM Rudometkin requested that Agenda Item 7b be removed from the meeting agenda at the request of Orange County. He advised that the item would be brought back for Council consideration at a future meeting. The Council acknowledged the requested change.

3. **Public Comments & Announcements**
   Mayor Carson opened for public comments and announcements.

- Dr. Annette Nielsen, residing at 2625 Nela Avenue, shared her concerns regarding the removal of a mature tree at Gilbert Park after it was reportedly struck and severely damaged by a delivery truck traveling to a residential construction site near the intersection of Nela Avenue and Homewood Drive. She spoke of the importance of preserving the City's tree canopy and maintaining Belle Isle's designation as a Tree City. Dr. Nielsen noted that the damaged tree had been incorporated into a previous Boy Scout Eagle Scout project at the park and provided valuable shade for residents and wildlife and acknowledged that the City intended to replace the tree but expressed concern that taxpayers should not bear the financial responsibility for damage caused by a private vehicle. She urged Council to pursue appropriate legal action or reimbursement from the responsible driver, the vehicle's insurance company, and potentially the property owner associated with the delivery to recover the costs of removing and replacing the tree.
- Anders Nielsen, residing at 2625 Nela Avenue, shared his concerns regarding lane visibility and traffic safety on the Nela Avenue bridge, particularly during nighttime driving conditions. He explained that the existing brick lane markings separating opposing traffic lanes are difficult to distinguish after dark, creating situations where vehicles may unintentionally cross the center of the roadway. As a new driver, he described experiencing instances where approaching vehicles appeared to cross into the opposing lane, forcing the drivers to move closer to the edge of the bridge. Anders requested that Council consider installing yellow reflective pavement markers along the center of the bridge to improve public safety.

There being no further comments, Mayor Carson closed the public comments section.

4. **Presentations - na**

5. Consent Items –
   a. Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2026
   b. Approval of the 2027 Municipal Election Services Equipment Use Agreement

Mayor Carson called for a motion to approve Consent items a-b.
Comm Lowell moved to approve Consent items a-b as presented.
Comm Lance seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 7:0.

6. Unfinished Business

a. Update on the Venetian Canal Dredging

CM Rudometkin noted that staff had a meeting with the County and asked the City Attorney to provide an update.

Attorney Langley gave a summary of the meeting held on Friday, October 23, 2026, with approximately 12 Orange County staff members, including representatives from the County Attorney's Office, Public Works, administration, Environmental Protection Division, and Navigation District. He noted that the meeting was productive and focused on determining responsibility for maintaining and dredging the Venetian Canal. Attorney Langley explained that the City presented its position that the original plat did not specifically dedicate the canal to the City and that the City had never formally accepted responsibility for its maintenance. He also reviewed the legislative act establishing the Navigation and Canal Control District, explaining that the act addresses the County's authority and responsibilities for maintaining, repairing, and dredging canals within the district. During the discussion, the City clarified that drainage pipes located within the Venetian Drive right-of-way, which the City maintains, are separate from the canal itself. Attorney Langley noted that there appeared to be some confusion about whether the City's maintenance of those drainage facilities constituted maintenance of the canal. He stated that Orange County raised questions regarding ownership of the canal, which remained unresolved. He explained his position that the original plat represented an offer of public dedication that the City had not formally accepted, while the County's legislative authority and historical maintenance activities could constitute acceptance of that dedication. However, he emphasized that the primary objective was to have the canal maintained and dredged, regardless of ownership. He said that County representatives advised that the Navigation District and EPD had already placed the Venetian Canal on their list for a formal assessment to determine the necessary dredging work, project scope, and estimated costs, and indicated that the evaluation would take approximately three to four months to complete. Attorney Langley noted that, although the City had previously received correspondence indicating that canal maintenance was the City's responsibility, County representatives did not reiterate that position during the meeting. Instead, they indicated that they would provide additional information following completion of their assessment. He noted that it was new information to the City that Orange County had already begun evaluating the Venetian Canal for dredging, despite previously issuing a letter stating that maintenance was the City's responsibility. He also reported that County representatives acknowledged having dredged the canal multiple times in the past. Attorney Langley expressed his impression that the County appeared hesitant to acknowledge responsibility for dredging the canal and suggested that the primary issue may be available funding and resources rather than ownership and that the County appeared to be taking the lead in evaluating the dredging project. He acknowledged that the County might eventually request financial assistance from the City, particularly if additional funding were needed to prioritize the project. Attorney Langley noted that he asked whether the City could provide anything to expedite the process but did not receive a response from County representatives.

CM Rudometkin agreed with Attorney Langley's summary and said the meeting was positive. He confirmed that the Navigation District had included the Venetian Canal on its list of eight canals being evaluated. He explained that the County was treating the Venetian Canal as two separate canals because they do not connect as a continuous passage. CM Rudometkin noted that County representatives did not provide any statements regarding responsibility for the canals. He recommended waiting until the County's assessment was completed before determining the next steps.

Comm Bobrowski asked the Mayor, who also participated in the meeting, whether he agreed with the summary or had anything additional to report. She noted that the Venetian Canal had been discussed at the last two Navigation Board meetings. Approximately two to three meetings earlier, residents and community members had requested that the Venetian Canal be added to the County's assessment list. The canal was

not included on the original list of six canals but was subsequently added for evaluation. Comm Bobrowski requested that the City continue following up with Orange County regarding the Venetian Canal assessment and dredging to prevent the matter from being delayed or overlooked.

Mayor Carson said he agreed with Attorney Langley's and CM Rudometkin's summaries, noting that Orange County representatives provided limited responses during the meeting. He explained that the discussion frequently shifted between County departments without reaching a definitive response, requiring the City Attorney to repeatedly redirect the conversation. Mayor Carson stated that Attorney Langley emphasized that the purpose of the meeting was not to debate ownership of the canal, but to determine what needed to be done to have it dredged. During this discussion, County representatives disclosed that an assessment of the canal was underway, and nothing further was added.

Comm Lance asked whether residents concerned about the Venetian Canal should be encouraged to submit letters or contact County officials to help move the dredging process forward. Attorney Langley supported the suggestion and encouraged residents to contact the incoming Orange County Mayor, their District Commissioner, other County Commissioners, and members of the Navigation Board to express their concerns and that residents should not attempt to dredge the canal themselves.

a. Pine Castle Pioneer Days Lease Non-Compliance and Improvements

CM Rudometkin explained that the item was brought back before Council to address the previously discussed potential breach of the lease agreement with Pine Castle Pioneer Days. He noted that, during an earlier meeting, Billy Morgan had appeared before Council regarding funding assistance and the contractual requirements for restoration and rehabilitation of the Lancaster House. However, Council had not made a determination regarding the alleged breach. He stated that the City subsequently issued a letter notifying Pioneer Days that it was in default of the agreement. Mr. Morgan responded in writing, disputing the breach and indicating that the organization was moving forward with the project. CM Rudometkin referenced the agreement's provision requiring that restoration, rehabilitation, and improvements commence within six months of the commencement date and be completed within 30 months, unless otherwise extended by agreement with the City. He explained that, following discussions with the City Attorney, the position was that Pioneer Days was in breach of the agreement. CM Rudometkin noted that Council had two options: approve an extension of the contractual timeline or proceed with the process available under the agreement if Council elected not to grant an extension, and that the matter was presented for discussion and a decision regarding how to proceed.

Comm Lance disclosed that he had served on the Pine Castle Pioneer Days Board for many years and requested the Attorney's legal opinion on whether he should vote or abstain on the matter. Attorney Langley advised that Comm Lance was permitted to vote, explaining that serving on the board of a nonprofit organization without compensation did not constitute a voting conflict under Florida law, as there was no special private gain or loss benefiting the Council member, their family, or a business associate.

Comm Gold asked whether terminating the existing lease with Pine Castle Pioneer Days would allow the City to establish a new lease agreement. Attorney Langley confirmed that entering into a new lease would present complications due to the City's existing lease agreement with the charter school.

CM Rudometkin referenced a previous discussion about language in an amendment provided by Cornerstone Charter Academy (CCA) regarding the Lancaster House and fencing requirements. He explained that if Council decided to terminate the agreement with Pine Castle Pioneer Days and reclaim the property, the City would be required to follow an established process, including providing 30 days' notice and completing other required steps. CM Rudometkin stated that, under the previously approved agreement, the property would revert to the original tenant, CCA, which would then have options regarding the building, including its potential removal. He noted that Council had previously approved this language and that portions of it were incorporated into the subsequent lease amendment addressing the Lancaster House and surrounding fencing.

Comm Bobrowski asked whether returning the Lancaster House parcel to CCA would result in an increase in the school's rent. CM Rudometkin explained that the City's rental payments were not reduced when the parcel was originally removed from CCA's leased property. Therefore, returning the parcel to CCA would not result in additional rental revenue, as the existing lease already provides for annual percentage increases. Comm Bobrowski then asked whether extending the commencement deadline for Pine Castle Pioneer Days would result in any financial gain or loss to the City. CM Rudometkin clarified that the discussion concerned extending the commencement deadline rather than the lease term and stated that he

did not believe there would be any financial impact on the City.

Billy Morgan, representing Pine Castle Pioneer Days, noted his disagreement with the City's determination that the organization was in default of its lease agreement. He stated that he had consulted an attorney whose opinion differed from that of the City Attorney. He also said the language in the lease agreement was somewhat vague about how commencement of the project should be measured and requested that his disagreement with the default determination be reflected in the record. Mr. Morgan said that the organization had continued making progress on the Lancaster House project, including the activities previously outlined to Council. He reported that, since the last meeting, materials had been ordered and would be installed upon delivery. He also announced that an anonymous donor had committed to matching every dollar raised through December 31, helping finance the remaining project costs. He noted that additional donations had already been received. Mr. Morgan asked Council to consider the work completed behind the scenes, emphasizing that the organization had been actively pursuing the necessary steps to move the project forward and that those efforts were beginning to produce results.

Comm Bobrowski expressed support for granting Pine Castle Pioneer Days an additional six months to commence restoration of the Lancaster House rather than returning the property to CCA. She noted the importance of preserving one of the oldest remaining buildings in Orange County. Attorney Langley clarified that the lease agreement required work to commence within six months of March 2026 and be completed within 30 months of the lease commencement date. Comm Bobrowski proposed extending the original six-month commencement deadline by an additional six months. Mr. Morgan explained that the organization's original project schedule had been delayed because CCA accelerated construction of its gymnasium. As a result, Pioneer Days was required to shift its priorities and complete the fencing before proceeding with other planned restoration work. He stated that obtaining a six-foot steel fence matching Cornerstone's existing fencing presented additional challenges involving manufacturing, shipping, installation, and warranty requirements. He confirmed that the fencing materials had been ordered from the manufacturer and that the organization intended to comply with the project requirements.

After discussion, Attorney Langley noted that the key to the amendment is that restoration, rehabilitation, and improvements must begin within six months of the commencement date. Council can move to approve a modification that would allow commencement to be 12 months from the date of release, and that would also not modify the completion date.

Comm Partin shared agreement with Comm Bobrowski's recommendation to extend the commencement deadline for the Lancaster House restoration project. He suggested granting an additional four months, establishing a new commencement deadline in early March 2027, noting that approximately two months had already passed since the original deadline. Comm Partin acknowledged that approximately 22 months remained under the existing lease agreement to complete the project. He recognized Pine Castle Pioneer Days' disagreement with the City's interpretation of the commencement requirements and said the City's position was appropriate, and that the agreement could have provided clearer definitions of what constituted commencement of work.

Comm Shuck asked Mr. Morgan whether any remaining construction activities of the CCA gymnasium property could interfere with installation of the Lancaster House fence. Mr. Morgan stated that no anticipated construction activities would prevent the fence installation. However, the fencing contractor would need to ensure that installation work did not interfere with activities or improvements on the adjoining gymnasium property.

There being no further discussion, Comm Partin moved to extend the commencement deadline for the Lancaster House restoration project to March 3, 2027, providing Pine Castle Pioneer Days a total of one year from the original commencement date to begin the required work. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bobrowski which passed unanimously 7:0.

7. New Business

a. Review and Approval to Extend Albert Moore's Tree Maintenance Services Contract

CM Rudometkin introduced Albert Moore, a Belle Isle resident and the City's current tree maintenance contractor. He expressed appreciation for Mr. Moore's work and noted that Public Works Director Phil Price was also present to answer questions. CM Rudometkin explained that the City had previously approved an extension of Mr. Moore's tree maintenance contract, which is scheduled to expire on December 4, 2026. He stated that staff was pleased with Mr. Moore's responsiveness, work quality, and work ethic and

recommended that Council consider entering into a new three-year contract with two optional one-year renewals. He explained that Council had two options: approve a new contract with Albert Moore or direct staff to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for tree maintenance services.

Comm Lance noted that, in reading the agenda and the documents provided to the commissioners, Mr. Moore hasn't increased any prices. Comm Partin asked if the proposed contract with Albert Moore would retain the City's 2018 pricing for tree maintenance services. The City Manager confirmed that the pricing would remain unchanged. Comm Partin stated that, although they would ordinarily favor issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP), they were comfortable proceeding with the proposed contract because Mr. Moore was maintaining the 2018 rates. He clarified that his support for the contract was not based on a personal relationship with Mr. Moore.

Comm Bobrowski acknowledged Mr. Moore's excellent work and stated that they had not received any complaints regarding his services. However, she expressed concern about extending a contract originally established in 2018 for another three years, which would result in approximately 11 years without a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process. She further expressed frustration that the contract had not been brought before Council earlier, allowing sufficient time to conduct an RFP before its expiration and noted that this was the second contract during the year in which Council had faced a decision under time constraints. She noted the importance of sound business practices, transparency, and competitive procurement. Comm Bobrowski stated that she would support a one-year contract extension, provided that an RFP be issued at least six months before the extended contract expires. This would allow the City to evaluate other available options while maintaining continuity of tree maintenance services.

CM Rudometkin clarified that the proposal was for a new three-year contract with two optional one-year renewals, rather than an extension of the existing contract. He noted that this arrangement was similar to the contract previously approved by Council for Harris Engineering. He explained that, if Council approved the proposed arrangement, the City Attorney and City Manager would work with Albert Moore to review and make necessary changes to the contract. He noted that Council could alternatively approve a one-year extension and direct staff to proceed with an RFP for tree maintenance services.

Comm Lance asked whether the two optional one-year renewals would include any price increases or whether the pricing would remain at the 2018 rates. CM Rudometkin indicated that the pricing should remain unchanged. Comm Lance expressed support for proceeding with the proposed new three-year contract with two optional one-year renewals.

Comm Partin expressed support for proceeding with the proposed three-year contract with two optional one-year renewals. He acknowledged Comm. Bobrowski's concerns regarding competitive procurement; however, issuing an RFP could result in significantly higher costs to the City. Comm Partin said he agreed with Comm Lance that securing the existing 2018 pricing would be financially beneficial to the City. Comm Partin also expressed concern that contracts and agreements are not being brought before Council in a timely manner, citing the recent Pine Castle Pioneer Days lease issue. He said he would like the City to establish a process to prevent similar situations in the future but did not believe those concerns should delay the proposed tree maintenance contract.

Comm Lowell expressed support for considering a one-year contract extension while the City conducts an RFP for tree maintenance services. The Council member asked Mr. Moore whether he anticipated changing his pricing if the City issued an RFP and he submitted a new proposal. Mr. Moore responded that, as a Belle Isle resident, he believed his pricing would remain the same at this time.

With no further discussion, Comm Lance moved to extend the current contract with Albert Moore LLC for three years, plus two one-year extensions, and authorize the city manager and the city attorney to update the contract language and execute the extension to the board's last contract. Second from Comm Partin, which passed 6:1 with Comm Bobrowski, nay.

b. Approval of Interlocal Agreement Lake Conway Stormwater Retrofit Project – CON0460 Wallace Street
Item removed.

c. Appointment of Tree Board Member Marilyn Montes
CM Rudometkin introduced candidate Marilyn Montes to the Tree Board. Marilyn, a resident of 1613 Perkins Road, expressed her interest in serving on the City's Tree Advisory Board. She shared that she started a business in April and completed Florida-Friendly certification courses through Orange County and expressed appreciation for Belle Isle's native landscape and tree canopy, noting that these features contribute to the

City's character.

The Mayor and Council thanked Ms. Montes for her support to the City and its residents. There being no further discussion, Comm. Bobrowski moved to appoint Marilyn Montes to the City of Belle Isle Tree Board. Seconded by Comm Lance, which passed unanimously 7:0.

8. **Attorney's Report - na**

9. **City Manager's Report**

a. City Manager's Report and Work Plan

CM Rudometkin provided updates on several ongoing City matters.

- CM Rudometkin requested Council consensus on whether to proceed with the City's December holiday events in light of the temporary spending pause implemented following Amendment 3. He referenced a memorandum previously distributed to Council outlining the spending pause, along with additional information received from the City's lobbyists and statements from the Governor. He advised that Council would begin discussing the potential financial impacts and spending restrictions at the November 17 meeting. CM Rudometkin explained that the upcoming holiday activities included Light the Way, two parades, and the golf cart parade, while the boat parade was handled separately. He emphasized that staff needed direction on whether to continue planning and committing funds for these events. The Council expressed support for proceeding, describing the holiday celebrations as among the City's most important annual events. During discussion, Council reviewed the anticipated costs and the role of sponsorships in offsetting 10-15,000 depending on sponsorships and other expenses.

With no further discussion, Council moved to move forward with the December holiday events, with further discussion of special events expenditures and the City's spending pause scheduled for November 17, 2026.

- City Manager Rudometkin provided an update regarding the City's temporary spending pause implemented as a proactive measure following Amendment 3. He stated that he, the Police Chief, and the Finance Director were reviewing the City's budget and evaluating expenditures to determine where spending could be paused. He explained that all purchases now require prior approval from either the City Manager or Finance Director, including routine purchases. Expenditures necessary to maintain critical City services would generally be approved, while nonessential purchases would receive additional review. He noted that a more detailed discussion would take place at the November 17, 2026, City Council meeting, including potential spending reductions, anticipated savings, and financial planning for the coming year, and that additional workshops would likely be necessary because questions remained regarding implementation of Amendment 3, which he stated would take effect January 1, 2027.
- CM Rudometkin explained that the November 17 budget discussion would be conducted as a workshop within the regular City Council meeting agenda rather than as a separate workshop. He said this format would allow Council to consider individual expenditures and, when necessary, make motions and vote on matters requiring immediate direction. The workshop would provide an initial opportunity for Council to review staff's recommendations, discuss potential savings, and determine whether certain expenditures should continue or remain paused.

  Comm Partin asked for clarification regarding the purpose of the November 17 meeting and whether Council would be discussing Amendment 3 and potential budget adjustments. CM Rudometkin explained that the meeting would focus on the City's approved budget and the temporary spending pause implemented in anticipation of Amendment 3's financial impacts. He said that the City was not proposing immediate budget cuts but was reviewing expenditures to identify areas where spending could be delayed or paused. Council would be asked to provide direction or consensus on certain expenditures and take formal action. He said staff had already begun reviewing the budget, with the goal of reducing expenditures during the fiscal year and improving the City's financial position before the end of next year.

  Commissioner Partin asked about the Budget Committee's meeting schedule and suggested involving committee members before the November 17 discussion to obtain additional recommendations. CM Rudometkin explained that the Budget Committee traditionally begins meeting in January to prepare for the next fiscal year's budget. Although the committee is required to meet quarterly, he had expanded its involvement in recent years by scheduling more frequent meetings beginning in

January and continuing through the budget preparation process. He noted that the committee would begin reviewing the FY 2027–2028 budget in January, particularly in light of Amendment 3 and its potential financial impacts. He reminded Council that the City would be required to present a hypothetical 10% budget reduction alongside its regular budget. Council expressed support for involving the Budget Committee earlier. Comm Bobrowski expressed disappointment that the committee's previous three meetings had been canceled and suggested including committee members in a roundtable discussion. CM Rudometkin clarified that November 17 was intended as an initial Council discussion on the spending pause, not a comprehensive budget workshop. He had no objection to inviting Budget Committee members to attend and listen so they could become familiar with the issues and contribute to future discussions. Council agreed to invite the Budget Committee members to the November 17 meeting while keeping the meeting's primary focus on the City's spending pause and potential expenditure reductions.

- CM Rudometkin discussed potential changes to federal disaster assistance and FEMA reimbursement funding. He said federal-level discussions raised concerns about whether FEMA would continue providing disaster reimbursements at existing levels. He explained that future changes could shift additional financial responsibility to states, counties, and municipalities, potentially requiring local governments to cover more disaster-related expenses with limited or no reimbursement. The City Manager emphasized that no final decisions had been made regarding these potential changes. However, he advised that the City may need to establish additional financial reserves or explore other funding mechanisms for future disaster expenses, depending on how federal and state policies develop.
- CM Rudometkin reported that the City would issue an e-alert seeking residents interested in serving on the Citizens Committee for Code and Charter Review. He explained that Council members had previously been asked to identify a resident from their respective districts, but several commissioners were still awaiting responses from potential participants. The e-alert would direct residents to contact their respective District Comm directly, rather than City staff. The City would provide district and commissioner contact information, allowing each commissioner to identify and submit a representative. He added that Comm Lance had already submitted a representative for District 4.

  Comm Gold expressed support for the broader outreach, explaining that the goal was to encourage participation from residents who had not previously served or been involved in City activities, rather than repeatedly approaching the same individuals. CM Rudometkin said that the City Clerk would assist with preparing and distributing the e-alert. He also reported receiving responses about Saturday availability for the committee's initial meeting and said he would follow up with Council members to coordinate a suitable date. Discussion ensued. CM Rudometkin indicated that the committee could begin meeting on a Saturday after the new year if holiday schedules made earlier meetings difficult. Comm Bobrowski expressed interest in beginning the process as soon as possible, recognizing that the review would require substantial time and discussion. During the discussion, Council suggested avoiding meetings during Thanksgiving and the final two weeks of December to accommodate family commitments and holiday schedules. No specific meeting date was established.
- CM Rudometkin reminded Council that Districts 5 and 6 would be up for election in 2027. He announced that candidate qualifying would begin on Monday, November 9, 2026, at noon, and conclude on Friday, November 13, 2026, at noon. He encouraged individuals interested in running for either district to contact City Clerk Yolanda for qualifying information.

b. <u>Chief's Report</u>

Chief Grimm spoke of the proposed e-mobility ordinance previously provided to Council for review. He suggested referring the ordinance to the Citizens Committee for Code and Charter Review to allow residents an opportunity to provide input regarding e-mobility concerns and potential ordinance changes. He encouraged Council to continue reviewing the proposed ordinance, discuss the issue with their constituents, and consider Orange County's regulations. He noted that he had not heard of significant issues from other jurisdictions following implementation of similar ordinances. Mayor Carson reported that, during a Metropolitan Advisory Committee (MAC) meeting, the City of Oviedo discussed its e-mobility ordinance, which was developed using guidance from the State and Orange County. The member stated that Oviedo's ordinance was already in effect and that Mayor Slavik had been asked to provide a copy for the City's review. Chief Grimm reported on the City's first combined Drug Take-Back and Recycling Event, noting that combining the two activities significantly increased participation. He stated that the PD typically collects four to five

boxes of prescription medications during a take-back event; however, approximately 10 boxes were collected during this event. He indicated that the City intended to continue combining the recycling and drug take-back events due to the increased participation. Chief Grimm also reported that representatives from the Drug Enforcement Administration, including the DEA Director, visited the event while attending the International Association of Chiefs of Police conference in the area. He stated that DEA representatives recognized Belle Isle's collection location as the leading collection site among several surrounding communities. The Chief reported the following collection totals:

- Electronics: approx. 606,857 pounds
- Textiles: approx. 386 pounds.
- Prescription medications: 183 pounds.

c. Public Works Report

Public Works Director Phil Price reported that tree canopy trimming had been completed throughout Belle Isle West, Wind Harbor, Belle Isle Pines, and surrounding streets extending to Nela Avenue near City Hall. He noted that Davey's Tree had also been performing trimming in the area and that some of its pruning appeared excessive. He clarified that the City did not control that work.

- Gilbert Park – Mr. Price provided an update regarding the tree at Gilbert Park that was damaged in an accident. He explained that the tree sustained extensive damage and had to be removed. He stated that the accident report and related financial matters had been referred to the Finance Department for handling through the appropriate insurance process. Mr. Price confirmed that the City intended to replace the tree and was evaluating a suitable planting location. He indicated that a 100-gallon oak tree was being considered as a replacement.
- Seasonal Mowing Schedule - Mr. Price said beginning in December, mowing and landscape maintenance at City parks and rights-of-way would be reduced from weekly service to twice per month due to slower grass growth during the winter months. He stated that the reduced schedule would continue through December, January, February, and March.
- Regal Park – Comm Bobrowski shared concern regarding the condition of Regal Park, particularly the appearance and cleanliness of the fountain, and asked about plans for improvements. Mr. Price acknowledged the park's maintenance needs and explained that staff had cleaned the fountain numerous times. He identified off-leash dogs as a significant ongoing problem, stating that dogs frequently enter the fountain, dig around trees and landscaping, and leave waste throughout the park. He noted that Regal Park is not a dog park and that signs requiring pets to remain on leashes had been installed at both entrances. The City also provides pet waste bags and disposal containers. Despite these measures, staff continued to encounter problems with unleashed dogs, damaged landscaping, and animal waste during routine maintenance. Council discussed the possibility of community volunteers, neighborhood groups, or local businesses adopting the park or assisting with fountain maintenance. Regal Boats was mentioned as a potential organization to approach for volunteer assistance. Council also asked whether a donated pool filtration system could help improve the fountain's water quality. Mr. Price stated that a fountain specialist would need to evaluate the feasibility of such a system and noted that suitable equipment could be expensive. Mr. Price noted that, in light of the City's spending pause, Council direction would be needed regarding which projects and expenditures should proceed.

10. Mayor's Report

Mayor Carson reported discussing maintenance concerns at Regal Park with Public Works Director Phil Price. During his visit, he observed two unleashed dogs and a large hole dug in the park. He emphasized the importance of residents following park rules, particularly leash requirements, to protect public safety. He acknowledged the need for park improvements while recognizing the City's current spending pause.

- Boogie on the Bridge - The Mayor praised the success of the Boogie on the Bridge event, noting the large turnout and positive community participation. He thanked City staff, the Special Events Committee, commissioners, sponsors, and residents for their contributions.
- Orange County Fire Rescue - Mayor Carson reported initiating discussions with Orange County Fire Rescue regarding the City's annual service cost of approximately $3,071,000, which had increased from the previous year. He requested clarification on whether the assessment was based on property values before or

after Amendment 3. He noted concerns about the potential financial impacts on the City, estimating possible revenue reductions of 10–12% in the first year and up to 20% in the second year. He stated that he intended to continue discussions with Orange County regarding these costs.

Mayor Carson extended his best wishes to newly elected Orange County officials and emphasized the importance of cooperation between the City and County. He concluded by thanking Council members, residents, and City staff for their service, participation, and commitment to the community.

11. Commissioners' Report

Council thanked the Veterans for their service.
Council thanked the Special Events Committee, Council, and staff for their participation in the Boogie on the Bridge event.

- Comm Partin suggested temporarily closing Regal Park and posting signage explaining the closure due to ongoing violations of park rules and concerns regarding cleanliness and public health.

  Comm Partin strongly recommended immediately activating the Budget Committee to assist with reviewing potential spending reductions related to Amendment 3. Council expressed consensus to activate the Budget Committee immediately and involve its members in the November 17 budget discussion. He requested that members be contacted beginning November 6, provided information to review, and invited to participate in the November 17 Council discussion.

  Comm Partin thanked Public Works Director Phil Price for installing new delineators on Conway Road to discourage unsafe traffic movements near the apartments. He noted that additional delineators were being installed near the Highlands and Windsor Place to discourage vehicles from passing in the center turn lane. CM Rudometkin confirmed that staff was working with Orange County on potential traffic safety improvements and would update Council when additional information became available.
- Comm Lowell supported temporarily closing Regal Park and suggested posting a sign stating, “Pause the Paws.” She also suggested holding dog owners accountable for allowing their pets off leash, potentially through participation in park cleanup. Chief Grimm reminded Council that the City has a leash ordinance and encouraged residents to report violations. He stated that officers could begin issuing citations rather than warnings if violations continued, emphasizing the importance of owner accountability.

  Comm Lowell reported approximately 210 trick-or-treaters at her residence on Homewood Drive and commended the Police Department for its visible presence, traffic control, and pedestrian safety efforts.

  Comm Lowell expressed support for officers enforcing bicycle lighting requirements at night, emphasizing the importance of safety and compliance.
- Comm Shuck acknowledged the possibility of future service reductions due to budget constraints and expressed hope that the City could avoid significant cuts while maintaining its quality of life and municipal services.
- Comm Bobrowski reminded Council of the upcoming Christmas events and sought donations for the silent auction. Residents and businesses were encouraged to donate gift cards, merchandise, or other items that could be combined into auction packages. Donations could be coordinated through the Committee or dropped off at City Hall.

  Comm Bobrowski acknowledged concerns about the narrow bridge remarks; however, she opposed painting a centerline directly on the bridge's brick surface, suggesting that striping before the brick section and using reflectors might be an alternative.

  Comm Bobrowski reminded of a previous request for an informal Council discussion session, suggesting approximately one hour before the November 17 workshop. The proposed session would allow Council members to openly discuss concerns, research, City Code provisions, and budget matters in a roundtable setting. The Commissioner emphasized the importance of improved communication, coordination, and a more business-oriented approach to addressing City issues. No formal action was taken on the request.

14. Adjournment

With no further business, Mayor Carson moved to adjourn, and the motion passed unanimously at 8:20 pm.