



CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, June 16, 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

Absent was:

District 7 Commissioner – Jim Partin

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, Chief Grimm, Attorney Langley, Public Works Director Phil Price, and City Clerk Yolanda Quiceno were also present.

2. **Invocation and Pledge to Flag** - Comm Ed Gold, District 1, led the invocation and Pledge to the Flag.

Mayor Carson asked for a motion to excuse the absence of Comm Partin.

Comm Gold moved to excuse Comm Partin from the meeting.

Comm Lance seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.

3. **Public Comments & Announcements**

Mayor Carson opened the floor for public comments and announcements. There being no comments, Mayor Carson closed the public comment section.

4. **Presentations** - na

5. **Consent Items.**

- a. Approval of City Council Meeting Minutes – June 2, 2026
 - b. Approval of City Council Special Called Meeting Minutes – June 4, 2026
 - c. May 2026 Monthly Reports
 - d. Gray Robinson Engagement Letter Dated June 6, 2026-May 31, 2027
- Comm Gold moved to approve the consent items as presented.**
Comm Shuck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

6. **Unfinished Business** - na

7. **New Business**

- a. ORD 26-02 First Reading and Consideration - **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE 2026-2035 WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES WORK PLAN AND AMENDING THE TEXT OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE ELEMENT OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO REFERENCE THE SAME; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

CM Rudometkin read Ordinance 26-02 by Title.

Mayor Carson opened for Council discussion.

CM Rudometkin noted that this item is the same water supply plan amendment previously presented to the Council as part of the Comprehensive Plan update process. As required, the amendment was first reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Board, which recommended that it be forwarded to the City Council for consideration. This agenda item represents the first of two required readings. If approved on first reading, the amendment will be transmitted to the State

within the required timeframe for review. Following State review and approval, the ordinance will return to the City Council for a second reading and final adoption.

Comm Shuck moved to advance ORD 26-02 to second reading and adoption as presented. Comm Oller seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.

b. Approval of School Resource Office (SRO) Agreement for FY 2026/2027

Chief Grimm explained that the proposed SRO contract remains unchanged from the previous year, except for the contract date and updated cost figures in Exhibit A. Salary and benefits increased from approximately \$70,000 to \$76,000, while operating, training, and vehicle costs remained the same. The total annual cost for the two SRO positions is approximately \$250,000, with the school reimbursing the City approximately \$187,000, representing 75% of the officers assigned SRO time.

Comm Lowell moved that the city council approve the school resource officer agreement between the city of Belle Isle and Cornerstone Charter Academy for the 2026 2027 school year and authorize the mayor to execute the agreement on behalf of the city. Comm Lance seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.

c. Flock Cameras Expansion

Chief Grimm presented a proposal to extend the City's Flock public safety camera extension program. He explained that his vision for the Police Department includes using technology to enhance public safety, building on previous investments such as body-worn cameras and license plate reader (LPR) cameras. The City currently operates 17 LPR cameras and 8 red-light cameras, which have helped solve numerous crimes.

The proposed expansion would add 13 pan-tilt-zoom surveillance cameras in key areas throughout the City, including commercial districts, parks, boat ramps, hotels, commercial properties, and Public Works facilities. Unlike LPR cameras, these cameras provide real-time monitoring. The Chief noted that the cameras could help deter criminal activity, assist with investigations, and provide alerts about activity in restricted areas, such as Trimble Park and the Public Works building, after hours.

The original proposal cost approximately \$73,000; however, negotiations with Flock reduced the cost to approximately \$52,000. The proposal includes a 90-day evaluation period, allowing the City to assess the effectiveness of the cameras and determine whether to retain all, some, or none of the units without additional cost.

Chief Grimm stated that 12 of the cameras would be solar-powered and one would use an existing power source. Funding for the program would come from the General Fund for the next fiscal year. He also reviewed the proposed camera locations and explained how the system would complement the City's existing camera network and provide additional coverage in areas with higher levels of criminal activity or public safety concerns.

Comm Lance asked about the annual cost of the proposed camera system, whether maintenance was included, and whether the City should post signs notifying motorists that camera technology is being used.

Chief Grimm explained that maintenance is covered under the program and that Flock handles repairs and replacements when needed. The only additional costs typically occur if the City requests that a camera be relocated after installation. He explained that Flock generally recommends public outreach and education rather than extensive signage. He noted that the cameras are visible, and as arrests and investigations involving the cameras are publicized, awareness spreads. Chief Grimm stated that Flock would assist the City with public outreach efforts.

Comm Lance asked whether the annual contract cost of approximately \$52,000 included protections against significant price increases in future years.

Chief Grimm stated that Flock has not increased pricing in the past, but he had not specifically discussed future rate increases as part of the negotiations. He indicated that pricing could potentially return to the original quoted amount after the first year, or the reduced rate may continue depending on the City's partnership and outreach efforts with other agencies and municipalities. He agreed to follow up and provide additional information. Attorney Langley said it can be clarified during contract negotiations.

Comm Lowell asked about video retention and whether footage stored for 30 days could be uploaded and retained longer if needed, and whether all officers would receive camera alerts simultaneously.

Chief Grimm explained that relevant footage associated with an incident would be downloaded and stored separately, such as on a hard drive, if it needed to be preserved as evidence. Otherwise, footage would be automatically deleted after 30 days. He noted that, similar to body-worn camera footage, retaining all video indefinitely would require excessive storage and is not practical. Certain evidentiary recordings may have longer retention requirements, while routine recordings are deleted according to policy. Chief Grimm explained that officers receive alerts based on how they configure and use the Flock system while on duty.

Comm Lowell further asked whether participation in the Flock system provides access to cameras operated by other agencies. Chief Grimm stated that the Police Department already participates in the Flock network and can request access to partner agencies' cameras. Agencies must approve those requests, allowing law enforcement partners to share information and assist with investigations across jurisdictions.

Comm Gold asked whether anyone had contacted, emailed, or texted the staff to express concerns, as he had not received anything beyond what he saw on Facebook. The only concern he had was having cameras in the park. He noted that one resident said they are not a fan of their kid being on camera at all times while visiting the park. He asked if it would violate the Fourth Amendment. Comm Gold noted that he would like the City to hold a public meeting where we can display the use of the Flock cameras and answer their questions.

Comm Bobrowski asked if the cameras are always recording. Chief Grimm said yes, they are always recording. We do not have a dedicated staff reviewing the live footage. An Officer can log on and control that camera as needed or when alerted.

After further discussion, Comm Lowell moved to approve the Flock Safety Agreement for 13 Condor PTZ cameras at an annual cost of \$52,000, approve the sole source procurement as presented, and authorize the city manager to execute all necessary agreements. Comm Lance seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.

d. Recommendation for Award – RFP 2026-04 Information Technology Services

CM Rudometkin presented the RFP to select a vendor to provide the City's IT services. Seven proposals were received and evaluated by a review committee. Based on the evaluation, staff identified three top-ranked firms for Council consideration: Eola Technology, the City's current provider, Scarlet Group, and iVenture Solutions. Staff stated that these considerations were a significant part of the evaluation process and requested that the Council select one of the recommended firms so staff could move forward with contract negotiations.

Chief Grimm explained that selecting an IT provider for an agency with a police department requires specialized expertise, particularly regarding CJIS compliance, cybersecurity, and protection of law enforcement data. Because the Police Department relies on Orange County's dispatch and technology systems, the IT provider must also maintain a strong working relationship with Orange County. He noted that establishing those relationships can be challenging and time-consuming when changing vendors, and Eola Technology currently has those relationships in place.

Comm Lowell asked staff to clarify whether issues previously experienced with Eola Technology were separate from the City's bandwidth and livestreaming challenges. CM Rudometkin confirmed that staff have experienced issues with Eola in the past, but explained that Eola is not responsible for the City's bandwidth limitations or Facebook livestreaming issues. Those concerns are related to software and third-party service providers rather than the City's IT vendor. He noted that the City is currently pursuing another RFP to evaluate upgrades to the livestreaming system, related software, and potential cloud-based solutions to replace aging servers.

CM Rudometkin stated that Eola's performance has improved recently and acknowledged that all IT providers encounter challenges from time to time. He also noted that changing vendors does not guarantee the elimination of issues. Based on feedback from the Police Chief, Eola has maintained a positive working relationship with the Police Department, particularly regarding law enforcement technology needs. He added that he has discussed concerns directly with Eola's owner and that staff will continue working with the provider to address issues and improve service moving forward.

Staff noted that EOLA's service has improved over time, but the first few years were challenging. City Hall's experience has differed from the Police Department's, and staff acknowledged that they often resolved issues themselves rather than holding the vendor accountable. The City Clerk stated that staff needs to stop performing IT work internally and instead require the vendor to address issues under the contract. She recommended regular performance evaluations and accountability measures, with contract termination remaining an option if performance does not improve. Public Works Director Price agreed that response time had been a concern in the past, but stated that service and responsiveness have improved significantly over the last six to eight months.

Mayor Carson and the Council emphasized that, regardless of which vendor is selected, the City must hold the provider accountable to the terms of the contract, support accountability, and contract enforcement. Concerns were raised about documenting service requests, response times, and performance issues to ensure enforceability. CM Rudometkin stated that the City is making greater use of legal counsel to review contracts and strengthen language related to performance expectations, accountability, and vendor obligations. Attorney Langley advised that professional services contracts typically include termination provisions, such as a 30-day notice, and can be structured to address performance concerns.

Comm Gold shared concerns about becoming overly dependent on a single vendor. Staff clarified that while the Police Department prefers to maintain the existing relationship due to the complexity of CJIS compliance and integration with Orange County systems, the City is not required to remain with the current vendor and could transition if necessary. Staff noted that CJIS requirements were included in the RFP and that, among the proposals received, EOLA was the only respondent that placed significant emphasis on CJIS-related services and support. Staff further clarified that CJIS considerations were not part of the formal evaluation scoring process. The evaluation committee scored all proposals independently, and CJIS-related discussions occurred after the evaluation process when considering implementation and operational impacts. Staff reported that EOLA's proposed pricing increased modestly per month. While some proposals offered lower pricing, staff considered operational needs, service levels, and CJIS support in their review.

Comm Lowell suggested that the selected IT provider attend a future Council meeting to introduce their team, explain their services, and outline their implementation plan. Staff indicated they would support that approach.

After further discussion, Comm Lance moved to award the RFP 2026-04 to EOLA Technology and authorize the city manager and city attorney to negotiate and prepare a three-year agreement with two possible one-year renewals for services. Comm Oller seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.

8. Attorney's Report

Attorney Langley thanked the Council for holding the Special Meeting on June 4. Following Council approval of the Comprehensive Plan element, the matter was finalized, and the related lawsuit was dismissed the following day. The required deed restriction has been received and will be recorded shortly. The lawsuit is now resolved.

9. City Manager's Report

a. City Manager's Report & Work Plan

CM Rudometkin reported on the following

- The City is currently in the budget process. The budget calendar was approved at the previous meeting, and budget workshops are scheduled for August.
- The Vulnerability Assessment Grant is expected to be completed within the next few weeks. All required deliverables will be submitted to DEP, and the staff is satisfied with the contractor's progress to date.
- The heron statue has been installed and is now on display. He thanked Public Works for their efforts in preparing the site and completing the installation.
- Staff plans to hold a budget workshop discussion in late July before the formal budget workshops to discuss the potential impacts of the proposed property tax reform and review possible options available to the City. CM explained that the proposed homestead exemption changes could reduce City revenues in future years if approved. Staff will review potential financial impacts, reserve levels, and funding options with the Council. Staff will present information and seek Council direction on potential long-term strategies. The Budget Advisory Committee will also receive budget information and begin its review process.

b. Chief Grimm reviewed the new Police Department dashboard that is being shared with the public. The dashboard provides a summary of monthly activity and includes links to additional information, such as Flock-related arrests and detailed reports. He noted that residents who want more information can click the "See More" link, which directs them to expanded reports, including citations, marine activity, dashboards, Chief's reports, and other monthly information. The dashboard is intended to provide a quick overview, while the linked reports contain more detailed explanations of incidents and activities. He further noted that there were no major updates from the Police Department at this time. He wished everyone a Happy Father's Day and encouraged residents to enjoy the summer safely.

c. Public Works Report

- Mr. Price reported that the stormwater pipelining project on St. Regis Place has been completed. He spoke with the homeowner, who advised that the system is functioning well and that standing water in the roadway has been reduced.
- Staff have also completed maintenance on several stormwater facilities, including cleaning baffle boxes and replacing filters, as part of ongoing storm preparedness efforts.
- Sidewalk replacement work continues, with another section recently completed. Crews are now addressing isolated sidewalk and curb repairs before returning to the area behind City Hall to complete the city's comprehensive sidewalk replacement program.
- He reported that he may have identified a vendor for trash basket inlet components and is currently evaluating availability and costs. Orange County has not yet secured a vendor for these items.

10. Mayor's Report

Mayor Carson said that he has seen discussions regarding property tax reform in other cities and emphasized that the City should avoid creating unnecessary fear or speculation. He noted that if tax reform provides relief to residents, the City will work through any resulting challenges and continue to make decisions that serve the community's best interests. He expressed confidence that the City Council and staff have the experience and commitment necessary to address any future impacts while maintaining essential services, particularly public safety. He stated that it is important for the City to evaluate potential changes in advance and plan accordingly, while assuring residents that the City will continue to provide quality services regardless of the outcome. Mayor Carson thanked the Council, Police Chief, Public Works Director, Finance Director, City Clerk, and City Manager for their work and dedication to the City.

11. Commissioners' Report

- Comm Oller shared a concern regarding low lake levels and conditions at the boat ramps. Mr. Price explained that Public Works performs limited maintenance on the water. Low water levels can create sandbars and expose rocks, particularly at boat ramps. He noted that staff cleaned sand from the Venetian boat ramp approximately six weeks ago, which improved conditions. Perkins Boat Ramp generally experiences fewer issues due to its steeper slope. He added that if water levels continue to decline, boat ramps may need to be closed, as has occurred in the past. Dredging is not currently planned, and changing water levels typically restore conditions naturally.
- Comm Lowell thanked Public Works staff for their ongoing maintenance efforts throughout the City, including clearing drains, mowing, and maintaining rights-of-way. He encouraged residents to offer water to outdoor workers during the hot weather and reminded the public to donate bottled water to the Police Department. She noted that, as sidewalk replacement projects near completion, it may be appropriate to remind residents of their responsibilities for maintaining sidewalks adjacent to their properties, as outlined in City regulations.
- Comm Lance expressed appreciation for the installation of the heron statue and suggested recognizing former Comm Harvey Readey with a commemorative plaque. He spoke about Comm Readey's dedication to the City and requested Council consensus to bring back a proposal for consideration. Council supported moving forward with the idea. Additionally, Comm Lance suggested exploring the creation of a memorial honoring military veterans through community fundraising efforts rather than City budget funds.
- Comm Gold suggested exploring a community-funded project to elevate and enhance the clock located at the corner of Conway Road and Hoffner Avenue, noting that it is a unique feature that deserves greater visibility.

The Council thanked the Mayor, City Council, City staff, Police Department, Public Works Department, Finance staff, and administrative personnel for their service and dedication to the City.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Carson called for a motion to adjourn, which was unanimously approved at 7:40 pm.