



CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, November 18, 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 (conf)
District 7 Commissioner – Jim Partin

Absent was:

District 6 Commissioner – Stan Smith

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum

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 - Commissioner Holly Bobrowski, District 2

Comm Bobrowski led the invocation and Pledge to the Flag.

Mayor Carson announced that Comm. Beth Lowell will be joining the meeting via conference call. He called for a motion to excuse Comm. Stan Smith from tonight's meeting.

Comm Lance moved to excuse Comm Stan Smith.

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

City Manager Rudometkin asked that item 5b (Approval of the 2025-2026 Vote Processing Equipment Use Agreement and Elections Services Contract for Municipal Elections) be pulled from the agenda due to there being no Municipal Election in 2026. Unanimously approved.

3. Presentations

a. April Fisher, City Planner - Meet and Greet

City Manager Rudometkin welcomed the City Planner, April Fisher.

April Fisher thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve the City and its residents. April Fisher presented her work and the challenges it poses. During the discussion, the Council asked what areas the City can improve within the permit approval area. Ms. Fisher noted the need for clarification and understanding of the allowable impervious surface area on a property, as well as a collaborative, respectful approach when addressing difficult situations. Council also asked if a resident had concerns or questions about a permitting/zoning issue, to whom should they call? Ms. Fisher said they should feel free to provide her direct number and email.

4. Public Comments & Announcements

Mayor Carson opened for public comment. There being none, he closed the public comment section.

5. Consent Items

- a. Approval of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance for BIPD Training and Officer Safety Equipment
- b. Approval of the 2025-2026 Vote Processing Equipment Use Agreement and Elections Services Contract for Municipal Elections
- c. RESOLUTION NO. 25-16 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2024, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
- d. RESOLUTION NO. 25-17 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2025, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2026, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
- e. October 2025 Monthly Reports: PD, Finance (<https://cleargov.com/florida/orange/city/belle-isle>)

Mayor Carson called for a motion to approve the consent items.

Comm Vertolli asked that items c and d from the consent items be pulled for discussion. Council consensus to pull the items as new business for discussion.

Mayor Carson called for a motion to approve items a and e as presented.

Comm Shuck moved to approve items a and e as presented.

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

6. Unfinished Business – n/a

7. New Business

RESOLUTION NO. 25-16 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2024, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Comm Vertolli asked for a quick explanation of the cause for the Resolution. In reading the document, it appears that there was an increase of \$450,000.

City Manager Rudometkin said that the resolutions are submitted every year to close out the fiscal year. It has to come after the fiscal year is done, everything is reconciled, and the staff submits a resolution with the amendment. Resolution 25-16 records ARPA revenue and expenditure, offsets to record revenue for insurance, payments to record revenue, expenditures for additional police off-duty, to record debt, proceeds to record reduction in the sidewalk budget by \$250,000 because we were working on ARPA funds that one that 250 is in the following resolution to put it back into this fiscal year. Since it's the previous fiscal year, you can't just carry it over without a resolution to finalize and complete all the reconciliation for fiscal year 24-25, which ended on September 30th. The increase was discussed at the August 5th City Council meeting. Mr. Rudometkin stated that he will have the staff provide a detailed explanation for the Council.

After discussion, Comm Shuck moved to approve Resolution 25-16 of the city of Belle Isle, Florida, amending the budget for the fiscal year, beginning October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2025.

Comm Lance seconded the motion, which passed 5:1, with Comm Vertolli nay.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-17 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2025, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2026, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Manager Rudometkin explained that Resolution 25-17 addresses a *\$250,000 carryover* for sidewalk replacement. This money was originally budgeted in FY 24–25 but was not spent because the City needed to finish using ARPA funds first (ARPA must be paid by December 31). Since ARPA funds have now been fully used, the unused \$250,000 from FY 24–25 must be moved into the FY 25–26 budget so sidewalk work can continue. To do this, the City must approve a resolution to carry the \$250,000 forward. The amount increases the General Fund balance at the beginning and is then re-budgeted as a sidewalk expenditure, keeping revenues and expenses aligned. In short:

- \$250,000 for sidewalks was unspent last year due to ARPA timing; ARPA funds are now exhausted.
- A resolution is required to carry the \$250,000 into FY 25–26 to finish the remaining sidewalk projects.

After discussion, Comm Lance moved to approve Resolution 25-17 of the city of Belle Isle, Florida, amending the budget for the fiscal year, beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026.

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

a. Approval of Bing Grant Application - Windsor Place Tennis Court

City Manager Rudometkin presented the Windsor Place HOA grant request for their tennis court resurfacing project, which includes pickleball striping and drainage-related landscaping. The total project cost is \$16,575, and the HOA is requesting \$8,287.50 in grant funding. He provided the Council with the total amounts available for projects in their district, though they may use less or combine funds with other commissioners if desired. The application and quotes were complete and well-prepared. Representatives were present to answer questions.

After discussion, Comm Bobrowski moved to approve the Windsor Place HOA Bing Grant, with the funds distributed as follows: Mayor- \$1,231.00, District 1 - \$2,500, District 2 - \$556.50, and District 7 - \$4,000, for a total reimbursement of \$ 8,287.50. Comm Partin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.

b. Discuss consolidating City Council December meetings

City Manager Rudometkin opened discussion on consolidating December council meetings due to holidays, vacations, and multiple City events, including Light the Way on Dec. 3, Santa Rides on Dec. 9 and 11, and the golf cart parade on Dec. 19. He asked if the Council would like to hold one meeting, a special meeting, or cancel both regular meetings for December. Last year, the council chose to hold a meeting on the third Tuesday. The same options were presented for consideration this year.

After discussion, Comm Partin moved to forego the first meeting in December (December 2) and keep the December 16th meeting as scheduled. Comm Lance seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.

8. Attorney's Report – No report.

9. City Manager's Report

a. City Manager Report and Work Plan

City Manager Rudometkin provided updates on upcoming December events: Light the Way on December 3, two City parades on December 9 and 11, and the golf cart parade on December 19. Two boat parades are also expected later in the month. After holiday events and vacation schedules, normal operations will resume in January.

Additional project updates:

- Araujo Condemnation: Legal notice was published on November 9. The 30-day period ends December 9. Demolition is expected to begin in early January, giving the owner extra time to remove belongings.
- Lancaster Carve-Out: The draft lease goes to Billy Morgan and the board this Thursday. After their feedback, staff will finalize the remaining details and bring the lease back to Council.
- Soul Avenue: An updated COVID-related attachment must be added to the original agreement. Once included, the document will be re-signed and resubmitted.

b. Chief's Report

Police Chief Grimm provided updates as follows:

- New city magnet calendars have been received.
- Reviewed December event logistics, including road closures for Light the Way. Staff will continue pushing information since the next meeting occurs after the event. Santa rides will follow the usual neighborhood routes and may shift dates due to weather. Additional December activities include the golf cart parade on the 19th and a fishing tournament on the 14th; Venetian residents will be notified about parking impacts.
- Police will participate in "Operation Safe Holiday" with the Sheriff's Office, reminding residents to be cautious with packages during the holiday season.
- Upcoming City holiday closures: Nov. 27–28, Dec. 24–25, and Dec. 31–Jan. 1.
- Boat parades are expected Dec. 19–21 (not city-sponsored). Marine officers will assist.
- Police contacted a transient individual near 528 and advised them to leave the area; residents should report concerns directly to police rather than to other officials.
- Recent police activity included recovering a stolen \$25,000 Rolex and filing an arrest warrant. Technology such as license plate readers continues to assist in solving cases and returning property to victims.

No further questions were raised.

c. Public Works Report

Public Works Director Phil Price provided updates as follows:

- Staff reported that work in the Conway Lakes Landings neighborhood will pause through the holidays to avoid disruption while decorations are up and families are visiting. Work will resume after the new year.
- An off-leash pet area has been opened in Trimble Park, the City's first. The fenced area includes posted rules and is now available for residents to use. Staff noted that park space is limited, but will explore options for similar places in the city.
- Comm Bobrowski noted that there was an old chunk of a palm tree on Venetian blocking the sidewalk. She said that the item may be too large for JJs to pick up. Mr. Price said he will have staff and Code Enforcement take a look.

10. Mayor's Report

The Mayor thanked the Kuck family and volunteers involved with Nathaniel's Hope Thanksgiving event and encouraged residents to support their toy drive. He extended holiday well-wishes to staff, commissioners, and residents.

The Mayor noted that the State of the City address is prepared and will be recorded and released in November. He recommended that the Council begin reviewing the City Charter, noting that updates may be needed to reflect current conditions. Staff will explore next steps. Additional thanks were given to City staff, Police, Public Works, and the Special Events Committee for their ongoing work, especially during the busy holiday season. The Mayor encouraged strong community participation at the December 3 Light the Way event.

11. Commissioners' Report

Comm Partin reported that he did not complete the qualifying process for District 7 in time and publicly apologized to the Council. He noted that he will need to go through the appointment process and expressed his intent to continue serving.

Commissioner Lowell thanked Public Works for early holiday decorations and expressed appreciation to the Police Department and their families for their service during the busy holiday season. The Commissioner also thanked fellow Commissioners for allowing remote participation when needed and wished everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Lance offered well-wishes for a safe and restful Thanksgiving holiday. He encouraged residents to use caution while traveling due to expected heavy traffic. He noted support for reviewing the City Charter and recalled that the last review involved a citizen committee.

Comm Bobrowski noted that the Special Events Committee was unable to attend the meeting tonight. The committee currently has \$3,500 in corporate sponsorships and is seeking additional sponsors, auction items, and volunteers for the upcoming event. Residents and commissioners were encouraged to contribute or contact the committee via specialevents@belleislefl.gov. Items can be dropped off at City Hall for delivery to the committee.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Carson called for a motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously at 7:45 pm.