



CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, July 15, 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

Absent was:

District 7 Commissioner – Jim Partin

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 Rick Rudometkin, Attorney Pownall, Chief Grimm, Public Works Director Phil Price, and Clerk Heidi Peacock were also present.

Comm Lance moved to excuse Comm Partin from the meeting.
Comm Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.

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 public comments.

- Greg Motwijow, residing at 4808 Conway Road, expressed concerns regarding the quality of service provided by JJ's Waste & Recycling. He also noted a reported 5% rate increase scheduled for the upcoming year and inquired about the timing of the next bidding process for waste and recycling services. City Manager Rudometkin responded by inviting Mr. Motwijow to contact him directly at the City office to discuss his concerns further.

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

4. Presentations - na

5. Consent Items

- A. Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes - July 1, 2025
- B. Approval of the FY 2025-2026 MetroPlan Funding Agreement
- C. June 2025 Monthly Reports: PD, Finance (<https://cleargov.com/florida/orange/city/belle-isle>), and OC Fire
- D. Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) #JG010

Mayor Carson called for a motion to approve the consent items
Comm Shuck requested to pull item 5C for discussion.

Comm Lowell moved to approve items A, B, and D as presented.
Comm Vertolli seconded the motion, which passed unanimously 6:0.

Commissioner Shuck requested clarification regarding the increase in citations for driving with a suspended license (DWLS). Chief Grimm explained that these infractions have risen in part due to the implementation of the FLOCK license plate reader system. When the system alerts an officer to a vehicle of interest, a traffic stop may be initiated. In many cases, officers

discover that the driver's license is suspended due to unpaid toll violations. Since there is currently no way to verify on-site whether the driver has resolved and paid those tolls, a citation for driving with a suspended license may be issued.

Comm Shuck moved to approve item C as presented.

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

6. Unfinished Business - na

a. 3904 Arajo Condemnation

City Manager Rudometkin provided an update regarding the ongoing maintenance concerns at a residential property. He reported that the grass has been cut; however, the front of the property remains in an unkempt condition. The contractor informed the City that the homeowner cited financial constraints and stated it would take time for funds to become available. In the meantime, the contractor is attempting to organize volunteer assistance to help with the property's upkeep. CM Rudometkin acknowledged that progress has taken longer than anticipated and noted that there is only so much pressure the City can reasonably place on the homeowner. He requested directions from the Council on how to proceed with the proposed repairs and potential condemnation of the property.

Commissioner Vertolli asked whether property taxes were being paid. CM Rudometkin responded affirmatively. However, Attorney Pownall clarified that the current year's property taxes are unpaid, and a tax certificate has been issued.

Commissioner Shuck requested written confirmation from the homeowner, including specific deadlines for completion of the necessary maintenance. A discussion followed regarding the property's current condition, potential involvement of mortgage holders, and the next steps in the process.

Commissioner Lance inquired whether the City could assist by organizing volunteers to help with cleanup. Commissioner Lowell raised concerns regarding the liability of allowing volunteers to work on a property that has been condemned. Attorney Pownall confirmed that this would create liability concerns for the City and advised against proceeding with volunteer efforts unless liability waivers were signed.

Following the discussion, Commissioner Vertolli moved to grant an additional 30 days to gather more information and to clearly communicate to the homeowner the seriousness of the process and its potential consequences if she is unable to comply. Commissioner Lowell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0. The Council discussed that, after 30 days, no significant progress has been made, and the City Council will reconvene to consider further action, including proceeding with condemnation.

7. New Business

a. Discuss and Approve the Auditor RFP Submittal

City Manager Rudometkin presented the two submittals for consideration: McDermitt Davis and Carr, Riggs & Ingram.

Comm Smith moved to approve the proposal with McDermitt Davis as our audit firm and authorize the city manager to contract with them for three years, with three one-year extensions at the proposed prices.

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

The Council further discussed and agreed that staff should bring the contract renewal back to the Council at the start of the optional three one-year extensions for discussion and formal approval.

b. Approval of K-9 Sponsorship and Donation to the Belle Isle Police Department

Chief Grimm presented the proposed donation from Kindred Spirits Animal Clinic and Pet Orlando in support of the Belle Isle Police K9 Officer Belle.

Comm Smith moved to accept the two proposed donations from the local businesses in support of Officer Belle.

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

c. Approval of Post for Budget Committee Member Vacant Seat for District 2

City Manager Rudometkin announced that Board member Hoevenaar had resigned from the Budget Committee and requested approval to post the open seat in District 2 for applications.

Comm Bobrowski moved to have the staff post the open seat on the Budget Committee for District 2.

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

8. Attorney's Report - na

9. City Manager's Report

a. City Manager's Report

City Manager Rudometkin presented the current Task List for Council review. He also provided a draft copy of the upcoming fiscal year budget, which had been previously reviewed and recommended for approval by the Budget Committee.

The draft budget includes a proposed 0.6 millage rate increase, which is scheduled to be discussed and considered for approval at the special-called session on July 29th.

b. Chief's Report

Chief Grimm provided and reported on the Stats for the month and the following,

- The event on July 12th went uneventful.
- The Boat Dock ceremony is scheduled for July 16th – parking at Wallace Field.
- K9 Officer Belle was active in her first tracking mission, which was successful in finding a missing person.

c. Public Works Report

Phil Price reported the following,

- Hurricane Preparedness: start cleanup and emergency kits ready for the season! Tree canopy clearing started throughout the City.
- Due to the weather, the Venetian ramp project is on hold. Weather permitting, looking to have it completed by Thursday.

10. Mayor's Report

Mayor Carson requested the Council's consensus to participate in meetings with other agencies regarding matters related to City business. The Council expressed support, emphasizing the importance of maintaining and strengthening relationships. Council members agreed that such engagement is vital and expressed interest in receiving updates and reports following these meetings. Mayor Carson gave a brief on his meeting with Congressman Soto.

Mayor Carson briefly addressed residents' concerns regarding increased traffic on Hoffner Avenue during JJ's Waste & Recycling operational hours. He emphasized that the primary focus moving forward should be on ensuring public safety in the area.

11. Commissioners' Report

- Council thanked staff, PD, and its officers.
- Comm Lance reminded all of the lake amoebas during the warm weather and asked if information can be placed on the website.
- Comm Smith reminded all to check their availability to attend the Tri-County meeting. He requested an update on the information for the proposed property on Judge and Sol Avenue Grant. CM Rudometkin stated that he is working on gathering more information and will report back at a later date. He further noted that he has continued to submit the required documents for approval in the grants system.

12. Adjournment

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