



CITY OF COOPER CITY
2ND PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
Thursday, September 24, 2026 at 5:30 PM
City Hall Auditorium | 9090 SW 50th Place

MINUTES

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call reflected the participation of Mayor James Curran and Commissioner Ryan Shrouder, Jeremy Katzman, Lisa Mallozzi, and Jason Smith.

The City Manager reported no changes or emergency matters to add to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

FINANCIAL MATTERS – PUBLIC HEARINGS | *Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget and Taxes*

The City Attorney stated that the meeting constituted the 2nd and Final Budget Hearing conducted pursuant to section 200.065, Florida Statutes. He read the titles of Resolution No. 26-48 and 26-49 into the record and advised that each item required a separate public hearing and separate vote.

1. **Resolution 26-48 (Finance) - Final Millage**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COOPER CITY ADOPTING A FINAL MILLAGE RATE OF 5.8350 FOR GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET PURPOSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Resolution 26-48 established a final millage rate of 5.8350 mills for general operating purposes for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. The City Attorney stated that the adopted rate was 4.64 percent above the rollback rate of 5.5763 mills.

Mayor Curran opened the public hearing. No members of the public came forward to speak, and the Commission closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Smith confirmed that the millage rate decreased and that the City had maintained a pattern of millage rate reductions for eight consecutive years. Staff confirmed the statement. No additional Commission discussion was offered.

Motion: Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Resolution 26-48, adopting a final Millage Rate of 5.8350 for General Operating Budget Purposes for FY 2026-2027. Seconded by Commissioner Mallozzi, which prevailed by a unanimous 5-0 roll call vote.

2. Resolution 26-49 - (Finance) - Final Budget

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COOPER CITY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2026 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027, ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT "A" DETERMINING AND FIXING THE AMOUNTS NECESSARY TO CARRY ON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY FOR THE ENSUING YEAR; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Curran opened the public hearing. No in-person public comments were offered. A remote participant appeared to have a raised hand but did not respond when recognized. The Commission proceeded after providing an opportunity to participate.

The City Manager presented a proposed adjustment to a Broward Sheriff's Office position that would otherwise have been eliminated following the change in school resource officer coverage at Renaissance Charter School. Rather than reducing the position count, staff recommended converting the position to an investigative assignment with a drug-interdiction task force.

The Police Captain explained that participating agencies may receive a share of funds from task-force seizures and forfeitures. Historical results varied by year; some years approached the City's personnel costs, while others produced substantial distributions. Staff cautioned that future recoveries were not guaranteed and that each participating agency's share could change as task-force membership changed.

The position had not yet been assigned to a specific deputy. Staff explained that the change would preserve the City's existing law-enforcement staffing level rather than reduce it by one position. Renaissance Charter School had reimbursed the full cost of its prior school resource officer assignment. Converting the position there would create a potential annual City cost of approximately \$240,000 if the City did not receive task-force revenue.

The Commission discussed the financial risk, historical returns to participating agencies, and the City's ability to reconsider the assignment in a future budget cycle if results did not justify the expense. Staff explained that the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget would redirect the necessary funding from the police contingency allocation to salaries. A separate amendment to the City's law-enforcement services agreement would be returned to the Commission for formal consideration.

The City Manager presented preliminary planning options if voters approved a proposed statewide property-tax amendment. He emphasized that the options were conceptual, not included as immediate service changes in the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget, and would require additional analysis and Commission direction. Staff estimated potential funding targets of approximately \$5.2 million for Fiscal Year 2027-2028 and \$4.3 million for Fiscal Year 2028-2029, for a combined target of approximately \$9.5 million.

The City Manager reviewed possible revenue measures that could offset the loss of property-tax support for existing services. The preliminary options included:

- Applying the full fire assessment to institutional and nonprofit properties currently excluded by Commission policy could generate up to approximately \$1.3 million.
- Establishing a field-maintenance fee for youth athletic registrations. A \$50 fee applied to approximately 5,000 annual registrations was estimated to generate \$250,000.
- Adjusting summer-camp and after-school program rates closer to market levels, with an estimated additional \$230,000 in annual revenue.
- Increasing RV and boat-storage rates toward market levels, with estimated additional annual revenue of approximately \$400,00.
- Restructuring the tennis-complex agreement, fees, programming, and merchandising, with an estimated additional annual revenue of approximately \$75,000.
- Considering changes to solid-waste franchise or service fees.
- Evaluating paid parking at Flamingo West Park. Staff estimated that a limited structure designed to serve residents and Optimist Club participants could generate approximately \$700,000, although gross revenue could be higher if all users were charged.
- Considering paid parking along Southwest 90th Avenue and evaluating paid student parking and shuttle service for Cooper City High School students at Suellen H. Fardelmann Sports Complex.
- Seeking revisions to the County's surtax revenue-distribution requirements if reduced property-tax revenue affects municipalities' ability to maintain current service levels.
- Using limited fund-balance support or future millage adjustments to phase in changes and mitigate the immediate budget impact.

Commissioner Smith supported developing a plan but recommended waiting until the November vote before making detailed policy decisions. He suggested holding focused workshops if the proposal were approved.

Commissioner Mallozzi stated that municipalities should prepare even if the immediate proposal failed, as similar measures could return in later years. She encouraged staff to evaluate options that could benefit residents and generate revenue regardless of the amendment's outcome, particularly student parking and shuttle service. She also supported exploring technology-based parking charges for nonresidents using City facilities, provided that enforcement and administrative costs were manageable.

Commissioner Katzman thanked staff for outlining the potential effects and emphasized the need to inform residents that reduced property-tax revenue would require alternative revenue sources or reduced services. He expressed greater support for charges directed at nonresident facility users, agreed that camp rates may warrant adjustment, and raised concerns that paid-parking administration could consume significant staff and technology resources.

Commissioner Shrouder stated that the City should communicate the potential impacts to residents before the election and explain that public-safety and other essential services could be affected. He expressed greater interest in identifying expenditure reductions and operational efficiencies than in imposing new charges.

The City Manager then reviewed preliminary expenditure reductions and operational changes. The conceptual options included:

- Evaluating alternative school resource officer providers or service models. Staff estimated that, after receiving the School Board reimbursement, the City subsidized each BSO school resource officer post by approximately \$130,000, with a potential overall savings target of approximately \$700,00.
- Transitioning code-enforcement services from BSO to the City and reducing staffing from five positions to three, eliminating the supervisory position, with estimated annual savings of approximately \$500,000.
- Reducing right-of-way and park-maintenance mowing cycles from 30 to 24 per year.
- Reducing tree-trimming expenditures by approximately \$200,000 while continuing service along major corridors and exploring an optional resident-paid program using City contractors.
- Limiting pool operating hours during the school year while maintaining early-morning access for master swimmers and afternoon access for organized programs. Program providers could be required to provide appropriately certified lifeguarding personnel; broader public access would continue during the summer.
- Reviewing service contracts for approximately \$300,000 in savings and evaluating whether selected work could be performed by City staff.
- Considering a two-year pause in cost-of-living and merit increases for City employees as a cost-avoidance measure.
- Revisiting future increases in police and fire compensation in light of changing fiscal conditions and the outcome of BSO's funding discussions with Broward County.
- Targeting approximately \$1.7 million in staffing reductions or reassignments over two years, with an emphasis on using vacancies, reassignments, and position freezes to minimize layoffs.

The City Manager explained that the preliminary package intentionally identified more savings than the projected shortfall because not all measures would be feasible or implemented on schedule. Potential use of the fund balance and millage adjustments could provide additional flexibility.

Commissioner Shrouder questioned whether the proposed staffing target was sufficient and identified utility billing and other functions as potential areas for automation. A discussion followed on the relative costs of City employees, contracted services, and BSO personnel. Several members agreed that the issues required detailed data and a dedicated workshop rather than final decisions at the budget adoption hearing.

The Commission discussed alternatives to the current BSO school resource officer model, including School Board officers and part-time retired officers hired through neighboring municipalities. Concerns included officer availability, qualifications, benefits, supervision, continuity, and the need to protect school safety. The Commission supported the City Manager gathering information from the School Board and neighboring agencies and returning with options for an informed policy discussion.

Commissioner Smith supported pursuing contractual efficiencies during Fiscal Year 2026-2027 while deferring service-level reductions until after the November vote. The City Manager noted that a recently

awarded parks-trimming contract reduced annual costs by about \$35,000 and increased service levels, and stated that staff would continue reviewing contracts for similar opportunities.

Mayor Curran encouraged staff to assess whether work currently performed by contractors could be completed efficiently by City employees before reducing internal positions. He also recommended considering user fees for City recreational facilities, including aquatics programs, when such fees could help preserve service levels.

Commissioner Mallozzi renewed her suggestion to test low-maintenance wildflowers or similar landscaping in selected swales to reduce mowing, irrigation, and replanting costs while maintaining visual appeal. The City Manager confirmed that these alternatives were among the measures under consideration to meet the contract-efficiency target.

Motion: Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Resolution No. 26-49 adopting a Final Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2026 and ending September 30, 2027. Seconded by Commissioner Mallozzi, which prevailed unanimously by a 5-0 roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:37 p.m.

The minutes of the 2nd Public Budget Hearing held on September 24, 2026, were approved at the regular Commission meeting held on October 13, 2026.

Mayor James Curran

Tedra Allen, City Clerk

