



CITY OF COOPER CITY CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

**Tuesday, September 22, 2026 at 6:30 PM
City Hall Auditorium | 9090 SW 50th Place**

MINUTES

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 Commissioners Ryan Shrouder, Jeremy Katzman, Lisa Mallozzi, and Jason Smith.

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

PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Pet Adoption - Commissioner Smith

Commissioner Smith presented the featured pet adoption announcement on behalf of Commissioner Mallozzi. Gizmo, a two-year-old Staffordshire Mix available through the Humane Society of Broward County, was described as friendly, affectionate, playful, and suitable for an active family willing to continue his training.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Jason Weinrub provided an update on landscaping improvements to the Pine Island Road median near Monterra, between Stirling Road and Sheridan Street. He reported that Broward County approved the work in June, the Community Development District issued a request for proposals, and the CDD awarded the work to Juniper Landscaping in August. The CDD later learned that an additional County permit and a \$25,000 surety bond were required. Mr. Weinrub stated that the bond payment was being delivered and that the County was expected to schedule a preconstruction meeting upon receipt.

The City Manager confirmed the update was consistent with City records and said the City had contacted Broward County to emphasize the importance of moving the project forward. City staff offered to assist if the CDD's contractor could not complete the work, while noting that the City could not interfere with an active CDD procurement or contract.

The Commission discussed delays stemming from the multi-agency approval process, contractor and management issues, irrigation and electrical concerns, and public perception that the City was responsible for conditions along the corridor. Commissioners expressed interest in exploring a broader agreement under which the City could provide maintenance or related services to the CDD on a reimbursable basis. The City Attorney advised that the existing interlocal agreement already contemplated certain City actions regarding Pine Island median landscape maintenance. At the same time, a broader ongoing service arrangement would require further discussion and Commission approval.

By consensus, the Commission authorized the City Manager to begin discussions with the CDD regarding a possible service arrangement, subject to returning a future agreement to the Commission for consideration and approval.

BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

2. Finance Report

The finance report was included in the meeting backup materials.

CONSENT AGENDA**Minutes**

3. September 8, 2026 Commission Meeting Minutes
4. September 14, 2026 - 1st Public Budget Hearing Minutes

Motion to Approve

5. Motion to approve an agreement with Trane U.S. Inc. to replace two (2) existing Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Systems at the Cooper City Community Center and City Hall facilities for \$79,045 for Fiscal Year 2025–2026, and the approved budgeted amount for each subsequent year of the contract term. – **Utilities**
6. Motion to approve the award of Contract No. RFP2026-4, Holiday Lighting and Decoration to South Florida Lighting Team, LLC for a thirty-six-month (36) term, with three (3) additional one (1) year renewal terms, in the amount of \$29,122.21.00 for Memorial Park and an additional \$27,000.00 for other locations around the City for fiscal year 2026-2027 and the approved budgeted amount for subsequent years.

Motion: Commissioner Katzman made a motion to approve items 3 – 5 of the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Shrouder, which prevailed by a unanimous 5-0 roll call vote.

Commissioner Katzman pulled Item 6 for separate discussion.

The Commission considered awarding RFP 2026-4 to South Florida Lighting Team, LLC for a 36-month term with three additional one-year renewal options. The proposal included lighting and decorations at Memorial Park, City entrances, and City facilities.

The Commission discussed the installation schedule, contract remedies for delayed performance, holiday inclusivity, banners, and the need to recognize both Christmas and Hanukkah throughout the City. Staff advised that the contract included enforcement provisions regarding the installation date and that the City would work to include Hanukkah displays and complementary holiday decorations.

Motion: Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve both proposed lighting options, for a total package of \$49,000. Seconded by Commissioner Katzman, which passed by a unanimous 5-0 roll call vote.

Commissioner Mallozzi noted she had considered the less expensive option but agreed to support the majority.

Staff stated that HOAs wishing to piggyback on the city's holiday lighting contract would be notified the following morning. Commissioner Smith suggested that Commissioner Mallozzi lead an effort to sell

the City's 250th-anniversary banners, with the use of any proceeds potentially directed to charitable causes such as Relay for Life, subject to legal review by the City Manager and City Attorney. The Commission reached consensus on this approach.

Chris Garcia, Information Technology Director for Potential Church, presented findings from a review of the Commission Chambers audiovisual system. He stated that the City's existing equipment was generally capable, but that microphone technique significantly affected sound quality. Recommendations included speaking directly into the microphones, following the microphone when turning toward another person, discontinuing the use of tabletop microphones not designed for the current application, and providing brief microphone guidance to speakers.

Additional recommendations included evaluating the overhead speakers and cameras for future upgrades and ensuring audiovisual support was available to adjust sound levels during meetings. Staff stated that the budget included funding for audiovisual improvements and that implementation would proceed through the appropriate procurement process.

The Commission also discussed returning staff seating closer to the dais, completing the electronic speaker-queue and voting features, using tablets for presentation materials, and restoring agenda-item timestamps in the archived meeting video. Staff indicated that the voting functionality existed but required additional integration, and that agenda timestamps were managed through Granicus.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. Discussion of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Commission Meeting Schedule

The Commission reviewed the proposed meeting calendar and discussed summer scheduling, travel conflicts, the November election and swearing-in ceremony, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Passover. The Commission directed staff to identify one November meeting date that would avoid November 10, 17, and 24 and, if practicable, coordinate the meeting with certification of the election results and the swearing-in ceremony.

The Commission supported December 8 as the regular December meeting date, with December 15 reserved as a tentative backup date if additional business required a second meeting. The Commission also supported moving the April 27, 2027 meeting to April 20, 2027 to avoid a Passover conflict. The existing summer meeting dates would remain on the calendar and could be reconsidered or canceled closer to the summer based on workload and scheduling needs.

Motion: Commissioner Katzman made a motion to approve the meeting schedule with stated revisions. Seconded by Mayor Curran, which prevailed by a unanimous 5-0 vote.

REGULAR RESOLUTIONS

8. Resolution 26-47 - (Utilities/Finance)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COOPER CITY, FLORIDA, AMENDING SCHEDULE (A), SCHEDULE (B), AND SCHEDULE (D) OF ORDINANCE NO. 85-10-1, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO MONTHLY WATER RATES, MONTHLY WASTEWATER RATES, AND WATER AND WASTEWATER MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES WITHIN THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The Commission considered Resolution 26-47, which amends Schedules A, B, and D of Ordinance No. 8510-1, as amended, relating to monthly water rates, monthly wastewater rates, and water and wastewater miscellaneous charges in the City of Cooper City.

Commissioner Smith asked the City Manager to explain the rationale for the rate increases. The City Manager explained that about a year and a half earlier, the city began a major program to update its utility infrastructure, which had been neglected for many years.

Three major projects were underway:

1. A headworks project to remove heavy debris entering the sewer plant.
2. Replacement of the electrical distribution system at the plant.
3. A long-term plan to consolidate three treatment plants into one large packet plant by 2030–2031.

Commissioner Shrouder asked whether all property owners in Cooper City were on city water and sewer. The City Manager confirmed that all properties are on city water and that some may not yet be connected to sewer. Commissioner Shrouder explained the equity rationale for user-based utility rates that users, not all taxpayers, should bear the cost of the utility, particularly because some water customers reside outside Cooper City in Davie or Southwest Ranches.

Commissioner Shrouder also raised the issue of stormwater rates, noting that the City collects about \$200,000 per year in stormwater fees, which he said is insufficient to support a robust stormwater program. The City Manager confirmed at the budget meeting that the City planned a stormwater rate increase.

Commissioner Mallozzi requested that the City Manager prepare a social media message explaining the reasons for the rate increases and helping residents understand which improvements are being funded.

Motion: Commissioner Shrouder made a motion to approve Resolution 26-47. Seconded by Commissioner Smith, which prevailed by a 4-1 vote. Commissioner Shrouder voted no.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

9. Monterra Landscaping Update

The City Manager presented the Monterra landscaping update earlier during Public Speaking.

The City Manager reported that the Broward County Commission had voted unanimously to terminate its fire services interlocal agreement with the Broward Sheriff's Office, effective in two years. He added that he would provide additional information as the matter developed.

The City Manager requested clarification regarding the recently approved RV and boat parking ordinance. By consensus, the Commission confirmed that temporary parking on the swale was permitted during the authorized 36-hour period for loading, unloading, cleaning, or similar activities. Staff was directed to revise the ordinance language and review any related warnings or citations for removal or rescission.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

The City Attorney had no additional items to report beyond echoing the Mayor's thanks for clarification on the boat/RV swale parking ordinance, and confirming the revision would be made.

COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS/REPORTS/ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON NEXT AGENDA

Commissioner Smith commended the City Manager and staff for improvements to the City's social media communications and recognized Utilities Director Akin Ozaydin and the Code Enforcement team for their work. Commissioner Smith raised the issue of lightning detection for pocket parks, specifically the park east of City Hall near the Community Center, noting the vulnerability of senior residents who use the facility. Park and Recreation's Joshua Rhodes explained that the city's weather monitoring system, available on the city website, already provides lightning alerts tied to sensors at the sports complex, organized by quadrant. Commissioner Smith requested that a siren be connected to the Pioneer Park lightning alert system to provide an audible warning at the Community Center and nearby pocket parks. Staff agreed to assess feasibility.

Commissioner Shrouder reported on his recent attendance at an Optimist Club meeting as a member. He expressed serious concern that the organization would not meet the Commission's 45-day compliance deadline (5:00 PM on Thursday).

He described a troubling incident at the meeting, where he was asked to leave so the board could privately discuss offering a plea deal to the former Optimist Club president, who had been arrested for stealing money from the organization. He characterized the incident as inconsistent with the transparency goals the Commission had set for the organization.

Commissioner Katzman raised a point of information, asking how the Optimist Club could negotiate a plea deal when the alleged theft victim is the organization itself. He also noted that the Commission had voted 43 days earlier to take over the organization's finances if the 18 high-priority audit items were not addressed.

The City Manager clarified the Commission's prior action. The Commission had given the Optimist Club 45 days to achieve compliance with all 18 high-priority audit items. The City issued a 60-day termination notice under the facility use agreement.

The City also offered the Optimist Club the option to voluntarily pivot, allowing the City to manage the organization's finances.

The City Manager plans to receive the compliance package Friday morning and have staff complete a compliance review the following week, with a report to the Commission by Thursday or Friday of that week.

Mayor Curran stated that he had been clear in his direct communications with the Optimist Club president that there would be no leniency and that all requirements must be met. He expressed hope for a positive outcome by the Thursday deadline.

Commissioner Mallozzi stated she would wait to see what the compliance package contained before taking a position.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 MINUTES)

No additional public comments were offered

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

The minutes of the regular Commission meeting held on September 22, 2026, were approved at the regular Commission meeting held on October 13, 2026.

Mayor James Curran

Tedra Allen, City Clerk