

City of Del Rey Oaks

**City Hall
650 Canyon Del Rey Blvd
Del Rey Oaks, CA 93940**



Action Minutes

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

6:00 PM

City Council – Special Meeting

Del Rey Oaks City Council

**Scott Donaldson – Mayor
Jeremy Hallock – Vice Mayor
John Uy – Councilmember
Kim Shirley – Councilmember
Mike Burger – Councilmember**

6:00 PM – Called to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Donaldson

Roll Call: Present: Vice Mayor Hallock, Councilmember Shirley, Councilmember Burger, Councilmember Uy, and Mayor Donaldson.

Also Present: City Manager Guertin, City Attorney Lorca, City Clerk Minami, Deputy City Clerk/Permit Clerk Batra, Administrative Services Technician Matthews, and Chief of Police Bourquin.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Led by Mayor Donaldson

Public Comment:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Preliminary Budget for FY 2025-26 for Council's Review and Direction

Mayor Donaldson: A few things to point out: it's a balanced budget, there are no reductions in services in all departments, it's frugal with zero waste, accounting is clean, money is available for projects, and sales tax increases. Within the city, we are built out and we must develop the former Fort Ord land.

City Manager Guertin: Shares the slide show, explains the details of the slide show presentation on the 2025-26 budget. Gave an overview of the individual categories. Total General Fund Revenues history for the last 6 years. Explains the chart with the graph of the top revenue streams. With the increased revenue from the TOT, the city will implement administrative technology for short-term rentals. Reviews the recommendation for a 5% cost-of-living increase for all staff other than himself and Chief Bourquin, since they are on contracts. Also, increasing the hourly rate for reserve police officers. Reviews the details of the fund balances and the history of General Fund Balance use, and what it is spent on. Potential future unmet needs are considered. Explains the Economic Uncertainty Reserves strategy to bridge gaps. The general fund is balanced. Our spending is matched with revenue. At this time, there is an unprecedented interest rate return. Residents pay taxes for providing services, and the city services have only grown in the last few years.

Councilmember Shirley: Appreciates City Managers on the budget and supports the COLA.

Councilmember Burger: Do the Police reserves qualify for PERS? **City Manager:** No

Councilmember Uy: What is the contingency plan in case it goes lower.

City Manager Guertin: Explains the Economic Uncertainty Reserves strategy to bridge gaps.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ahmad Ahmadi: The City needs a community center. Someone can donate property and the community can organize a fundraiser to build it. Community centers are money makers. The community needs a space for chess club, bridge club and the like.

Gary Kreeger: Thanks City Manager. Would like to circle back to the implementation of a vacancy tax. Quendale and Portola needs a big yield sign. Up tick on speeding through detours.

Ann Ahmadi: Appreciates conservation. How are the recommendations decided on?

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

City Manager Guertin: Not this year but in the future would like to have more accessibility to FORTAG trail and the stairways need to be brought up to code.

City Councilmember Shirley: Supports the ideas. Includes that the city signage needs to be improved. Wants Ron to have more help. Asks for new garbage cans and no-smoking signs in the city park. Would like a Capital Reserve Fund and an Emergency Operation Plan. Asks for the ability for folks to be able to make comments on Zoom city council meetings.

Councilmember Burger: Residents should support being frugal. It's a good quality of life.

Councilmember Uy: Thanks, City Manager, for the graphs and the thoughtfulness in planning. Supports approach and recommendations. Diversity is important with our revenue. Thanks residents that voted for higher TOT rate. Economic Planning should be a priority. Mentions residents complain about speeding cars. Traffic calming and road safety measures are needed. Supports the traffic study idea.

Mayor Donaldson: Thanks City Manager, right way to go. Supports the projects, adding revenue sources and ideas to utilize our space. Great idea for a consultant and agrees that speeding in certain areas is an issue. Talks about more speed monitoring signage needed. To Ann's question: the budget committee meetings and last months City Council meeting.

City Manager Guertin: There is a 5 year Capital Project Plan approved by City Council that staff is following. Signs and garbage cans are already planned for out of Public Works budget, after FORTAG is done. With more flexibility in staff, the city won't rely on consultants so much in the future. The Public Works Committee could recommend a traffic study.

Councilmember Shirley: To Ann's questions: Strategic planning hasn't been done in years, and the council hasn't set goals. No input from the Council on the budget.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 6:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT: 8:05 pm

Attest: _____

Date:-----
