



City of Eustis

P.O. Drawer 68 • Eustis, Florida 32727-0068 • (352) 483-5430

TO: Eustis City Commission

FROM: Rick Gierok, Interim City Manager

DATE: August 6, 2026

RE: First Reading of Ordinance Number 2026-29: Repeal of Eustis Code of Ordinance Section 66-78 Entitled “No Petroleum Base Fuel Watercraft Allowed on Lake Gracie” to Comply with Section 327.75, Florida Statutes

Introduction:

Senate Bill 1388, which created Section 327.75, Florida Statutes, commonly referred to as the “Watercraft Energy Source Freedom Act,” rendered Section 66-78 of the City of Eustis Code of Ordinances, which prohibits the use of petroleum-based watercraft on Lake Gracie, in nonconformance with the Florida Statutes.

Background:

On May 19, 2025, the Governor signed Senate Bill 1388, which created Section 327.75, Florida Statutes, commonly referred to as the “Watercraft Energy Source Freedom Act,” which prohibits a municipality from restricting the use or sale of a watercraft based on the energy source used to power the watercraft, including an energy source used for propulsion or used for powering other functions of the watercraft.

The City of Eustis Code of Ordinances Section 66-78, adopted on November 6, 2003, currently provides that no watercraft shall be powered by petroleum-based fuel on or in Lake Gracie. Section 66-78 is not compliant with Section 327.75, Florida Statutes.

City Staff finds it necessary and appropriate to repeal Section 66-78 to bring the City Code into compliance with Section 327.75, Florida Statutes.

Recommended Action:

City Staff presents Ordinance 2026-29, the repeal of Section 66-78 of the City of Eustis to comply with 327.75, Florida Statutes, for consideration by the City Commission.

Policy Implications:

None

Alternatives:

Approval of Ordinance Number 2026-29 to make the City of Eustis Code of Ordinances conform with Section 327.75, Florida Statutes.

Do not approve Ordinance Number 2026-29 and remain in nonconformance with Section 327.75, Florida Statutes.

Budget/Staff Impact:

See attached Business Impact Estimate.

Business Impact Estimate:

Section 166.041(4)(c), Florida Statutes exemption: It is required for compliance with federal or state law or regulation.

Prepared By:

Jeff Richardson, AICP, Interim Director, Development Services

Reviewed By:

Miranda Burrowes, Deputy City Manager