



MINUTES

City Commission Meeting

6:00 PM – Thursday, May 07, 2026 – City Hall

Invocation: Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner George Asbate

Call to Order: 6:34 p.m.

Acknowledge of Quorum and Proper Notice:

Present: Commissioner George Asbate, Vice Mayor Gary Ashcraft, Commissioner Willie L. Hawkins, Commissioner Michael Holland

Absent: Mayor, Emily A. Lee

1. Agenda Update

Interim City Manager, Rick Gierok informed the commission that the April 16, 2026, City Commission meeting minutes were being removed from consideration due to omissions and necessary corrections. The revised minutes will be presented at the next City Commission meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approval of Minutes for April 7, 2026, City Commission Workshop Meeting

Motion made by Commissioner Holland, Seconded by Commissioner Hawkins to approve the April 7, 2026, City Commission Workshop Meeting Minutes. The motion passed on the following vote:

Voting Yea: Commissioner Asbate, Vice Mayor Ashcraft, Commissioner Hawkins, Commissioner Holland

3. Presentations

3.1 Eustis Police Department Swearing-In Ceremony

Police Chief Craig Capri conducted a ceremonial swearing-in and badge-pinning ceremony for six new full-time officers and one part-time officer joining the Eustis Police Department. Chief Capri thanked city leadership and the Commission for their strong support of public safety staffing, noting the department was now fully staffed with 48 officers. Family members and mentors participated in the badge-pinning ceremony, and city officials congratulated the new officers on their service.

3.2 Amazing Race for Charities Presentation

The City of Eustis Events and Communications team recognized the success of the second annual Amazing Race for Charity, which raised \$35,255.82 for fourteen local nonprofit organizations. Event staff thanked community partners, volunteers, sponsors, city departments, and participating charities for helping make the event a success. During the presentation, representatives from each charity received checks recognizing their contributions

and participation in the event. The next Amazing Race for Charity is scheduled for April 3, 2027, with charity applications currently open through October 31, 2026.

Commissioner Holland recognized Tim Totten and his organization for bringing the Amazing Race for Charity event to the City of Eustis. He noted that Mr. Totten is currently in intensive care and is showing signs of improvement. He thanked Mr. Totten for creating a successful fundraising initiative that supports local nonprofit organizations without relying on taxpayer funding. Commissioner Asbate expressed appreciation for Mr. Totten's contributions.

3.3 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for Fiscal Year ended September 30, 2025

Representatives from auditing firm Purvis Gray presented the City of Eustis' September 30, 2025, Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and audit results. The auditors reported that the city received an unmodified opinion, confirming that the financial statements were fairly presented in all material respects. They thanked the city's finance team for filing the report on time for the second consecutive year and for earning continued recognition for excellence in financial reporting through the Government Finance Officers Association.

The auditors noted that several prior management concerns had been resolved, including issues related to building fund reserves, capital asset reconciliation, and pension accounting records, and reported no significant deficiencies in internal controls or investment compliance issues. Vice Mayor Ashcraft asked about the city's general fund reserves, which were reported at approximately \$20 million, including restricted funds. The Commission accepted the audit report without objection.

4. Appointments

4.1 Appointment to the Code Enforcement Board (CEB) To Fill a Vacancy – Alternate

Interim City Manager Gierok stated this was a consideration of an appointment for Jessica Carmona to serve as an alternate member of the Code Enforcement Board to fill a current vacancy.

Motion made by Commissioner Holland, Seconded by Commissioner Hawkins to approve the appointment of Jessica Carmona to serve as an alternate member to fill a vacancy for the term 11/03/2025 to 11/03/2028. The motion passed on the following vote.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Asbate, Vice Mayor Ashcraft, Commissioner Hawkins,
Commissioner Holland

5. Audience to be Heard

Kalin Ellison, President of the North Lake Bobcats youth football organization, thanked the city, police department, commissioners, and recreation staff for their support throughout the season and announced that the organization's 6U and 8U teams recently won state championships. City officials congratulated the teams and praised the positive impact of youth sports programs.

Blake Griswold, a resident, noted concerns about speeding and reckless driving on Haselton Street following the death of two dogs struck by a vehicle. He asked for increased traffic enforcement and comments on speeding vehicles, loud exhaust systems, and electric bikes operating unsafely. Police Chief Capri responded that the department has conducted significant traffic enforcement in the area and pledged continued efforts. Commissioners and the Chief noted the growing issue of electric bike safety and possible future regulations.

Latoya Young, administrator of Trinity Family Medical Center, requested updates regarding the closure of roadway access from David Walker Drive to Prevatt Street, stating that the closure continues to cause confusion and inconvenience for patients. Interim City Manager Gierok reported that Lake County had approved the city's revised traffic plan and that roadway modifications are expected to begin soon.

Lee Owen of Habitat for Humanity Lake-Sumter thanked the city for supporting affordable housing initiatives, including housing repair programs and the newly adopted surplus lands program. She provided updates on Habitat projects in Eustis and nearby communities and encouraged residents to apply for upcoming affordable housing opportunities.

Raymond Rivera, owner of a local boxing gym, requested community and PAL program support to help provide affordable youth boxing and mentorship opportunities for local children. Police Chief Capri noted support for the initiative with its value in crime prevention, youth engagement, and positive mentorship opportunities for Eustis youth. Commissioners commented on an interest in helping connect the program with potential fundraising and community support resources.

6. Consent Agenda

- 6.1 Resolution Number 2026-25: Approving an Expenditure in Excess of \$100,000.00 for Construction Services for Eustis Street and Gottsche Avenue Stormwater Project and Authorizing Budget Transfers in the Amount of \$125,000.00 and \$32,750.00

Motion made by Commissioner Holland, Seconded by Commissioner Hawkins to approve Resolution Number 2026-25. The motion passed on the following vote.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Asbate, Vice Mayor Ashcraft, Commissioner Hawkins, Commissioner Holland

7. Ordinances, Public Hearings, & Quasi-Judicial Hearings

- 7.1 Second Reading of Ordinance Number 2026-19: Consideration of Comprehensive Plan Amendment for Parcel with Alternate Key 1761310

City Attorney, Sasha Garcia read ordinance number 2026-19, an Ordinance of the City Commission of the City of Eustis, Lake County, Florida, amending the City of Eustis Comprehensive Plan pursuant to Section 163.3187 Florida Statute, changing the Future Land Use designation of approximately 0.2 acres of real property at Alternate Key Number 1761310 located at 1430 Ryan Street from Suburban Residential to Residential Office Transition.

City Attorney Garcia opened the public hearing at 7:33 p.m. There were no public comments offered. The public hearing closed at 7:33 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Holland, Seconded by Commissioner Hawkins to approve Ordinance Number 2026-19. The motion passed on the following vote.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Asbate, Vice Mayor Ashcraft, Commissioner Hawkins, Commissioner Holland

- 7.2 Explanation of Ordinance Numbers 2026-06, 2026-07, and 2026-08 for Parcel with Alternate Key Number 1040141

City Attorney Garcia announced that Ordinance Numbers 2026-06, 2026-07 and 2026-08, would be presented together.

7.3 First Reading of Ordinance Number 2026-06 for Voluntary Annexation for Parcel with Alternate Key Number 1040141

City Attorney Garcia read Ordinance Number 2026-06, an Ordinance of the City Commission of the City of Eustis, Florida, voluntarily annexing approximately 10 acres of real property at Lake County Property Appraisers Alternative Key Number 1040141, located in unincorporated Lake County, Florida, on the east side of the intersection of County Road 44 and County Road 44A.

Development Services Deputy Director, Jeff Richardson presented the ordinances for annexation, comprehensive plan amendment, and design district assignment of approximately 10 acres of property owned by W.D. of America, represented by applicant Travis Sawchuk. The request would annex the property into the City of Eustis and change its future land use from Lake County Urban Low to City of Eustis General Commercial, along with assigning a Suburban Design District. The property is located at the intersection of County Road 44A and County Road 44, north of Osprey Ridge, within the Lake County/Eustis Joint Planning Area. City staff confirmed proper public notice was provided to Lake County and published in accordance with requirements. The site is served by nearby utilities; it is not within a flood zone or wetlands and has suitable soil and moderate-to-high groundwater recharge. Traffic conditions in the area were noted at approximately 4,400 daily trips on both adjacent roadway segments. The request represents a logical expansion of the city's urban service area and is consistent with the comprehensive plan, land development regulations, and Florida Statutes, and staff recommended approval for consideration.

City Attorney Garcia opened the public hearing at 7:36 p.m.

Trena Marquez and Donald Doyle, nearby residents, opposed the annexation to preserve the area's agricultural and residential character and cautioned Commission against overdevelopment and increased density raising concerns about compatibility with surrounding residential areas and increased traffic impacts.

Applicant Travis Sawchuk responded, stating that the project would not negatively impact surrounding neighborhoods and would improve traffic flow compared to a residential development. He clarified that the existing PUD would dissolve upon annexation and be replaced by a city development agreement with specific use restrictions.

City Attorney Garcia clarified that the current PUD is still in effect under Lake County but would be replaced by the city's development agreement upon annexation to ensure enforceable land use limitations.

City Attorney Garcia closed the public hearing at 7:49 p.m.

Commissioner Asbate and Vice Mayor Ashcraft noted the importance of bringing the property into the city to maintain local control and regulate future development. They commented that handling the property through city oversight would allow for stronger protection than leaving it under county jurisdiction.

Commissioner Holland commented on his support for the project as a relatively compatible and controlled development option compared to other potential uses for the property. He noted concerns about preserving the character of the surrounding area while acknowledging that state growth regulations limit local control. He concluded that annexation would help ensure the city maintains influence over how the property is developed.

Motion made by Commissioner Holland, Seconded by Commissioner Hawkins to approve Ordinance 2026-06.

Commissioner Asbate sought clarification on whether prior stated conditions would apply, and Commissioner Holland noted his expectation that the project would exclude certain uses such as gas stations. City Attorney Garcia clarified that this was the first reading of the annexation ordinance, and that the related development agreements and additional ordinances with the list of use restrictions would return for second reading together.

The motion passed on the following vote.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Asbate, Vice Mayor Ashcraft, Commissioner Hawkins,
Commissioner Holland

7.4 First Reading of Ordinance Number 2026-07: Comprehensive Plan Amendment for Parcel with Alternate Key Number 1040141

City Attorney Garcia stated the second component is Ordinance Number 2026-07, an Ordinance of the City Commission of the City of Eustis, Lake County, Florida, amending the City of Eustis Comprehensive Plan pursuant to Section 163.3187, Florida Statutes; changing the future land use designation of approximately 10 acres of real property proposed for Annexation into the City of Eustis at Alternate Key Number 1040141, generally located on the east side of the intersection of County Road 44 and County Road 44A.

City Attorney Garcia opened the public hearing at 7:33 p.m. There were no public comments offered. City Attorney Garcia closed the public hearing at 7:33 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Holland, Seconded by Commissioner Hawkins to approve Ordinance Number 2026-07. The motion passed on the following vote.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Asbate, Vice Mayor Ashcraft, Commissioner Hawkins,
Commissioner Holland

7.5 First Reading of Ordinance Number 2026-08: Design District Assignment for Parcel with Alternate Key Number 1040141

City Attorney Garcia read Ordinance Number 2026-08, an Ordinance of the City Commission of the City of Eustis, Lake County, Florida, assigning the Suburban Corridor Design District designation to approximately 10 acres of real property proposed for Annexation into the City of Eustis at Alternate Key Number 1040141, generally located on the east side of the intersection of County Road 44 and County Road 44A.

City Attorney Garcia opened the public hearing at 7:52 p.m.

Trena Marquez inquired as to why the property should be annexed into the City of Eustis rather than remaining under Lake County jurisdiction and noted concerns about ongoing development approvals and questioned the rationale for city annexation.

Vice Mayor Ashcraft responded that bringing the property into the city allows for more direct control over future development decisions and zoning outcomes. He explained that under county jurisdiction, the property could potentially be rezoned for higher-density residential or additional commercial uses, including uses such as apartments or gas stations, depending on county approvals. He stated that annexation into the city provides a more balanced and controlled approach to development for this area.

Commissioner Hawkins noted that general commercial zoning under the county could allow for uses such as a gas station. Ms. Marquez acknowledged the explanation and reiterated her concerns about gas stations.

Vice Mayor Ashcraft clarified that the city's intent is to manage and regulate development more closely than Lake County.

City Attorney Garcia requested further comments from the public. There being none, City Attorney Garcia closed the public hearing at 7:54 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Holland, Seconded by Commissioner Hawkins to approve Ordinance Number 2026-08. The motion passed on the following vote.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Asbate, Vice Mayor Ashcraft, Commissioner Hawkins,
Commissioner Holland

7.6 Explanation of Ordinance Numbers 2026-09, 2026-10, and 2026-11 for Parcel with Alternate Key Number 3959037

City Attorney Garcia introduced Ordinance Numbers 2026-09, 2026-10 and 2026-10, which would be presented together.

7.7 First Reading of Ordinance Number 2026-09 for Voluntary Annexation for Parcel with Alternate Key Number 3959037

City Attorney Garcia introduced Ordinance Number 2026-09, an Ordinance of the City Commission of the City of Eustis, Florida, voluntarily annexing approximately 2.8 acres of real property at Lake County Property Appraisers, Alternate Key Number 3959037, generally located in unincorporated Lake County, Florida, on the east side of intersection of County Road 44 and County Road 44A.

Development Services Deputy Director Richardson explained that this ordinance involves the voluntary annexation of approximately 2.8 acres owned by T & S FL Partners, represented by Travis Sawchuk. It is located on the east side of the intersection of County Road 44 and County Road 44A in unincorporated Lake County. He noted that the parcel was adjacent to the previously discussed property and already contains an existing structure. The current Lake County Future Land Use designation is Urban Low, and the applicant requested a City of Eustis Future Land Use designation of Mixed Commercial/Industrial with a Suburban Corridor Design District. Mr. Richardson stated that the request was consistent with Florida Statutes, the City of Eustis Comprehensive Plan, and Land Development Regulations, and that permitted uses would be further limited through a future development agreement. He reported that average traffic counts on County Road 44A were approximately 4,400 trips per day, utilities were available to the site, and there were no flood zones or wetland impacts or apparent soil limitations affecting development.

Mr. Richardson further addressed a publication issue involving an error in the heading for the design district advertisement. He stated that Development Services had discussed the matter with City Attorney Garcia and confirmed that the issue would be corrected through re-advertisement prior to second reading, adding that the corrected advertisement had already been sent to the newspaper.

City Attorney Garcia opened the public hearing at 7:59 p.m. There were no public comments offered. City Attorney Garcia closed the public hearing at 7:59 pm.

Motion made by Commissioner Holland, Seconded by Commissioner Hawkins to approve Ordinance Number 2026-09. The motion passed on the following vote.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Asbate, Vice Mayor Ashcraft, Commissioner Hawkins,
Commissioner Holland

7.8 First Reading of Ordinance Number 2026-10: Comprehensive Plan Amendment for Parcel with Alternate Key Number 3959037

City Attorney Garcia introduced Ordinance Number 2026-10, an Ordinance amending the City of Eustis Comprehensive Plan pursuant to Section 163.3187, Florida Statutes, to change the Future Land Use designation of approximately 2.8 acres of property proposed for annexation into the City of Eustis. The property, identified by Alternate Key Number 3959037, is generally located on the east side of the intersection of County Road 44 and County Road 44A. She noted that the Commission had already received the staff presentation during the previous agenda item and asked whether there were any questions from the commission. There were none.

City Attorney Garcia opened the public hearing at 8:00 p.m. There were no public comments offered. City Attorney Garcia closed the public hearing at 8:00 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Holland, Seconded by Commissioner Hawkins to approve Ordinance 2026-10. The motion passed on the following vote.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Asbate, Vice Mayor Ashcraft, Commissioner Hawkins,
Commissioner Holland

7.9 First Reading of Ordinance Number 2026-11: Design District Assignment for Parcel with Alternate Key Number 3959037

City Attorney Garcia introduced Ordinance Number 2026-11, an Ordinance assigning the Suburban Corridor (SC) Design District designation to approximately 2.8 acres of property proposed for Annexation into the City of Eustis. The property, identified by Alternate Key Number 3959037, is generally located on the east side of the intersection of County Road 44 and County Road 44A. She noted that the Commission had already received the staff presentation and asked whether there were any questions from the Commission. There were none.

City Attorney Garcia opened the public hearing at 8:01 p.m. There were no public comments offered. City Attorney Garcia closed the public hearing at 8:01 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Holland, Seconded by Commissioner Hawkins to approve Ordinance 2026-11. The motion passed on the following vote.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Asbate, Vice Mayor Ashcraft, Commissioner Hawkins,
Commissioner Holland

8. Other Business

8.1 City Attorney Update

City Attorney Garcia provided several updates to the City Commission, beginning with a proposed change to the meeting agenda order. She explained that the current format places City Commission comments before updates from the City Attorney and City Manager. She noted reordering the Future Agenda Items and Comments section to provide the City Attorney and City Manager updates prior to City Commission. Furthermore, she commented that this would allow commissioners to receive information and answers to questions prior to their comments creating a more fluid meeting process and potentially reducing repetitive questions.

Commissioners commented in support of the change of order. City Attorney Garcia confirmed there was consensus to proceed with the revised order.

City Attorney Garcia provided an update regarding Spring Ridge Estates. She stated that she had completed a draft of the Emergency Infrastructure Stabilization and Cost Recovery Agreement, which includes the emergency record, repayment structure, lien and assessment protections, and enforcement mechanisms previously discussed by the Commission. She explained that the draft had been provided to the HOA attorney, HOA management, the City Manager, and Deputy City Manager for review and comment, which was requested by May 16, 2026. City Attorney Garcia added that she had also proposed a meeting with HOA representatives and legal counsel to address any remaining issues, with the goal of presenting either an update or a finalized agreement at the next city commission meeting.

Vice Mayor Ashcraft asked if there was an update from the insurance company, and City Attorney Garcia confirmed that the insurance claim had been denied. Vice Mayor Ashcraft referenced information he had sent to staff regarding potential FEMA assistance and grants, stating that he wanted the city to explore every possible option to avoid placing the entire financial burden on the residents. Commissioner Hawkins asked if assistance was discussed with Congressman Fine's office and if that might still be possible. Deputy City Manager Miranda Burrowes stated that staff had reviewed FEMA eligibility for Spring Ridge and determined that FEMA assistance did not apply. Vice Mayor Ashcraft responded that a FEMA representative he had spoken with suggested the project might qualify because the bridge is privately-owned and serves as the sole access point for residents.

Fire Chief Mike Swanson explained that the FEMA programs available through his experience generally apply only to projects that are "shovel ready" and not already completed or funded. He stated that the city had already explored mitigation and strategy programs, including BRIC grants, but could not identify any applicable assistance for a completed project such as this one.

Vice Mayor Ashcraft requested that staff contact Congressman Randy Fine's office to continue exploring options. Deputy City Manager Burrowes agreed, noting that the congressional office had been responsive and helpful.

City Attorney Garcia added that the draft agreement includes provisions requiring cooperation in seeking insurance proceeds, grants, government funding, or other financial assistance, and allows for reassessment of resident payments if outside funding is obtained.

Vice Mayor Ashcraft stated that even partial financial relief would significantly help the affected residents.

City Attorney Garcia provided an update regarding Ordinance Number 2026-20 related to MMTC regulations. She stated that she was preparing a legal memorandum following the tabling of the ordinance and that the memorandum would address legal and policy considerations including non-conforming uses, vested rights, operational restrictions, relocation and expansion limitations, and potential litigation exposure. She added that the memorandum would review approaches taken by other municipalities. City Attorney Garcia reported that she had received correspondence from Attorney Sherry Sutphen, representing MEGA 2901 LLC, and invited her to submit proposed revisions, legal authority supporting vested rights claims, and operational concerns for consideration as part of the review process. City Attorney Garcia explained that once the memorandum is completed, she intends to share it with both the Commission and Attorney Sutphen, to facilitate cooperation and informed discussion.

City Attorney Garcia concluded by stating the Commission would ultimately need to determine whether to proceed with the ordinance as currently drafted or substantially revise it, noting that substantive changes would require restarting the ordinance process.

9. Future Agenda Items and Comments

9.1 City Manager

Interim City Manager Gierok announced that the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Workshop meeting scheduled for May 22, 2026, would begin at 10:00 a.m. and not 9:00 a.m. due to the city hosting the unveiling of the Veterans Memorial at Greenwood Cemetery earlier that morning. Interim City Manager Gierok noted that UCF's ROTC program was leading the memorial effort and encouraged commissioners to attend.

Interim City Manager Gierok stated that the General Fund and CRA Budget Workshop remained scheduled for June 18th, but the planned Downtown Master Plan workshop originally scheduled for June 19th would be rescheduled due to the federal holiday. He suggested either June 24th or June 26th as alternative dates. He would follow up with commissioners to confirm availability.

Interim City Manager Gierok reported that Publix partnered with the City of Eustis and Eustis in Bloom to provide approximately 75 volunteers to help replant landscaping at the Clifford House and the Community Center following the freeze damage. He added that Publix also presented the city with a donation check.

Regarding the city manager recruitment process, Interim City Manager Gierok stated that edits to the recruitment profile had been sent back to the consultant, and he expected revised materials to be returned early next week for final commission review and comments.

Interim City Manager Gierok informed Commission that the city was preparing to close on the property located at 21 North Grove Street during the upcoming week.

Interim City Manager Gierok provided an update on the selection process for the economic development marketing consultant. Commissioners were advised that interview scheduling outreach had been initiated and were asked to notify staff if they had not yet been contacted. Interviews are scheduled to begin next week. With the procurement process for construction management services, the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a construction manager at risk has officially been released and responses to the RFQ are due by May 18th. He noted the selection committee is scheduled to convene on May 26th to evaluate submissions and the resulting agreement will establish a continuing contract for construction management services.

Interim City Manager Gierok reported that the softball field lights had been upgraded to LED lighting, which significantly improved visibility. He explained that one section of the field could not yet be fully upgraded because of an active osprey nest. Vice Mayor Ashcraft commented that he had recently been under the lights and that the improvements made it much better. He thanked staff and Mr. Dobbins for the work.

Interim City Manager Gierok referenced a previously discussed street striping matter and asked staff member Greg Dobbins to keep Ms. Latoya Young updated regarding quotes and scheduling.

Interim City Manager Gierok informed Commission that one of the Sylvester palm trees in Harper's Alley had developed a disease caused by an insect infestation and would need to be removed to prevent spreading. He explained that city staff and the city arborist would continue monitoring the remaining palm trees and that affected businesses would be notified through the city's communication process with Officer Starling.

Interim City Manager Gierok provided an update on ongoing drainage investigations at the Community Center, stating that Public Works staff had again tested the roof drains and were

developing a draft scope of work for repairs while ensuring that the internal drainage system was functioning properly.

9.2 City Commission

Commissioner Asbate asked the community to keep Tim Totten, as well as the state representative, her family and son, in their prayers as they face difficult circumstances. He noted appreciation for Interim City Manager Rick Gierok, praising the amount of money the city has saved by completing projects in-house and stated genuinely appreciating his work and believed he had exceeded expectations, particularly regarding capital improvement projects.

Commissioner Holland complimented City Attorney Garcia on her performance during the meeting, saying she had done a good job leading the proceedings. He also noted that Mayor Lee was absent because she was accompanying her brother while he accepted an award related to auto dealerships, adding that the city was proud to have one of those dealerships located in Eustis. He concluded by wishing all mothers in the community a happy Mother's Day.

Commissioner Hawkins described the evening as a "feel-good night," referencing the officer pinning ceremony and the visit from the Bobcats organization, which he said reflected the community-oriented spirit of Eustis. He informed the commission that a planner's organization had invited him to participate in a presentation at a planning and zoning conference in Sarasota on May 27th. He explained that the presentation would focus on the work being done in Eustis involving community development, youth programs, seniors, and special needs initiatives, with the goal of sharing Eustis' successes with other communities. He requested approval to attend the one-day event, noting that the only anticipated city expense would be a hotel stay due to the travel distance. Commission indicated support for the request.

Police Chief Craig Capri provided an update regarding traffic concerns on Haselton. He stated that the speed limit in the area had already been reduced from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour and that officers had conducted patrols there for several hours without observing significant activity. He explained that after receiving a license plate number from Mr. Griswold, police had identified the vehicle owner and were sending officers to speak with the individual that evening. He added that the department would conduct targeted traffic enforcement efforts over the weekend on both Haselton and Lakeshore, by dedicating additional police resources to those areas.

9.3 City Attorney

City Attorney items were provided under "Other Business."

9.4 Mayor

Vice Mayor Ashcraft stated that, in the interest of time, he did not want a detailed discussion on his items. He asked for staff to provide information to the commission later in the week. He requested an update for Lakeshore Drive, the proposed right-turn lane project from State Road 44 to County Road 452 being coordinated with Lake County, attendance figures for the last two festivals, and notification procedures for downtown events requiring street closures. He also requested updates regarding the Brian Kirstein matter, the recruitment process for two department head positions, potential grant opportunities, and progress on city trail projects.

Commissioner Holland asked that the requested updates be shared with the entire Commission, and Interim City Manager Gierok confirmed that staff would respond to all commissioners by email.

Vice Mayor Ashcraft asked about the ongoing need for a community center and suggested exploring the possibility of temporarily using vacant space in the former Big Lots plaza near the performing arts theater. He stated that while the city might need to lease and improve the space, it could serve as a temporary community center solution while long-term plans continue. He mentioned that several community members were facing medical difficulties, including Chris McCollum, and asked that they be kept in everyone's thoughts and prayers.

Vice Mayor Ashcraft shared that May 7th marked his wedding anniversary with his wife Jamie. He mentioned that her only request for the evening was for the meeting to end by 8:00 p.m. He thanked her for supporting him "through thick and thin," which includes the demands associated with serving on the commission. In closing, he wished her a happy anniversary.

10. Adjournment: 8:25 p.m.

**These minutes reflect the actions taken and portions of the discussion during the meeting. To review the entire discussion concerning any agenda item, go to www.eustis.org and click on the video for the meeting. If available, the video recording may be accessible at <https://www.youtube.com/@EustisComRel/streams> or an audio recording may be requested from the office of the City Clerk.*

CHRISTINE HALLORAN
City Clerk

EMILY A. LEE
Mayor/Commissioner