



MINUTES

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING AUGUST 27, 2025 6:00 P.M.

The City of Madeira Beach Board of Commissioners held a regular workshop meeting at 6:00 p.m. on August 27, 2025, in the Patricia Shontz Commission Chambers at City Hall, located at 300 Municipal Drive, Madeira Beach, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anne-Marie Brooks, Mayor
Ray Kerr, Vice Mayor/Commissioner District 2
David Tagliarini, Commissioner District 1
Eddie McGeehen, Commissioner District 3
Housh Ghovae, Commissioner District 4

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

CHARTER OFFICERS PRESENT: Robin Gomez, City Manager
Clara VanBlargan, City Clerk
Andrew Laflin, Finance Director
Thomas Trask, City Attorney

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brooks called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

City Clerk Clara VanBlargan called the roll. All were present.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Hannah Nygren, owner of Fruit Float, would like the City to permit regulated commercial operations within the swim zones in Madeira Beach. Right now, the code does not outline specific laws regarding commercial activity in swim zones. She would like to create a pilot program that sets rules and standards. She suggested some regulations. She asked for the Board's consideration.

John Hendricks, 569 Normandy Road, said the Board does not have to accept the City Manager's resignation. He hoped the Board would reconsider terminating him with cause. He has not earned a severance.

4. BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

A. Presentation – Frontier Communications' Infrastructure – Repair/removal

Mr. David West from Frontier Communications presented information about their infrastructure work in Madeira Beach. He reported that approximately 75% of the island now has fiber optics installed, with about 25% remaining. He explained that where fiber is already installed, they can remove the old copper infrastructure; however, they cannot remove underground copper. They could remove poles and pedestals, many of which were damaged or displaced by hurricanes.

Mr. West noted that 65% of the completed area is underground. He explained that they have ordered new, heavier box lids (approximately 50 pounds) that will not float away during storms, addressing previous issues with the infrastructure.

Mayor Brooks opened to public comment. There were no public comments.

Mr. West emphasized that Frontier would like the opportunity to finish the fiber build-out on the island, which would provide residents with a reliable alternative that works even during power outages (provided there is backup power). A resident on Boca Ciega had fiber in front of her house, but service was never completed due to various issues they encountered.

Public Works Director Megan Wepfer said that previous issues with Frontier had been addressed. However, Frontier currently does not have the necessary permits to complete the project. There had been previous problems with Frontier hitting reclaimed waterlines due to Pinellas County Utilities not being fully aware of what was underground. Vice Mayor Kerr asked if there were any restrictions on the permits that needed to be approved so they could move forward. Director Wepfer said they would need to see what has been submitted.

Vice Mayor Kerr asked about the removal of the wires that run from pole to pole. Mr. West confirmed that while not typically included in their process, it was something they could do. He explained they usually remove infrastructure on an individual basis when requested.

Vice Mayor Kerr expressed concern about the abandoned wires, noting they can get caught on vehicles or hang too low. Mr. West agreed that removing these wires would be a significant part of cleaning up the City and he would take that request back to his management.

Mayor Brooks questioned why old infrastructure would remain after new fiber is installed. Albert Rivas from Frontier explained that sometimes customers utilize the copper until they migrate. It is removed once they migrate. Some customers choose to remain on copper even when fiber is available. Frontier can "force migrate" customers to fiber when needed so they do not have to maintain two networks and then take down the copper.

The Mayor requested that Frontier determine the cost of removing the old hardware and notify the City. Mr. Rivas agreed to provide the information.

Director Wepfer said some of the poles do not get pulled out of the ground because Spectrum, Frontier, and Duke share the poles. Mayor Brooks said the biggest complaint is the hanging wires. Director Wepfer said the residents can report issues to her or Frontier directly.

Jim Everett said they would need to ascertain who is utilizing the service before they remove all the copper.

B. Presentation – Property Insurance, Jim Everette & Jake Holehouse

Jake Holehouse of HH Insurance and Jim Everett of Everett Financial Group gave a detailed presentation on flood insurance issues facing Madeira Beach residents. Mr. Holehouse explained that 100% of homes and businesses in Madeira Beach are in flood zones, making flood insurance critically important to residents.

The presentation focused on the federally regulated NFIP 2.0 (Risk Rating 2.0) program, which has implemented substantial rate increases, particularly for new constructions. Mr. Everett shared his personal experience with Hurricane Helene, showing a photo of his home in Redington Shores, which is now just a vacant lot with a mailbox and dock.

Mr. Everett explained the benefits of elevated homes during hurricanes, noting that most people with elevated homes experienced minimal damage and were able to return to their homes quickly. Those with non-elevated homes typically had their homes rendered unlivable due to 3-4 feet of water damage. He detailed what is covered under flood insurance policies, explaining the maximum coverage limits (\$250,000 for buildings and \$100,000 for contents), as well as issues such as the 50% rule for repairs. Condominium owners typically have an HO6 policy, which covers fire and wind damage to the interior, but the association covers flood insurance. Each association is supposed to have \$250,000 in coverage per unit.

Mr. Holehouse discussed the history of flood insurance rates, explaining how the Biggert-Waters Act of 2012 initially caused dramatic rate increases, followed by the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014, which phased in rate increases. He explained that NFIP Risk Rating 2.0, implemented in October 2021, fundamentally changed how rates are calculated by incorporating factors like distance to water, elevation, and total home value.

The presenters provided several examples showing dramatic rate increases, particularly for new construction homes. One example showed a newly built elevated home on St. Pete Beach, with an annual rate of \$11,628, compared to just \$636 under the old system, despite being built 12 feet off the ground and following all flood-mitigation practices.

They explained that the new system perversely disincentivizes elevation, providing examples where property owners would see no rate benefit from elevating their homes, despite the substantial cost involved. In one case, a home elevated 25 feet off the ground would still incur a premium of \$4,079, compared to \$492 under the old system.

Vice Mayor Kerr expressed interest in addressing this issue at the Big C (Barrier Islands Governmental Council) and encouraged all coastal communities to lobby Representatives Luna, Scott, and Moody at the federal level, as this issue affects communities throughout Florida.

Commissioner Ghovae said the presentation was helpful and provided a lot of information.

Mayor Brooks added the following items to the agenda:

1. Recreation item
2. Update from the Big C Meeting

C. Property Discussion in General

Mayor Brooks said she did not know why there was an attachment to the item. Director Wepfer stated that it pertained to the property mentioned at the last meeting.

Mayor Brooks noted that they had been discussing various property options during one-on-one meetings with the City Manager for potential public works or other city needs. She mentioned that they had moved on from considering the church property and that there might be something to vote on at the next meeting.

Mayor Brooks opened to public comment. There were no public comments.

Commissioner Ghovae sought clarification that the City was not purchasing the church property, which Mayor Brooks confirmed, noting that the City Manager had already sent a letter declining that option.

D. Noise Ordinance

Commissioner Tagliarini brought forward concerns about the City's noise ordinance, presenting highlighted sections of the current ordinance for discussion. He noted that the ordinance states noise should not be audible from more than 50 feet away from its source but also contains potentially conflicting language about allowed hours for amplified outdoor sound.

Commissioner Tagliarini suggested the ordinance needs clarification, particularly regarding the allowed hours versus prohibited hours of operation. He proposed rewording it to make the provisions clearer for enforcement, noting that noise complaints are a significant issue closer to the village area.

Mayor Brooks opened to public comment. There were no public comments.

Commissioner Ghovae suggested that noise is typically measured in decibels rather than distance and recommended looking at other cities' ordinances for comparison. Mayor Brooks agreed and said that the 50-foot restriction seemed unreasonable, noting this would prohibit even casual outdoor radio use if neighbors were within that distance.

Recreation Director Jay Hatch explained that the noise ordinance had been discussed numerous times over the past decade. He noted that the ordinance contains special event exceptions when approved by the city manager. Decibel levels would be more appropriate than distance measurements. Sound travels differently depending on weather conditions and other factors. Special area districts should be considered in any revised ordinance.

Mayor Brooks directed Community Development to work with the Sheriff's Department to review the noise ordinances of neighboring municipalities and present recommendations to the Commission.

Community Development Director Marci Forbes said she would get with Kimley-Horn and bring an update back to the Commission.

E. Purple Heart City Designation

Commissioner Ghovae introduced the topic of designating Madeira Beach as a Purple Heart City, noting that the City already has a Court of Honor and 9/11 memorial. He expressed that becoming a Purple Heart City would be an opportunity to be part of something bigger and honor veterans.

Mayor Brooks opened to public comment. There were no public comments.

Mayor Brooks read from the provided reference materials, explaining that to earn this designation, a municipality must have a living or deceased Purple Heart recipient, issue an official proclamation, and recognize National Purple Heart Day. The Commission discussed the need to identify Purple Heart recipients in Madeira Beach. Commissioner McGeehan, a US Army veteran, volunteered to work with local veterans' organizations and the City to locate recipients and assist with the designation process.

F. Code Enforcement Processes

The City Manager introduced a discussion about code enforcement processes, particularly focusing on how deputies address unmaintained properties with issues such as overgrown grass or debris. Deputy Siem explained their process, noting that when they receive a complaint, they first attempt to contact the homeowner and issue a 10-day courtesy warning. If compliance is not achieved, they issue a written notification giving the homeowner an additional 7 days, after which they begin the citation process.

Mayor Brooks opened to public comment. There were no public comments.

Mayor Brooks expressed concerns about the coordination between the sheriff's deputies handling code enforcement and the City's code enforcement. She suggested having deputies drive the entire City once a week specifically looking for code violations rather than waiting for complaints. She understands the process, but thought if it were done consistently, it would show the community that they were working on the issue. She also asked whether penalties for non-compliance could be made stiffer.

City Attorney Trask explained that state law caps code enforcement fines at \$250 per day for initial violations and \$500 per day for repeat violations that occur within a five-year period. The Special Magistrate can fine up to \$5,000 one time for irreparable or irreversible matters. He noted that deputies have two enforcement options: bringing violations to the special magistrate or issuing civil citations that go to county court. He recommended the special magistrate approach as it allows for higher daily fines and more leverage.

Mayor Brooks said residents had commented on the need for a volunteer group to help with cleanups. Attorney Trask strongly advises against city-coordinated volunteer efforts due to concerns about liability. He suggested instead referring homeowners to local churches or organizations that could provide such assistance.

Deputy Siem noted that, in his experience, most residents eventually comply with code enforcement requirements, although it may take time.

Commissioner Ghovae raised concerns about construction debris and properties not maintaining proper erosion controls, noting that sand washing into the bay could violate DEP requirements and damage seagrass. He suggested placing silt screens around the properties to prohibit the sand and debris from migrating into the bay.

John Connolly, Normandy Road, said the Planning Commission never addressed the requirement in the code to put a silt fence around a vacant site that is not reseeded. There are six to eight inches of standing water on the vacant lot on 140th Ave. He asked the Board to address that.

G. 2026 FL Legislative Session

The City Manager introduced the topic of preparing for the 2026 Florida Legislative Session, explaining that they had received information from State Representative Cheney regarding the schedule for filing bills or appropriation requests. He provided examples of past capital project requests and asked for Commission input on priorities to forward to legislative representatives.

Mayor Brooks opened to public comments.

John Hendricks, 569 Normandy Road, suggested adding a public works building or property to the list of potential state funding requests.

Mayor Brooks stated that she had wanted city staff to present their departmental needs and priorities so that the Commission could better understand which projects needed funding and determine which would be appropriate for appropriation requests. She emphasized that not every project would be suitable for state appropriations versus grants.

Commissioner Ghovae suggested that beautification of 150th Avenue be a priority, including the installation of benches, landscaping, and proper ADA compliance. He noted there are issues with the existing sidewalk on the south side of 150th Ave. that need to be addressed. He has envisioned an 8-foot-wide path from Archibald Park to Veterans Memorial Park. It could bring tourism, and

they may be able to get funds from St. Pete/Clearwater or state legislation. The Board agreed to continue the conversation about the sidewalk.

Vice Mayor Kerr suggested adding the flood insurance issue from the earlier presentation, though it was acknowledged that this would need to be addressed at the federal rather than state level. They would need to contact their state legislators and have them take the issue to the federal level.

The Commission agreed that each member would research potential projects and speak with department heads before the next workshop to develop a comprehensive list of legislative priorities. Mayor Brooks noted that the deadline is in November, but advised not waiting until the last minute to communicate with Representative Cheney's office.

5. CITY MANAGER

6. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A. Discussion of Building Permit Fees Waiver

Marci Forbes from Community Development reminded the Commission that permit fee waivers implemented after Hurricane Helene are set to expire on September 26, 2025. She explained that after the storm, the City had suspended permit fees, and when they eventually resume, the rate will be 1% of project cost, reduced from the previous 2%. She noted that impact fees and site plan review fees have continued to be charged.

Cristina Pascuzzi, 14072 West Parsley Drive, thanked the City for waiving the permitting fees the past year and requested an extension of the fee waiver. She explained that many residents were unable to complete rebuilding within the one-year window due to contractor shortages, engineering bottlenecks, and delays in SBA loans. She argued that residents who were required to demolish their homes under the 50% rule should not be required to pay full permitting fees to rebuild. It is about compliance with code and FEMA requirements, not elective renovations.

Commissioner Tagliarini expressed support for extending the waiver, noting it can take a significant amount of time to secure funding and complete the rebuilding process. Commissioner Ghovae agreed. Vice Mayor Kerr shared his personal experience navigating the SBA process, which took him approximately six months, despite already having an architect chosen before the storm. Part of him says they need to extend the waiver, and another part of him says they need to increase the Building Fund. He wants to be as fair as possible.

The Commission discussed the financial impact of extending the waiver. Director Forbes said it would not be about an opportunity for the City to profit, but rather for staff overhead and outsourced services. Mr. Laflin noted that the City had incurred an operating loss of approximately \$780,000, thereby depleting the building fund balance to around \$250,000. He explained that continuing to waive fees would require subsidizing the building department through general fund transfers.

Mayor Brooks suggested a compromise where homeowners could file a letter of intent by September 26, stating their intention to rebuild or lift their house, and those individuals would continue to receive the fee waiver for an additional period. This would allow those genuinely in the rebuilding process to benefit while resuming fee collection from others.

Director Forbes agreed to develop a form and process for the letter of intent approach, working with the City Attorney and staff to determine the specific requirements and timeframe for the extension.

B. Terrain Modification Update – Advanced Engineering

Director Forbes provided an update on the City's work with Advanced Engineering regarding terrain modification. She explained that Advanced Engineering, which had completed the City's watershed management plan, was being utilized to evaluate homeowners' requests to elevate their finished floor higher than usually allowed.

She reported that they had reviewed two full scenarios, with both homeowners wanting to proceed with elevating their properties. The process involves incorporating stem walls, robust grading plans, and step-downs to seawalls, utilizing a more engineered approach. She noted that some homeowners who initially wanted to go higher reconsidered once they realized the implications for their existing pools and space.

Mayor Brooks opened to public comment. There were no public comments.

Commissioner Ghovae inquired about the requirements for garage floor elevation. Director Forbes said they have not yet set any standards for those evaluations.

C. Referencing Current Codes & Removing Outdated Publications

Director Forbes explained that certain portions of the city codes reference specific years of governing publications, requiring code enforcement to be trained on outdated editions. She proposed striking references to specific dates and instead referencing the most current edition of each publication to ensure the City uses the most up-to-date standards.

The Commission agreed this was a straightforward update that should move forward.

Mayor Brooks opened to public comment. There were no public comments.

7. FINANCE

A. Auditor Selection Process – FY 2025-2029 Financial Statement Audits

Mr. Laflin discussed the auditor selection process for fiscal years 2025-2029. He explained that the current auditor, James Moore and Company, had completed its fifth and final year under contract. The City had issued an RFP and received responses from four firms.

Mr. Laflin provided the evaluation criteria for scoring the proposals. Staff would calculate 40 points for firm qualifications and experience, 20 points for management and staff experience, 20 points for methodology, and 20 points for pricing. He requested that commissioners, acting as the Auditor Selection Committee, individually review and score the proposals, focusing on the qualitative aspects that possibly total 80 points.

Mayor Brooks opened to public comment. There were no public comments.

Commissioner Tagliarini asked if they should be ranking them objectively. Mr. Laflin said yes.

City Attorney Trask advised that Commissioners should rank the proposals independently, without discussing them among themselves, and then bring their scores to the next regular meeting for tabulation.

The Commission agreed to email their individual scores to Mr. Laflin by September 3rd for inclusion in the next meeting packet, with the understanding that they should not copy each other on these communications to avoid potential Sunshine Law violations.

8. PUBLIC WORKS

A. FDOT Debris Staging Area Agreement for Archibald and Johns Pass Park

Director Wepfer presented an agreement with FDOT for the use of Johns Pass Park and Archibald Park as disaster debris staging areas. She explained that the agreement, drafted by the City Attorney's office and approved by FDOT, includes provisions making FDOT responsible for any damage to the properties.

The Commission had no questions or concerns about the agreement.

Mayor Brooks opened to public comment. There were no public comments.

B. Stormwater Station Generator Replacement located at 14101 N Bayshore Dr.

Director Wepfer explained that the City needed to replace a generator at the stormwater station at 14101 North Bayshore Drive. She noted that a new generator had been installed right before Hurricane Helene, but it was damaged. The replacement would be fully reimbursed through insurance and would be purchased off the Sourcewell contract.

Mayor Brooks opened to public comment. There were no public comments.

Commissioner Ghovae asked if the generator would be placed above the FEMA elevation. Director Wepfer explained that, although the stormwater station is elevated, they are required to replace what is currently there before pursuing further mitigation to elevate the station.

C. Diocese of Southwest Florida, Inc. Parking Lot License Agreement

Director Wepfer presented a one-year license agreement with St. Anne's Church at Duhme Road for vehicle storage during evacuations. She explained this would allow the City to move equipment off the island during emergencies. The only cost associated with the agreement would be if the City needed to remove tree debris at the church property following an evacuation.

Mayor Brooks opened to public comment. There were no public comments.

D. Bay Point Causeway and Drive Milling and Resurfacing proposal discussion

Director Wepfer discussed the failing condition of Bay Point Drive, explaining that while the City plans to elevate the road in the future, the design, permitting, and review process would take 3-5 years. She proposed a mill and resurfacing project as an interim solution, presenting a cost of \$211,918 to cover the causeway and all of Bay Point. She asked how the Board would like to proceed.

Mayor Brooks opened to public comment. There were no public comments.

Vice Mayor Kerr inquired whether any grant money was available to move the road elevation project forward. Director Wepfer explained that design and permitting would take at least a year to a year and a half, with the entire process potentially taking around three and a half years. She noted that even with grant funding for construction, the design and permitting process would still require a significant amount of time. They are working on securing grant funding for the project's construction.

Commissioner Ghovae asked whether compaction of the subsurface would be included in the work. Director Wepfer clarified that the asphalt is failing due to alligator cracking and constant water exposure; however, the proposal only included milling and resurfacing without any base work. It is only temporary until the roadway is rebuilt. She estimated the interim solution could last around 10 years, though she acknowledged Bay Point is one of the lowest points in the City and regularly floods.

9. RECREATION

A. Village Friday

The item was added to the agenda.

Director Hatch discussed the Village Fridays events in John's Pass Village and proposed waiving parking fees from 5:00 to 10:00 PM on event nights to encourage attendance. He explained that based on data from the parking department, the average revenue from the four parking lots in Johns Pass during those hours on Fridays is approximately \$2,016.81. Businesses had expressed that parking costs were a barrier for potential attendees. He proposed a trial of free parking for the following three Village Friday events to see if it would increase attendance and benefit local businesses.

Ron Pascuzzi, 14017 W. Parsley Drive, said he did not think free parking would allow more people to access the lot since it is always full. He suggested taking the revenue and giving a stipend to the private lots during the events.

Amanda Loeffler, a member of the Pinellas Beaches Chamber and the US Patriot Chamber of Commerce, suggested that they involve the Chambers of Commerce and turn it into a family-friendly event to attract more success and attendees.

Mayor Brooks said she had asked Robin how the event would be funded and was told that it would be through the parking fund. She did not understand how they could fund something through the parking fund without charging for parking. She disagrees with telling any business that they do not want their money. Then pulling the funding out of parking that is not budgeted in our budget for that. Everything they do cannot come out of the parking fund. She disagrees with it not being Final Friday and with it changing to Village Friday. She had shared with Robin her concern about not taking a donation and using it to fund the music, instead opting to fund it all themselves. If there is no set budget, that is a challenge because every event should have a budget. The amount spent should be limited to the amount in the budget. She understands the challenges faced by businesses in John's Pass because she has spoken with them and is aware of their parking issues. However, she does not see how they can say free parking when the parking fund pays for the event. It is not a fiscally responsible thing to do.

Director Hatch said that the event's sponsors, including himself, another staff member, and numerous representatives from the business and organization, had previously met. In that meeting, regardless of whether the City was funding the event or not, they expressed that they were not interested in donating to the event. The time was not right for them based on the developments that they wanted to put up in the Pass, and it would not get the goodwill they thought they would get out of it. They have gone back and forth, and it had not been expressed to him that they wanted to help fund the event. That had not been echoed to him, and he asked them specifically. At that time, they were not interested. The City is committed to it for the village. He understands the concerns regarding the waiver of parking and the inconsistencies as they have been raised. They did it for the same reason when they had John's Pass Seafood Festival in March. It was done for the best intentions possible to continue business after the hurricanes.

Director Hatch said that while he appreciates the other first Friday, final Friday, and third Friday examples, they can do some research. He looked at everyone in Pinellas County, and the City of Madeira Beach is the only City hosting them. Chambers, business associations, or other entities handle the rest. They do not have the resources to host the events, so they are carrying the load for everybody. Parking was a creative way for him to gain support and get more people to John's Pass. He understands the fiscal responsibility on both sides. Parking has always been a challenge in John's Pass, and he thought it might be a solution.

Vice Mayor Kerr said he would guess that the complaints about parking in John's Pass are not city parking but with the private lots. What they are addressing now would not solve any of that. Giving back to John's Pass he views it as tourism dollars. It makes sense to spend the revenue on the band. He does not know what the budget looks like on those Fridays. Director Hatch said the annual budget for the event was \$50,000, divided by 10 Fridays, which is \$5,000 per Friday. His goal is

not to spend more than \$1,500 on a band. The Vice Mayor said they are taking those parking dollars, not just from that time period, but for the full day and investing them back into the village, which is great, but he does not know if it is a solution to attract more people. Even on a slow night, those lots are full. So, he does not know if they will gain more foot traffic. That will just be a concession.

Commissioner Tagliarini suggested trying it out a couple of times and getting feedback from the businesses to see if it really helped. The Vice Mayor asked how they could make it better if they cannot get any more vehicles in the parking spots.

Commissioner McGeehen said he would be in favor of giving it a try for Village Fridays.

Mayor Brooks said the residents do not pay to park; some ride their bikes there. The benefit of no parking is not for the residents. If they do it for this event, then why not for other events? She is not saying she does not sympathize with the business owners. The majority of the complaints are not about paying to park in a city lot. They are paying to park in the private lots.

The City Manager suggested a trial to offer a discounted rate.

Vice Mayor Kerr suggested working with the Chamber to increase their marketing efforts. Director Hatch said they previously worked with the Chamber before the storms. They, too, were affected by the storms. They share the information in their newsletters. Beyond that, it is a tough ask. They are working with everybody.

Mayor Brooks said one of the benefits of working with the Chamber is that they have the opportunity to help market it if needed, and in general, with all things. They also have access to numerous resources, such as relationships with businesses that can donate alcohol and beer for events. Director Hatch said they do work with them. They have liquor from the Seafood Festival three years ago that the Chamber donated through one of their businesses. It is still at the recreation center waiting for the next event.

Mayor Brooks said she does not think they should do it, but she is one person.

Commissioner Tagliarini said they could try it a couple of times and get feedback from the businesses to see if it really worked.

Vice Mayor Kerr said he would rather give \$2,000 to the band. It is all about tourism dollars, which the band and the parking are tourism dollars. But he sees it as a slippery slope.

Commissioner Ghovaee said it is something they could research and talk to the businesses themselves.

No consensus was reached on implementing the parking fee waiver for Village Fridays.

Big C Update

Mayor Brooks reported on the Big C (Barrier Islands Governmental Council) meeting today:

- All the municipalities voted on the Forward Pinellas appointment. We have already voted, so we need to vote again at the September 10th meeting because we have to vote last.
- Kathy Perkins, Director of Pinellas County Emergency Management, reported on many things at the meeting:
 - She stressed the importance of evacuation during hurricanes, emphasizing that when the county issues evacuation orders, residents should take them seriously. They need to stress that to the residents.
 - She talked about transportation availability to shelters during evacuations, the importance of knowing neighbors' evacuation plans, debris separation education, and the Elevate Florida program notifications. One of the best things you can do in your community is to get to know your neighbors and know where your neighbors are going when a storm comes. Help elderly neighbors and those with disabilities get out.
 - They are still reviewing Senate Bill 180 and waiting for information to come forward.
 - Debris separation education was something that we needed to focus on. When they had Hurricane Helene, debris separation was a huge deal in getting that out. The Mayor said a lot of people had to do that before, but not to that magnitude, so finding a way to communicate would be helpful.
 - She talked about the homeowners who had been notified of the Elevate Florida.
 - They talked about volunteers and how they can be a volunteer. The Mayor said she is going to get more information on that. Pinellas County coordinates volunteers for various things during the storm. She spoke to Marci about it today, and it may be something we can revisit to make us better prepared for having volunteers in our City who are trained to help in the best way.
- Renee Flowers, who is the Commissioner for Pinellas County, spoke on a lot of things:
 - Pinellas County is in budget season
 - The Legislature is going back into session in January.
 - When someone calls yelling at her, she knows it is not about her; it is about the situation. The Mayor said that many times, she stood and listened to someone venting about their situation, whatever it was. Although it was not always the nicest tone, it was about them needing to vent to somebody who would listen. She then asks at the end of the conversation what we can do differently or what should we do. She said to the Commission that when that person comes to them, they should be mindful that they are not complaining about them. It is their situation, and it remains difficult for many people who are still unable to return to their homes. They do not know how to pay to get back into their homes. We might be doing okay, but there are still a lot of people displaced.

10. RESPOND TO PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Mayor Brooks addressed two public comments from earlier in the meeting:

1. Regarding Hannah's Fruit Float business request, she suggested adding it to a future workshop agenda to discuss the City's codes related to commercial operations in swim zones and what other municipalities allow her to be able to operate her business. She does not know if that will work in our City, but she had a lot of conversations with Robin.

The City Manager said that the City's code of ordinances designates specific swimming areas. They were based on a couple of meetings last year regarding the placement of buoys versus piling. When the public spoke, there was a consensus among attendees to expand

the entire two miles to a swim zone. If that is the case, there can be no motor-powered type vessels coming into the swim zone. Currently, her operation approaches the shoreline. We do not have the buoys out there. Hopefully, those will be installed over the next few weeks, so swim zones will be marked. No motorized vessel can then go into those marked swim zones. She is asking if the City would allow something similar to what is in other cities, such as Clearwater, where there is an operator that rents equipment, jet skis, and other motorized vessels. They have a marked channel for them to go in and out from the sand to the Gulf. Her request is to eventually have that here so her business can operate in that area and sell its items. That would be a discussion to allow for that, or if they choose to make the entire two miles a swim zone, or sections of it a swim zone.

Mayor Brooks said that even if they decided to do that, it would be a lengthy process. They should have it on an agenda to discuss and have the information brought to them. The Board consented.

2. Regarding John Hendricks' comment about the city manager's resignation, it would not be a conversation for them. Commissioner Tagliarini said the comment made was not deserving. It is a separation agreement for consideration presented to them.
3. The City Attorney said he and Robin had been working together. He created a separation agreement that would be emailed to Commissioners in the morning, so they would have it for discussion purposes. He recommended that it be placed on the September 10th BOC Regular Meeting agenda. Robin has reviewed the agreement, and he is ready for him to present it to the Board. There is to be no discussion amongst the Commission about it.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Brooks adjourned the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Anne-Marie Brooks, Mayor

ATTEST:

Clara VanBlargan, MMC, MSM, City Clerk