RESOLUTION 2026-27

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WAUCHULA, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE 2027 LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Wauchula has identified several state and local issues of importance to the City; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has determined that these issues should be addressed during the 2027 Legislative Session in the best interests of the residents of the City of Wauchula; and

WHEREAS, the Commission finds that the most effective method to communicate these priorities is through the development of a Legislative Packet;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WAUCHULA, FLORIDA, THAT:

1. The Commission requests continued support and funding for the Wauchula Municipal Airport Deep Well Potable Water and Fire Suppression Safety Improvements project.

2. The Commission requests support and funding for comprehensive roadway improvements along North and South 7th Avenue, including pavement rehabilitation, associated stormwater improvements, sidewalks, and streetscape enhancements to improve roadway conditions, drainage, pedestrian safety, and the overall functionality of this important transportation corridor.

3. The Commission requests support and funding for the Wauchula Municipal Airport Fuel Farm project.

4. The Commission requests support and funding for the Riverview Heights Water Main Improvements project.

5. The Commission requests support and funding for the Wauchula Wastewater Treatment Plant Modernization Upgrades and Improvements project.

6. The Commission urges opposition to any legislation that undermines local home rule authority, including bills that impose preemptions, create unfunded mandates, or require local governments to seek state approval before adopting. The City supports the right of local governments to develop and implement ordinances that protect residents and address local issues without state interference.

7. The Commission supports preserving the authority of local governments to levy ad valorem property taxes and opposes any constitutional amendments or legislation that would restrict this authority or further reduce the property tax base in ways that are not revenue neutral. If such measures are adopted, the Commission urges the Legislature to provide recurring financial support to offset lost revenue for municipalities designated as Rural Areas of Opportunity, like the City of Wauchula, to ensure the continued delivery of essential public services.

8. The Commission supports the continued authorization and protection of Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs) as a critical tool for revitalizing blighted areas, promoting economic development, and improving infrastructure and public spaces, particularly in fiscally constrained and rural communities where access to other redevelopment funding sources is limited.

9. The Commission requests support for protection of our budgets and to decide and manage the transfer of utility revenues to the city's general fund, a long-standing, legally protected practice. This is a reinvestment to help ensure the adequacy of life, health, safety and welfare of our community and our right as a utility owner to earn a reasonable return on the investment in its utility systems, a recognized right of every utility owner and operator, to provide essential public safety services, i.e., first responders, such as police, fire, EMS, E911, utility workers, etc. and promote a higher quality of life in our community.

10. The Commission supports the reintroduction and passage of legislation similar to the original 2025 "Rural Renaissance" proposal, which provided meaningful programs and funding mechanisms to support economic development, infrastructure, housing, and community revitalization in rural areas. Such efforts are vital to addressing long-standing challenges and promoting sustainable growth in small and fiscally constrained communities.

11. The Commission supports legislation establishing a state tax credit for the rehabilitation and preservation of historic structures to encourage revitalization, private investment, and economic development.

12. The Commission supports the preservation of Florida's Regional Planning Councils (RPCs), which serve as vital forums for intergovernmental coordination, technical assistance, and strategic regional planning. The Commission opposes any legislation that would eliminate or weaken RPCs, especially given their importance to small and rural communities that rely on RPCs for grant writing, planning expertise, and access to regional and state-level resources.

13. The Commission recognizes that modest inflation related adjustments to sovereign immunity caps may be warranted over time but opposes any legislation that proposes dramatic increases, which would impose significant financial burdens on fiscally constrained municipalities, increase litigation exposure, and divert limited resources from essential public services and infrastructure needs.

14. The Commission approves and endorses the Florida League of Cities' policy to support protection of general revenue sources, including the Communications Services Tax and the Local Business Tax.

15. The Commission approves and supports the Florida League of Cities' legislative priorities, as appropriate to small rural cities and to the City of Wauchula.

16. The Commission requests continued support and increased funding of State grant programs – Florida Recreational Development Assistance Program (FRDAP), Economic Development Transportation Fund (EDTF), Rural Infrastructure Fund, Division of Historical Resources Grants, FDEP Water Quality and Resilient Florida Grant Programs, and the FDOT Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) for Rural Areas of Opportunity.

17. The Commission supports the legislative priorities of Hardee County.

18. The Commission supports the legislative priorities of the Hardee County School District.

19. This resolution shall become effective upon adoption by the Commission.

On Motion of Commissioner _____, seconded by Commissioner _____, the above Resolution was introduced and approved by the City Commission of the City of Wauchula, Florida, on the ____ day of _____, 2026.

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

_____
Stephanie Camacho, City Clerk

CITY OF WAUCHULA

By:_____
Richard Keith Nadaskay, Jr., Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
Thomas A. Cloud, City Attorney