



Meeting Minutes City Commission

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order on the above date by Mayor Todd Drosky at 7:01 p.m., in the City Commission Chambers, City Hall, Deerfield Beach.

Present:

Commissioner Michael Hudak
Commissioner Tom Plaut
Commissioner Daniel Shanetzky
Vice Mayor Ben Preston
Mayor Todd Drosky

Also Present:

City Manager Rodney Brimlow
City Attorney Anthony Soroka
City Clerk Heather Montemayor

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Drosky recognized the demise of Claudette Colvin, Civil Rights Activist, and asked that everyone keep her in their thoughts and prayers. Thereafter, there was a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes - December 16, 2025

MOTION was made by Commissioner Hudak, seconded by Commissioner Plaut to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. Voice Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Plaut, Commissioner Shanetzky, Vice Mayor Preston, and Mayor Drosky

Nays: 0

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CITY BOARD MINUTES

Planning & Zoning Board Meeting Minutes - September 4, 2025
Code Compliance Meeting Minutes - November 12, 2025
Education Advisory Board Meeting Minutes - December 3, 2025
African American Heritage Board Meeting Minutes - December 11, 2025

MOTION was made by Commissioner Plaut, seconded by Commissioner Hudak, to acknowledge the board minutes. Voice Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Plaut, Commissioner Shanetzky, Vice Mayor Preston, and Mayor Drosky

Nays: 0

APPROVAL OF CITY COMMISSION AGENDA

January 20, 2026

MOTION was made by Commissioner Hudak, seconded by Vice Mayor Preston, to approve the agenda as submitted. Voice Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Plaut, Commissioner Shanetzky, Vice Mayor Preston, and Mayor Drosky

Nays: 0

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

1. Certificate of Recognition presented to Aline Paterson, Ocean Rescue Lieutenant, for receiving the Florida Beach Patrol Chiefs Association Lifeguard of the Year Award.

Commissioner Hudak congratulated Ms. Paterson for her accomplishments.

Mike Brown, Ocean Rescue Chief, provided a brief overview of Ms. Paterson's tenure as a Deerfield Beach lifeguard.

PRESENTATIONS

2. Presentation regarding the 2025 Vision Zero Report.

Eric Power, Deputy City Manager, explained that as a Vision Zero Community, the City developed an action plan requiring an annual status report be presented to the Commission. Thereafter, he briefly outlined the 2025 Vision Zero Status Report, which is available on the City's website.

In response to Commissioner Hudak's question, Mr. Power replied that while the City has been awarded over \$5 million in federal and state project funding in the past two years, the funds have not yet been received due to delays; nonetheless, city staff will continue to follow up.

In response to Commissioner Shanetzky's comment, Mr. Power briefly outlined the improvements that will be made to the Crystal Lake area.

QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

3. P.H. 2026-015: APPLICATION 88-CF-14

Applicant: Resurrection Orthodox Cathedral Inc. represented by Crain Atlantis Inc.

Proposal: Seeking Major Site Plan approval to construct additions of 4,066 square feet to the existing Cathedral and a 1,044 square foot addition to the existing Parish Hall with associated site improvements on a 1.32-acre site in the CF, Community Facilities zoning district

Location: The property is generally described as FAIRLAWN 1ST ADD 43-31 B LOTS 1 THRU 4,7 THRU 10 BLK 14 and located at **1416 SE 2nd Terrace.**

The Resolution was read by title only.

Albert Capellini, 1193 W. Newport Center Drive, Deerfield Beach, representing the applicant, waived the quasi-judicial proceedings. Thereafter, he highlighted a brief PowerPoint presentation. Further, he said the applicant is seeking approval for a major site plan on a 1.32-acre site to construct additions to the existing Parish Hall and Cathedral. Additionally, the applicant is proposing architectural improvements to the façade of the existing building with the inclusion of site improvements that will include new landscaping and parking improvements to reflect the reconfiguration of the existing parking lot with ADA access, a new sodded parking area, and closing off the existing SE entrance for the relocation of the dumpster. Thereafter, photographs of the existing and proposed building were displayed.

Commissioner Hudak spoke in support of the project, as it will improve the area.

In response to Commissioner Shanetzky's question, Mr. Capellini replied that the applicant may use a heating plate, but they are permitted to have a kitchen.

QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARINGS - CONTINUED

Alex Lukianov, President, Starosta & PC, stated that their emphasis is on culture and worship, and although they do not plan on being a food kitchen, they will provide other community offerings, i.e. concerts, performances, festivals, etc.

Mayor Drosky opened the public hearing.

Demetrius Givens, 1150 SW 7th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, spoke in support of the Item. Further, he urged Commissioner Shanetzky to reach out to him, as there are other churches within the community who are willing to provide a food kitchen.

Daniel Alvarez, 1932 SE 15th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, expressed concerns with the increase in traffic and asked that it be addressed.

Katy Freitag, 418 SE 2nd Street, Deerfield Beach, expressed concerns with the parking, as she does not believe it will be enough.

Mayor Drosky closed the public hearing.

Mr. Capellini stated that although the building is being expanded, the applicant exceeds the parking requirements. Further, the installation of a speed bump would be at the discretion of the City, should the community request it.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Hudak, seconded by Vice Mayor Preston, to approve Item 3, adopted Resolution 2026/003. Roll Call:

Yeas: 5 - Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Plaut, Commissioner Shanetzky, Vice Mayor Preston, and Mayor Drosky
Nays: 0

PUBLIC HEARINGS - SECOND READING

4. **P.H. 2026-016: ORDINANCE 2026/001 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF DEERFIELD BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 66-58 "PARKING PROHIBITED ON CERTAIN STREETS AND COMMERCIAL VEHICLE PARKING RESTRICTIONS" OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROHIBIT PARKING ON THE SWALES AND MEDIANS OF SE 19TH AVENUE FROM SE 6TH STREET TO SE 8TH STREET; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The Ordinance was read by title only.

Mayor Drosky opened the public hearing; however, there were none to speak and the public hearing was closed.

In response to Commissioner Shanetzky's question, Rodney Brimlow, City Manager, replied that this is not a paid parking area, but one with safety concerns, so parking will be prohibited and violation will result in either a warning or citation.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Hudak, seconded by Vice Mayor Preston, to approve Item 4, adopted Ordinance 2026/001. Roll Call:

Yeas: 5 - Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Plaut, Commissioner Shanetzky, Vice Mayor Preston, and Mayor Drosky
Nays: 0

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Ruise, 425 NW 1st Terrace, Deerfield Beach, said she received a trespassing warning and asked for clarification on why she can no longer enter the Braithwaite Center.

PUBLIC COMMENT - CONTINUED

Caryl Berner, 3130 Cambridge F, Deerfield Beach, commented on an inaccurate article that had circulated and clarified that Century Village pays off-duty police personnel to police the Village. Thereafter, she commented on the colors of City Hall.

Katy Freitag, 418 SE 2nd Street, Deerfield Beach, commended city staff for the MLK events. Further, if the City is not receiving federal and state funding, will the City find other funding for projects.

John Slattery, 1455 SE 5th Place, Deerfield Beach, commented on the railroad tracks along Dixie Highway that are in need of repair, specifically at SW 10th Street and Hillsboro Boulevard.

Jackie Campbell, 405 SE 8th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, said residents are still awaiting a response concerning the flood issues on SE 8th Avenue.

Kelly Fay, 607 SE 7th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, expressed concerns with the lack of a response from the City regarding the flood issues SE 8th Avenue.

Sandra Jackson, 386 SW 35th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, said she was unable to attend the MLK parade; nonetheless, she received phone calls regarding the lack of advertisement for the parade.

Paula Cook, 62 Centennial Court, Deerfield Beach, asked for clarification on Vision Zero.

Gloria Battle, 1240 SW 6th Way, Deerfield Beach, asked for an update on the snipe sign ordinance, as she has seen an uptick in District 2. Further, she commented on the speed zone signage, and expressed concerns with the grass clippings being blown into the drainage system.

Dan Herz, 330 SE 19th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, commented on the flooding event that occurred in 2025, the clocktower flag not being lowered on 9/11, and the targeting of residents.

Demetrius Givens, 1150 SW 7th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, commented on the importance of unity.

Jumorrow Poitier, 219 SW 4th Street, Deerfield Beach, suggested that once a month a community event be held for the entire city.

CONSENT - AGREEMENTS & EXPENDITURE REQUESTS

5. Resolution 2026/004 - A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Deerfield Beach, Florida, approving a Facility Use Agreement with Garrish Family Foundation, Inc. d/b/a South Florida Prep School to provide an alternative education program at the Johnny L. Tigner Community Center and the Oveta McKeithen Recreational Complex Multipurpose Field from February 3, 2026 to May 28, 2026, with the option to renew for an additional four-month period; waiving the current facility use hourly rates and approving a flat license fee of \$3,000.00 for an approximately four-month period to support the program within the City; providing for execution, implementation, and an effective date.
6. Resolution 2026/005 - A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Deerfield Beach, Florida, approving the submission of a modification to the Hazard Mitigation Subgrant Agreement with the Florida Division of Emergency Management to extend the Agreement for the Lift Station No. 5 Project; authorizing execution of an Amendment to extend the Agreement through August 28, 2026; providing for implementation and an effective date.
7. Resolution 2026/006 - A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Deerfield Beach, Florida, approving an amendment to the Contract with Zabatt Engine Services, Inc. d/b/a Zabatt Power Systems to extend the completion date for the installation of the permanent generator for Lift Station No. 5 to June 26, 2026; authorizing execution of the Amended Agreement; providing for implementation and an effective date.

Mayor Drosky opened the public hearing on Items 5 - 7; however, there was none to speak and the public hearing was closed.

CONSENT - AGREEMENTS & EXPENDITURE REQUESTS - CONTINUED

There was no discussion amongst the Commission.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Hudak, seconded by Commissioner Plaut, to approve Items 5 - 7 in concert. Roll Call:

Yeas: 5 - Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Plaut, Commissioner Shanetzky, Vice Mayor Preston, and Mayor Drosky

Nays: 0

DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS

- 8. Resolution 2026/007 - A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Deerfield Beach, Florida, approving and authorizing execution of a marketing license agreement with Utility Service Partners Private Label, Inc. d/b/a Service Line Warranties of America for a service line warranty program for a three-year term with one-year renewals thereafter; providing for implementation and effective date.**

The Resolution was read by title only.

Steve Bieranowski, Service Line Warranties of America, highlighted a PowerPoint presentation, outlining the service line warranty program.

Commissioner Plaut spoke in support of the Item. Thereafter, he provided a brief overview of his experience with the service line warranty program.

Mayor Drosky opened the public hearing.

Dan Herz, 330 SE 19th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, said the City receives a 10% commission. Thereafter, he expressed concerns with the program not being put out to bid.

Gloria Battle, 1240 SW 6th Way, Deerfield Beach, spoke in support of the program.

Stephanie Correa, 164 Westbury J, Deerfield Beach, expressed concerns with the offerings being sent to Century Village, as the offerings do not apply to village residents.

Gina Johnston, 500 SW Natura Avenue, Deerfield Beach, expressed concerns with her residents receiving the offerings, as they also do not apply to Natura residents; therefore, she suggested that the marketing literature be clarified.

Caryl Berner, 3130 Cambridge F, Deerfield Beach, expressed concerns with the program.

Mayor Drosky closed the public hearing.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Plaut, seconded by Commissioner Hudak, to approve Item 8, adopted Resolution 2026/007. Roll Call:

Yeas: 4 - Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Plaut, Vice Mayor Preston, and Mayor Drosky

Nays: 1 - Commissioner Shanetzky

9. Discussion and potential action regarding public safety services.

Mayor Drosky briefly outlined the procedures.

Vice Mayor Preston disclosed that his son is employed by the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO), as outlined in the literature that's been mailed out. Further, he stated that he sought the opinion of the City Attorney, who advised that there is no conflict of interest, as his vote would not directly affect his son.

In response to Vice Mayor Preston's questions, Rodney Brimlow, City Manager, replied that according to the CFO's findings, bringing services in-house should not affect the millage rate. Further, there will not be

DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS - CONTINUED

an interruption in any other services.

Commissioner Shanetzky stated that bringing public safety services in-house would be a significant undertaking, likely represent the largest portion of the City's budget, and require substantial staff time and resources. Further, he said this process requires an extensive amount of planning and should not be rushed.

Mayor Drosky opened the public hearing.

Charles Whatley, no address provided, spoke in support of bringing law enforcement and fire rescue services in-house.

Matthew Castillo, 115 SE 14th Street, Deerfield Beach, commented on the public safety survey that was conducted by the City of Deerfield Beach, as well as the public safety workshops. Thereafter, he asked that the City be more transparent and communicative with the community.

Major Christopher DiGiovanni, 2601 W. Broward Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, expressed concerns with the data that was gathered in order to perform the study. Thereafter, he reiterated the Sheriff's offer of the two-year contract and funding an additional study.

Tiffany Baker, no address provided, commented on the feasibility study. Thereafter, she commented on the interactions she's had with the BSO and asked that the Commission reconsider the Sheriff's offer.

Parker Edwards, 1272 S. Military Trail, Deerfield Beach, expressed concerns with the feasibility study and the creation of two new departments when property taxes may be eliminated.

Gina Johnston, 500 SW Natura Avenue, Deerfield Beach, commented on the public safety workshops, and expressed concerns with current services not being provided to residents should law enforcement and fire be brought in-house. Thereafter, she spoke in support of continuing services with the BSO.

Mel Nass, 3081 Oakridge U, Deerfield Beach, spoke in support of the two-year agreement to allow time for a more comprehensive study. Once the study is completed, any necessary changes can be made at that time.

Tricia Simon, 865 NE 5th Street, Deerfield Beach, commented on her tenure as a resident, her interactions with the BSO, the importance of having experienced public safety personnel, and the challenges she has faced recruiting candidates for administrative positions.

Jim Simon, 865 NE 5th Street, Deerfield Beach, expressed concerns with the dilapidated public safety facilities. Further, he said there are responsible personnel currently aiding the City, and should that change, the residents will be affected the most.

Donna Capobianco, 2157 Cambridge G, Deerfield Beach, spoke in support of the two-year contract to allow for an additional study. If changes are needed upon the completion of the study, they can be made at that time in a thoughtful and rational manner.

Joe Miller, 248 SE 18th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, said the startup costs are unknown; therefore, he spoke in support of the two-year contract to allow an additional study. Thereafter, he commented on the hiring challenges he's experienced as a business owner.

Chad Brocato, 8211 Canopy Terrace, Parkland, expressed concerns with the feasibility study, especially the staffing recommendation. Thereafter, he commented on the shortages for fire personnel, and agreed with the two-year contract offered by the Sheriff.

Bernie Parness, 3074 Harwood F, Deerfield Beach, commented on the backup material and expressed concerns with the two-year contract, as the Sheriff can terminate again. Thereafter, he spoke in support of bringing law enforcement and fire rescue services in-house, so the City has more control.

DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS - CONTINUED

Gloria Battle, 1240 SW 6th Way, Deerfield Beach, said she stands by her remarks at the last meeting. Thereafter, she expressed dissatisfaction with the BSO and commented on the many conversations she's had with residents, who agree that services need to be brought in-house. Lastly, she would never agree to or sign a contract that does not specify caps.

Sandra Jackson, 386 SW 35th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, said she wants the best for the community and hopes that decisions are not influenced by a perceived lack of support from certain individuals. Thereafter, she commented on retaliation and spoke in support of continuing services with the BSO.

Pastor Ron Harper, 432 SW 10th Court, Deerfield Beach, commented on his interactions with the BSO, as well as the services they provide. Thereafter, he spoke in support of the two-year contract.

April Bolowich, 899 NE 4th Street, Deerfield Beach, commented on the various services the BSO provides, as well as her interactions with them. Thereafter, she spoke in support of the two-year contract.

Caryl Berner, 3130 Cambridge F, Deerfield Beach, said the City wants to save money, but already blew \$72,000.

Jumorrow Poitier, 219 SW 4th Street, Deerfield Beach, commented on her family's tenure in the City, as well as the previous city-run police department, which are not good memories. Thereafter, she asked that whatever decision is made, that it be made with transparency, integrity, and character. Lastly, she commented on training, and hopes that if services are brought in-house that the proper training be provided.

Demetrius Givens, 1150 SW 7th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, said no matter the decision, the community must stick together.

Terry Scott, 180 SW 3rd Avenue, Deerfield Beach, said whatever decision is made should be from the heart. Further, he said this city had their own departments and it can be done again; nonetheless, the BSO will still have obligations to the City, as we pay taxes to the County.

Dan Herz, 330 SE 19th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, commented on previous statements made by Commissioner Hudak. Further, he expressed concerns with the lack of agenda backup and questioned how the increased costs for public safety would be funded. Thereafter, he commented on the feasibility study and an e-mail he sent to the City Manager.

Commissioner Hudak temporarily left the meeting at 9:13 p.m. and returned at 9:14 p.m.

Matt Pellitteri, 849 NE 4th Street, Deerfield Beach, commented on the previous transitions, as well as the feasibility study. Further, he said prior to bringing services in-house, the facilities must be investigated. Thereafter, he recommended that the City accept the Sheriff's offer.

Mae Francis Fagan, 3500 SW Natura Blvd., Deerfield Beach, commented on her tenure in the City. Thereafter, she commented on her interactions with the BSO and spoke in support of continuing services.

Jane Schafrann, 48 NE 19th Terrace, Deerfield Beach, spoke in support of continuing services with the BSO. Thereafter, she commented on the Sheriff's article in the Sun Sentinel.

Joe Chancy, 4250 NE 4th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, stated that although he does not have issues with the BSO, he believes more can be done in his area. Further, he expressed uncertainty as to whether bringing services in-house would be an improvement, but trusts in the Commission to make the right decision.

Thomas Noland, 406 SE 8th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, said the uncertainty surrounding the transition is what concerns the community, as no one on staff has experience with such a transition. Thereafter, he commented on other cities that operate in-house services, the services the BSO provides, and stated that the City currently has more control under the BSO arrangement than it would if services were brought in-house.

DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS - CONTINUED

Dean Kallan, 3250 SW 2nd Court, Deerfield Beach, said this decision is not about the men and women who serve, but rather what is best for Deerfield Beach. Thereafter, he commented on his efforts as a business owner, whereby, bringing services in-house cost more upfront, but in the long run paid off. Further, this decision is not about feelings and personalities, but facts and what needs to be done for this community.

Bob DiChristopher, 517 NE 6th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, spoke in support of the two-year contract, so a transition study can be conducted.

Reverend Timothy Shellman, 298 NW 3rd Avenue, Deerfield Beach, commented on his daughter's experience as a police explorer. Thereafter, he spoke in support of continuing services with the BSO.

Joe Cummings, 267 Oakridge P, Deerfield Beach, commented on governance benchmarks, as well as the increases the Sheriff's command staff will receive. Thereafter, he commented on Jupiter's transition.

Peggy Noland, 325 SE 3rd Terrace, Deerfield Beach, spoke in support of the two-year contract, so a more thorough study can be conducted.

Scott Blanco, 801 SE 11th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, commented on the feasibility study. Thereafter, he stated that the Town of Jupiter is having issues staffing their new fire department. Further, he spoke in support of the two-year contract and the additional study.

Josh Conver, 3159 Deer Creek Lake Shore Drive, Deerfield Beach, commented on the feasibility study, previous transitions, inflation, non-working fire hydrants, and fire station maintenance.

Katy Freitag, 418 SE 2nd Street, Deerfield Beach, said the City Manager has thoroughly reviewed the contracts, as he's done in years' past. Further, the two-year contract may be an opportunity for the City to receive all the facts and figures, but reiterated that the details outlined in the contracts must be thoroughly reviewed. Thereafter, she commented on the BSO invoices, specifically the cost for overtime.

John Slattery, 1455 SE 5th Place, Deerfield Beach, spoke in support of the two-year contract. Thereafter, he commented on the infrastructure, fire hydrants, and current public safety personnel.

Kelly Fay, 607 SE 7th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, said she currently pays \$12,000 a year in taxes and expressed frustration with taxpayers having to fund this transition. Thereafter, she spoke in support of the two-year contract.

Jonathan Ounjian, 1938 NE 6th Street, Deerfield Beach, commented on issues he's had with the BSO and said bringing services in-house may offer better accountability. Further, he expressed confusion with the two-year contract extension, as we are currently in a two-year transition period, so signing an additional two-year extension would effectively extend the timeline. He stated that while he supports fair pay for all, he believes the BSO may be too top-heavy. Lastly, having local control over services would be beneficial.

Mayor Drosky closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Hudak stated that he appreciates the public feedback he has received. Further, after reviewing the January 6th commission meeting, it was clear that no subject matter expert can reliably predict the future costs of public safety. He stated that the City's consultant, with more than 30 years of experience, projected 20-year savings estimates ranging from \$923 million to \$400 million, a significant variance. The Sheriff, despite extensive experience and financial resources, was unable to confidently commit to honoring a fixed two-year contract due to the uncertainty of future costs. The uncertainty in future costs is largely due to the fact that nearly 90% of public safety expenses are labor-related and rising rapidly. Commissioner Hudak stated that the purpose of a contract is to provide mutual certainty regarding staffing, assets, and financial obligations; whereby, entering into an agreement that may not be honored undermines the purpose of such an agreement. Thereafter, he commented on the Sheriff's previous comments regarding staffing and retention challenges, which further support the need for Deerfield Beach to consider bringing services in-house to gain direct control over pay, benefits, and working conditions, rather than remaining part of a regional compensation structure serving multiple jurisdictions and county facilities. Commissioner Hudak briefly outlined the rationale for contracting law enforcement services with the BSO in 1990. Thereafter, he

DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS - CONTINUED

commented on the success of Deerfield Beach's Ocean Rescue Department, and stated that the City can operate elite public safety services through strong leadership, professional staffing, and consistent support.

Vice Mayor Preston temporarily left the meeting at 10:03 p.m. and returned at 10:05 p.m.

Continuing, Commissioner Hudak explained that the majority of Broward County residents are serviced by municipal police and fire departments rather than the BSO and outlined examples of cities that effectively manage their own services while maintaining cooperative relationships with the BSO for specialized regional resources. Thereafter, various graphs were displayed. Commissioner Hudak stated that Deerfield Beach does not have the option to contract separately for law enforcement and fire rescue and must either contract both services to the BSO or operate both in-house. Further, he expressed concerns with recent BSO labor studies, which reflected potential double-digit cost increases, equating to millions of dollars in additional expenses for the City. He stated that, even under contract, the City would still be subject to rising costs over which it would have little control. He explained that cities operating their own public safety departments have the ability to structure compensation, benefits, and staffing in ways that align with their priorities and financial planning. Lastly, Commissioner Hudak stated that, given the size, capacity, and leadership, Deerfield Beach is positioned to responsibly establish its own law enforcement and fire rescue departments; this will allow the City to manage long-term financial planning, ensure accountability, and maintain public safety through direct local oversight rather than continuing to accept unpredictable cost increases.

Commissioner Shanetzky said he has the utmost respect for the City Manager and the Director of Public Safety for thinking big and thanked them for their efforts; however, the City needs sufficient time to review and assess as much information as possible, as this decision directly affects the residents of Deerfield Beach, as well as those who work, drive, and shop in the community. He stated that the public has a right to fully evaluate the available information and explained that the feasibility study did not address all of the necessary considerations. Thereafter, he commented on his father's service in World War II and the October 2025 flood event, which he believes highlighted shortcomings in emergency preparedness and response. Further, he expressed concerns with staff being overextended, the dilapidated public safety infrastructure, and questioned whether the City currently has the capacity to undertake such a significant new responsibility. Commissioner Shanetzky stated that Deerfield Beach is not well positioned at this time to assume this undertaking. Thereafter, he commented on the SW 10th Street Project, discussions he has had with fire rescue personnel, and the potential impacts from the elimination of property taxes. Lastly, Commissioner Shanetzky stated that his main priority is ensuring the safety of Deerfield Beach, and at this time he does not feel confident bringing services in-house.

Commissioner Plaut stated that, as an elected official, he serves the interests of all residents, not just those in District 4. As the Commission prepares to vote after six months of meetings and discussion, he expressed disappointment with the nature of the public discourse, as he believes it has been one-sided, which has made many residents feel hesitant or intimidated about speaking publicly at meetings or online. He stated that many residents, community leaders, and individuals he has encountered at events have expressed concerns that the current path forward could lead to financial uncertainty and reduced local control over public safety. He referenced the concept of the "silent majority," stating his belief that many residents want change and understand that the City currently does not control the hiring, staffing, or supervision of the personnel who patrol their neighborhoods. Thereafter, he briefly commented on an interaction he had with the previous city-owned police department. He stated that leadership must act on the wishes of the broader community, even when decisions are difficult.

Continuing, Commissioner Plaut stated that county-level agencies are intended to provide specialized regional resources that no single city could independently afford, and that those services, i.e. aviation, SWAT, etc. are available to all municipalities regardless of whether they operate in-house departments. Thereafter, various graphs were displayed. He explained that Deerfield Beach is the tenth largest city in Broward County and that the larger cities operate their own public safety departments, with the exception of Pompano Beach who currently contract law enforcement services with the BSO. He stated that municipalities with in-house services have greater control over staffing and operations and disputed claims that an in-house department would rely solely on inexperienced personnel. He reiterated that a majority of Broward County residents are serviced by municipal police and fire departments. He stated that Deerfield

DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS - CONTINUED

Beach is well positioned to make this transition, particularly given the existing transition period and the experience of the City Manager and Director of Public Safety. Furthermore, the City already owns its police and fire stations, vehicles, and equipment, which will require maintenance regardless of the service model. He also expressed disappointment that the BSO indicated it would only contract for both services together, which he believes complicates the City's options. Lastly, he said Deerfield Beach has an opportunity to chart a new course by establishing its own police and fire departments, which will allow for greater transparency and accountability. He urged the BSO to provide continued cooperation during the transition and encouraged his colleagues to move forward with confidence in the City's ability to manage its own public safety services.

Vice Mayor Preston thanked everyone who attended and shared their views. He advised his colleagues that the responsibility before this commission is to make the right decision for the residents of Deerfield Beach, not for historical reasons, but for what best serves the community today. He stated that it is not often that so many residents come forward at once to ask to be heard, and he emphasized the importance of truly listening, not only to the words spoken, but to the concerns and emotions behind them. He said the message he heard from many speakers was a plea to protect the City from harm. He explained that elected officials have a duty to listen to their constituents, even when agreement is not always possible, because that is what builds trust and credibility in government. If this commission makes the wrong decision, there will be consequences at the ballot box, as residents expect their leaders to act in their best interest. Further, he said he gives greater weight to those who take the time to attend meetings and speak, as they are actively engaged in the process, rather than the "silent majority."

Continuing, Vice Mayor Preston stated that there may be an appropriate time in the future to seriously consider bringing police and fire services in-house, but questioned whether the City is currently in the best position to undertake such a significant responsibility. Thereafter, he commented on purchasing a home, and stated that while ownership may be desirable, timing and financial readiness are critical. Vice Mayor Preston stated that establishing in-house public safety departments would be a major undertaking and clarified that the City does not own all of the equipment currently used, which would represent a substantial additional cost. He reminded the Commission that he was the one who requested the feasibility study in order to evaluate the numbers objectively and asked that emotions be set aside in favor of careful analysis. He explained that at the January 6th commission meeting, it was decided to delay the vote due to a lack of information; therefore, he asked if sufficient new information has since been provided to eliminate those concerns. He stated that the Commission's primary obligation is to determine what is best for the residents at this time; therefore, he spoke in support of approving the two-year contract extension as it provides the safest and most fiscally responsible path forward and allows the City additional time to gather information, stabilize costs, and make a well-informed decision without placing residents at financial risk.

Thereafter, Vice Mayor Preston made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shanetzky, to accept the BSO two-year extension.

Prior to the vote, Mayor Drosky spoke.

Mayor Drosky thanked residents for attending and for reaching out to him throughout the process, whereas, this discussion has been ongoing for nearly ten months. Although there are strong and differing opinions surrounding the issue, he stated that the decision before the Commission is whether to remain in a BSO contract structure that exposes the City to long-term, escalating costs it cannot control, or to pursue local control as a more sustainable path forward. He explained that under the BSO model, the City has limited authority over staffing, compensation, benefits, and operational decisions, while still bearing the full financial impact of cost increases. A municipal model would require careful planning and initial investment, but would provide direct accountability, local control, and the ability to manage costs responsibly over time while maintaining or enhancing service levels. He stated that this is not a decision for change for its own sake, but rather about whether Deerfield Beach should govern its own future or remain subject to an external cost structure. Mayor Drosky said his decision is based on facts rather than emotion or politics. Thereafter, he commented on the time he's spent reviewing information on his own and with various individuals and entities, and after considering all perspectives, he is focused on what is in the best interest of the City's 87,000 residents.

DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS - CONTINUED

Continuing, Mayor Drosky explained that Deerfield Beach previously operated its own police and fire departments before transitioning law enforcement to the BSO in 1990 and fire rescue in 2011, largely due to cost concerns at the time. Since that time, the City has grown substantially and is now the 10th largest city in Broward County and among the largest in the State, making its needs different from those of smaller municipalities that rely on the BSO model. He commented on the structural limitations within Florida's system that affect how sheriff's offices are funded, stating that costs are passed through to contracting municipalities, which he believes contributes to escalating expenses. Mayor Drosky explained that the feasibility study confirmed that establishing in-house departments is achievable and supported by extensive documentation and a detailed transition plan that he has reviewed in depth. He expressed confidence that public safety would not be compromised during such a transition and rejected the notion that service levels would decline, stating that regional assets and mutual aid would remain available.

Moreover, Mayor Drosky commented on his discussions with other municipalities, including Jupiter, who is currently transitioning on time, under budget by \$21 million, and experiencing no issues with recruiting. He stated that Deerfield Beach has the leadership, staffing, and community support necessary to undertake this effort. Additionally, Deerfield Beach has the support and guidance of its sister cities. Lastly, Mayor Drosky stated that Deerfield Beach is well positioned to establish its own police and fire departments that will reflect the City's values and priorities. He encouraged the Commission to act in the best interest of the residents by moving forward with local control of public safety services and stated that the City is capable of meeting the challenges ahead.

MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Preston, seconded by Commissioner Shanetzky, to approve a two-year contract with the BSO. Roll Call:

Yeas: 2 - Commissioner Shanetzky & Vice Mayor Preston

Nays: 3 - Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Plaut, and Mayor Drosky

The motion failed by 2-3 vote.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Hudak, seconded by Commissioner Plaut, to begin the process of establishing the City of Deerfield Beach police and fire. Roll Call:

Yeas: 4 - Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Plaut, Commissioner Shanetzky, and Mayor Drosky

Nays: 1 - Vice Mayor Preston

COMMENTS BY ADMINISTRATION & LEGAL

CITY ATTORNEY - *None.*

CITY MANAGER - *None.*

COMMENTS BY MAYOR & CITY COMMISSION**COMMISSIONER HUDAK****DISTRICT 1**

MLK Events - Commissioner Hudak briefly commented on the events. Thereafter, he thanked everyone involved.

COMMISSIONER SHANETZKY**DISTRICT 3**

Century Village - Commissioner Shanetzky said a free CPR class will take place at the West Community Center on January 26th. Thereafter, he commented on the Century Village election.

Crystal Lake - Commissioner Shanetzky said improvements are being made to the sidewalks and traffic calming devices are being installed.

Meadows at Crystal Lake - Commissioner Shanetzky commented on the Health Fair.

COMMENTS BY MAYOR & CITY COMMISSION - CONTINUED

Public Safety Services - Commissioner Shanetzky said as the City moves forward, he wants to do what is best for his constituents; therefore, he will ensure in-house public safety services are successful.

COMMISSIONER PLAUT**DISTRICT 4**

MLK Events - Commissioner Plaut briefly commented on the events, which he thoroughly enjoyed and was grateful to be a part of.

VICE MAYOR PRESTON**DISTRICT 2**

MLK Events - Vice Mayor Preston thanked everyone who participated. Further, he asked that events be marketed throughout the City and requested that multiple announcements be made prior to the keynote speaker taking the stage.

BSO Patrolling - Vice Mayor Preston said regardless of the comments that have been made, patrolling does occur in District 2.

Packer Rattlers - Vice Mayor Preston said the banquet was a huge success. Thereafter, he commented on the importance of getting the youth involved.

Public Safety Services - Vice Mayor Preston stated that although he does not agree with the outcome and was on the opposing side, he believes this commission made its decision based on what is best for the City. Further, he will do everything he can to ensure the success of in-house services, as their success is critical to the City's well-being.

MAYOR DROSKY

Thank You - Mayor Drosky thanked everyone for coming out and for expressing their opinions.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no additional business to discuss.

MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Preston, seconded by Commissioner Hudak, to adjourn the meeting at 11:18 p.m. Voice Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Commissioner Hudak, Commissioner Plaut, Commissioner Shanetzky, Vice Mayor Preston, and Mayor Drosky

Nays: 0

CITY OF DEERFIELD BEACH

TODD DROSKY, MAYOR

Heather Montemayor, CMC, City Clerk