



Meeting Minutes City Commission

Tuesday, February 3, 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 7:02 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

There was a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

Regular City Commission Meeting Minutes - January 6, 2026

MOTION was made by Commissioner Plaut, seconded by Commissioner Hudak 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

Municipal Firefighters Pension Fund Meeting Minutes - October 13, 2025
Community Appearance Board Meeting Minutes - November 25, 2025
Charter Review Board Meeting Minutes - December 18, 2025

MOTION was made by Commissioner Hudak, seconded by Vice Mayor Preston, 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

February 3, 2026

MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Preston, seconded by Commissioner Hudak, 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 Appreciation presented to Maria Bergstein for her exceptional generosity and dedication to serving children and families throughout South Florida.

Vice Mayor Preston presented a certificate to Ms. Bergstein for her exceptional generosity to the community.

Ms. Bergstein thanked the City for the recognition. Thereafter, she provided a brief overview of her non-profit, Friends of Sammy.

2. Certificate of Recognition presented to Jarvis Brunson for his outstanding efforts and commitment to the Stanley Terrace community garden.

Vice Mayor Preston presented a certificate to Mr. Brunson for his efforts and commitment to the community.

Mr. Brunson thanked the City for the recognition. Thereafter, he provided a brief overview of the importance of the Stanley Terrace community garden.

3. Certificate of Recognition presented to the Martin Luther King Parade Winners.

Mayor Drosky announced the Martin Luther King Parade winners.

Thereafter, staff presented each winner with a trophy.

4. Certificate of Recognition to be presented by Captain Hofstein to BSO Law Enforcement staff.

Captain Hofstein, BSO District X, recognized various law enforcement staff for their ongoing efforts with keeping the community safe.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dan Herz, 330 SE 19th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, commented on the January 20, 2026 commission meeting. Thereafter, he expressed concerns with the public safety study that was conducted by the Center for Public Safety.

Beth Anderson, 47 Oakridge E, Deerfield Beach, expressed concerns with the amount of traffic on the Hillsboro bridge. Thereafter, she asked that the Commission encourage the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to install guard rails on the bridge to enhance public safety.

Peggy Ross, 109 NE 19th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, suggested that a bicycle rack be installed near the Pier. Additionally, she requested that the City's electric vehicle charging stations be regulated by Ordinance, as non-electric vehicles are currently permitted to park in those designated spots.

John Slattery, 1455 SE 5th Place, Deerfield Beach, outlined the length of time other municipalities have maintained their own police and fire departments. Thereafter, he commented on Lauderhill, Boynton Beach, and Deltona.

Donna Capobianco, 2157 Cambridge G, Deerfield Beach, commented on the events that transpired during the public safety workshops, as well as the January 6th & 20th commission meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT - CONTINUED

Sean Clark, 1030 Veleiros Blvd., Deerfield Beach, expressed concerns with the school zone speed cameras.

Valerie Rounkles, 278 SW 8th Court, Deerfield Beach, expressed concerns with the street light outages near the Tivoli Sand Pines Preserve. Additionally, she asked that another trash can be added to the area.

Joseph Cummings, 267 Oakridge P, Deerfield Beach, commented on previous actions made by the Sheriff, as well as the public safety workshops. Thereafter, he stated that the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) is no longer affordable.

April Bolowich, 899 NE 4th Street, Deerfield Beach, commented on the decision that has been made regarding public safety services and asked that the Commission reconsider the Sheriff's two-year extension, so a more comprehensive study can be conducted.

Bernie Parness, 3074 Harwood F, Deerfield Beach, expressed concerns with the Sheriff breaking the contract. Thereafter, he commended the Commission for their decision.

Sandra Jackson, 386 SW 35th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, expressed concerns with the hours for the school zone speed cameras. Further, she requested that staff implement an on-call system to ensure that water services can be restored promptly for residents who make late payments. Thereafter, she congratulated law enforcement for their efforts, and urged the Commission to make a more informed decision. Lastly, she spoke in support of the Governor removing property taxes.

Lynn Kough, 220 NE 8th Terrace, Deerfield Beach, commented on her tenure as a Deerfield Beach resident. Thereafter, she commented on public safety services.

Jonathan Ounjian, 1938 NE 6th Street, Deerfield Beach, commented on the electric vehicle charging stations, as well as the school speed zone cameras.

Gloria Battle, 1240 SW 6th Way, Deerfield Beach, thanked those on the dais for making informed decisions. Thereafter, she asked that the Commission explore the possibility of increasing class sizes at the senior center to accommodate greater participation.

Jason Siracusa, 1221 SE 14th Court, Deerfield Beach, expressed concerns with bringing public safety services in-house.

Janet Castrogiovanni, 1523 E. Hillsboro Blvd., Deerfield Beach, expressed concerns with bringing public safety services in-house. Thereafter, she asked that the Commission reconsider.

Peggy Noland, 325 SE 3rd Terrace, Deerfield Beach, expressed concerns with the decision that has been made regarding public safety services. Thereafter, she urged the Commission to reconsider their decision until Pompano Beach presents their study.

Joe Hines, 559 NW 47th Terrace, Deerfield Beach, commented on the defined pension plan for the City's former fire department.

Howard Noland, address not provided, commented on the defined pension plan, as well as the transition to the BSO in 2011, which was a savings. Thereafter, he expressed concerns with bringing services in-house.

Joe Chancy, 4250 NE 4th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, stated that contracts should be strictly adhered to for budgetary purposes. Thereafter, he expressed dissatisfaction with NE 3rd Avenue and stated that although accidents have significantly decreased, the area is not aesthetically pleasing.

James Cahn, 621 NW 46th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, expressed confusion with the outrage over the school speed cameras. Thereafter, he urged the community to adhere to the speed limit. Further, a decision has been made regarding public safety services; therefore, he asked that the community move forward in a positive direction.

PUBLIC COMMENT - CONTINUED

Michael Tumminello, 1429 SE 6th Street, Deerfield Beach, commented on his tenure as a firefighter. Thereafter, he urged the Commission to reconsider their decision.

Susan Page, 13 SW 11th Court, Deerfield Beach, asked that the Commission reconsider their decision. Thereafter, she commented on her daughter, who works for the Fort Lauderdale police department.

Julie Rodriquez, 150 SE 7th Street, Deerfield Beach, asked when a decision will be made.

CONSENT - AGREEMENTS & EXPENDITURE REQUESTS

5. Resolution 2026/008 - A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Deerfield Beach, Florida, approving a first amendment to the contract with Kenco Sign and Awning LLC for the installation of the two monument signs within the City to extend the substantial completion date to May 5, 2026, and final completion date to June 5, 2026; authorizing execution of the Amendment; providing for implementation and an effective date.
6. Resolution 2026/009 - A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Deerfield Beach, Florida, approving a reciprocal use agreement with the St. Ambrose Catholic Church and School for the reciprocal use of facilities for a three-year term; authorizing execution of the Agreement; providing for implementation and an effective date.
7. Resolution 2026/010 - A Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Deerfield Beach, Florida, approving a license agreement with Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless for continued use of approximately 494.5 square feet of ground space for Verizon's communications equipment and above ground space on the City's Water Tower located at 570 South Powerline Road; authorizing execution of the License Agreement; and providing for 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.

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

COMMENTS BY ADMINISTRATION & LEGAL

CITY ATTORNEY - *None.*

CITY COMMISSION BUSINESS

8. Discussion and potential action regarding waiving the fee for sightseers on the International Fishing Pier.

Greg Warner, Director of Parks & Recreation, highlighted a PowerPoint presentation. He explained that from October 1, 2023 to June 1, 2024, there were 88,067 sightseers and 14,355 fishermen. A 12-month projection showed 132,096 sightseers, with 88% being non-residents, and 21,533 fishermen. Furthermore, the total revenue for those eight months was \$230,420, with the 12-month projection being \$345,630. Thereafter, he outlined charges for various other piers. Mr. Warner outlined the potential revenue impacts based on the fiscal year 2024 12-month projection: full waiver of all sightseers - \$264,192; full waiver of all resident sightseers - \$31,703; \$1 waiver for all based on Grow Deerfield Card - \$132,096; and \$1 waiver for residents based on Grow Deerfield Card.

CITY COMMISSION BUSINESS - CONTINUED

In response to Commissioner Hudak's question, Mr. Warner replied that he is unsure if the resident card in other municipalities is free.

Commissioner Hudak made the following recommendations: sightseeing (standard fee) - resident - \$2; military/1st responder - \$1; non-resident - \$3; and military/1st responder - \$2. Sightseeing (discount card fee) - resident - \$1; military/1st responder - \$0; non-resident - \$2; and military/1st responder - \$1. Fishing (standard fee) - resident - \$4; military/1st responder - \$3; non-resident - \$6; and military/1st responder - \$4. Fishing (discount card fee) - resident - \$3; military/1st responder - \$2; non-resident - \$4; and military/1st responder - \$3.

Commissioner Shanetzky made the following recommendations: sightseeing for residents - no charge; non-residents - \$3; and fishermen - \$5. Further, he asked that staff look into a fishing clinic.

Vice Mayor Preston stated that if money is going to be taken away, it will create a shortfall. Thereafter, he commented on his experiences at other piers, and stated that Deerfield's current prices are fair; nonetheless, he welcomed additional suggestions.

Commissioner Plaut agreed with increasing fishermen to \$5, as it would help with the deficit should the Commission decide to reduce the sightseeing fee. Although he likes the idea, he spoke in opposition of incorporating the discount card, as he believes it would create unnecessary complications.

Mayor Drosky said he wants visitors to have a good experience when they come to Deerfield Beach; whereby, implementing multiple entry fees could complicate the overall experience for both visitors and employees. Thereafter, he agreed with the Vice Mayor, as the current prices are fair.

In response to Commissioner Hudak's question, Mr. Warner replied that the current fee for fishermen is the same for residents and non-residents; therefore, it cannot be differentiated.

Commissioner Hudak spoke in support for offering a discounted sightseeing fee for residents.

Vice Mayor Preston spoke in opposition to increasing the price for fishermen and reiterated that the current prices are fair.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hudak, seconded by Vice Mayor Preston, to keep the fees as is.

Prior to roll call, Mayor Drosky opened the public hearing.

John Slattery, 1455 SE 5th Place, Deerfield Beach, thanked the Commission for the commentary.

Dan Herz, 330 SE 19th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, recommended waiving all fees. Thereafter, he stated that the current pier restaurant lessee is not paying any rent.

Joseph Cummings, 267 Oakridge P, Deerfield Beach, spoke in support of waiving the sightseeing fee for residents.

Greg Havlusch, 9077 SE 13th Street, Deerfield Beach, spoke in support of waiving the sightseeing fee for residents. Thereafter, he commented on a conversation he had with a local business owner, who indicated that business has been booming as a result of the free pier admission.

Jonathan Ounjian, 1938 NE 6th Street, Deerfield Beach, spoke in support of waiving the sightseeing fees for residents. Thereafter, he commented on the pier restaurant.

Beverly D'Amico, 39 Tilford B, Deerfield Beach, spoke in support of waiving the sightseeing fees for residents.

James Cahn, 621 NW 46th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, recommended charging \$1 for sightseeing and \$4 for fishermen. Thereafter, he stated that Pompano Beach does not offer free admission to fishermen; however, it does provide free access to Veterans, which he supports.

CITY COMMISSION BUSINESS - CONTINUED

Joe Chancy, 4250 NE 4th Avenue, Deerfield Beach, commented on Pompano Beach's fees. Thereafter, he said offering incentives, i.e. free admission, would help attract more people to the area.

Mayor Drosky closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Plaut spoke in support of waiving the sightseeing fee for residents, and charging \$2 for non-residents and \$5 for fishing.

Commissioner Shanetzky suggested tabling this item and asked that staff investigate the costs for fishing clinics and guided fishing expeditions, as it would help offset costs.

Vice Mayor Preston spoke in support of free admission for sightseeing and fishing for Veterans, police officers, and firefighters. Thereafter, he agreed with tabling this item, so additional research can be conducted.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Hudak, seconded by Vice Mayor Preston, to waive the sightseeing fee for first responders, Veterans with ID, and residents; non-residents \$2; and fishing \$4. Roll Call:

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

Nays: 0

Anthony Soroka, City Attorney, stated that the fee resolution will be brought forward at the next meeting.

COMMENTS BY ADMINISTRATION & LEGAL - CONTINUED**CITY MANAGER**

SE 8th Avenue Drainage Project - Rodney Brimlow, City Manager, stated that informational literature regarding the project will be distributed this week. Thereafter, he provided a brief overview of the contents.

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

Broward Days - Commissioner Hudak provided a brief overview of the events and meetings he attended.

Urban Land Institute (ULI) - Commissioner Hudak stated that the public input session regarding the discussion of Article XI. Beach Development will occur on Wednesday, February 11th and the findings and recommendation will be presented on Thursday, February 12th; both events will take place at the Tigner Center.

Pioneer Days - Commissioner Hudak stated that the event will occur Saturday, February 14th and Sunday, February 15th. He urged everyone to participate.

COMMISSIONER SHANETZKY**DISTRICT 3**

Public Safety Services - Commissioner Shanetzky stated that creating new departments cannot be compared to municipalities that have maintained in-house services for many years, as those cities already have established budgets, equipment, staffing, infrastructure, etc. Further, he said Pembroke Park and Southwest Ranches, both smaller municipalities, recently brought services in-house; however, they were ultimately unable to sustain those services and had to merge with other cities. Commissioner Shanetzky stated that the assessment fees are higher in municipalities that provide in-house public safety services. Thereafter, he stated that his constituents want to know how the City will be paying for public safety services.

Mayor Drosky stated that the City will not be hiding anything during this process and intends to be as transparent as possible. Further, he advised that beginning February 17th, city staff will provide updates at

COMMENTS BY MAYOR & CITY COMMISSION - CONTINUED

every commission meeting to ensure that everyone remains aligned and fully understands the City's position in the process; nonetheless, he urged his colleagues to direct any questions to city staff, so they can be properly addressed.

Rodney Brimlow, City Manager, agreed, and asked that the Commission send their questions to him, so they can be answered during the presentation.

Century Village - Commissioner Shanetzky commented on the free CPR at the West Community Center that took place on January 26th. Thereafter, he commented on other upcoming events.

COMMISSIONER PLAUT**DISTRICT 4**

Broward Days - Commissioner Plaut provided a brief overview of the events and meetings he attended. Thereafter, he commended Jonathan Salas, Director of Community Services, for his efforts.

Dunn's Run - Commissioner Plaut thanked everyone for their efforts.

Marine Science Center - Commissioner Plaut briefly commented on his tour. Thereafter, he expressed excitement, as this facility will be a great addition to the City.

VICE MAYOR PRESTON**DISTRICT 2**

MLK Blvd. - Vice Mayor Preston stated that the decorative lights are out.

District 2 Meeting - Vice Mayor Preston said the meeting will occur on February 19th at 7:00 p.m. at the Hillsboro Technology Center (s/b Tigner Center).

Public Safety Services - Vice Mayor Preston stated that he was on the opposing side, which was difficult because he agreed with the two-year extension; nonetheless, the vote is in the past and the City must now come together. He explained that disagreement should not divide the community, and losing a vote does not eliminate future options, as many important decisions still lie ahead. He made it clear that rooting against the City is never an option and although he opposed the vote, he is committed to supporting the City's success and its residents. He urged everyone to act with their personal and Christian values, trust each other, and work collaboratively. Vice Mayor Preston stated that he is willing to assist City staff whenever needed and called for unity, cooperation, and shared responsibility rather than finger-pointing.

MAYOR DROSKY

Public Safety - Mayor Drosky agreed with Vice Mayor Preston's stance. Further, he expressed confidence in Deerfield Beach and its residents, and stated that, despite doubts, the City has the talent, spirit, and support needed to succeed. He said there are many in the community rooting for the City, eager for local control, and ready to contribute to its success. This is an opportunity not just for leadership, but for the entire community to come together, show what Deerfield Beach is made of, and ensure that the City thrives for the benefit of all its residents. He stated that the effort is about shared pride, collaboration, and serving the people who call Deerfield Beach home. Lastly, he explained that the process won't be perfect, but the City and its residents will learn together, grow from the experience, and emerge stronger as a community.

Beach Clean-Up - Mayor Drosky thanked Municipal Services, as well as all the volunteers for their efforts.

Sovereign Immunity - Mayor Drosky briefly commented on the Bill. Thereafter, he urged everyone to reach out to their representatives, as this will also negatively impact the City, if approved.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no additional business to discuss.

MOTION was made by Vice Mayor Preston, seconded by Commissioner Hudak, to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 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