

**DeFuniak Springs City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
1350 Baldwin Avenue, City Hall
June 22, 2026**

Mayor B. Campbell called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. followed by the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

The following members were present: Mayor Bob Campbell; Councilmember Todd Bierbaum (Seat 1); Councilmember Josh Sconiers (Seat 2); Councilmember Glen Harrison (Seat 4); Councilmember Danny Cosson (Seat 5).

Also present were City Manager Koby Townsend, City Attorney Clay Adkinson, and City Clerk Madison Lewis.

Absent: Mayor Pro-Tempore Amy Heavilin (Seat 3)

ITEM 2 – PRESENTATION AND/OR PROCLAMATION

2.A. State Representative Shane Abbott – Harbeson Field Local Bill

Representative Shane Abbott informed the Council that the local bill transferring ownership of Harbeson Field from the State of Florida to the City had been signed by the Governor on June 10, 2026. He advised that ownership is expected to transfer within 90 days, allowing the city to pursue grant opportunities previously unavailable due to the City's lack of ownership. Representative Abbott noted that the transfer would benefit future improvements to the field, community center, and fire station located on the property.

2.B. Liberty Partners of Tallahassee – 2026 Legislative Session Overview

Jennifer Green and Tim Parson from Liberty Partners provided an overview of the 2026 Florida Legislative Session including approved legislation affecting local government finances, development regulations, the state budget, and proposed constitutional amendments with potential impacts on local government.

ITEM 3 – CONSENT AGENDA

A. Additions/Deletions to the Consent Agenda

B. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Mayor B. Campbell asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by Councilmember T. Bierbaum and seconded by Councilmember J. Sconiers to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Vote: Councilmember T. Bierbaum, Aye; Councilmember J. Sconiers, Aye; Councilmember G. Harrison, Aye; Councilmember D. Cosson, Aye. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

C. Administration Department

1. City Manager's Monthly Report – May 2026
2. RFP 2026-02-CM – Fire and Police Impact Fee Study and Analysis (Contract)

D. Finance Department

1. Bill Ratification May 2026
2. CR280B Water and Sewer Expansion Project – Final Invoice and Retainage

E. Community Development Department

1. Special Events
 - A. 2026 Christmas Tour of Homes

F. Utilities Department

1. Request to Purchase Water Registers (Budgeted)

ITEM 4 – REGULAR AGENDA

A. Additions/Deletions to the Regular Agenda

B. Approval of the Regular Agenda

Mayor B. Campbell asked if there were any additions/deletions to the Regular Agenda.

City Manager K. Townsend requested that Item **4.C.4** Resolution 2026-09 – Initial Fines for Code Enforcement and Item **4.D.1** 2024-SD-02 – Alden Springs Subdivision be deleted. He then asked for Item **6.A.1** Request for \$5,000 Waiver of Capacity Fees to be moved to **4.C.3** and for Item **9.A.3** Bleachers at Harbeson Field to be moved to **4.C.4**.

Motion made by Councilmember D. Cosson and seconded by Councilmember T. Bierbaum to approve the amended Regular Agenda.

Vote: Councilmember T. Bierbaum, Aye; Councilmember J. Sconiers, Aye; Councilmember G. Harrison, Aye; Councilmember D. Cosson, Aye. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays. Motion carried.

4.C. 1 City Manager K. Townsend – Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Audit

Ryan Tucker and Megan Camp from Purvis Gray presented the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Financial Audit. The city received an unmodified (clean) audit opinion with no material weaknesses or

significant deficiencies reported. Auditors noted substantial improvement in audit findings and commended staff for timely completion of the audit.

Motion made by Councilmember T. Bierbaum and seconded by J. Sconiers to approve Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Audit.

Vote: Councilmember T. Bierbaum, Aye; Councilmember J. Sconiers, Aye; Councilmember G. Harrison, Aye; Councilmember D. Cosson, Aye. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

4.C. 2 City Manager K. Townsend – Operational Audit of City Utility Accounts

City Manager K. Townsend presented engagement letter with Purvis Gray to conduct an operational review of all utility accounts to verify billing accuracy, ordinance compliance, and revenue collection practices. The proposed review includes water, sewer, natural gas, and sanitation accounts, with an optional review of related ordinances and policies.

Motion made by Councilmember T. Bierbaum and seconded by J. Sconiers to approve the engagement letter for the Operational Audit of City Utility Accounts with Purvis Gray.

Vote: Councilmember T. Bierbaum, Aye; Councilmember J. Sconiers, Aye; Councilmember G. Harrison, Aye; Councilmember D. Cosson, Aye. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

4.C. 3 Ben Nyberg – Request for \$5,000 Waiver of Capacity Fees

Ben Nyberg presented a proposal for affordable senior housing developments near U.S. Highway 90 and North 20th Street and requested capacity fee waivers for two potential project sites. Mr. Nyberg also requested a letter of support to the housing authority for project-based vouchers.

Motion made by Councilmember T. Bierbaum and seconded by Councilmember G. Harrison to approve the request for the two waivers not to exceed \$10,000, \$5,000 per project.

Councilmember D. Cosson filled out the conflict form and did not vote.

Vote: Councilmember T. Bierbaum, Aye; Councilmember J. Sconiers, Aye; Councilmember G. Harrison, Aye. 3 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

Motion made by T. Bierbaum and seconded by Councilmember G. Harrison to approve having the Mayor sign a letter of recommendation for the project to the housing authority.

Vote: Councilmember T. Bierbaum, Aye; Councilmember J. Sconiers, Aye; Councilmember G. Harrison, Aye; Councilmember D. Cosson, Aye. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

4.C. 4 Councilmember D. Cosson – Bleachers at Harbeson Field

Councilmember D. Cosson discussed conditions at Harbeson Field, including additional bleacher seating, restroom improvements, water fountain access, and potential use of the former armory building for youth recreation programs.

Coach Elvis Hollingsworth Coach Tyler Elum from Walton County Athletics addressed the Council regarding facility needs and ongoing youth sports activities.

Staff were directed to continue discussions with Walton County regarding potential improvements and funding opportunities, while also moving bleachers from Gene Hurley Park.

4.C. 5 City Manager K. Townsend – 5 Year Strategic Plan Adoption

City Manager K. Townsend presented the final Five-Year Strategic Plan developed through the City's partnership with Raftelis. The plan incorporates input from the City Council, staff, community stakeholders, and leadership workshops and establishes five strategic priorities: fiscal sustainability, a safe and close-knit community, resource management, economic growth, and infrastructure investment.

Motion made by Councilmember J. Sconiers and seconded by Councilmember T. Bierbaum to approve the adoption of the 5 Year Strategic Plan.

Vote: Councilmember T. Bierbaum, Aye; Councilmember J. Sconiers, Aye; Councilmember G. Harrison, Aye; Councilmember D. Cosson, Aye. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

4.C. 6 City Manager K. Townsend – ITB 2026-02-UT – Cellular AMI Natural Gas Solution (Award)

City Manager K. Townsend presented the recommendation to award ITB 2026-02-UT for a cellular AMI natural gas meter reading system to DevTech in the amount of \$187,933. The project includes the hardware, software, and meter registers needed for the system.

Motion made by Councilmember T. Bierbaum and seconded by Councilmember J. Sconiers to award ITB 2026-02-UT to DevTech in the amount of \$187,933.

Vote: Councilmember T. Bierbaum, Aye; Councilmember J. Sconiers, Aye; Councilmember G. Harrison, Aye; Councilmember D. Cosson, Aye. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

4.C. 7 City Manager K. Townsend – Continued Discussion on Non-Ad Valorem Fire Assessment Initial Resolution Rate

City Manager K. Townsend provided information regarding the proposed non-ad valorem assessment process and upcoming deadlines. Council was advised that the matter would return for formal consideration at the next City Council meeting on July 13, 2026.

4.C. 8 City Manager K. Townsend – Request to Close City Hall for 4th for July Holiday Extension

City Manager K. Townsend requested approval to close City Hall on Monday, July 6, 2026, in conjunction with the Independence Day holiday schedule.

Motion was made by Councilmember J. Sconiers and seconded by T. Bierbaum to approve the request to close city hall on July 6th.

Vote: Councilmember T. Bierbaum, Aye; Councilmember J. Sconiers, Aye; Councilmember G. Harrison, Aye; Councilmember D. Cosson, Aye. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion Carried.

ITEM 5 - PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCES

ITEM 6 - REQUEST TO BE ON THE AGENDA

ITEM 7 - CITIZEN COMMENTS

Sara Commander hopes to see everyone for 4th of July festivities.

Dr. Melinda Henderson reminded Council about a historic preservation presentation scheduled at the Chautauqua Building on June 25, 2026, from 5pm to 7pm.

ITEM 8 - CITY ATTORNEY

8.A. 1 City Attorney C. Adkinson - City Manager Annual Performance Evaluation Summary

City Attorney C. Adkinson presented the annual performance evaluation summary for City Manager K. Townsend in accordance with his employment agreement. He reported an overall average score of 7.9, placing the City Manager in the "Exceeds Expectations" category.

Motion made by Councilmember T. Bierbaum and seconded by J. Sconiers to accept the City Manager Annual Performance Evaluation Summary.

Vote: Councilmember T. Bierbaum, Aye; Councilmember J. Sconiers, Aye; Councilmember G. Harrison, Aye; Councilmember D. Cosson, Aye. 4 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion Carried.

ITEM 9 - LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

9.A. 1 Councilmember D. Cosson – Discussion/Direction on Impact to Airport Tenants During Construction

Councilmember D. Cosson discussed concerns raised by airport tenants regarding the upcoming runway closure associated with the runway rehabilitation project. He requested potential rent relief for tenants and businesses impacted by the temporary closure and relocation of aircraft.

City Attorney C. Adkinson reviewed applicable FAA grant requirements and advised that any rent adjustments must comply with federal regulations.

City Manager K. Townsend advised that any reduction in airport revenue could affect airport operations and should be carefully evaluated before any action is taken.

Airport Director A. Lewis-Kent agreed to provide the Council with additional information regarding the number of affected tenants and applicable usage rates.

9.A. 2 Councilmember D. Cosson – Discussion/Direction on Reduction of CRA Rate

Councilmember D. Cosson asked the Council to consider reducing the CRA ad valorem allocation by 50%, stating that he would like a greater share of the revenue to remain with the City for municipal projects.

Mayor B. Campbell noted that, because the City Council also serves as the CRA Board, the Council has greater oversight of how CRA funds are allocated. He further explained that reducing the CRA ad valorem allocation would also reduce the funding the CRA receives from Walton County.

9.A. 3 Councilmember D. Cosson – Asbestos/Concrete Water Pipes

Councilmember D. Cosson requested information regarding the City's plan for replacing the existing asbestos cement water mains.

Councilmember T. Bierbaum explained that the City already has a replacement plan in place and is actively designing the replacement of the existing water mains. He noted that the current pipes remain safe for use while the replacement project is underway.

ITEM 10 - EXECUTIVE COMMENTS

City Manager K. Townsend reported that the Chautauqua Building project is progressing well.

City Manager K. Townsend reported that recent weekend storms resulted in several wastewater spills. He commended City staff for their efforts and prompt response in addressing the incidents over the weekend.

ITEM 11 - COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember G. Harrison congratulated City Manager K. Townsend on his evaluation and the Finance Department on 2 successful audits.

Mayor B. Campbell commended Council and City Staff for the systems that are being put in place and how helpful they will be for the future.

ITEM 12 - ADJOURNMENT

Mayor B. Campbell adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m.



ATTEST:

Madison Lewis

Minutes taken by Madison Lewis, City Clerk
Proper notice having been duly given

Approved:

Bob Campbell
Bob Campbell, Mayor