



# City of Sanibel

800 Dunlop Road  
Sanibel, FL 33957

## Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

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Thursday, June 12, 2025

1:00 PM

BIG ARTS - 900 Dunlop Road

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### Budget Workshop

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting convened at 1:00 p.m.

#### 2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Mayor Miller)

Mayor Miller gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 3. ROLL CALL

**Present:** 5 - Mayor Mike Miller, Vice Mayor Holly Smith, Councilmember Laura DeBruce, Councilmember John Henshaw, and Councilmember Richard Johnson

#### 4. BUDGET DISCUSSION

- a. Agenda Memorandum (Supplement 1)
- b. Online Operating Expense Budget

Deputy City Manager/CFO Steve Chaipel summarized the memorandum included in the agenda packet and provided a brief PowerPoint presentation (to be added to the record).

Discussion ensued regarding the FEMA fund amounts being estimates, contracting with a consultant in the next fiscal year to complete the land development code (LDC) comprehensive update, timelines for grants, Recreation Department revenue sources and programming, and the importance of maintaining and enhancing the shared use path. Council requested reports demonstrating budget revisions by the departments to meet and address strategic goals.

Discussion continued regarding the increase in professional services for the Planning Department, Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) grants being included in the budget, the upcoming steering committees to address the Sanibel Plan Update and the Transportation Master Plan Update, and increased activities and events on the island.

Council inquired as to how the Sanibel Plan update funds were anticipated to be

spent. Planning Director Paula McMichael spoke to the process for the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code updates. Mr. Souza spoke to the perceived scope of the project, including robust public participation, and how the contract would be awarded and funded. Discussion returned to the timelines for the steering committees. Mr. Souza spoke to the contract, appropriation, and process for the update. Discussion continued regarding the need to move forward and to demonstrate the importance of the update and include it in the budget.

Council inquired if there were any projects left out of the budget that need to be recognized. Mr. Chaipel and Mr. Souza spoke to recovery efforts and prioritizing projects as the revenue amounts are considered.

Discussion ensued regarding the primary assessed values come from the condos and resort housing districts, the current damage inventory related to Hurricane Ian, the Recreation Center programming, the budget includes assumptions on inflation, bringing on an ombudsman as a contracted service, and road impact fees. Mr. Chaipel confirmed that the ombudsman is a contract position under the City Manager's budget.

Further discussion ensued regarding Senate Bill 180 (SB180), Senate Bill 250 (SB250), and considering those restrictions while making updates to the land development code. City Manager Souza spoke to the professional services amount not being an estimate but based on costs for like services, noting options would be provided at the July budget workshop.

**c. Online Capital Improvement Plan Budget**

Public Works Director Fred Mittl provided a brief PowerPoint presentation summarizing the Capital Improvement Plan budget. City Manager Souza spoke to the FEMA restriction on the funds for repairs only, not for raising the roads.

Discussion ensued regarding allocation of funding options, needing consensus of direction to move forward, what "milling" is in regard to street maintenance, and consideration of the elevation of the roads in the future.

By consensus, Allocation of Funding Option #1 (using all funds for milling and resurfacing) was selected.

Discussion ensued regarding the storm water master plan update in process, what the grant funds can be used for, moving forward with box culvert project, and where the money has been spent on projects around the island.

Mr. Chaipel spoke to the Planning Commission Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Review Subcommittee having met and approved the CIP plan and requested consensus for the shared use path expenditures for inclusion in the

July 15th agenda. Council concurred.

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public Comment:

- Barbara Joy Cooley - Sanibel Resident - spoke to the purpose of the box culvert being to help the health of the mangroves in Clam Bayou.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.