



City of Sanibel

800 Dunlop Road
Sanibel, FL 33957

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Council

Thursday, September 25, 2025

6:00 PM

MacKenzie Hall - 800 Dunlop Road

Regular Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting convened at 6:00 p.m.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Councilmember Johnson)

Mayor Miller expressed sincerest condolences for the passing of US Army Chief Warrant Officer Andrew Kraus (Sanibel Resident) and led a moment of silence. Councilmember Johnson further expressed condolences for the loss of Officer Kraus, 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. SET THE AGENDA

The agenda was set as published.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Public Comment:

- Marsha Ellis - Heron's Landing - provided documentation to Council to be added to the record relating to nutrient loads of Heron's Landing lake.
- Chet Sadler - Sanibel Resident - recommended revisiting the dark skies regulations, concerns with standing water between the parking lot and beach at the access from Donax.

6. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Proclamation recognizing BIG ARTS for their generous support of the City of Sanibel

Mayor Miller read into record a proclamation recognizing the generous support BIG ARTS provided the City of Sanibel in it's time of need following Hurricane Ian. Lee Ellen Harder, Executive Director, accepted the proclamation and spoke to the honor of being able to provide the space and service. Council members expressed their appreciation to all BIG ARTS Staff, IT Staff, and Board members. Ms. Harder introduced Board Chair Rene Savarise. City Manager Souza spoke concurred with

the expressions of appreciation.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. 2026 Legislative Priorities Discussion (Supplement 2)

City Manager Dana Souza summarized the memorandum included in the agenda packet. Mayor Miller advised the priorities would be presented to the Lee County Legislative Delegation on October 28, 2025.

Discussion ensued regarding support of the priorities as drafted. City Manager Souza noted the priorities would be on the next agenda for final approval.

Public Comments:

- Chet Sadler - Sanibel Resident - expressed support of the proposed priorities

b. Annual School Zone Speed Detection System Report (Supplement 1)

Police Chief William Dalton presented the annual report regarding the school speed zone automated ticketing program.

Discussion ensued regarding providing the report to the state, the process for citations that may go to a hearing, statistics for the extent of the violations, addressing repeat offenders, the intent of the program being achieved, and the expected effects of paying off the equipment. City Manager Souza spoke to providing follow up information and the formal report at a future meeting. There were no public comments from the audience.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Administrative Approval of Plats

RESOLUTION 25-058 OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANIBEL, FLORIDA, GRANTING ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY TO THE CITY MANAGER, OR CITY MANAGER DESIGNEE, TO RECEIVE, REVIEW, PROCESS, AND APPROVE A PLAT OR REPLAT PURSUANT TO SECTION 177.071(a)(1), FLORIDA STATUTES, FLORIDA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Attorney Agnew read into record the title of Resolution 25-058. Planning Director Paula McMichael spoke to the reasoning behind the resolution.

Discussion ensued regarding public comments received regarding the approval process for a specific plat that went to Planning Commission for first review and will be approved at the administrative level for the final approval. Attorney Agnew spoke to the code regulations as they stand, noting the actions taken to make approvals administrative per state guidelines.

Further discussion ensued regarding the impetus of the state regulations, the review process, and if an environmental review would included.

Discussion turned to public comments made regarding the Heron's Landing Lake and how to bring it back to Council. City Manager Souza spoke to the stormwater master plan update including a lake study island wide, noting that not all are publicly owned and projects are being budgeted through the capital improvement projects plan.

Public Comment:

- Marsha Ellis - Heron's Landing Representative - spoke to resolution 23-24

Discussion ensued regarding there being no recourse other than adopting the legislation as directed by the State. Ms. McMichael spoke to the process for following the review as currently in the code and under the state legislation.

Vice Mayor Smith moved, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, to adopt Resolution 25-058.
The motion carried.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

No items were pulled for discussion.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

a. Compensation and Classification Plan

RESOLUTION 25-057 OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANIBEL, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE CITY OF SANIBEL FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 COMPENSATION AND CLASSIFICATION PLAN; AMENDING EXISTING JOB CLASSES AND RECLASSIFICATIONS AS NECESSARY; AMENDING THE SALARY BANDS FOR CERTAIN BARGAINING UNIT POSITIONS; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AMEND JOB DESCRIPTIONS AS NECESSARY TO KEEP SUCH DESCRIPTIONS CURRENT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Attorney Agnew read into record the title of Resolution 25-057.

Vice Mayor Smith moved, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, to adopt Resolution 25-057.
The motion carried.

BUSINESS ITEMS

b. Bank of the Islands request for fifteen (15) total special event permits in 2025

Councilmember Johnson moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Smith, to approve Consent Agenda Business Item 9(b). The motion carried.

10. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. Finance Department Reports
 - i. Quarterly Financial Report for 2nd Quarter Fiscal Year 2025
 - ii. Quarterly Investment Portfolio Report for 2nd Quarter Fiscal Year 2025
 - iii. Quarterly Financial Report for 3rd Quarter Fiscal Year 2025
 - v. Quarterly Investment Portfolio Report for 3rd Quarter Fiscal Year 2025

No discussion was held on the informational items.

11. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Souza spoke appreciation to staff for implementing the budgeting software and introducing higher levels of technology in City services.

12. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No further report.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment:

- Marsha Ellis - Heron's Landing - spoke again to the regulations for the administrative review of plats

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.