



Town of Belleair

901 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
Belleair, FL 33756

Meeting Minutes Town Commission

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

5:30 PM

Town Hall

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. with Mayor Wilkinson presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMISSIONER ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Mayor Michael Wilkinson
Deputy Mayor Tom Shelly
Commissioner Patricia Barris
Commissioner Thomas Kelly
Commissioner Todd Jennings

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

[26-0049](#)

Presentation by Forward Pinellas

Chelsea Favero, AICP-manages the MPO, at Forward Pinellas-Spoke on Forward Pinellas and the merger of the Pinellas Planning Council merger (PPC) with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO); discussed the differences; funding, grant awards, benefits, etc.; must maintain a countywide plan, upcoming legislative action; exploring a merged MPO across the 3 counties: Hillsborough, Pinellas and Pasco.

Deputy Mayor Shelly spoke to supporting the merger.

Discussion: Commissioner Kelly inquired about number of small cities. Deputy Mayor Shelly spoke to suggestions of amending the map, including Pinellas Park.

Commissioner Kelly questioned planning grants and how Belleair can benefit. Ms. Favero addressed. Would need to apply to program.

Deputy Mayor Shelly spoke to not applying for the Indian Rocks Road due to the cost of meeting federal requirements. Ability to apply to phase 1 to add crosswalks, lights and other things to make it safer.

Ms. Favero stated that capital funding can also go toward equipment.

Deputy Mayor Shelly moved to support the merger of Pasco, Pinellas, and Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Seconded by Commissioner Barris.

Aye: 4 - Mayor Wilkinson, Deputy Mayor Shelly, Commissioner Barris, and Commissioner Kelly

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Jennings

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS

Persons are advised that, if they decide to appeal any decision made at this meeting/hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and, for such purposes, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

26-0048 Second Reading of Ordinance 596 Amending Ch 74 - Certified Recovery Residences

Jay Daigneault-Town Attorney-read into the record Ordinance 596 by title only.

Gay Lancaster-Town Manager-staff recommends approval; incorporates amendments.

Deputy Mayor Shelly moved approval of Ordinance 596 on second and final reading. Seconded by Commissioner Barris.

Aye: 5 - Mayor Wilkinson, Deputy Mayor Shelly, Commissioner Barris, Commissioner Kelly, and Commissioner Jennings

CITIZENS COMMENTS

(Discussion of items not on the agenda. Each speaker will be allowed to speak once for a maximum of 3 minutes.)

No citizens comments.

CONSENT AGENDA**26-0053** Approval of May 19, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes**26-0050** Special Relief Permit - July 4th Bike Parade

Commissioner Jennings moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Kelly.

Aye: 5 - Mayor Wilkinson, Deputy Mayor Shelly, Commissioner Barris, Commissioner Kelly, and Commissioner Jennings

GENERAL AGENDA**26-0051** Deputy Mayor Nomination and Vote

Commissioner Barris nominated Deputy Mayor Thomas Shelly. Seconded by Commissioner Kelly.

Aye: 5 - Mayor Wilkinson, Deputy Mayor Shelly, Commissioner Barris, Commissioner Kelly, and Commissioner Jennings

26-0052 Resolution 2026-09: Accepting Grant of Funds

Ms. Lancaster stated this is funding for Indian Rocks Road Phase II; recommending approval; this is for the planning and engineering part of the project; detailed location of project.

Deputy Mayor Shelly moved approval of Resolution 2026-09. Seconded by Commissioner Barris.

Aye: 5 - Mayor Wilkinson, Deputy Mayor Shelly, Commissioner Barris, Commissioner Kelly, and Commissioner Jennings

26-0054

Discussion of CS/HJR 1-F (Property Tax Bill)

Ms. Lancaster provided a brief discussion of the proposed property tax bill and how it will affect the Town of Belleair; gave breakdown of where property tax dollars go; Property values set by Pinellas County appraiser; millage rate; funding of property tax revenue to Belleair, 70% of the Town's budget; spent on public safety; fire contract; spoke on property tax relief, Homestead Exemption and Save Our Homes; provided property tax summary and gave an example resident tax bill; provided breakdown of tax revenue; total property taxes levied; spoke about impact to the Town if the tax bill is passed such as service impacts; impact to the county and school system; permitted uses of property tax revenue; will be posting more information as facts materialize; possible work session on impacts going forward; need to plan and come up with alternative ways to fund.

Deputy Mayor Shelly questioned Town Attorney regarding funding the police force; can we collect a fee. Town Attorney Daigneault stated he could not answer at this time; many municipalities are having the same discussions we are regarding this tax bill; implementing other sources of revenue; his office is working closely with the League of Cities to work through those issues and will provide assistance as needed; he will keep us posted.

Ms. Lancaster spoke on other city managers having discussions every Friday; most cities are going forward with projects that have been started and the county is going forward with its plan for the central county campus as well as most of their capital projects that have been started and on the agenda.

Dan Carpenter-Finance Director- discussed county projects and contracts; stated the bill targets homesteaded property and values; can be a very large impact.

Commissioner Barris questioned Ms. Lancaster about discussing what those impacts will be. Ms. Lancaster stated it was their plan to come forward and have the different departments provide those impacts and possible ways to fund the departments at the Commission meetings; meeting schedules will be published to the public.

Lisa Dexter-resident- spoke on big government overreach; asked why this was happening, where it is coming from and who's idea was it about the property taxes.

Deputy Mayor Shelly stated that Governor DeSantis made the proposal to do away with all of the property taxes; spoke to possible legislative changes to be made.

Commissioner Kelly spoke to his reasons for moving to Belleair; Governor's proposal; citizens need to get involved; very concerned about the proposed bill.

Rick Feinberg-resident-commended staff for the presentation; very difficult to defeat the bill; residents to commit some time and energy to thinking about how to substitute and to carry on; small bedroom community and have small number of commercial properties; opportunity to tap into personal wealth, fundraising and creative solutions to continue on.

Ms. Lancaster thanked staff for the presentation materials.

Patricia Irwin-resident-spoke against the tax bill; concerned about the growth in the area this will cause; questioned ability to handle the growth.

Mayor Wilkinson stated there will be meetings with presentations on how this will affect us, funding opportunities, and what will need to be done; commended staff on presentation; went to the Mayors' Luncheon and there were discussions on ways to keep projects and staffing levels; importance of keep our great staff; spoke on the legislative and council in Tallahassee not understanding what the impact will be on our town; the Commission is very accessible to the residents.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Lancaster spoke to extension for Phase III, delay and financial advisors' recommendation to pull from reserves and borrowing, spoke to appropriations, would like to go ahead and move forward with bid documents in the fall; Deputy Mayor Shelly in support due to inflation; consensus of the Commission to move forward.

Ms. Lancaster spoke to tree trimming; sidewalk replacement; water department responded to a water main break on Poinsettia; thanked the police department for patrol alerting the water department; gate valve program, cleaning for storm preparation being done; solid waste recognition is June 15th-20th; public works and small-town responses; stated August meeting date needs to be moved due to primary election on 18th, Town Hall is the polling place.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Daigneault had nothing to report.

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Barris-nothing to report.
Deputy Mayor Shelly-nothing further.
Commissioner Jennings-nothing to report.
Commissioner Kelly-Nothing to report.

Mayor Wilkinson thanked everyone for coming out tonight and thought the presentation was very informative; wished a happy 4th of July to everyone; commended the Solid Waste and Public Works staff; next meeting is July 21st.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

ADJOURNMENT

No further business; meeting adjourned in due form at 6:38 PM.

TOWN CLERK

APPROVED:

MAYOR