

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
August 20, 2025
3000 Bellemead Drive, Daytona Beach Shores, FL 32118

1. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR

Present: Mayor Nancy Miller, Vice Mayor Michael Politis, Commissioner Chris Conomos, Commissioner Mark Card, Commissioner Stephan Dembinsky

Staff: City Manager Kurt Swartzlander, City Clerk Cheri Schwab, City Attorney Becky Vose, Community Services Director Stewart Cruz, Finance Director Lory Irwin, Economic Development and Public Affairs Director Nancy Maddox, and Public Safety Director Michael Fowler.

2. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK

3. NEW BUSINESS:

A. City Manager Resignation - Next Steps

City Manager Kurt Swartzlander tendered his resignation and will be leaving October 14th. City Attorney Vose instructed the commission to: 1) appoint an Acting City Manager to work closely with Kurt so the transition will be smooth and 2) decide on the recruiting method for the replacement.

COMMISSIONER CHRIS CONOMOS moved, seconded by VICE MAYOR MICHAEL POLITIS to accept the resignation from City Manager Kurt Swartzlander.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5 No = 0).

Yes: Mayor Nancy Miller, Vice Mayor Michael Politis, Commissioner Chris Conomos, Commissioner Mark Card, Commissioner Stephan Dembinsky

VICE MAYOR MICHAEL POLITIS moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER CHRIS CONOMOS to Appoint Michael Fowler as interim City Manager and provide a contract on the next City Commission agenda.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5 No = 0).

Yes: Mayor Nancy Miller, Vice Mayor Michael Politis, Commissioner Chris Conomos, Commissioner Mark Card, Commissioner Stephan Dembinsky

Attorney Vose will work on the contract with Director Fowler. There was discussion on where to advertise for the City Manager position and whether to hire a firm to handle reviewing the resumes. The commission was in agreement that a professional ad needs to be created that describes the city's attributes, minimum qualifications and generous benefit package. There was discussion regarding the region(s) to target with the advertisement. It was mentioned that once the ad was posted, anyone searching the internet for Florida City Manager positions could see it and apply. Although wanting to have the minimum qualifications listed in the advertisement, there was no further discussion on this. Attorney Vose will send sample ads from other cities her firm handles. Mayor Miller requested that Vice Mayor Politis take the lead on the search, and he agreed to do so. The commission felt it was also important to include the Department Directors in the review process. There are local consultants that could assist in the search process.

B. Senate Bill 180 County Request

Mayor Miller provided a short background on the agenda item. During the last legislative session, SB 180 was voted on and signed into law. Many municipalities feel the language in the bill goes against

home rule when it comes to development. The city received a letter from the County Chair asking for support for two proposed amendments to the bill. There are a few cities in the state that have filed a lawsuit against the state. The city does not wish to be included in the lawsuit nor does it support a special session of the legislators.

Audience member Mike Poniatowski spoke. He explained that even though the bill may not affect the city directly, it does affect others in Volusia County. He encouraged the city to join the lawsuit against the state as he wants homeowners to protect home rule.

VICE MAYOR MICHAEL POLITIS moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER STEPHAN DEMBINSKY to support the two amendments proposed by the County of Volusia regarding SB 180 and to allow Mayor Miller to sign a letter of support.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5 No = 0).

Yes: Mayor Nancy Miller, Vice Mayor Michael Politis, Commissioner Chris Conomos, Commissioner Mark Card, Commissioner Stephan Dembinsky

- C. Resolution 2025-14: Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Agreements To Accept Properties Acquired Through The Applicable Housing And Urban Development Community Disaster Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Programs

The City Attorney read the resolution by title only. Community Services Director Stewart Crus explained that the county had received funding to purchase single-family homes in flood-prone areas that had been affected by the recent hurricanes. Even though the city did not have any homes that qualified, the county requested all cities adopt a resolution in support of the program.

VICE MAYOR MICHAEL POLITIS moved, seconded by COMMISSIONER CHRIS CONOMOS to Adopt Resolution 2025-14 on first reading.

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 5 No = 0).

Yes: Mayor Nancy Miller, Vice Mayor Michael Politis, Commissioner Chris Conomos, Commissioner Mark Card, Commissioner Stephan Dembinsky

4. CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS

There were no additional City Attorney comments.

5. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

There were no additional City Manager comments.

6. COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Mayor Miller announced the upcoming free concert on Friday evening. She also reminded the audience that Coffee with the Mayor would start again in September.

7. AUDIENCE REMARKS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no additional audience comments.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting ended at 5:18 pm.

**MAYOR
NANCY MILLER**

**CITY MANAGER
KURT D. SWARTZLANDER**

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK, CHERI SCHWAB