

City of Pembroke Pines, FL

*City of Pembroke Pines
Charles F. Dodge City Center
601 City Center Way
Pembroke Pines, FL 33025*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

6:30 PM

**Regular Commission Meeting, Shade Meeting to Commence
Immediately After Adjournment of Regular Commission Meeting.
Exhibit 2 Was Added to Item No. 14 on 4/15/26.**

Commission Chambers

City Commission

***Mayor Angelo Castillo
Vice Mayor Michael A. Hernandez
Commissioner Thomas Good Jr.
Commissioner Maria Rodriguez
Commissioner Jay D. Schwartz***

6:30 PM REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Mayor Angelo Castillo, Vice Mayor Michael A. Hernandez, Commissioner Thomas Good Jr., Commissioner Maria Rodriguez, and Commissioner Jay D. Schwartz

Also present: City Manager Charles F. Dodge, City Attorney Samuel Goren, and City Clerk Gabriel Fernandez.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Elizabeth Nasser, an assistant Vice President at Baptist Hospital, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The mayor shared that Elizabeth Nasser is a Pembroke Pines resident and an autism advocate whose company has provided the City of Pembroke Pines with \$15,000 to conduct its autism initiative. The mayor expressed his appreciation for her attendance tonight.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The national anthem was performed by Elizabeth Nasser, an assistant Vice President at Baptist Hospital.

AFTER THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

The mayor informed the commission and the audience that Supervisor of Elections Joe Scott will be present on the phone at exactly 7:30 p.m. The mayor thanked staff for organizing his attendance and explained that at 7:30, they will be pausing their business and transferring to item 12 without objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITEMS TO BE PULLED FROM AGENDA

The city clerk indicated that there are no items to be pulled from the agenda.

PRESENTATIONS:

PRE-5

PRESENTATION NO. 5: MAYOR CASTILLO WILL PRESENT A PROCLAMATION TO THE PEMBROKE PINES CHARTER BASKETBALL TEAM, THE JAGUARS', AND THEIR DEDICATED COACHES RECOGNIZING THEM FOR WINNING THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

Mayor Castillo shared that there was greatness in the Commission Chamber and acknowledged the Pembroke Pines Charter High School Basketball team, The Jaguars, for winning the State Championship. The mayor expressed that seeing the team reminded him of his own high school days and congratulated them on their achievement. Mayor Castillo called the team to the front, read their names, and personally congratulated each of them.

Mayor Castillo read the proclamation detailing that the Pembroke Pines Charter High School boys' basketball team, The Jaguars, won their Class 5A state championship on March 13, 2026, winning 52-48 over Fleming Island at the University of North Florida. The mayor shared that the team's head coach, Dave Roca, was honored as coach of the year by the Sun Sentinel, highlighting his leadership, dedication, and impact on student athletes.

The mayor shared that the Jaguars, as well as their coaching staff, have established and demonstrated their sustained excellence. The mayor highlighted that the team has won three state championships over a period of six years. The mayor noted that the team does not excel solely on the court but also in academics, discipline, character, and upholding the values of the city and the high school.

The mayor lauded Pembroke Pines Charter High School, describing it as one of the top-rated charter schools, both in Broward County and the State of Florida, sharing that it is the best high school in the country, and perhaps the best in the world and in the universe as well.

The mayor commended the team's unity and resilience, sharing that they've achieved 7 consecutive victories and that they are an inspiration to the city. Mayor Castillo named the players and the coaching staff:

Coaching Staff: Dave Roca, Mike Diaz, Paul Brown, Michael Opalka, Kelsey Wilkinson, Keleb McLaughin, Kenneth Trueblood.

Players: Anthony Walcott, Adam Starr, Zacuras Dawson, Roman Hughes, Jacob Trenchfield, Isaiah Jenkins, Robert Guishard, Alex Vardakis, Adon Hollingshead, Andre Daniels, Naeem Nasai, Elijah Mobley.

The mayor reiterated his pride in the team and congratulated and recognized the team on behalf of himself and the commission.

The team's representative expressed his astonishment at the growth of the city and of the growth of its educational programs and initiatives. The representative shared that he agreed with the mayor's comments about the school and the city being the best in the world and perhaps the universe. The representative shared that the city's growth does not happen by chance and commended City Manager Charles Dodge for the work he has done to grow and develop the city.

The representative commended the team's parents for the work that they have done, sharing that it is a team effort. The representative shared that he appreciates the trust placed in the coaching staff and administration as they shape their children's lives both in general and as athletes. The representative thanked the Commission, the mayor, and the principal for all of their support.

Mayor Castillo invited the vice mayor to share his remarks, as he attended every one of the team's games.

Vice Mayor Hernandez shared that as miraculous as the Jaguars' victory was, more miraculous was that he convinced Mayor Castillo, who loves baseball, to admit to liking basketball and to attend the team's basketball games. The vice mayor shared that he played basketball in school and made it to the state championship when he played as well. Vice Mayor Hernandez reiterated that this is the team's third state championship victory in six years and expressed that a fifty percent success rate in life or in sports is impressive.

Vice Mayor Hernandez paid tribute to the coaching staff, particularly Head Coach Roca, for the work that he has done. The vice mayor also commended the city manager for proposing to open a high school system in 1999 and recognized him for his hard work. The vice mayor shared that he could not attend the championship due to re-election complications. The vice mayor shared that the game was practically a home game for the Jaguars' opponents, but the Jaguars won by one point with 54 seconds remaining, securing the victory via free throws. The vice mayor noted that 52-48 was the final score and shared that the Miami Herald announced Dave Roca as the Broward County Coach of the Year.

The vice mayor explained that the Jaguars have been in the regional championships for seven consecutive years and that of those seven years, they've advanced to the state championship four times, winning seventy-five percent of the state championships they participated in. Vice Mayor Hernandez commended the players of the year in Broward County, including those from the Jaguars, such as Zacuras Dawson, who

is a Junior.

Vice Mayor Hernandez emphasized that during the aforementioned period of time, over 20 Pines Jaguars have received scholarships to play college basketball. The vice mayor noted that four of those twenty players have played in the March Madness tournament. Vice Mayor Hernandez noted that this year, four players received All-County Recognition: Anthony Walcott, Robert Guishard, Alex Vardakis, and Zacuras Dawson.

The vice mayor shared that Pembroke Pines has both a commission and a charter school system, noting that Pembroke Pines has the largest municipally operated charter school system in the state of Florida and potentially in the country. Vice Mayor Hernandez communicated that he attended a football game with Principal Bayer in which he had to walk through the school's gym.

The vice mayor explained that he played basketball in high school and loved the sport despite his career ending after his senior season due to a combination of his height and shooting ability. The vice mayor expressed that when he walked through the gym, he was reminded of his love for the sport, leading him to keep in touch with Coach Roca and the Principal and to attend as many games as he could, along with the mayor.

Vice Mayor Hernandez congratulated the team once more and noted that it is really hard to do what the team does, as they are students and athletes. The vice mayor shared that it is easy to forget the difficulties associated with being young and reiterated his appreciation and admiration for the Jaguars team. The vice mayor noted that he will be keeping track of the success of the team members and expressed his excitement for the future of the team and its members. The vice mayor thanked the team, the coaches, and the parents.

PRE-1

PRESENTATION NO. 1: THE UM-NSU CENTER FOR AUTISM AND RELATED DISABILITIES (CARD) WILL DESIGNATE PEMBROKE PINES AS AN "AUTISM FRIENDLY CITY" HIGHLIGHTING OUR COMMITMENT TO CREATING MORE ACCESSIBLE SPACES AND MORE POSITIVE INTERACTIONS WITH INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD) AND RELATED DISABILITIES.

Assistant City Manager Christina Goulding opened the presentation by greeting the audience and thanking the mayor, stated her name and position and explained that she serves as one of the assistant city managers in Pembroke Pines, announced that the purpose of the evening presentation was to recognize the City of Pembroke Pines as an autism friendly city, and stated that she would introduce Sue Leper shortly but first wanted to describe how the city reached this point.

Assistant City Manager Christina Goulding explained that in May of the previous year, a member of the city's Diversity Heritage Board, Irving McKenzie, approached her with the observation that the city did not do anything specifically for autism awareness. The assistant city manager explained that she responded confidently that she would take care of it. Assistant City Manager Christina Goulding reported that she made a phone call to her friend Isella and had a brief conversation that developed into further action, stated that this conversation led to Isella contacting Vice Mayor Hernandez with the suggestion that Pembroke Pines should designate itself as an autism friendly city, and explained that the vice mayor subsequently brought that concept to the commission in August where the commission agreed and directed that the initiative be completed.

Assistant City Manager Christina Goulding stated that she and her staff immediately began working on the initiative, recounted that the first step was recognizing that the city already had many relevant programs and resources, and described how they began identifying and gathering what the city was already doing in this area. Assistant City Manager Christina Goulding communicated that she wanted to read from prepared notes to avoid forgetting any details, and explained that the city offers inclusive recreation and cultural arts programs, camps, and adaptive programming through a partnership with the YMCA. The assistant city manager explained that the city supports education and early intervention through programs such as the FSU Charter Elementary School Center for Children with Autism.

Assistant City Manager Christina Goulding reported that the city has created sensory-friendly experiences, including Sensory Saturdays at the Frank Art Gallery, noting that the city has also introduced resources such as the comfort canine Jellybean. The assistant city manager shared that the city fire department is trained and equipped with sensory kits in every rescue unit to assist individuals with autism. Assistant City Manager Christina Goulding added that the city continues to build inclusive community connections through programs such as the Illuminate Heart

initiative at the Southwest Focal Point Senior Center.

Assistant City Manager Christina Goulding stated that the city wanted to build on these efforts and do even more, explaining that she met with her staff members, representatives from CARD, and with Isella to identify additional actions the city could pursue. The assistant city manager reported that since August the city has trained more than one hundred employees in autism awareness and sensory considerations so that staff members are better equipped to serve all residents. Assistant City Manager Christina Goulding communicated that the city partnered with Baptist Health, which donated \$15,000 in support of installing communication boards in twelve playgrounds. She pointed out that a replica communication board was present for attendees to view and stated that she worked to stretch the donated funds as efficiently and frugally as possible. Assistant City Manager Christina Goulding informed the audience that the city introduced new quiet zones at city events, which are designed as low-stimulation areas where individuals can step away from noise and crowds, and announced that the first quiet zone will be implemented at Pines Day the following weekend.

Assistant City Manager Goulding explained that the city also developed social stories for many of the larger city events to help individuals understand what to expect and reduce anxiety. The assistant city manager noted that the city even created a social story for the current event, and reported that plans are being finalized for a new inclusive playground at Silverlakes North Park that builds on the success of the inclusive playground at Memorial Park, so children of all abilities can play together. Assistant City Manager Goulding explained that all these resources have been centralized on a new website to make access easier for residents and families.

The assistant city manager noted that while the present achievement is a milestone it is not a finish line and emphasized the city's commitment to continue improving and growing its resources. Assistant City Manager Goulding offered personal thanks to her staff who committed fully to the project, the city employees who participated in training, CARD for their ongoing support, Isella for her continuous advocacy, and to Mr. McKenzie for originating the idea. Assistant City Manager Goulding concluded by turning the presentation over to Sue Lepri from CARD to formally give the designation.

CARD Representative Sue Lepri thanked the assistant city manager and extended appreciation to the mayor, the vice mayor, the commissioners, and the entire City of Pembroke Pines, stating that the progress was possible because of the initial spark that began the effort, and expressed

that it was an honor to represent the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities. Sue Lepri explained that she has worked at CARD for eleven years under the supervision of Luis Grana and Dr. Carole Zangari, with support from Dr. Michael Allesandri, and expressed that the designation is more than a title and instead reflects the genuine commitment of the city. Ms. Lepri became emotional while explaining that the city is building a community where individuals with autism and their families feel seen, valued, and supported, sharing her excitement at seeing the heart and intention behind what the city is building.

Ms. Lepri explained that the work underway marks only the beginning and that the city will continue to lead the way in imagining inclusive spaces and experiences. Ms. Lepri officially recognized the City of Pembroke Pines as an autism friendly city on behalf of CARD. Ms. Lepri congratulated the city and thanked attendees for having her present.

Mayor Angelo Castillo expressed thanks and proceeded to read the proclamation declaring Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month.

PRE-2

PRESENTATION NO. 2: THE MAYOR WILL PRESENT A PROCLAMATION TO YSELA HEIM, RESIDENT, COMMUNITY LEADER, AND FOUNDER OF SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVOCACY SERVICES, LLC RECOGNIZING APRIL AS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH IN THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES.

Vice Mayor Hernandez shared that autism spectrum disorder is a developmental and neurological condition affecting how individuals perceive the world and interact with others and cited national prevalence rates of one in thirty four to one in fifty nine children. The vice mayor explained that autism is a spectrum with wide variation in individual experiences, and emphasized that with proper education, support, and opportunities individuals with autism can lead meaningful productive lives and reach their full potential. The vice mayor repeated the phrase meaningful productive lives for emphasis.

Mayor Castillo shared that the city must move beyond awareness to champion acceptance by recognizing contributions and removing barriers to education, employment, and community participation, and explained that April is a time to honor parents, caregivers, educators, and health professionals who support individuals on the spectrum. Mayor Angelo Castillo proclaimed April 2026 as Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month in the City of Pembroke Pines and encouraged residents to learn more about autism and promote inclusion, understanding, and support in the community.

Vice Mayor Hernandez invited the commission to join the mayor and himself for the photo, as well as former school board member Patty Good, because of her long-standing advocacy.

Vice Mayor Hernandez then recognized Dr. Maraj from the FSU Charter School campus and asked any students or employees present to stand, thanked them for being present, and explained that some people had asked what the autism friendly designation means. The vice mayor noted that Assistant City Manager Christina Goulding had addressed this earlier and explained that the designation through CARD at the University of Miami is a meaningful milestone reflecting the intentional work the city has been pursuing. The vice mayor communicated that the city is working to create a community where all 172,000 residents feel welcome, supported, and included, sharing that the designation is also a down payment and a long-term commitment. The vice mayor explained that staff is being trained to better understand and support individuals with autism and related disabilities.

Vice Mayor Hernandez stated that the city is examining programs, facilities, and services through an inclusive lens, added that inclusion improves everyday interactions at parks, programs, and city facilities. The vice mayor detailed that all information is available on the website, and emphasized that inclusion is a responsibility of all governments. The

vice mayor communicated that families should feel confident that the City of Pembroke Pines understands their needs and is working to support them and explained that accessible spaces benefit the entire community. The vice mayor shared his anticipation for future enhancements to park programs and public spaces, and noted the increasing opportunities for participation and for public engagement. The vice mayor thanked CARD for an incredible partnership and noted that CARD's expertise ensures that the city's efforts are effective rather than merely well-intentioned.

Vice Mayor Hernandez echoed Assistant City Manager Goulding that this is step one and a comma, not a period and that the work represents a long-term process. The vice mayor sharing that the city is committed to continuing and expanding efforts, and affirmed the goal that Pembroke Pines become a model inclusive community in which every resident feels seen, supported, and able to participate fully. Vice Mayor Hernandez gave special acknowledgement to an advocate and good friend who supports his family and shared that he has received phone calls and text messages, from many including from Miami Dade County Commissioner Raquel Regalado, a strong autism advocate, who asked him to call her and offered support to the city's initiative.

The vice mayor noted that travel from Miami to Broward can feel like traveling to another country and stated that scheduling her visit to a commission meeting is underway. Vice Mayor Hernandez thanked Assistant City Manager Goulding and her team for their leadership and recognized that the city manager and staff have been working on inclusive efforts long before this initiative. The vice mayor offered thanks for everyone's commitment, and communicated that he is on the autism spectrum as a 43 year old adult.

The vice mayor described lifelong challenges, including struggling to read for long periods of time as a child, becoming distracted, and feeling different without knowing why. The vice mayor explained that he later learned he experiences the world differently and that there are advantages to that and that he had untapped potential. Vice Mayor Hernandez noted that many people have reached out to him about the initiative and that the commission unanimously supported it in a five-to-zero vote. The vice mayor commended Assistant City Manager Goulding for not sidelining the issue and for championing it instead. The vice mayor thanked attendees again, and encouraged the community to continue progressing.

PRE-4 PRESENTATION NO. 4: THE MAYOR WILL ANNOUNCE THE WINNERS OF THE PEMBROKE PINES ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ANNUAL "2026 ARBOR DAY" POSTER CONTEST.

Mayor Castillo called Arbor Day participants forward, announcing that participating schools include Pembroke Pines Elementary, Chapel Trail Elementary, Pasadena Lakes Elementary, Pembroke Pines Charter School East Campus, FSU Charter Elementary, Pines Lakes Elementary School, Pembroke Pines Charter School, and West Campus. Mayor Castillo directed the students to stand together and show their awards.

Mayor Castillo announced the names of the winners of the 2026 Arbor Day poster contest, including: Kelvin Rabines, Lucia Hernandez Sanchez, Amanda Pacheco, Stella Fernandez, Savannah Desharnais, Santiago Gallo, Isadora Noisy, Kaia Lewis, Kaylani Calzadilla, Rasec A. Blanco, Sophia Aguilar, Jayda Watson, Zhuri Baptiste-Ramirez, Ava Spector, Serena Caldera, Krista Natino, Sadie Pino, and Jacqueline Manrique.

Mayor Castillo announced that the student artwork is displayed in the City Center lobby, where attendees should view it because it is beautiful and the city is proud of the students. Mayor Castillo organized the students for a group photograph and thanked them and congratulated them.

PRE-6

PRESENTATION NO. 6: MAYOR CASTILLO WILL PRESENT A PROCLAMATION TO CYNTHIA REYNOSO FROM CHILDREN'S SERVICE COUNCIL RECOGNIZING APRIL 2026 AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES.

Mayor Angelo Castillo introduced and read a proclamation declaring April 2026 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the City of Pembroke Pines and communicated that Florida's future depends on the healthy development of children and that adverse childhood experiences, including abuse and neglect, have severe and long-lasting consequences for children, families, and society. The mayor affirmed that every child has the right to a safe, healthy, and happy childhood with support for educational and developmental milestones, and cited research indicating that parents and caregivers with strong support systems and access to resources are more resilient and better equipped to provide safe, nurturing environments. Mayor Angelo Castillo proclaimed April 2026 as Child Abuse Prevention Month together with the city commission. The mayor encouraged residents to support child and family well-being and extended congratulations.

Cynthia Reynoso from the Children's Service Council thanked the mayor for the proclamation on behalf of the Children's Services Council of Broward County and stated that the organization is honored to stand in protection of children, and expressed gratitude for the recognition.

PRE-3

PRESENTATION NO. 3: MAYOR CASTILLO WILL PRESENT A PROCLAMATION TO RAM TEWARI, CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD, RECOGNIZING APRIL 24, 2026 AS ARBOR DAY IN THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES.

Mayor Castillo presented a proclamation recognizing April 24, 2026 as Arbor Day in the City of Pembroke Pines, to Ram Tewari, chair of the environmental advisory board.

Mr. Tewari thanked the mayor, the vice mayor, the city commission, the city administration, the city attorney, and the city clerk, and accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Environmental Advisory Board. Mr. Tewari noted that April is volunteer month and encouraged residents to volunteer, particularly for Water Matters Day and Earth Day. Mr. Tewari described April as a wonderful month and thanked the mayor for recognizing the proclamation.

PRE-7

PRESENTATION NO. 7: MAYOR CASTILLO WILL PRESENT A PROCLAMATION TO AZEEM EONOUS FROM JAMAAT UL MATTAQUEEN RECOGNIZING APRIL 2026 AS MUSLIM AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES FLORIDA.

Mayor Angelo Castillo introduced the next proclamation declaring April 2026 as Muslim American Heritage Month in the City of Pembroke Pines and explained that freedom of religion is a cherished right and a foundational principle of the United States. The mayor affirmed that the city is strengthened by the rich cultural traditions of its diverse population, including Muslim Americans. Mayor Angelo Castillo noted that the history of Islam in the United States dates back before the nation's founding, originating with enslaved Africans who brought their Muslim faith with them. The mayor shared that millions of Muslim Americans contribute to civic life, education, health care, business, public service, and charitable work, and noted that Broward County is home to residents representing more than 200 countries and speaking over 180 languages.

Mayor Angelo Castillo recognized that Muslim American families, students, professionals, faith leaders, and organizations such as Jamaat UI Mattaqueen, under the leadership of Azeem Eoonous, are integral to the community. The mayor shared that Muslim Americans strive to promote peace, understanding, cooperation, and mutual respect, and proclaimed April 2026 as Muslim American Heritage Month. The mayor, together with the city commission, recognized Jamaat UI Mattaqueen for their contributions and urged residents to celebrate the heritage, culture, and achievements of Muslim Americans and to foster unity, inclusion, and respect. Mayor Angelo Castillo invited Azeem to come forward and offered congratulations.

Community Leader Azeem Eoonous thanked the mayor, the commissioners, and the support staff on behalf of Jamaat UI Mattaqueen and the Muslim community living in the city. Mr. Eoonous expressed his deep appreciation for the support the city has provided over the years and recalled that the organization was established in 1997. Mr. Eoonous recounted the earlier conditions in the city, such as limited traffic lanes and unpaved roads, and praised the city for improving the area and providing a strong environment for the practice of their faith. Mr. Eoonous communicated that the community is exceedingly grateful to the mayor, the commission, and the support staff for all they do.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Commissioner Rodriguez requested a moment of silence before continuing the meeting and asked the mayor for permission to proceed. Commissioner Rodriguez shared that Coral Springs Vice Mayor Nancy Metayer tragically passed away on April 1, 2026, and described her legacy of service, compassion, leadership, and purpose. Commissioner Rodriguez explained that she made history as the first Black and Haitian American female commissioner elected to Coral Springs, first elected in 2020 and reelected in 2024, and described her dedication to public service, environmental stewardship, inclusion, and advocacy.

Commissioner Rodriguez emphasized that Vice Mayor Metayer's mission was ensuring that people felt seen, heard, and valued, and that she worked to create a community where everyone had a seat at the table. Commissioner Rodriguez encouraged individuals to honor Nancy by championing sustainability, leading with inclusion, serving with compassion, and making room for others. Commissioner Rodriguez added personal remarks describing Nancy as a good friend who supported young, elected officials, including herself. Commissioner Rodriguez shared that Vice Mayor Metayer gave generously of herself and encouraged many people. Commissioner Rodriguez shared that she would miss her deeply. Commissioner Rodriguez then led a moment of silence.

Mayor Castillo thanked the commissioner for bringing the remembrance forward and described the loss as a horrible tragedy. The mayor remembered the vice mayor as a young, dedicated public servant and shared that she will be greatly missed but always remembered. The mayor expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Rodriguez for honoring her.

VICE MAYOR APPOINTMENT 2026-2027

1. MOTION TO APPROVE DISTRICT 2 COMMISSIONER JAY SCHWARTZ AS VICE MAYOR FOR 2026-2027.

An alternate main motion was made by Vice Mayor Hernandez, seconded by Mayor Castillo, to approve Commissioner Tom Good Jr. as the appointment of the Vice Mayor for the upcoming period. There was no action taken.

A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Good Jr., seconded by Vice Mayor Hernandez, to approve to extend District 4 Commissioner Michael Hernandez's term as Vice Mayor until the first meeting of January 2027. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 3 - Mayor Castillo, Vice Mayor Hernandez, and Commissioner Good Jr.

Nay 2 - Commissioner Rodriguez, and Commissioner Schwartz

Mayor Castillo introduced the item to appoint the next vice mayor, recognized Vice Mayor Hernandez, and thanked him for his year of hard work. Mayor Castillo noted that the Vice Mayor was thrown into the role early in his tenure and rose to the challenge, acknowledging that he balanced responsibilities at home, work, and the city including during two elections. The mayor commended the vice mayor for performing as well as anyone ever has in the role. Mayor Castillo thanked him personally and on behalf of the city commission.

Vice Mayor Hernandez expressed appreciation for the opportunity to have served, sharing that he became vice mayor so early in his service and has since learned a great deal about the role and its responsibilities. The vice mayor moved that Commissioner Good be appointed vice mayor for the coming period.

Mayor Castillo seconded the motion and invited discussion.

Commissioner Good thanked the mayor for the nomination, stated that he was humbled and thankful, and promised to perform with diligence should the commission approve the appointment.

Commissioner Good requested to comment and proposed a substitute motion. The vice mayor communicated that since the commission had recently been discussing moving elections from March to November, the vice mayor selection process should be aligned with election cycles. Commissioner Good asked the city attorney to clarify charter requirements and shared his interpretation that the charter currently specifies the timing for selecting the vice mayor.

City Attorney Goren confirmed that the charter requires a vice mayor and specifies timing as this meeting in April. The city attorney clarified that the city code contains a preference for succession but not a requirement, and offered to provide additional guidance if given time.

Commissioner Good explained that aligning with the November elections would require a charter amendment including changes to vice mayor selection timing. Commissioner Good communicated that such a transition would require someone to serve an extended period in the role. Commissioner Good shared that Vice Mayor Hernandez has done a strong job and has brought valuable contributions and therefore proposed extending Vice Mayor Hernandez's service until November while the commission presents a charter amendment question to voters.

Vice Mayor Hernandez said he was willing to continue serving even though it was unexpected and shared that he had hoped Commissioner Good would take the role.

Mayor Castillo stated that he recommended extending the vice mayor's term only until the first meeting in January and explained that completing the extension earlier would be difficult because the holidays would intervene, and a possible charter question might arise. Mayor Castillo emphasized that January would provide sufficient time for the commission to address all implications and noted that he wanted to point out several additional options. Mayor Castillo explained that he saw three options, including the substitute motion already raised.

The mayor described that one option involved the existence of a vice mayor designate who would become vice mayor if the vice mayor were absent, and stated that this option would apply if a charter change passed. Mayor Castillo explained that voter sentiment might not be predictable and that voters could approve November elections but still want the vice mayor selected in April. The mayor noted that such an outcome was possible, and that the commission could not know the result in advance. Mayor Castillo restated his recommendation that the vice mayor's term be extended through January so that the commission would have flexibility to think through and implement any needed charter changes. Mayor Castillo explained that April had been chosen historically because elections were held in March.

Commissioner Good informed the mayor that he would accept the January recommendation because the substitute motion had not yet been formally made. Commissioner Good explained that he believed the commission would need to draft charter language concurrently with moving the issue forward, and shared that the charter amendment language would determine the actual timing of the election. Commissioner Good explained that he could make the substitute motion using the January time frame and that the charter language in the amendment would ultimately govern when the selection occurs, noting that this approach was fair. Commissioner Good stated that his substitute motion was to allow Vice Mayor Hernandez to continue in the vice mayor role through January while the commission proceeds with the charter amendment and ballot question process, and then formally restated his motion for the record.

The vice mayor stated that he would second the substitute motion.

City Attorney Goren thanked the mayor and commission and responded to Commissioner Good by explaining that the proposed charter

amendment language in item 12 expressly amended section 3.06 of the charter regarding the vice mayor. The city attorney explained that the language changed the selection date from April to December, noting that this change aligned correctly with the commission analysis. City Attorney Goren explained that the proposed amendment would appear on the November 2026 ballot if approved on second reading and noted that the amendment would become effective in 2028. City Attorney Goren emphasized that the language was already included in the proposed ballot text.

Commissioner Good explained that the mayor's suggestion about keeping the extension through January remained relevant in case voters rejected the December reassignment. Commissioner Good stressed that the January cushion would give the commission time to adjust if voters decided they did not want the timing changed. Commissioner Good explained that if the charter were approved, the December date would become firm and override the temporary adjustment.

Commissioner Rodriguez asked whether the commission could shorten a vice mayor's term by appointing someone immediately and then adjusting the term in January once the charter changed. Commissioner Rodriguez noted that this would give someone an eight-month opportunity rather than granting twenty months to the current vice mayor. Commissioner Rodriguez conveyed that while the vice mayor had done a good job, fairness should be considered in the allocation of term length.

Mayor Castillo stated that the commission could address those issues, but explained that he would not support the substitute motion regarding when the change would occur because the motion stated a January change.

Commissioner Good explained that the January language was intended only in the event that the public did not approve the December selection schedule and expressed his belief that residents would want to vote in November. Commissioner Good explained that aligning the vice mayor selection with the election date was logical, noting that the city currently had March elections followed by April selection. Commissioner Good noted that November elections would logically be followed by December selection, and explained that the charter language would specify the timing.

Commissioner Rodriguez clarified her question, asking why if there is a change in the election date, the change in Vice Mayor, from whoever is chosen today, cannot be done in January.

Commissioner Good responded that at some point, someone would have to sacrifice time or receive additional time.

Commissioner Rodriguez explained that she would rather someone give up a portion of their time than extend someone's term. Commissioner Rodriguez elaborated that to her, it is more noble to take less time than to take more time.

Mayor Castillo suggested that another option would be to abandon the substitute motion and return to the alternate motion that had been initially made.

Commissioner Rodriguez responded that the commission could continue with Commissioner Good's substitute motion, but that she would vote no on it.

Commissioner Good explained that he already made the substitute motion, and it has been seconded, indicating that the commission should move forward with it.

Mayor Castillo announced that the motion passed three to two and told Vice Mayor Hernandez that he remained in the role. Mayor Castillo stated that the commission would briefly adjourn so staff could change the nameplates and directed Commissioners Rodriguez, and Schwartz to switch seats.

Mayor Castillo announced the two-minute recess.

The meeting adjourned for the brief recess at 7:32PM.

The meeting reconvened at 7:36PM.

ITEMS AT THE REQUEST OF THE PUBLIC

Mayor Castillo asked if Kevin Deutsch was present.

Kevin Deutsch activated the microphone, provided his name and address as 2546 Camelot Court, Hollywood, Florida, and stated that he was present to speak about adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism into city law.

Mayor Castillo informed Mr. Deutsch that he had three minutes to speak.

Kevin Deutsch shared that he sought the adoption of the IHRA definition.

Mayor Castillo paused Mr. Deutsch and informed him that the commission had already adopted it. Mayor Castillo shared that the city had passed it months earlier after he returned from a mayor's conference on antisemitism in Los Angeles.

Kevin Deutsch asked if he could instead speak about bigotry more broadly.

Mayor Castillo allowed him to proceed.

Kevin Deutsch stated that society had entered an anti-Zionist era beginning on October 7, 2023, and asked how society should respond to insidious Jewish hatred. Kevin Deutsch stated that many people understood antisemitism, but that anti-Zionist bigotry was increasingly used as a disguised form of antisemitism. Mr. Deutsch explained that anti Zionism targets the existence of the Jewish state rather than policies, stated that certain accusations, such as genocide and colonizer, were used to demonize Jews, and explained that anti Zionism was an eliminationist ideology that sought to dismantle Israel and purge Jews from public life.

Mr. Deutsch stated that this ideology had its own frameworks, slogans, and propaganda, explaining that the term colonizer erases Jewish history in its ancestral lands, and that accusations such as apartheid and genocide were weaponized to push Jews outside moral society. Kevin Deutsch communicated that this created a permission structure for violence, citing recent cases of antisemitic murders where perpetrators shouted free Palestine. Mr. Deutsch noted that these acts reflected a coordinated assault on Jewish life. Mr. Deutsch urged the public to speak out against anti-Zionist bigotry, noting that it is entirely possible to support Palestinians while also rejecting forms of Jew hatred. He concluded his remarks by thanking the commission.

Mayor Castillo thanked him and stated that the city had been honored to adopt the language.

12. MOTION TO PASS PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02 ON FIRST READING.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02 IS AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA, SUBMITTING TO REFERENDUM AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES AMENDING ARTICLE I ENTITLED "CREATION AND POWERS", AND IN PARTICULAR AMENDING SECTION 1.10 "DEFINITIONS" TO CHANGE MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION'S DEFINITION TO THE CITY ELECTION HELD IN NOVEMBER OF EVEN NUMBERED YEARS; AMENDING ARTICLE III, ENTITLED "LEGISLATURE," AND IN PARTICULAR AMENDING SECTION 3.02 "COMMISSION MEMBERS," SECTION 3.05 "MAYOR," TO CHANGE THE ELECTION DATE IN THE CITY TO OCCUR IN NOVEMBER OF EVEN NUMBERED YEARS, AMENDING ARTICLE III, ENTITLED "LEGISLATURE", SECTION 3.06 "VICE MAYOR" TO CHANGE THE DATE FOR THE CITY'S VICE MAYOR TO BE ELECTED ANNUALLY BY THE CITY COMMISSION AT THE FIRST MEETING IN DECEMBER, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 75-350, LAWS OF FLORIDA; AS AMENDED; PROVIDING FOR EXTENSIONS IN THE CURRENT TERMS FOR THE MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS IN DISTRICTS 2 AND 3 TO EXTEND UNTIL THE NOVEMBER 2028 ELECTION AND FOR COMMISSIONERS IN DISTRICTS 1 AND 4 TO EXTEND UNTIL THE NOVEMBER 2030 ELECTION, PURSUANT TO SECTION 5, CHAPTER 75-350, LAWS OF FLORIDA, AS AMENDED; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE, WHEN ADOPTED, SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES ON THE NOVEMBER 2026 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT, AND IT SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE AS PROVIDED BY LAW; PROVIDING FOR THE ADVERTISING OF THE REFERENDUM ELECTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF ORDINANCES AND THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, AS WELL AS THE STATE OF FLORIDA ELECTION CODE; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECOND AND FINAL READING IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MAY 20, 2026.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Hernandez, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, to pass Proposed Ordinance No. 2026-02 on First Reading . The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 5 - Mayor Castillo, Vice Mayor Hernandez, Commissioner Good Jr., Commissioner Rodriguez, and Commissioner Schwartz

Nay 0

A motion was made by Commissioner Schwartz, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, to approve holding no fewer than one town hall meeting within each Commission District.

Following discussion, Commissioner Rodriguez amended the motion to clarify that the meetings would be held at locations within each district and could be citywide. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 5 - Mayor Castillo, Vice Mayor Hernandez, Commissioner Good Jr., Commissioner Rodriguez, and Commissioner Schwartz

Nay 0

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN:

City Attorney Goren read Proposed Ordinance 2026-02 into the record by title.

Mayor Castillo thanked the city attorney and shared that the item was moved by the vice mayor and seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez. The mayor noted that Supervisor of Elections Scott remained on the phone. Mayor Castillo asked Supervisor Scott to confirm the August deadline for submitting ballot items.

Mayor Castillo explained that he believed the deadline was early August for non-candidate questions to appear on the November ballot and asked if that remained correct.

Supervisor Scott confirmed that early August was correct and explained that although the office officially requested items during qualifying, the supervisor's office accommodated cities if they submitted slightly after, and stated that August was acceptable.

Mayor Castillo asked whether Supervisor Scott had a specific date in mind.

Supervisor Scott explained that the election office began assembling the fall ballot as soon as the August 18 primary ended and that August 18 was therefore the functional deadline.

Mayor Castillo questioned whether the city should treat August 18 as the deadline.

Supervisor Scott agreed that August 18 can be viewed as the deadline.

Mayor Castillo explained for the record that the commission planned to hold town hall meetings to explain why moving elections to November was good policy. The mayor detailed that the law required extending current terms because the terms could not be shortened, and asked the city attorney to confirm.

City Attorney Goren confirmed that the law allowed term extension but not term reduction absent cause such as suspension, death, removal, or resignation, and stated that cities could move election dates, but that extension was required if terms would otherwise be shortened.

City Attorney Goren stated that the ordinance provided eight-month extensions consistent with statute and special act requirements and that the matter would be decided by referendum.

Mayor Castillo asked Supervisor Scott about billing practices, noted that state law allowed supervisors to bill cities for elections, and asked why billing was based on total registered voters instead of actual voters. Mayor Castillo explained that ballots were printed when voters arrived and that turnout would not equal total registered voters, and asked why the city would pay for non-voting registrants. Mayor Castillo noted that it's probable that not every registered voter in Pembroke Pines will vote. The mayor noted that under the county's fee formula, the city would still have to pay even for the registered voters who did not vote. Mayor Castillo questioned Supervisor Scott as to why it is their policy to charge cities for nonvoters as well.

Supervisor Scott explained that if billing were based on actual voters, the cost per voter would be much higher. Supervisor Scott shared that planning required preparation for all registered voters, even if not all voted. Supervisor Scott detailed that early voting used on-demand printing, while election day sites used preprinted ballots. Supervisor Scott explained that perhaps his office could try to find some cost savings, but that the March elections were funded entirely by cities and based on cost estimates tied to registered voters. Supervisor Scott noted that the quote that is provided to the city is an estimate of the costs based on the number of registered voters. Supervisor Scott stated that after the March elections, there is a true-up, but that for the November elections, the estimate was fixed at two dollars and ninety cents per registered voter plus fifteen cents per additional page.

Mayor Castillo asked about page order and whether the city would be charged an extra page if questions spanned page breaks. Mayor Castillo posited that if the first question was at the bottom of page three and the second question at the top of page four, the city would be paying for the additional page. Mayor Castillo asked if the supervisor had the ability to put the entirety of the City of Pembroke Pines' business on one page, such that the city only needs an additional page if absolutely necessary. The mayor explained that he asks because the city has no control over the sequencing or presentation of the items to the voters.

Supervisor Scott explained that the 15% surcharge existed to cover costs of significantly longer ballots and cited a historical case where a city had so many questions that equipment had to be retrofitted. Supervisor Scott stated that in the scenario described by the Mayor, where Pembroke Pines spilled over a page break but did not consume a

full extra page, the surcharge would likely not apply.

Mayor Castillo noted that he was ensuring that the city is governing itself accordingly, as 15 cents accumulate rapidly. The mayor thanked the supervisor and turned to the vice mayor.

Vice Mayor Hernandez noted that the majority of his questions had been addressed, sharing that his main concern was the cost estimate for placing charter amendments on the November ballot. The vice mayor referenced prior cost figures of two dollars and seventy-nine cents and updated memos stating two dollars and ninety cents effective January 2027. The vice mayor expressed concern over the high cost, given the high number of registered voters in the City of Pembroke Pines. Vice Mayor Hernandez stated that although the cost was high, it was worth it because democracy was worth the expense and stated that such changes should be decided by voters, not by commissions. Vice Mayor Hernandez expressed his appreciation to Supervisor Scott for joining remotely from Ohio.

Mayor Castillo thanked the vice mayor and asked the city attorney for clarification regarding whether combining election date changes with vice mayor selection changes violated the single-subject rule.

City Attorney Goren stated it did not violate the rule and explained that the vice mayor's issue was inextricably tied to the election timing question and therefore appropriately addressed together.

Mayor Castillo thanked the city attorney and asked Commissioner Good if he had questions. Commissioner Good declined. Mayor Castillo asked Commissioners Rodriguez and Schwartz, and both stated they had no further questions.

Mayor Castillo asked the city attorney if he had any remaining questions for Supervisor Scott.

City Attorney Goren shared that he had no questions and expressed his appreciation for confirmation of the August 18 deadline and cost schedule.

Mayor Castillo asked City Clerk Fernandez if he had any questions, and he responded that he did not.

Mayor Castillo stated that the motion had been made and seconded.

Commissioner Schwartz shared that he wished to speak on the item.

Commissioner Schwartz thanked the supervisor for his time and thanked the city attorney's office for reducing the ballot language to under seventy-five words. Commissioner Schwartz explained that his support for the item on first reading should not be represented publicly as unanimous advocacy and communicated that his support was to allow public feedback between first and second readings.

Mayor Castillo responded that no one had suggested advocacy and clarified that the commission had discussed holding a town hall.

Commissioner Schwartz explained that there was a discussion on holding a public forum, clarifying his point.

Mayor Castillo asked the city attorney whether there was a difference between a public forum and a town hall.

City Attorney Goren explained that the statute referenced public forums and that a town hall could satisfy that requirement.

Mayor Castillo asked if any commissioner disagreed that a town hall should serve as the statutory forum. Mayor Castillo noted that no commissioner disagreed.

Commissioner Schwartz continued by referencing the bond education events and stated that his vote was intended to facilitate public input and to ensure a minimum of one town hall per district and one for major condo communities, totaling eight meetings. Commissioner Schwartz explained that the mayor could call additional meetings if needed.

Mayor Castillo clarified that all meetings would be citywide and that locations would be determined by the commission.

Commissioner Schwartz shared that he was waiting on the supervisor of elections' commitment regarding polling access for Colony Point and Park Place.

Mayor Castillo noted that Commissioner Schwartz had passed on an earlier opportunity to ask questions and should not raise unrelated matters at this time.

Commissioner Schwartz responded that the previous moment was not the appropriate time.

Mayor Castillo detailed that Commissioner Schwartz should not raise the issue now if it was not appropriate earlier and asked the commissioner

to stay on the item.

Commissioner Schwartz made a motion to hold no fewer than one citywide town hall in each commission district.

Mayor Castillo asked for a second.

Commissioner Rodriguez seconded.

Commissioner Schwartz explained that the mayor had emphasized repeatedly that the meetings must be called citywide town halls, reiterated that the intent was not to create district-specific meetings, and expressed concern that district three residents should not have to travel farther than necessary to attend.

Commissioner Rodriguez shared that the commission would be holding multiple citywide town hall meetings rather than only one or two scattered across the city, and explained that the natural assumption was that a citywide town hall could still be located within each district in order to make access easier for residents. Commissioner Rodriguez explained that this mirrored past city practices where events intended for the full city were located in various districts to ensure convenience, and that she was seconding the motion on this understanding, because it is consistent with how the city historically approached community engagement.

Commissioner Schwartz explained that he wanted to make the motion to have one meeting located in each district, even though the structure of each meeting would be citywide, and reiterated that the distinction was in location only, not in the scope of the meeting.

Mayor Castillo noted that he would call the question when he was completely clear on what the motion entailed. Mayor Castillo clarified that the meetings being discussed were citywide town hall meetings, not district-specific town halls, and that only the physical location would differ by district while the content and purpose remained the same.

Mayor Castillo explained that in practice, the meetings might function in a citywide manner regardless of the district in which they were held because some residents living in a different district might find it easier to travel to a meeting held in another district. The mayor emphasized that this was normal and beneficial, and explained that the key was ensuring the meetings were uniformly presented. Mayor Castillo explained that uniformity was necessary so that meeting content would not be tailored to any specific district and would not give rise to inconsistent messaging. Mayor Castillo reminded the commission that they had passed a

resolution affirming that the presentation must be uniform across all meetings.

Mayor Castillo detailed that at each meeting, residents would be greeted in the same way, that the city attorney would present the same informational content, and that each meeting would include the same question and answer opportunity for the public. Mayor Castillo emphasized that even the language used in questions and responses should remain consistent so that confusion would not develop across different neighborhoods. Mayor Castillo warned that deviation from a standard presentation could lead to miscommunication and that this was the reason he insisted on clarifying the motion.

Mayor Castillo communicated that he supported holding citywide town hall meetings in each district and shared that he also would support holding additional special meetings for unique populations, such as large senior communities, if the need arose. Mayor Castillo explained that during previous initiatives, he had held forty such meetings and hoped not to repeat that volume, but noted that he was willing to do so if needed. Mayor Castillo concluded that the crucial point was that all meetings must remain citywide in nature to preserve uniformity.

Commissioner Schwartz noted that his only clarification concerned protecting access for residents, not geography, and shared that access would be protected in all scenarios regardless of district boundaries.

Commissioner Schwartz communicated that he wished to speak and reminded the mayor that he had not interrupted the mayor during the mayor's comments. Commissioner Schwartz asserted that both he and the mayor were essentially arguing the same principle, and explained that his goal was simply to codify it formally in a motion. Commissioner Schwartz restated that he wanted the mayor to call the question on the motion he had made regarding citywide town halls located in each district.

Mayor Castillo stated that with the motion now clear, he would call the question. Mayor Castillo restated that the meetings would be citywide town hall meetings physically located in each district and confirmed that this was the motion before them. Mayor Castillo recognized that the motion had been properly made and seconded.

Mayor Castillo asked if there was further discussion on the motion, noting that no commissioners wished to speak. Mayor Castillo asked for any public comment, and hearing none, called for a vote. Mayor Castillo announced that the motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Castillo asked Commissioner Schwartz if he had anything further, and Commissioner Schwartz stated that he did not.

Mayor Castillo returned to the original motion regarding item twelve and asked for public comment. Hearing none, Mayor Castillo called for a vote on first reading.

City Attorney Goren communicated that he wished to speak and asked the mayor for a moment. City Attorney Goren noted that under state law, a second and final reading was tentatively set for May 20 and explained that the date could be moved if necessary. City Attorney Goren shared that the commission now understood the ballot delivery deadline and could adjust the schedule accordingly, and emphasized that altering the date would be a deferral rather than a delay.

Mayor Castillo shared that May 20 was likely too soon and asked the city manager, the city clerk, and the city attorney to meet to organize a standardized presentation for the town hall meetings. Mayor Castillo explained that the manager would need to schedule the town halls with consistency in mind and stated that he doubted the work could all be completed before May. Mayor Castillo communicated that June was a more realistic time frame for the second reading, although the town hall meetings themselves would occur in May. Mayor Castillo indicated that if some meetings could be completed earlier, he would make himself available and believed the other commissioners would do the same.

City Manager Dodge explained that the city does not need to provide it until August 18.

Mayor Castillo designated the city manager as the official responsible for determining when the item would return for final action and stated that he was doing so without objection.

The commission voiced no objection.

Mayor Castillo shared that the city manager would be responsible for choosing the return date and that item twelve had passed unanimously, thanking the commission for their cooperation.

COMMISSION AUDITOR REPORT:

APPEALS OF BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT DECISIONS:

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Vice Mayor Hernandez, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 5 - Mayor Castillo, Vice Mayor Hernandez, Commissioner Good Jr., Commissioner Rodriguez, and Commissioner Schwartz

Nay 0

2. MOTION TO APPROVE THE PREMIUM SERVICES AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY AND THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES CHARTER ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS (LOCATIONS 5051, 5081, & 5121) FROM JULY 1, 2026, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

3. MOTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENT TWO TO THE FEDERALLY FUNDED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT MITIGATION PROGRAM (CDBG-MIT) SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

4. MOTION TO APPROVE THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS LISTED ON THE CONTRACTS DATABASE REPORT:

(A) Compass Group USA, Inc. - Food Service Management Company ED-23-01 - Renewal

(B) Cross Country Staffing, Inc. - Nursing Services for Charter Schools - Renewal

(C) Easter Seals South Florida, Inc. - Adult Health Day Care and Alzheimer's Care - Renewal

ITEMS (D) THROUGH (L) WILL EXPIRE WITH NO RENEWAL TERMS AVAILABLE, THEREFORE, NO COMMISSION ACTION IS REQUIRED AS THEY ARE PRESENTED FOR NOTIFICATION PURPOSES ONLY PURSUANT TO SECTION 35.29 (F) OF THE CITY'S PROCUREMENT CODE:

(D) Airquest Environmental, Inc. - RFQ # PL-21-01 Environmental Specialists for Residential Home Inspection - Non-renewal

(E) CRB Geological & Environmental Services, Inc. - RFQ # PL-21-01 Environmental Specialists for Residential Home Inspection - Non-renewal

(F) Fresco Inspections & Consulting LLC - RFQ # PL-21-01 Environmental Specialists for Residential Home Inspection - Non-renewal

(G) Gold Tree Development Group, LLC - PL-24-02 Residential Home Inspections and Cost Estimating Services - Non-Renewal

(H) Hazen and Sawyer, P.C. - Continuing Professional Services - Non-Renewal

(I) Housing and Assistive Technology, Inc - PL-24-02 Residential Home Inspections and Cost Estimating Services - Non-Renewal

(J) Riteview Inspections, LLC - PL-24-02 Residential Home Inspections and Cost Estimating Services - Non-Renewal

(K) TSC Associates, Inc - PL-24-02 Residential Home Inspections and Cost Estimating Services - Non-Renewal

(L) Williams Professional Water Restoration Service LLC - RFQ # PL-21-01 Environmental Specialists for Residential Home Inspection - Non-renewal

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

5. MOTION TO AWARD IFB # PSUT-25-13 "MASTER LIFT STATION NO. 4 (MLS4) PUMP, MOTOR AND CONTROL PANEL REPLACEMENT" TO THE MOST RESPONSIVE/RESPONSIBLE BIDDER, INTERCOUNTY ENGINEERING, INC., IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,117,510.24, WHICH INCLUDES AN OWNER'S CONTINGENCY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$99,777.70, AND A PAYMENT AND PERFORMANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,955.54.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

6. MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2026-27 MENTAL HEALTH OPT OUT FORMS, THE 2026-27 MENTAL HEALTH PLANNED FUNDS AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS, AND THE 2026-27 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PLANS, FOR THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES CHARTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (LOCATION #5051), MIDDLE SCHOOLS (LOCATION #5081), HIGH SCHOOL (LOCATION #5121) AND FSU ELEMENTARY CHARTER SCHOOL (LOCATION #0351).

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

7. MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 18, 2026, ORGANIZATIONAL AND REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

8. MOTION TO AWARD IFB # PD-25-04 "JANITORIAL SERVICES FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT" TO THE MOST RESPONSIVE/RESPONSIBLE BIDDER, MCJ PROFESSIONAL CLEANING SERVICES, CORP., IN THE ANNUAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$130,892.12, WHICH INCLUDES AN OWNER'S CONTINGENCY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,643.10 AND AN ALLOWANCE FOR JANITORIAL SUPPLIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,818.00.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

9. MOTION TO APPROVE REQUEST TO ADVERTISE SOLICITATION(S):
- (A) TS-26-02 "SOPHOS LICENSE RENEWAL"
 - (B) TS-26-03 "EXAGRID HARDWARE"
 - (C) TS-26-04 "CISCO NETWORK"
 - (D) PSUT-26-02 "30" PCCP SEWER FORCE MAIN REPLACEMENT"

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

- 10. MOTION TO RELEASE PERFORMANCE BOND #800054907 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,886,856.50 (TWO MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY-SIX THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS) FROM D.R. HORTON, INC.; ACCEPT MAINTENANCE BOND #800219393 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$423,478 (FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-THREE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY-EIGHT DOLLARS); AND APPROVE THE BILL OF SALE AND EASEMENT DEDICATIONS FOR MERRICK SQUARE TOWNHOMES, LOCATED IN PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

- 11. MOTION TO APPROVE REVISIONS MADE TO THE 2025 CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES/SOUTHWEST FOCAL POINT SENIOR CENTER TRANSPORTATION OPERATING PROCEDURES (TOP).

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

QUASI JUDICIAL CONSENT AGENDA:

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

RESOLUTIONS:

- 13. MOTION TO ADOPT PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2026-R-06.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2026-R-06 IS A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA; PROHIBITING THE ISSUANCE OF CEREMONIAL BADGES TO ELECTED OFFICIALS; ENCOURAGING THE VOLUNTARY RETURN OF PREVIOUSLY ISSUED CEREMONIAL BADGES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Hernandez, seconded by Commissioner Schwartz, to adopt Proposed Resolution No. 2026-R-06. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 5 - Mayor Castillo, Vice Mayor Hernandez, Commissioner Good Jr., Commissioner Rodriguez, and Commissioner Schwartz

Nay 0

Enactment No: 3946

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN:

City Attorney Goren read Proposed Resolution 2026-R-06 into the record by title.

Mayor Castillo asked if Commissioner Schwartz had plans to relinquish his badge. Mayor Castillo noted that all the other commissioners had voluntarily returned the badges. The mayor reminded that the motion asks all the commissioners to submit their ceremonial badges to the administration voluntarily.

Commissioner Schwartz responded that he would coordinate with the city administration to ensure that the badge is properly documented and verified. Commissioner Schwartz emphasized that he wants to make sure that the process is handled responsibly.

Mayor Castillo reiterated his question and once more asked Commissioner Schwartz if he would be submitting his badge to the city manager.

Commissioner Schwartz noted that he had already answered the mayor's question.

Mayor Castillo shared that he would interpret Commissioner Schwartz's answer as a maybe. The mayor shared that he believes that it is unfortunate that he must interpret Commissioner Schwartz's answer as a maybe, noting that the item is only here because the commissioner misused his badge.

Mayor Castillo asked if there was any further discussion on the item, to which there was not. The mayor noted that the item passed unanimously.

City Attorney Goren noted that the permanent number of item 13 has been recorded as 3946.

REGULAR AGENDA:

14. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPOINT A DIRECTOR, ALTERNATE AND SECOND ALTERNATE VOTING DELEGATE TO THE BROWARD LEAGUE OF CITIES FOR 2026-2027.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Hernandez, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, to appoint Commissioner Rodriguez as the Director, Commissioner Good as the Alternate, and Vice Mayor Hernandez as the Second Alternate voting delegate to the Broward League of Cities . The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 5 - Mayor Castillo, Vice Mayor Hernandez, Commissioner Good Jr., Commissioner Rodriguez, and Commissioner Schwartz

Nay 0

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN:

City Attorney Goren read Item 14 into the record by title.

The mayor noted that currently, Commissioner Rodriguez serves as the lead, and Vice Mayor Hernandez serves as the alternate to the Broward League of Cities.

Vice Mayor Hernandez asked Commissioner Rodriguez if she wished to serve with the Broward League of Cities once more as the lead.

Commissioner Rodriguez shared that she would like to do it once more.

Vice Mayor Hernandez reported that he would like to see if Commissioner Good would like to serve as the alternate, noting that he already has a lot of roles.

Commissioner Good responded that he would take the position of alternate.

Mayor Castillo announced that Commissioner Rodriguez would serve as the lead and that Commissioner Good would serve as the alternate.

The vice mayor motioned to appoint Commissioner Rodriguez as the lead, Commissioner Good as the alternate, and himself as the second alternate.

Commissioner Rodriguez noted that she wanted to note two excused absences in the Broward League attendance list and explained that one entry for January 16 listed an excused absence, noting that she believed that the mayor attended in her place, after she had passed it to Commissioner Hernandez.

Mayor Castillo confirmed that the event was in the City of Pembroke Pines and that he had attended.

Commissioner Rodriguez explained that the December 11 event fell on a commission meeting date and that the league meeting had not been at its usual time of noon, but later in the day, at a time that conflicted with the city commission meeting, noting that the conflict explained the absence.

Mayor Castillo thanked Commissioner Rodriguez and commended her

for the great job she has done representing the city, affirming that the commission knew that she maintained good attendance.

Vice Mayor Hernandez emphasized that the Broward League of Cities' leadership team praised Commissioner Rodriguez and shared that she was incredibly engaged. Vice Mayor Hernandez explained that the praise was deserved and that Commissioner Rodriguez was an amazing representative for the city. The vice mayor publicly thanked her for taking on an additional role beyond serving as a city commissioner. The vice mayor also expressed his appreciation to her for keeping the commission informed, despite having to make frequent trips and alter her schedule to attend league meetings. The vice mayor thanked Commissioner Rodriguez sincerely for her service.

Mayor Castillo asked if there was anything further.

Commissioner Good explained that the city should seek to get the Broward League of Cities to recognize that when an alternate attends in place of the director, the attendance should not be marked as an unexcused absence.

Mayor Castillo responded that the issue was a rules matter internal to the league and that Commissioner Good's point was well taken. The mayor communicated that the point should be raised with the league leadership, explaining that an unexcused absence is viewed as a no-show and that when the city is present, the attendance should not be counted as an absence.

Mayor Castillo asked if there was anything further on the motion and asked if there was any public comment.

Mayor Castillo noted that the motion passed unanimously and expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Good for the work he does on the MPO and stated that, although it was not on the agenda, he wanted to recognize him. The mayor shared that although the MPO operates by different rules, Commissioner Good was doing a great job and thanked him for his continued service.

REPORTS OF LEAGUE AND MPO REPRESENTATIVES

Commissioner Rodriguez explained that she would provide a report, detailing that the last Broward League meeting had occurred on the day of, or the day after, Commissioner Nancy Metayer's passing. Commissioner Rodriguez noted that due to the tragedy, the league held a moment of silence and commemorated her life and service. Commissioner Rodriguez noted that there was nothing else to report from that meeting.

Commissioner Rodriguez detailed that she served as the league's representative on the South Florida Regional Planning Council and explained that the council highlights and presents regional issues across Miami, Broward, and Monroe counties. Commissioner Rodriguez reported that the council held a joint meeting with the Treasure Coast region, which consists of three counties to the north. Commissioner Rodriguez shared that the city attorney assisted her by sharing a lead earlier than she had planned to bring it forward, explaining that the discussion concerned a company that is innovating the composting and recycling processes. Commissioner Rodriguez reported that the initiative seems promising and that the city should look into it further. Commissioner Rodriguez explained that the city attorney shared the information with the city manager for potential inclusion in a future recycling and solid waste workshop.

Commissioner Rodriguez communicated that the entire joint meeting was available online and explained that she would share the link with the city manager so it could be shared with the commission, noting that while the meeting was long, it was separated into equally interesting sections. Commissioner Rodriguez shared that there was a section on flying cars, noting that it was interesting. Commissioner Rodriguez acknowledged the fact that the city attorney was laughing and explained that although the flying car concept was interesting, she preferred to push for mass transportation solutions because flying cars carried only three to four people.

Commissioner Rodriguez noted that the presentation had been made by FDOT and explained that the council was also seeking more information about how mass transit was functioning across different counties. Commissioner Rodriguez noted that the council would look into the topic in upcoming joint meetings and shared that she would share further information with the commission.

Mayor Castillo thanked Commissioner Rodriguez for her report and asked if there was anything else to report.

Commissioner Good communicated that he wished to raise an issue and stated that he was uncertain of the best place to raise it, but believed it was appropriate during reports. Commissioner Good explained that he had been engaged in reviewing a letter or opinion from the city attorney regarding recently approved state legislation and detailed that the legislation related particularly to DEI, and that the law seemed likely to create difficulty. Commissioner Good noted that he anticipated there being a struggle in understanding what the city could or could not do and stated that each commissioner was at risk of violating the statutory language. Commissioner Good explained that in the attorney's letter, it was communicated that the office would thoroughly review the matter to provide guidance and advice.

Commissioner Good shared that he was thankful for the city attorney review and noted that interpretations might differ among cities, noting his concern was that if one city acted based on one interpretation and another city did not act based on a different interpretation, conflict could arise. Commissioner Good noted that this could put the city in a difficult situation. Commissioner Good explained that the Broward League of Cities provided a venue for collective attorney advisement, sharing that the city attorney was an active participant in that venue. Commissioner Good posited that interpretations might be better developed collectively rather than individually to avoid conflict among cities, clarifying that the goal was to prevent different opinions from causing uncertainty. Commissioner Good explained that through the league, they could best coordinate and implement the directive and emphasized that all attorneys should be on the same page and should issue the same opinions across Broward County cities.

Vice Mayor Hernandez asked if what Commissioner Good was suggesting was that the city representatives to the league would have to legislate within the league structure.

Commissioner Good clarified that the intent was not to legislate but to ask that attorneys coordinate collectively rather than independently and explained that the goal was to avoid different opinions among municipal attorneys.

Mayor Castillo communicated that he would allow the city attorney to weigh in, but noted that collective coordination would be hard because attorneys were duty-bound to provide independent advice to their clients. Mayor Castillo shared that within the body of legal opinions, differences were inevitable and that this was typical.

Commissioner Good responded that this topic was not one that should be left to differing opinions.

Mayor Castillo communicated that, in his view, the issue was heading toward requiring an attorney general opinion and that such an opinion would remove at least one element of confusion, noting that differences in interpretation often led to disputes regarding what was meant by the statute. Mayor Castillo emphasized that an attorney general opinion would help. Mayor Castillo expressed his opinion that it would be appropriate for the city to pursue that path and shared that he received the Broward County Attorney's Office opinion and shared it immediately with the city attorney.

The mayor noted that the city attorney would have received it regardless because his firm represents numerous cities, and he is in touch with colleagues. Mayor Castillo noted that he hopes the attorneys were sharing notes because coordinated understanding was important, emphasizing that the concept of keeping your eye on your own paper applied in elementary school. The mayor noted that when holding positions of authority, it was necessary to know what others were doing in order to avoid the mistakes that arise when one does not review external positions. The mayor shared that he agreed with Commissioner Good that mitigation could come from asking the attorney general for guidance, noting that while an attorney general opinion was not necessarily dispositive, it would help to provide a defense if allegations arose later. Mayor Castillo shared that penalties under the statute were severe and asserted that the city needed to proceed carefully.

Mayor Castillo explained that under the statute Hispanic History Month might not be permitted to be celebrated and he did not know whether Salsa in the Pines would be an appropriate event under the statute, and requested that the city attorney provide his view. Mayor Castillo communicated that he did not know and addressed the possibility of the city developing events based on a sincere and genuine interest in music rather than cultural themes and explained that he needed to know whether such events were permissible. Mayor Castillo explained that many questions exist and communicated that what was clear was that federal holidays could be celebrated as well as state holidays.

Mayor Castillo noted that I Am An American Day could be celebrated along with state-recognized holidays such as Confederate-related dates, including Robert E. Lee's birthday, Confederate Memorial Day, and Jefferson Davis's birthday, and noted those were recognized state holidays. Mayor Castillo explained that those were listed, but he needed to know whether city staff led by Assistant City Manager Goulding could

host a rhythm and blues event, or a reggae event, or a salsa event. Mayor Castillo noted that those events would have great music, and questioned what approach the city would take in the future to celebrate its residents.

Commissioner Good explained that as long as attorneys agreed on the approach, the city would avoid fighting over interpretations.

Mayor Castillo noted that attorneys do not all tend to agree. The mayor reiterated that the attorney general carried the highest authority among state attorneys and that the city attorney should proceed in that direction.

City Attorney Goren indicated that he was ready to respond briefly when the mayor was ready.

Mayor Castillo asked the city attorney to proceed.

The city attorney communicated that his office had issued a preemptive memo and explained that the bill was not yet law. The city attorney shared that while the bill was not yet on the governor's desk, based on his lobbying contacts, it appears that it will be, and will become law. The city attorney explained that if and when it is signed, it would not become effective until January 2027, noting that it is not a July 1 or an October 1 effective bill.

City Attorney Goren reiterated that the memo was issued preemptively with assistance from the city attorney's office team, indicating that it was a collaborative effort because the statute was confounding and unclear. City Attorney Goren explained that the County Attorney had issued an internal memo and thanked the mayor for sharing it, noting that the county memo was directed to legal staff. The city attorney explained that the memo preemptively addressed four issues, sharing that the county memo asked cities to inventory what exists in their communities and conduct an analysis. The city attorney shared that the county memo described a working document and noted that the city memo was more specific to items that needed preemptive notice to commissioners.

City Attorney Goren informed the commission that his office believes there will potentially be a legal challenge to the statute, but noted that nothing is guaranteed. The city attorney explained that what Commissioner Good suggested was already happening through a monthly call from the Broward County Attorney's Office which included every city attorney, noting that the bill was discussed at the last monthly meeting. City Attorney Goren noted that there severe consequences associated with the statute including removal from office for malfeasance

and nonfeasance, explaining that his office was reviewing the matter. City Attorney Goren expressed his willingness to address the issue with the League of Cities through the executive director and to address the city of Pembroke Pines' concerns about potential conflicting opinions.

City Attorney Goren shared an old theory of law that if five lawyers were put in a room, ten different opinions would be produced, noting that this reflected advocacy and differences in interpretation. The city attorney explained that he is prepared to, with the mayor's guidance, raise the issue with the community of lawyers that meet monthly and seek uniform answers to questions being asked. The city attorney noted that he would take on the task and return with recommendations.

Mayor Castillo shared his appreciation for the city attorney's comments and explained that he was aware that members of the state legislature in both chambers are quite eager to see the bill signed, and a special session has been called. Mayor Castillo shared that it could be the case that certain bills might be held until the special session concluded.

Vice Mayor Hernandez shared that the Sun Sentinel was reporting that the governor had delayed the redistricting special session. The vice mayor noted that the special session had been planned for April 20 and stated that it was now being pushed, although a date had not yet been posted.

Commissioner Rodriguez explained that special sessions needed two weeks of public notice and that the city would have at least two weeks' notice.

Mayor Castillo voiced that after the bill is signed, proclamations would be reviewed by the city attorney and stated that historically, proclamations have not been reviewed. The mayor noted that last-minute proclamation requests arrive frequently and that mayors typically make decisions regarding proclamations on their own. The mayor noted that if the bill were signed, every proclamation would go through a signature ladder before even reaching the mayor. Mayor Castillo explained that the city would follow the law, but warned that the city's situation could change very drastically if the governor signs the bill and commended Commissioner Good for the point that he raised.

REPORTS OF THE CITY MANAGER AND CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Goren explained that he would provide a predicate at the end of the regular meeting to enter the shade for a pending federal court lawsuit. The city attorney communicated that at the end of the regular agenda, he would read into the record the information needed and encouraging the court reporter to begin setting up. The city attorney thanked the mayor.

15. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF THE PRIOR REFERENDUM BALLOT QUESTIONS DESCRIBED IN THE CAO MEMO NO. 2026-039, DATED MARCH 24, 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Good Jr., seconded by Vice Mayor Hernandez, to direct the City Attorney to draft and bring back a potential ballot question for the appointment or removal of the City Manager or Acting City Manager by the City Commission . The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 4 - Mayor Castillo, Vice Mayor Hernandez, Commissioner Good Jr., and Commissioner Rodriguez

Nay 1 - Commissioner Schwartz

The proposal was approved by consensus, directing the City Attorney to prepare a resolution for a General Obligation Bond question to fund a new Public Safety Building.

Mayor Castillo explained that item 15 relates to a review of a series of ballot questions that had been on the March 2025 ballot and asked the commission to discuss whether, in addition to moving elections, there was any desire to move any other items forward. The mayor shared that the first ballot question concerned the acting city manager and noted that ballot questions one and three were similar and that the only difference between them was the acting language. Mayor Castillo conveyed that he does not understand why the topics could not be one item and asked the city attorney for clarification.

City Attorney Goren explained that when his office had drafted the questions, they were separate items in the charter and that separation had driven the drafting.

Mayor Castillo responded that he did not understand why they could not be the same item and communicated that the prior voting records had been similar but not identical, noting that the commission could entertain the three-fifths versus four-fifths question again, and that sometimes placing a question on the ballot twice allowed voters to understand it better later on.

Mayor Castillo communicated that if the commission chose to place any of these items on the ballot, they would be a part of the citywide town hall meetings. The mayor shared that now was the time for the commission to decide whether any other items should be placed on the ballot. Mayor Castillo communicated that one suggestion would be to combine ballot question one and ballot question three into one item. Mayor Castillo moved to combine ballot questions one and three.

Vice Mayor Hernandez explained that he would second to start the process, but noted that there was a lot to consider after the agenda the commission had worked through. The vice mayor asked for confirmation that the mayor was referring to items one and three and not to items one, two, and three.

Mayor Castillo clarified that the motion referred only to one and three.

Vice Mayor Hernandez communicated that he would second so that the process could proceed and the drafting could be reviewed.

Mayor Castillo aired that the motion would direct staff to draft and return with the ordinance. The mayor indicated that he would support the motion because he wished to see what the combination of one and three looked

like.

Mayor Castillo asked if any commissioner had an objection.

Commissioner Schwartz responded that the commission could not read his thoughts and asked that the mayor give commissioners an opportunity to share their objections out loud.

Mayor Castillo reiterated that he asked if any commissioner wished to speak and affirmed that he would recognize Commissioner Schwartz if he wished to speak.

Commissioner Schwartz thanked the mayor and explained that the discussion had come up under new business at the last meeting, and shared that the discussion dovetailed with the November election cycle change. Commissioner Schwartz communicated that he heard the comments and explained that he rewatched the meeting and listened to it to ensure he heard correctly. Commissioner Schwartz explained that the will of the people should not be questioned, regardless of how many people participate in the process.

Mayor Castillo responded by informing Commissioner Schwartz that no one was questioning the will of the people and requested that the commissioner stay on the item before the commission. The mayor commented that he and the commission were not in attendance in order to be preached to about the will of the people. Mayor Castillo reiterated that the question before the commission was on combining questions one and three and returning with ballot language.

Commissioner Schwartz shared that democracy had disappeared.

Mayor Castillo accused Commissioner Schwartz of preaching again. Mayor Castillo explained that if Commissioner Schwartz could not respond to the specific motion regarding items one and three, the commission would move on, and noted that the commissioner was absorbing too much time. Mayor Castillo requested that the commissioner confine comments to the motion being made.

Mayor Castillo reiterated that there is a motion and a second to combine questions one and three and to bring the language back, and asked if there were any comments from the public. Mayor Castillo stated that, seeing no comments, he would call the vote.

Commissioner Schwartz shared his opposition.

Mayor Castillo announced that the motion passed four to one. Mayor Castillo asked if any commissioners had other ballot questions they were interested in reviewing.

Commissioner Rodriguez explained that she wished to explore the idea of a bond for the police department, specifically for the joint first responders public safety complex being placed on the ballot. Commissioner Rodriguez noted that the current building was not hurricane-rated, and she is concerned about hurricane risks. Commissioner Rodriguez explained that when her constituents asked her why she was voting for a bond, she informed them that her main priority was the building. Commissioner Rodriguez explained that in the event of emergencies, she wants first responders to be able to respond optimally, and noted that they require a building that enables them to do that. Commissioner Rodriguez also communicated that the building would provide adequate space and a dignified workplace.

Mayor Castillo asked City Manager Dodge when he would be ready to discuss projected costs, acknowledging that the city had gone out to RFP.

Mr. Dodge explained that the city held a meeting that day with architects doing the design and noted that the administration and staff believe it will have information to come back by May 20.

Mayor Castillo asked if it could be completed earlier or prepared before May 20 so that town halls covered everything contemplated for the charter.

City Manager Dodge shared that they have a follow-up meeting planned and informed that the administration has made major revisions to what was done previously to save money. City Manager Dodge explained that the architects have to redo their calculations, explaining that he could share the revisions individually, but expressed doubt that they could present a solid number before May 12.

Mayor Castillo noted that the commission is on the clock to discuss whether to proceed with a ballot question. Mayor Castillo expressed his eagerness to see the end result and acknowledged that there are only about three weeks until the deadline and that the city remains on the clock.

Commissioner Rodriguez conveyed that she does not mind the town halls being later, as the city does not have to turn in questions until August 18. Commissioner Rodriguez communicated that ideally, the city

would complete everything before early ballots went out, sharing that she had confidence in the staff to make it work.

Mayor Castillo commented that the point was well taken and thanked Commissioner Rodriguez. Mayor Castillo asked if there were any other items and recognized the city attorney.

City Attorney Goren explained that if it is the wish of the commission to direct the office to draft the bond resolution, the office could begin coordination with bond counsel. The city attorney noted that this would be a resolution, not an ordinance, informing that the last bond had been a one-reading resolution. The city attorney reiterated that, with direction from the commission and the manager, his office could begin preparing the resolution with blanks and then fill in values once numbers were provided by the city manager. The city attorney noted that this approach would allow the city to avoid waiting weeks to place the item on the desk, clarifying that the office will fill in the blanks with information provided by the architects and engineers and the manager's recommendation for the bond value.

Mayor Castillo explained that a motion was not required and that direction could be given by consensus, asking if anyone objected. Mayor Castillo noted that the office would begin preparing the resolution.

City Attorney Goren communicated that at the end of the regular meeting, he would announce the predicate for the shade.

COMMISSION ITEMS:

16. COMMISSIONER JAY D. SCHWARTZ ITEM #1: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO DIRECT CITY ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE VIRTUAL ONLINE BI-ANNUAL ETHICS TRAINING TO THE CITY WORKFORCE AND NEW HIRES BEGINNING IN 2026 USING THE STAFF RESEARCH IN THE ATTACHED BACKUP.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schwartz, seconded by Commissioner Good Jr., to direct City Administration to provide virtual online bi-annual training to the city workforce and new hires beginning in 2026 . The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 4 - Mayor Castillo, Commissioner Good Jr., Commissioner Rodriguez, and Commissioner Schwartz

Nay 1 - Vice Mayor Hernandez

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN:

Commissioner Schwartz read Item 16 into the record by title.

Commissioner Schwartz explained that Mr. Rotstein had provided the backup and that he had forwarded the backup to the administration, noting that it was included in the backup. Commissioner Schwartz shared that Mr. Rotstein was present to answer questions and asked Mr. Rotstein to come forward.

Mayor Castillo explained that there were a couple of technical matters to address, communicating that in Commissioner Schwartz's written agenda request form, he referenced biennial ethics training and asked if that training would be held twice a year.

Mr. Rotstein clarified that training would occur every other year if that was the commission's decision.

Mayor Castillo expressed his confusion at the wording and use of the term biannually.

Mayor Castillo questioned what the employee handbook currently requires regarding the ethical responsibilities of employees. Mayor Castillo noted that the motion applies to all employees; however, explained that all employees were not similarly situated with respect to ethics. The mayor reiterated his support for ethical training if needed and if employees were unaware of responsibilities, but noted that grounds crew park employees had different ethical responsibilities than a permitting inspector or an attorney in the city attorney's office. Mayor Castillo shared that there are differences among employees, noting that many employees do not work directly for the city but for vendors that the city employs. The mayor asked what orientation the city provides to employees to comply with state ethics and to what extent county ethics requirements apply.

Mr. Rotstein responded that the first question concerned the employee handbook and explained that the city had a code of ethics and that every new employee signed the handbook, indicating they had read and understood or asked questions. Mr. Rotstein explained that no state law required ethics training for staff and that he had spoken with counsel and confirmed that each department was different and that police differed from fire, which differed from other departments, noting that tailoring was required.

Mayor Castillo expressed that it was hard for him to imagine one video covering different jobs and noted that the four-hour ethics training for elected officials was tailored to the issues commissioners faced and that, by law, elected officials were required to comply. The mayor affirmed that presentations and training for staff must be tailored to their job.

Mr. Rotstein agreed and clarified that if the commission wanted staff to put something in place, it would be a very basic code of ethics module.

Mayor Castillo asked whether one video or one virtual online ethics training could be envisioned for the entire city workforce.

Mr. Rotstein explained that although it could be done, if implemented, it would be very basic and would not be specific to each department or function, and therefore would be a very basic presentation.

Commissioner Rodriguez asked whether the approach would be similar to the handbook that every employee signs when they are hired, and questioned whether the proposed training would essentially be what is covered in the handbook and therefore serving as a content refresher occurring every other year.

Mr. Rotstein explained that the training would refresh what is in the handbook and clarified that the handbook applied to everyone, even though job functions differed, because its content is general. Mr. Rotstein noted that the handbook is on the city's website and can be reviewed by employees at any time.

Commissioner Schwartz requested that the city clerk pull up the outline that Mr. Rotstein and his team had created in order to frame the discussion.

Mayor Castillo responded to Commissioner Schwartz, noting that he was not there yet and asked for a second, and noted that Commissioner Schwartz's suggestion was helpful.

Mayor Castillo explained that based on the notes, Mr. Rotstein surveyed reception to employee ethics training, and the results were 63 no's and 37 yes's. Mayor Castillo asked which eight Broward County cities had been surveyed.

Mr. Rotstein detailed that the survey included Miramar, Sunrise, Coral Springs, Hollywood, Fort Lauderdale, Plantation, Davie, and Deerfield

Beach.

Mayor Castillo noted that sixty-three percent did not offer ethics training, and thirty-seven percent did. Mayor Castillo asked which cities offered training.

Mr. Rotstein detailed that Miramar, Sunrise, and Coral Springs offered training.

Mayor Castillo noted that those happened to be three cities where serious charges have occurred.

Mr. Rotstein responded that there have been issues in some of the cities.

Mayor Castillo explained that the frequency chart showed once per year at thirty-three percent and every other year at sixty-seven percent, and asked what that meant.

Mr. Rotstein answered that one city conducts the training once per year and two cities conduct the training every other year.

Mayor Castillo asked which city conducts the training annually.

Mr. Rotstein replied that Miramar conducted annual training.

Mayor Castillo asked whether the city had access to the Miramar program.

Mr. Rotstein responded that a request could be made for their program.

Mayor Castillo asked whether Mr. Rotstein had looked at what Miramar does.

Mr. Rotstein responded that he did not and explained that the team only conducted a survey to present the findings so the commission could see what other cities were doing.

Mayor Castillo asked Commissioner Schwartz whether he had looked at any of the ethical trainings for the eight cities.

Commissioner Schwartz responded that he and Mr. Rotstein had discussed the work product, explaining that he hoped the commission would ask questions through the Monday night memo in order to give staff an opportunity to respond.

Mayor Castillo reiterated his question and asked whether Commissioner Schwartz had viewed any of the trainings, explaining that he has not the mayor had not.

Commissioner Schwartz responded that he did not specifically, but explained that based on the five modules provided, he has a framework that could be molded by the commission to enhance refreshers. Commissioner Schwartz noted that the city is not alone and that he was disappointed by the limited number of cities participating. Commissioner Schwartz noted that Pembroke Pines is not the first to pursue training and communicated that he and Mr. Rotstein have held discussions over several weeks about the type of online training and how similar it is to existing content. Commissioner Schwartz shared that he believes it is a natural fit and will not be a burden, as it occurs on an every-other-year basis.

Mayor Castillo indicated that he understood and asked Mr. Rotstein whether the module suggestions originated from him.

Mr. Rotstein clarified that the suggestions originated from him.

Mayor Castillo explained that he saw no harm in the training, although he was uncertain about the frequency, expressing that once every two years in a city like Pembroke Pines would not be harmful. Mayor Castillo voiced that this was the fourth time that Commissioner Schwartz had brought the item forward, explaining that the city had a rule that the same item could not be brought more than once to a vote. The mayor noted that the commission has not yet voted on it, but expressed his appreciation that there is finally a work product that can be reviewed and voted on.

Commissioner Schwartz clarified that the item had been brought as a commission item in quarter four of last year, detailing that he had been given a task to work with administration. Commissioner Schwartz noted that the outline was deferred two weeks ago for personal reasons, beyond the scope of the discussion, explaining that he had brought the item back and that this is not the fourth time, but the first time that the commission reviewed it.

Mayor Castillo explained that his point was that the commission had asked for the outline, sharing that time could have been saved if the outline had been provided the second time the item was brought forward.

Commissioner Rodriguez asked whether module two was specifically

mentioned in the handbook, explaining that the module addressed disclosure requirements.

Mr. Rotstein explained that module two concerned open government laws and sunshine laws and conveyed that the module was important.

Commissioner Rodriguez asked what the relevance was for the staff.

Mr. Rotstein explained that public records, which staff handle, are part of that module.

Commissioner Rodriguez asked about sunshine and asked who fell under sunshine, explaining that she believes sunshine applies to the commission.

Mr. Rotstein explained that sunshine was not addressed for employees in the handbook, as sunshine was only relevant to elected officials and advisory boards, and shared that they could remove the portion regarding sunshine.

City Attorney Goren explained that sunshine was not within staff ethics, but that staff could be conduits to violations, even though they are not the primary targets.

Commissioner Rodriguez asked who filled out form one.

Mr. Rotstein explained that he, as well as anyone who is on a committee such as the pension board, has to fill out a form one, explaining that the requirement was limited for employees and applied mostly to managers or members of specific boards. Mr. Rotstein confirmed that individuals who are required to fill out form one, are trained regarding the requirement, explaining that the city clerk was diligent about distributing forms.

Commissioner Rodriguez expressed that she does not understand why the city would train employees on a form that only a small number of individuals have to complete.

Mr. Rotstein explained that the training would not instruct employees how to fill out the form, but would inform employees that serving on certain committees triggered the requirement.

Commissioner Rodriguez communicated that employees would be told about the requirement when they served on the committee; training in that module was not necessary for all employees. Commissioner

Rodriguez noted that if the city was already telling those who needed to be told about the form, she did not think it was necessary for all employees to participate in a module about it.

Commissioner Schwartz explained that he does not wish to debate but expressed that he believed there was benefit in educating the workforce on the roles of form one as well as sunshine and conduits, and that staff understanding how these apply was valuable.

Commissioner Rodriguez explained that sunshine conduits made sense, but that she did not understand why a staff member would need to know that someone had to fill out form one, when that person would need to do form one regardless.

Commissioner Schwartz shared that he disagreed with Commissioner Rodriguez and explained that he believes employees benefit when they understand who is responsible for what, and conveyed that such awareness raises the bar if employees later considered serving on a board. Commissioner Schwartz shared that there were many ways the information could be useful.

Commissioner Rodriguez voiced that if someone was seeking to become the city clerk they would review the job description and find such requirements there, and conveyed that this information was not intended for everyone. Commissioner Rodriguez emphasized that the commission could keep the module if it wished, but explained that in her view it did not serve a practical purpose.

Mr. Rotstein communicated that the presented outline was only a template of possibilities and explained that he had been directed to compile an example of potential modules.

Commissioner Rodriguez asked if the final version would be returned to the commission for a vote.

Mr. Rotstein confirmed that if the commission moved forward, the final version would be returned.

Mayor Castillo conveyed that he believed the training development should be delegated to the city attorney and explained that he did not want the commission to be liable if someone violates ethics, emphasizing that it should be conducted by professionals. Mayor Castillo shared that the commission did not sit in judgment of employee training programs because those programs were professionally developed by staff and noted that he had been speaking about the issue. Mayor

Castillo voiced that he was not interested in providing people with a defense.

Commissioner Rodriguez communicated that she hoped that consideration be made that not all employees needed a full module on a form only used by a few people, and expressed that the point should be acknowledged.

Mr. Rotstein confirmed that Commissioner Rodriguez's point was valid.

Commissioner Good sought clarification once more regarding whether the module under discussion was module two.

Commissioner Good communicated that he believes the mistake in the draft template was the use of form one as an example and explained that the genuine issue in module two was open government laws, such as sunshine and public records. Commissioner Good shared that, to his knowledge, Form One included a checkbox confirming the completion of the four-hour ethics course required of officials. Commissioner Good explained that the example had been poorly chosen, but conveyed that the module itself was relevant because employees needed periodic reminders about sunshine and public records laws, especially as staff receive public records requests and must respond appropriately.

Mr. Rotstein conveyed that the final version would be developed in consultation with the city attorney and the administration and explained that what the commission had seen was the initial template. Mr. Rotstein shared that a complete version would be available within a week or two and expressed that staff would finalize the content.

Commissioner Rodriguez asked whether the training scenarios would be specific to each job category or general.

Mr. Rotstein explained that they would be general guidelines rather than department-specific.

Vice Mayor Hernandez voiced that he had a comment rather than a question and expressed appreciation to Commissioner Schwartz for bringing the item forward and to staff for their work. The vice mayor shared that he reviewed the material and communicated that, in his analysis, the proposal seemed like a solution in search of a problem. The vice mayor expressed confidence in the city manager and in Mr. Rotstein and in the administration, and conveyed that employees already sign the handbook affirming they review ethics requirements. Vice Mayor Hernandez shared that while other municipalities had experienced

issues, he did not believe that it meant Pembroke Pines should impose new burdens on employees who had not exhibited such problems. The vice mayor explained that he would vote no and thanked the manager, police and fire chiefs, and assistant city managers, and expressed that the city had an ethical workforce. Vice Mayor Hernandez noted that he could not support imposing an additional training burden.

Mr. Rotstein communicated that there was a cost to the program and explained that if every employee had to take a fifteen or thirty-minute training module, they would be taken away from their duties.

Commissioner Rodriguez asked whether the training would be virtual and whether employees could complete it at any time during the workday.

City Manager Dodge explained that it would be an online video that employees could view at different times during the day, but not necessarily on their own personal schedules.

Commissioner Rodriguez asked whether commissioners were considered employees for the purpose of this training and communicated that she wished to clarify whether elected officials would be included.

Mayor Castillo explained that commissioners were not considered employees for the purposes of this policy and conveyed that commissioners had their own ethics training requirements under the Broward County Ethics Code. Mayor Castillo asked if there was anything further.

Commissioner Schwartz moved that the commission adopt a framework consistent with the discussion and direct the administration to execute the program in a timely manner for implementation beginning in 2026.

Commissioner Rodriguez seconded the motion. Mayor Castillo asked if there was further discussion.

City Attorney Goren asked for clarification on whether Commissioner Schwartz was referring to his policy as an administrative policy.

Commissioner Schwartz confirmed that the policy would be administrative and that it would begin in 2026.

Mayor Castillo asked City Manager Dodge whether, under the motion, the best approach would be to amend or update the employee handbook

and then review it.

City Manager Dodge communicated that he believed the handbook already addressed these issues and explained that he did not see any additional content that would need to be added. City Manager Dodge voiced that the HR director had outlined what was already in the rules and regulations and explained that implementation would amount to presenting or reviewing existing content in a virtual format. City Manager Dodge conveyed that he had reviewed the policies and believed nothing outside the proposed modules was missing.

Mayor Castillo explained that compliance with the motion could occur by having employees review the handbook every two years.

City Manager Dodge commented that the city could provide employees with the handbook and have them confirm in writing that they had read and understood it.

Commissioner Good asked whether there were any city policies regularly presented to staff, such as workplace harassment or similar requirements, and asked whether staff received periodic reminders.

Mr. Rotstein explained that the city had held training sessions in the past on harassment and drug-free workplace policies and explained that HR was preparing new training for the next six to twelve months.

Commissioner Good explained that he saw the ethics training as similar in nature and conveyed that periodic refreshers helped employees remember obligations, particularly for procurement or other sensitive responsibilities.

City Manager Dodge communicated that the items Commissioner Good discussed on sexual harassment and workplace violence were separate matters and explained that those topics did not relate directly to the ethics training under consideration.

Commissioner Good responded by asserting that his opinion is different and that he believed ethics was extremely important, and explained that this was why he supported the effort.

City Manager Dodge clarified that she was not diminishing the importance of ethics but was pointing out that the city already provided certain training in those other areas and communicated that for this particular ethics topic, the city did not have formal training but did require employees to sign off on the policies. The city manager explained that if

the commission preferred a biennial review; the administration could implement that.

Commissioner Good responded that employees were already required to sign off on other policies whenever they received them. Commissioner Good noted that although such policies were included in the handbook, which employees signed once, the city still provided additional training on some of those topics. Commissioner Good voiced that for him, the ethics refresher fell within a similar category because procurement-related behaviors, such as not disclosing bid information to a contractor friend, required periodic reminders.

Commissioner Good explained that such reminders applied not only to management positions but also to positions such as grounds keeping staff, and voiced that even simple examples helped reinforce what employees should not do. Commissioner Good communicated that the examples he gave were simplistic, but that ethics issues often became more sophisticated, and shared that providing light refresher training did not hurt and could be useful. Commissioner Good expressed that he was comfortable with the ethics program concept because it signaled to the public that the city reinforced ethical conduct among all employees. Commissioner Good added that ideally, such training might even extend to contractors, but voiced that such an expansion was beyond the scope of the current item, and conveyed that overall, he supported implementing the program.

Commissioner Rodriguez inquired how often harassment training occurred.

City Manager Dodge explained that harassment training should be conducted every two or three years and not annually.

Mayor Castillo asked if there was further discussion.

Mayor Castillo thanked Commissioner Schwartz for bringing the item forward and communicated that staff now had instructions from the commission and could proceed with implementation.

Mayor Castillo asked if there was any other business.

Commissioner Good explained that at the last meeting, the commission scheduled a workshop on solid waste matters and that he had asked for the associated materials well in advance.

City Manager Dodge conveyed that the materials would be available on

Monday and explained that the delay was due to the Solid Waste Authority meeting scheduled for Friday. City Manager Dodge shared that staff wanted to incorporate updated comparative information before distributing the package and communicated that the report would be delivered on Monday.

Commissioner Good asked how far after Monday the workshop would occur.

City Manager Dodge conveyed that the workshop would take place approximately ten days from Monday.

Commissioner Good thanked the city manager.

Commissioner Schwartz then asked how much time the manager recommended commissioners allocate to review the material.

City Manager Dodge conveyed that commissioners should spend approximately two to three hours reviewing the information.

Commissioner Schwartz asked whether questions should be submitted in advance.

City Manager Dodge explained that the team would present the material at the workshop and conveyed that commissioners could ask questions in the Monday night memo if they wished, and shared that commissioners should do whatever helped them best understand the issue.

Mayor Castillo asked if there was anything else.

Mayor Castillo conveyed that a shade meeting would follow in the chambers after adjournment and informed those not participating that they could depart, and thanked attendees.

City Attorney Goren informed the mayor that the meeting could not adjourn yet.

Mayor Castillo acknowledged this.

City Attorney Goren asked the court reporter if he was ready to go on the record for the shade meeting predicate. City Attorney Goren conveyed that the meeting remained in public session and explained that they were on a brief recess.

Commission Agenda Q&A to be forthcoming, as / if / and when available via the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/mtkmvsud>

NEW BUSINESS:

OLD BUSINESS:

ADJOURN - 9:16 P.M.

CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES

**Gabriel Fernandez
City Clerk**