

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, May 6, 2026

6:30 PM

Regular Commission Meeting, Item ADD-1 was added to the agenda on 5/4/2026.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Castillo acknowledged the passing of former Congressman Larry Smith. Mayor Castillo shared that Larry Smith represented Broward County for a long time as a lawyer and government representative. Mayor Castillo recounted that Larry Smith was a down-to-earth person who loved Broward County, government, and the law. Mayor Castillo expressed condolences to the family and friends of the former Congressman and observed a moment of silence in his honor.

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: Assistant City Manager Jonathan Bonilla, City Attorney Samuel Goren, and City Clerk Gabriel Fernandez.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS continued

Mayor Castillo recognized Angelina Lemus as the new Miss Pembroke Pines Queen 2026. The mayor thanked Angelina Lemus for visiting the commission and offered congratulations.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Carynna Joseph.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The National Anthem was performed by Carynna Joseph.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITEMS TO BE PULLED FROM AGENDA

City Clerk Fernandez announced that there were no items to be pulled from the agenda.

PRESENTATIONS:

PRE-6 PRESENTATION NO. 6: MAYOR CASTILLO WILL PRESENT A PROCLAMATION TO A1 ATHLETICS RECOGNIZING AN OUTSTANDING COMPETITIVE SEASON, HIGHLIGHTED BY THE ROULETTE CHEERLEADING TEAM EARNING SECOND PLACE AT THE ALL-STAR WORLDS COMPETITION.

Mayor Castillo invited the Vice Mayor to join him for the presentations. Mayor Castillo and Vice Mayor Hernandez read a proclamation for the A1 Athletics Roulette cheerleading team.

Vice Mayor Hernandez shared that A1 Athletics' all-star elite teams earned bids to the All-Star Worlds during the 2025-2026 season. Vice Mayor Hernandez noted that Team Roulette received a fully paid bid. Vice Mayor Hernandez reported that Team Roulette earned multiple first-place finishes and grand champion titles.

Vice Mayor Hernandez highlighted that the team was the first from A1 Athletics to reach the podium at the All-Star Worlds, where they were named Silver Medalists. Vice Mayor Hernandez read the names of the athletes, including:

Giada Artanis, Evelina Chircu, Celina Lamas, Alexa Sanchez, Meylani Toni Bido, Emme Davis, Catalina Moral, Mia Sanchez, Mia Bolano, Catalina Duranza, Khloe Porter, Khloe Sealy, Chloe Bolanos, Mia Gallardo, Analise Reinat, Alexandria Smith, Kamila Castelblanco, Olivia Gonzalez, Giuliana Ruiz, Nicole Chang, Alyssa Hernandez, and Isabella Ruiz.

Vice Mayor Hernandez commended the athletes, coaches, and families for their dedication and for representing the community.

Mayor Castillo, together with the city commission, recognized and commended A1 Athletics and Team Roulette for their historic performance and contributions to youth sports.

Coach Paola Arteaga thanked the city for the recognition and mentioned it was a dream for the organization owners, including Coach Asia. Paola Arteaga thanked the parents, coaches, and athletes for making the achievement possible. Paola Arteaga announced that tryouts for the organization were coming up.

Vice Mayor Hernandez noted that A1 Athletics was located in Commissioner Rodriguez's district. The vice mayor shared that he was proud that A1 Athletics chose to open in Pembroke Pines and mentioned that families from the city and from neighboring Miramar participate in the program. Vice Mayor Hernandez indicated that the gym is the only competitive cheerleading gym in the city. The vice mayor explained that thirty invitation-only teams attended the Worlds in Orlando, and four had paid bids.

Vice Mayor Hernandez described the competition format, where teams hope their names are not called until the very end. Commissioner Rodriguez noted that team Roulette placed silver and recognized the other clubs, including Spades, Aces, and the Queen of Hearts.

Vice Mayor Hernandez asked Coach Jess to stand and mentioned that she is a former Pembroke Pines Police Department employee who encouraged his daughter to try out for cheer. Commissioner Rodriguez thanked all the coaches, including Coach Billy, Coach Adrian, and Coach Fifi, for their work. Commissioner Rodriguez joked about the lack of a pool at City Hall and suggested using the nearby lake for celebrations.

Mayor Castillo invited the team members to come forward to take a commemorative group photo.

PRE-1 PRESENTATION NO. 1: MAYOR CASTILLO WILL PRESENT A PROCLAMATION TO MICHAEL GARCIA OF WORK FORCE, A NATIONAL INITIATIVE LED BY THE AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION, IN RECOGNITION OF TURQUOISE TAKEOVER WEEK AND ITS MISSION TO DEFEAT LUNG CANCER.

Mayor Castillo read the proclamation for Turquoise Takeover Week and asked Michael Garcia to join him for the presentation. Mayor Castillo noted that a person in the United States is diagnosed with lung cancer approximately every two and a half minutes. Mayor Castillo explained that lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths for men and women. Mayor Castillo indicated that lung cancer screenings save lives and that advocacy and awareness can lead to more high-risk individuals getting screened. Mayor Castillo highlighted that public support for research leads to new treatments and early detection. Mayor Castillo explained that Lung Force is a national initiative led by the American Lung Association, with the goal of defeating cancer. Mayor Castillo thanked Michael Garcia for his work in keeping the community healthy. Mayor Castillo designated May 4 through May 10 of 2026 as Turquoise Takeover Week and encouraged residents to learn about lung cancer as well as the risks, facts, and importance of early detection.

Michael Garcia thanked the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and commission for partnering with the American Lung Association. Michael Garcia shared that he has been involved with the association for ten years with the goal of raising awareness of the dangers of lung cancer. Michael Garcia reported that 356 people die from lung cancer every day, making it more deadly than any other cancer. Michael Garcia noted that the disease kills more women than men and urged the young ladies in attendance not to start smoking because ninety percent of lung cancer is traced to smoking. Michael Garcia noted that 25,000 people die from the disease in Florida annually and explained that early detection is important because the survival rate drops significantly by stage three or four.

Michael Garcia, on behalf of the American Lung Association, thanked the city and noted that when he started working with the association, he did not personally know anyone who had lung cancer. Mr. Garcia shared that presently his mother-in-law has lung cancer and once more urged the young ladies in attendance not to start smoking.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Castillo addressed the audience before presenting two proclamations, one for Jewish American Heritage Month and another for Haitian-American Heritage Month. Mayor Castillo explained that a new state law known as the DEI bill, section 166 of the Florida statutes, might make these the last such proclamations. Mayor Castillo noted that the law prohibits efforts based on race, color, sex, ethnicity, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Mayor Castillo explained that only federal or certain state holidays may be declared. Mayor Castillo spoke about the diversity of the 66-year-old city and noted that the city includes people of every color, country, religion, and race. Mayor Castillo indicated that because of the city's diversity, a noticeable and natural tone of respect and inclusion exists in the city and is taught in schools and set at city hall.

Mayor Castillo emphasized that no matter where a person is from, what they believe, or their characteristics they are welcome and respected in the City of Pembroke Pines. Mayor Castillo affirmed that this has been standard for the city for a very long time, despite some people believing that efforts at inclusion have gone overboard and that being American is no longer being celebrated. Mayor Castillo quoted President Ronald Reagan, who illustrated that, despite living in Japan or Turkey for an extended period and knowing the language, you would not be considered one of them, but anyone can come to the United States and be an American. Mayor Castillo asserted that the United States is the only country where that is possible.

Mayor Castillo noted that even when you look at money, the phrase *e pluribus Unum*, meaning from many one, is present. Mayor Castillo argued that diversity is who we are and should be celebrated, asserting that inclusion is necessary for unity. Mayor Castillo communicated that equity is in the Constitution and is called equal protection. Mayor Castillo shared that he disagrees with people far away deciding what is best for the local community and urged that if the community has disagreements, they should be resolved by the community itself. Mayor Castillo indicated that the state legislature should be more focused on lowering home insurance rates than how the city celebrates its diversity.

The mayor asserted that the law may change how the commission conducts business, but would not change the character of the city. Mayor Castillo noted that the two proclamations he will present involve ethnic groups and, therefore, would likely not be seen again. Mayor Castillo noted that religion is not barred by the new law, but some court cases define certain religions as ethnic groups. Mayor Castillo mentioned that violating the law could result in removal from office.

PRE-2 PRESENTATION NO. 2 : MAYOR CASTILLO WILL PRESENT A PROCLAMATION TO RONALD SURIN, AUDE SICARD, AND MEMBERS OF THE HAITIAN COMMUNITY IN RECOGNITION OF HAITIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES.

Mayor Castillo read the proclamation for Haitian-American Heritage Month and noted that the city celebrates the cultural history, heritage, and contributions of Haitian-Americans. Mayor Castillo mentioned that the Florida legislature recognized May 2026 as Haitian-American Heritage Month through a House resolution. Mayor Castillo explained that Haitian-Americans influence all aspects of society, including education, business, arts, and civic life. Mayor Castillo noted that the observance includes Haitian Flag Day on May 18, which symbolizes freedom and national pride. Mayor Castillo proclaimed May 2026 as Haitian American Heritage Month and encouraged residents to celebrate the traditions of the Haitian community. Mayor Castillo introduced Mr. Ronald Surin to accept the proclamation.

Mr. Surin thanked the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and commission. Mr. Surin mentioned he has lived in Pembroke Pines for 23 years and has had great experiences. Mr. Surin noted that many people migrated to the city after Hurricane Andrew. Mr. Surin shared that he was appointed to the diversity board by Mayor Castillo, and by serving on the diversity board, he has witnessed the diversity of the city, describing the city as a melting pot. Mr. Surin shared his appreciation for the love and support the Haitian American community has received and emphasized that Haitian heritage is world heritage and has contributed to many nations.

Mr. Surin communicated that his community is proud of the work that they have done for the community and the contributions they have made to every field. Mr. Surin noted that the government cannot change the hearts of the people even if laws change and expressed his appreciation to the city, noting that it is the city of happiness. Mr. Surin noted that his community is going through a tough time, reporting that 350,000 Haitian immigrants are facing deportation by the end of June. Mr. Surin shared that despite his community's troubles, they have no fear of residing in the city or progressing with the city.

Mayor Castillo expressed his disappointment at not being able to issue a proclamation or have a presentation for Saint Patrick's Day in March due to the law.

PRE-5 PRESENTATION NO. 5: MAYOR CASTILLO WILL PRESENT RABBI ZALMAN FROM CHABAD AT WALNUT CREEK A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MAY 2026 AS JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES.

Mayor Castillo read the proclamation for Jewish American Heritage Month. Mayor Castillo noted that Jewish Americans have shaped the nation's civic, cultural, and economic foundations. Mayor Castillo mentioned that Jewish heritage values include education, family, service, and justice. Mayor Castillo explained that Jewish Americans have contributed to government, science, the arts, and community services. Mayor Castillo noted that the local Jewish community works to strengthen the city. Mayor Castillo mentioned the partnership between the United States and Israel based on democratic values. Mayor Castillo noted that the 119th Congress recognized Jewish American Heritage Month. Mayor Castillo indicated that he would be forbidden by law from issuing such proclamations starting January 1st.

Mayor Castillo proclaimed May 2026 as Jewish American Heritage Month in the city of Pembroke Pines and encouraged residents to celebrate the contributions and culture of Jewish Americans.

Commissioner Schwartz accepted the proclamation on behalf of the Jewish people. Commissioner Schwartz stated that the Revolutionary War would not have been won without the Haitian people, nor would the Louisiana Purchase have occurred without Haiti. Commissioner Schwartz noted that Haiti was the beacon of democracy in the Western Hemisphere. Commissioner Schwartz mentioned that the first two presidents of the NAACP were white Jewish men and noted that 15 percent of the United States population is Jewish. Commissioner Schwartz mentioned that schools in Miami-Dade and Broward close for Jewish holidays. Commissioner Schwartz expressed hope for a new conversation.

Vice Mayor Hernandez thanked the cheerleaders and parents for attending and noted they might have dinner plans and invited them to exit quietly if needed.

PRE-7 PRESENTATION NO. 7: MIAMI DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER RAQUEL REGALADO WILL MAKE A PRESENTATION TO THE CITY COMMISSION REGARDING THE FLORIDA NEUROINCLUSION TOOLKIT.

Mayor Castillo introduced Miami-Dade County Commissioner Raquel Regalado, who he announced would present the Florida Neuroinclusion Toolkit. Mayor Castillo thanked Commissioner Regalado for making the trip to come speak to the commission and noted that she and her career are well known in the city.

Vice Mayor Hernandez noted that Commissioner Regalado was previously a Miami-Dade school board member and mentioned that her father served as the mayor of the city of Miami. Vice Mayor Hernandez noted that Commissioner Regalado reached out to the vice mayor when she became aware that the city had completed the criteria to become an autism friendly city. Vice Mayor Hernandez mentioned that Assistant City Manager Christina Goulding is leading those initiatives and shared that the city manager is also thankful to her.

Commissioner Regalado thanked the commission for the invitation and noted that she is currently the vice chair of the SFRTA Tri-Rail, so she is accustomed to traveling long distances as they meet in Palm Beach. Commissioner Regalado congratulated the city on the autism friendly designation and shared that she is the mother of two neurodivergent adults. Commissioner Regalado mentioned that her daughter has autism and ADHD and that when she received the diagnosis, the world was not as autism friendly. Commissioner Regalado indicated that neurodiversity is having a moment and encouraged people to have more conversations on the subject and the community's plan.

Commissioner Regalado agreed with the mayor's earlier comments that diversity is an essential part of who we are in South Florida and explained that neuroinclusion involves accepting intellectual diversity. Commissioner Regalado illustrated that the only difference between her and her children is the way that they think, noting that they are amazing people and that she would not wish to change a thing about them, despite admitting that she initially did. Commissioner Regalado noted that her toolkit was the result of conversations she had in Tallahassee with commissioners who wanted to do what Miami-Dade does but lacked the resources. Commissioner Regalado explained that all the work that she did was pilot programs, embedding changes in existing systems with the goal of entrenching those programs and boosting the longevity of the initiatives.

Commissioner Regalado explained that the toolkit includes sensory-friendly events and noted that much of the work that is present in the toolkit has little to no cost. Commissioner Regalado mentioned a

partnership with the youth fair, resulting in the creation of a sensory room, social stories, a sensory-friendly map, and sensory-friendly hours.

Commissioner Regalado noted that presently one in 31 people is diagnosed with autism. Commissioner Regalado mentioned that autism usually coincides with another neurodiversity, including ADHD, Tourette's, dyslexia, Down syndrome, and OCD. Commissioner Regalado communicated that one of the common first symptoms of Alzheimer's and dementia is sensory loss, noting that one in five Florida residents is neurodiverse when you consider the entire neurodiverse spectrum. Commissioner Regalado explained that there is a very large group of residents who are systematically excluded from public spaces, events, and services.

Commissioner Regalado explained that they have begun training staff in the police, fire, parks, libraries, and transportation departments. Commissioner Regalado described the sunflower lanyard and noted that it denotes an invisible disability, and mentioned the MIA air program at the airport for dress rehearsals. Commissioner Regalado noted that the air program and the addition of multiple sensory rooms at MIA have made travel easier and more realistic for many families. Commissioner Regalado shared that the organization is working with different transit groups to expand access to these programs.

Commissioner Regalado emphasized that a major focus has been to provide access to government services, noting that they have worked with different parts of the government to make services more accessible to neurodivergent individuals. Commissioner Regalado shared how important IDs are now and explained that the state law allows individuals to add a disability to their Florida ID. Commissioner Regalado mentioned a decal program called the Occupant with autism decal and shared that it is tied to the 911 system to help first responders de-escalate situations. Commissioner Regalado noted that over 4,000 first responders have been trained in Miami-Dade, explaining that training often involves meeting neurodivergent adults who have been detained, in order to see things from their perspective.

Commissioner Regalado suggested creating disability task forces and using April and October for goal setting. Commissioner Regalado noted that October, Disability Employment Month, is a big month in Miami-Dade County, explaining that she has made many changes to provide more opportunities for neurodiverse people. Commissioner Regalado provided examples of how they provide opportunities and noted that drowning is the leading cause of death for autistic individuals. Commissioner Regalado provided a QR code for the toolkit.

Mayor Castillo thanked Commissioner Regalado for the information. The mayor explained that inclusion is very important to the city and that the city was already doing some of the fantastic suggestions from the toolkit. The mayor shared that he is interested in learning more about the toolkit.

Vice Mayor Hernandez thanked Commissioner Regalado for her mission. Vice Mayor Hernandez mentioned that her work has an impact across 34 cities. Vice Mayor Hernandez noted that the boundary between Broward and Miami-Dade is often visible, but her work crosses it.

Commissioner Good thanked Commissioner Regalado for the presentation. Commissioner Good mentioned that former school board member Patty Good and Senator Barbara Sharief worked on autism programs in Broward and thanked Commissioner Regalado for the information. Commissioner Good complimented Commissioner Regalado on her great wealth of information and detailed that he is looking forward to sharing the information he has received.

Commissioner Rodriguez thanked Commissioner Regalado for the presentation. Commissioner Rodriguez mentioned she follows the work of the SFRTA. Commissioner Rodriguez suggested connecting with the county commission to implement similar ideas.

Commissioner Schwartz noted he has admired the leadership of Commissioner Regalado. Commissioner Schwartz mentioned that he and his wife share a similar personal story. Commissioner Schwartz reported that the Pembroke Pines charter schools have a nine-to-one student-to-teacher ratio for ESE. Commissioner Schwartz noted that if twenty percent of Florida's population is neurodivergent, then more support in public education needs to be provided statewide. Commissioner Schwartz mentioned he would reach out to national friends to encourage them to replicate the MIA program.

Commissioner Regalado mentioned that adult programming often ends at age 22. Commissioner Regalado noted that the healthcare system is not always prepared for neurodivergent adults. Commissioner Regalado mentioned she is working on adult programming in North Miami-Dade and South Broward.

Commissioner Good mentioned the Life Developmental Center on the eastern edge of the city.

Commissioner Regalado asked if the facility offers employment

opportunities and stressed that having a job is a large part of being an adult.

Commissioner Good offered to introduce Commissioner Regalado to the facility.

PRE-8 PRESENTATION NO. 8: ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WINNER OF THE DISTRICT 4 NATALIE BELMONTE GREAT YARD AWARDS FOR APRIL 2026.

Assistant city manager Stamm introduced the Preza family from the Chapel Trail neighborhood. The city manager reported that Ana Preza is the winner for April. The city manager commended the family for setting a high standard for home maintenance.

Ana Preza mentioned that the secret to a beautiful home is lots of water.

Mayor Castillo presented a 50 dollar gift certificate for Home Depot to the family.

Vice Mayor Hernandez noted he is also a Chapel Trail resident and that beautiful homes make the city a desirable place to live.

Mayor Castillo thanked the code compliance staff for their work on the program.

Commissioner Good asked how much time passes between the selection and the meeting.

The city manager explained that the selection involves code enforcement and public nominations. The city manager noted that houses are checked for code violations. The city manager commented that the timeline is usually two to three weeks.

Commissioner Good requested that district commissioners be advised when a selection is made.

The city manager agreed to work toward that goal.

PRE-3 PRESENTATION NO. 3: THE FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION AND THE RECREATION AND CULTURAL ARTS DEPARTMENT WILL PRESENT WATER SAFETY AND DROWNING PREVENTION INITIATIVES, INCLUDING THE EVERYDAY COUNTS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.

Mayor Castillo introduced a presentation on water safety.

Chief Daniel Almaguer noted that the department collaborates with the Department of Health, the YMCA, and the police department. Chief Almaguer reported that May is recognized as Water Safety Month. Chief Almaguer mentioned that drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death for children ages one to four. Chief Almaguer noted that Florida ranks highest in the US for drowning fatalities. Chief Almaguer reported that approximately 80 children die annually in the state. Chief Almaguer mentioned that most drownings occur in residential pools. Chief Almaguer noted that drowning is quick and silent. Chief Almaguer reported that the city provides vouchers for swim classes and a pool alarm installation program. Chief Almaguer shared that the city recently held a successful water safety event with over 150 participants.

PRE-4 PRESENTATION NO. 4: MAYOR CASTILLO WILL PRESENT A PROCLAMATION TO FIRE PREVENTION CHIEF DANIEL ALMAGUER AND ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER CHRISTINA GOULDING PROCLAIMING MAY 2026 AS WATER SAFETY MONTH IN THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES AND RECOGNIZE THE AWARD RECEIVED FROM THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DESIGNATING THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES AS THE GOLD STANDARD FOR A WATER SMART COMMUNITY.

Assistant City Manager Goulding noted that most people do not actively seek water safety information. Assistant City Manager Goulding introduced a campaign using city digital signs to show the number of days since the last drowning. Assistant City Manager Goulding reported that it has been 155 days since the last drowning, which occurred on November 30th. Assistant City Manager Goulding mentioned that the campaign aims to create curiosity among residents. Assistant City Manager Goulding introduced Mr. Mario Sosa from the Department of Health.

Mr. Sosa explained that the Water Smart Communities Award is given to municipalities that address drowning prevention. Mr. Sosa reported that Pembroke Pines is the first city in Broward County to achieve the gold level for the third time. Mr. Sosa presented a plaque to the city.

Mayor Castillo read a proclamation declaring May 2026 as Water Safety Month. Mayor Castillo explained that the city's future is dependent on the health and safety of its community and noted that drowning is the leading cause of death for children between the ages of 1 and 4. The mayor communicated that drowning is preventable and that children should not be left unattended near water and shared that various strategies and methods can be used to counter drowning. Mayor Castillo noted that learning basic swimming and other life-saving skills can prevent drowning.

The mayor shared that the city of Pembroke Pines, in collaboration with its partners, will engage the community in water safety education. Mayor Castillo urged residents to practice water safety, use barriers, and learn CPR.

ITEMS AT THE REQUEST OF THE PUBLIC

City Clerk Fernandez indicated that there were no items at the request of the public.

COMMISSION AUDITOR REPORT:

None.

APPEALS OF BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT DECISIONS:

None.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

There were no board appointments announced.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner Good Jr., 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

1. MOTION TO RATIFY THE CITY MANAGER’S APPROVAL TO CONTINUE UTILIZING THE PRICING FROM THE SOUTHEAST FLORIDA GOVERNMENTAL PURCHASING COOPERATIVE GROUP CONTRACT #T-11-23 TO PURCHASE APPROXIMATELY 60 TONS OF CARBON DIOXIDE PER MONTH FROM AIRGAS USA, LLC. FROM MARCH 1, 2026 UNTIL THE NEW AGREEMENT IS AWARDED, AND TO AWARD THE NEW AGREEMENT FOR IFB # PSUT-25-15 “CARBON DIOXIDE LIQUID BULK DELIVERY” TO THE MOST RESPONSIVE/RESPONSIBLE BIDDER, AIRGAS USA, LLC., IN AN ANNUAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$360,150, PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 35.18(C)(6) AND 35.29(C).

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

- 2. MOTION TO APPROVE REQUEST TO ADVERTISE SOLICITATION(S):

(A) PSUT-26-03 "HUMAN SERVICES CAMPUS UTILITY REHABILITATION"

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

- 3. MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF FORTY (40) POINT BLANK BALLISTIC SHIELDS AND TRANSPORT BAGS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM FEDERAL EASTERN INTERNATIONAL, LLC., FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$280,480, UTILIZING THE STATE OF FLORIDA ALTERNATE SOURCE CONTRACT # 46151500-NASPO-25-ACS, PURSUANT TO SECTION 35.18(C)(5) OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

- 4. MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE EVALUATION COMMITTEE TO AWARD RFQ #PL-25-01 "GRANT ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS" TO COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATES OF FL. INC., AND TO DIRECT THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT FOR SERVICES.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

QUASI JUDICIAL CONSENT AGENDA:

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

5. MOTION TO PASS PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2026-03 ON FIRST READING.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2026-03 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 IV, ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION," AND IN PARTICULAR AMENDING SECTION 4.02 "CITY MANAGER - APPOINTMENT; REMOVAL; COMPENSATION" PERTAINING TO APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL OF THE CITY MANAGER, AMENDING ARTICLE IV, ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION," AND IN PARTICULAR AMENDING SECTION 4.03 "ACTING CITY MANAGER" PERTAINING TO APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL OF THE ACTING CITY MANAGER; 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 JUNE 03, 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Good Jr., seconded by Vice Mayor Hernandez, to pass on Proposed Ordinance No. 2026-03 on First Reading . 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

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN:

City Attorney Goren read Proposed Ordinance 2026-03 into the record by title.

City Attorney Goren explained the ordinance involves referendum amendments to the city charter regarding the appointment and removal of the city manager. City Attorney Goren noted the item would be on the November 2026 general election ballot.

Commissioner Good moved to approve the item.

Vice Mayor Hernandez seconded the motion.

Commissioner Schwartz requested that his comments be fully transcribed. The full transcript will be included as a supplement to the minutes for the record. [Attached hereto as Exhibit "A"].

Mayor Castillo thanked Commissioner Schwartz for his comments and asked if there were any other comments. The mayor noted that the motion passed three to two and noted that it will be placed on the agenda for the town hall meetings and receive public input to consider before the second reading.

City Attorney Goren noted that in the context of the deferral, the second reading must occur not less than 10 days after the first reading. City Attorney Goren mentioned there would be a public hearing. City Attorney Goren noted that it would be considered alongside the other measures that the commission has already considered, including charter issues and bond referendums. The city attorney shared that the deadline for delivery to the supervisor of elections is no later than August 18th and that the measures will be timed in the context of allowing for public access to the public forums the commission will host.

RESOLUTIONS:**REGULAR AGENDA:**

ADD-1 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES STRATEGIC PLAN QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT.

This Commission item had no action taken.

Assistant City Manager Goulding provided an update on the strategic plan. Assistant City shared the history of the strategic plan, noting that the plan was adopted by the Commission on December 4, 2024, and as a result of the bond not passing, the administration presented the Commission with a phased project approach. Assistant City Manager Goulding communicated that the commission approved \$5.6 million in Year One funding for recreation, as well as \$4.2 million in roadway and infrastructure Year One funding. Assistant City Manager Goulding reported that the city approved an architectural and engineering consultant and issued its first quarterly report on March 31, 2026.

The assistant city manager explained that 21 recreation projects were approved for Year One funding, including 10 playgrounds and 3 artificial turf conversion design projects. Assistant City Manager Goulding continued that the commission also approved 3 full park renovation design projects, a new walking path, a boardwalk renovation, a parking lot renovation design project, a plaza renovation design project, and one citywide park monument signage design project. Assistant City Manager Goulding mentioned that design work orders would be presented on May 20th as work order authorizations. Assistant City Manager Goulding reported that an invitation to bid for the Chapel Trail Nature Preserve boardwalk renovation project will be issued to the commission in June 2026 and that drawing on the project is about 97 percent complete.

Assistant City Manager Goulding mentioned that several playgrounds would be installed during the summer and noted that they will all be done during the Summer of 2026. Assistant City Manager Goulding explained that two playgrounds are still pending commission approval, one of which is Silver Lakes North, which is an inclusive playground, and the other, Flamingo South, which is a signature playground with a baseball theme.

Assistant City Manager Goulding shared that the commission approved 30 projects in Year One and noted that the commission approved 13 speed feedback sign projects, 10 traffic calming projects, 3 drainage projects, 2 road expansion projects, and one traffic calming study. Assistant City Manager Goulding explained that a traffic calming study for districts one and two that if approved will be completed in January 2027. Assistant City Manager Goulding detailed that there are five projects that are currently deferred pending completion of the traffic study and indicated that they will be reevaluated in January.

Assistant City Manager Goulding explained that three projects are ready for procurement, including an RFQ for a design professional, the IFB for

the Taft Street drainage project, and the SW 178th Avenue & SW 12th Street Crosswalk improvements. Assistant City Manager Goulding detailed the locations of the speed feedback signs and noted that the formal solicitation for approval of the equipment will be presented to the commission in August.

Assistant City Manager Goulding communicated that a project to install Do Not Block Intersection Signs on Taft Street and Hiatus Road is pending installation. Assistant City Manager Goulding noted that a project to add additional pavement to NW 160th Avenue & NW 15th Street was deemed no longer warranted due to the addition of bike lanes. Assistant City Manager Goulding ended her remarks and invited Commission questions.

Mayor Castillo expressed that the plan is ambitious and funded without raising taxes. Mayor Castillo asked if the information is available on the city website.

Assistant City Manager Goulding confirmed that the information is available on the website, so that residents can track progress. Assistant City Manager Goulding detailed that the website is www.ppines.com/blueprint and noted that an interactive map will soon be added, where residents can click on the locations on the map and see the park and any updates.

Mayor Castillo emphasized that he is very impressed with the administration and thankful for the progress of the plan. The mayor asked for clarification on what the city is studying.

Assistant City Manager Goulding reported that the city is doing a traffic calming study in districts one and two at the request of the commission.

Vice Mayor Hernandez mentioned he took a photo of the report to send and shared that it was the subject of the emails he and Mr. Kennedy have had with Silver Lakes. The vice mayor noted the project would be completed in December.

Commissioner Schwartz requested that the assistant city manager package the presentation and have it placed on the website. Commissioner Schwartz complimented the presentation for being easy to understand and succinct.

Assistant City Manager Goulding mentioned that the pardon our progress signage would be placed at project locations to inform residents of progress.

Commissioner Rodriguez requested a report on fiscal transparency to track the budget and timelines.

Assistant City Manager Goulding explained that the budget is reported in the documents and that individual playground costs vary but stay within the overall budget, given the approved budget adjustment.

Commissioner Rodriguez explained that she was concerned with transparency and noted that residents want to see exact spending figures to ensure that the project is on budget. Commissioner Rodriguez requested that more information about costs, delays, and other factors be provided so residents can track the progress and the utilization of funds.

Assistant City Manager Goulding noted that future reports would include more financial data as the projects move forward. At the request of the vice mayor, Assistant City Manager Goulding repeated the website where the information could be found: www.ppines.com/blueprint.

The mayor asked if there were any more comments and thanked the assistant city manager for her presentation.

REPORTS OF LEAGUE AND MPO REPRESENTATIVES

Commissioner Rodriguez reported on a League of Cities meeting where four students received scholarships and noted that it highlights that the League of Cities is involved in all aspects of community life. Commissioner Rodriguez explained that Commissioner Good would be in attendance instead of her at the next meeting. Commissioner Rodriguez shared that she attended a transit forward 2040 vision meeting for the county and noted that the county's plan is currently unfunded, and expressed concern about city involvement in the county transit plan. Commissioner Rodriguez explained that the data and facts in the plan seemed to be misaligned with the ideas proposed by the city, and was curious to know the origin of the data. Commissioner Rodriguez noted that she was informed that the county's plan is in its second version and that they had previously spoken to Assistant City Manager Bonilla and Jay Schechter.

Commissioner Rodriguez explained that she believes that the county should have spoken to the entire commission instead of just the administration, as the commission has more insight as to what the needs of the residents are. Commissioner Rodriguez shared that both she and Assistant City Manager Bonilla asked the county to come present to the Commission, emphasizing that she believes it is vital for the city to be able to provide input. Commissioner Rodriguez noted that much of what the county plan includes, such as micro-transit, is also actively being worked on by the city. Commissioner Rodriguez reiterated her belief that county planners should present the plan to the commission.

Commissioner Rodriguez explained that this echoes her comments made at a previous meeting, where she insisted that the city needs to be actively engaging with the county and maintain communication even if the county does not reach out first.

The mayor shared his support for Commissioner Rodriguez's statements and suggestions. Mayor Castillo mentioned that expanded school busing is a missing component of mass transit.

Mayor Castillo explained that he has had numerous conversations with Broward School officials about how buses are inefficient and that by improving the system, they could gain the parents' trust and increase ridership. Mayor Castillo noted that traffic occurs because parents lack other ways to get kids to school. Mayor Castillo suggested that private sector solutions could improve the quality of life and expressed his frustration at the inefficiency of the school transportation system and the two-mile rule. Mayor Castillo argued that he does not believe there is a

good reason for the two-mile rule and that if it were gone, traffic would be reduced, noting that many school buses are not full. Mayor Castillo advocated for more bus stops to expand student availability to school buses, noting that he does not understand why the system cannot be improved.

Commissioner Rodriguez agreed that the two-mile radius is limiting, but explained that the decline in ridership is also in part due to an increasing number of general safety concerns. Commissioner Rodriguez noted that the bus was not unsafe for her when she rode it to and from school and suggested educating parents about bus safety.

The mayor responded that he believes that if they can show that the bus is safe, clean, and reliable, ridership will gradually increase. Mayor Castillo noted that nationwide, Columbus Day is one of the best traffic days, explaining that traffic rates typically drop by approximately 33%. The mayor noted that if they could do something similar for morning traffic, Pembroke Pines' livability score would increase drastically. Mayor Castillo explained that if he were a high school senior, he would not want to be dropped off by his parents.

Commissioner Rodriguez and Vice Mayor Hernandez indicated that they were dropped off by their parents during their senior year.

Mayor Castillo reiterated that there should be attempts to improve school transportation and asserted that, as a result, traffic and quality of life would improve, and the city's projects and expenditures would decrease.

Commissioner Schwartz indicated that he has not seen anything from the county expanding public transportation south of 595.

Commissioner Rodriguez noted that what Commissioner Schwartz is referring to is the PRIMO plan and explained that it would improve public transportation, such as with the city's shuttle bus system and other systems further south and west, respectively. Commissioner Rodriguez noted that while the plan is not funded, she believes it is evidence that the county at least heard the city's input.

Commissioner Schwartz acknowledged and agreed with Commissioner Rodriguez's statements.

Commissioner Rodriguez mentioned that safe bike lanes are also important for students.

Mayor Castillo argued that ridership would increase if bus stops were

covered and lighted. Mayor Castillo mentioned that most bus stops in Broward County lack shelters and that the city had to fight hard to get covered bus stops.

Commissioner Schwartz reminisced with the mayor about when the city had the best-looking bus stops but no buses, as funding was pulled.

The mayor shared that he did remember when the city had no buses, despite having the nicest bus stops.

Vice Mayor Hernandez mentioned Florida statute 1011.68 regarding the two-mile rule, noting that the two-mile rule is a state issue and if the commission were to vote on it, it would be preempted. The vice mayor suggested adding the issue to the list of items the city's lobbyists can take to Tallahassee. The vice mayor thanked Commissioner Rodriguez for her work with the county and agreed that the county excels at communicating with municipal administrations, but agreed that it is the commission who vote on policies, so presentations should be directed to them.

REPORTS OF THE CITY MANAGER AND CITY ATTORNEY

The city manager noted that he did not have anything to report.

City Attorney Goren introduced Assistant City Attorney Karina Noguerras to discuss legal issues with condos and HOAs. The city attorney noted that his office published an informative memo and asked that the commission listen to a brief presentation by the assistant city attorney.

Mayor Castillo indicated that he asked for this item because the commission is well-aware of the horror stories relating to condos and HOAs, noting that it is frustrating to not have legal jurisdiction in these areas. Mayor Castillo communicated that Hialeah Mayor Calvo created a committee to begin looking at Miami-Dade County concerns relating to HOAs and Condos, and shared that the city could follow a similar example.

Assistant City Attorney Noguerras reported that she contacted the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR). Assistant City Attorney Noguerras mentioned the agency offered to hold mobile office hours or a condo resource fair in the city. Assistant City Attorney Noguerras noted the agency would answer questions and receive complaints from residents. Assistant City Attorney Noguerras explained that the agency requested an event space and coordination with police or code enforcement. Assistant City Attorney Noguerras noted the program would be available in English and Spanish.

Mayor Castillo expressed support for the program and indicated that the city could find space for the events. Mayor Castillo asked if DBPR licenses HOAs.

Assistant City Attorney Noguerras explained that the DBPR has limited enforcement authority over HOAs. The assistant city attorney noted that the DBPR does not have enforcement jurisdiction over HOAs other than voting disputes amongst board members.

Mayor Castillo communicated that the scale of the authority over the DBPR should be conveyed to HOA members, as many believe the DBPR has plenary authority over HOAs. The mayor noted that people pay HOAs and condo associations large amounts of money and it's important that they understand what their rights are. Mayor Castillo explained that he and his colleagues constantly hear complaints about HOAs and condo associations and affirmed that the proposed idea is a great one.

Commissioner Schwartz voiced that he supports the idea and suggested adding guidance for condo and HOA residents to the city website. Commissioner Schwartz recommended a dedicated email address for resident questions. Commissioner Schwartz explained that he appreciates the assistance the DBPR is offering and noted that some of the concerns may be resolved through communication with administration without needing dedicated events. Commissioner Schwartz shared that he supports providing the DBPR with space for any event and expressed interest in knowing the enforcement powers of the DBPR as well as its effectiveness.

Assistant City Attorney Noguerras mentioned that she does not have information on their enforcement, but explained that the agency offers educational outreach programs. The assistant city attorney noted that other municipalities that have used the DBPR's programs have shared that they usually begin with office hours and complaints, and then move to the educational section in order to maximize participation.

Commissioner Good asked if the DBPR is the ombudsman.

Assistant City Attorney Noguerras confirmed that the DBPR is the ombudsman.

Commissioner Good asked if they have a local office and whether the information was more geared towards condos rather than HOAs. Commissioner Good asked who oversees the dissolution of an HOA.

Assistant City Attorney Noguerras indicated that she is not sure if they have a local office, but they are willing to come. The assistant city attorney noted that Commissioner Good is correct that the information was more specific to condo associations and answered that she was unsure of who handles the dissolution process.

Commissioner Good noted that a recently passed statute addressed the dissolution of HOAs.

Mayor Castillo asked if they were referring to Representative Porras' item.

The assistant city attorney noted that Representative Porras' item did not pass and explained that she is not sure which specific bill Commissioner Good is referencing.

Commissioner Good noted that he would withhold his statement for the time being until he can receive more clarity on the matter. Commissioner

Good explained that he believes the bill regarding the dissolution of HOAs passed.

The assistant city attorney noted that they would look into it.

Mayor Castillo said that part of why Representative Porras' item had trouble was because it did not have a solution to the questions of who owns and maintains common property like pools and roads in the event of HOA dissolution. Mayor Castillo argued that the process must be carefully planned.

Mayor Castillo noted there was consensus to provide office space for the DBPR and proceed with the process. Mayor Castillo thanked Assistant City Attorney Nogueras for her work and her presentation.

City Attorney Goren shared that the DBPR communicated that they had an interest in Pembroke Pines and were happy to offer their support. City Attorney Goren commended Assistant City Attorney Nogueras's work.

City Attorney Goren reported that a developer in Oakland Park filed a lawsuit against the school board and Broward County regarding school mitigation fees. City Attorney Goren noted that the lawsuit challenged the school board's imposition of the collection of the mitigation fee, which the city commission previously opposed.

Mayor Castillo asked if the county was going to change its policy, noting the money was not a gift; it was in exchange for new school seats. The mayor noted that since the county is closing schools, their argument is void, and explained that he does not understand why the money should be paid.

City Attorney Goren mentioned his firm represents the city of Oakland Park, which is a defendant in the lawsuit. City Attorney Goren shared that they would provide updates to the commission.

Mayor Castillo adjourned the meeting.

COMMISSION ITEMS:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

ADJOURN - 9:36 P.M.

CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES

Gabriel Fernandez
City Clerk