

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, October 15, 2025

6:30 PM

5:30 PM Closed Door Session on School Safety (F.S. 281.301), followed by the Regular Commission Meeting at 6:30 PM (or such time as the Closed Door Session adjourns). Addendum 1 has been added.

Commission Chambers

City Commission

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

5:32 PM CLOSED DOOR SCHOOL SAFETY MEETING

OPEN PUBLIC PORTION OF THE SCHOOL SAFETY MEETING

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, Deputy City Clerk Markieta Watson, and City Clerk Gabriel Fernandez.

Others also present for the closed-door School Safety Meeting:

Dr. Kimberly Pizzo, District Safety Specialist, Assistant Principal, Charter Elementary School/FSU Campus

Jonathan Bonilla, Assistant City Manager

Michael Castellano, Principal of Charter Elementary/Middle School West Campus

Nalini Sohit-Vazquez, Financial Controller

Dan Giustino, Emergency Management Director

Ken Juede, Municipal Security Manager

CDS-1 CLOSED DOOR SESSION: PURSUANT TO SECTION 281.301 F.S., NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A CLOSED DOOR SESSION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA WILL BE CONDUCTED PERTAINING TO SCHOOL SAFETY.

THIS ITEM IS IN REFERENCE TO ITEM NO. 15 ON THE 10/15/2025 CONSENT AGENDA. MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2025-2026 PEMBROKE PINES CHARTER SCHOOLS (PPCS) FLORIDA SAFE SCHOOLS ASSESSMENT TOOL (FSSAT), THE 2025-2026 FSU/FSUS DISTRICT FSSAT BEST PRACTICES, THE UPDATED K-12 THREAT MANAGEMENT POLICY, THE UPDATED K-12 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN, AND TO AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIPT OF THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL HARDENING GRANT.

RECESS PUBLIC PORTION OF SCHOOL SAFETY MEETING

RESUME PUBLIC PORTION OF SCHOOL SAFETY MEETING

6:21PM ADJOURN PUBLIC PORTION OF SCHOOL SAFETY MEETING

6:33 PM REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER (OR SUCH TIME AS THE CLOSED-DOOR MEETING ADJOURNS)

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.

Mayor Castillo addressed the Municipal Day of Remembrance and Community Resilience in light of the recent events in the Middle East. A moment of silence was held to honor those who have suffered and lost loved ones during the tragic time.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Gianna Piega.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The National Anthem was performed by Gianna Piega.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITEMS TO BE PULLED FROM AGENDA

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

PRESENTATIONS:

SPECIAL PRESENTATION TO CITY MANAGER CHARLES F. DODGE

Mayor Castillo addressed the Commission and audience about the rarity and prestige of the Key to the City Award and highlighted some of City Manager Dodge's contributions and leadership that have shaped the city's history.

Career Milestones:

- Dean of city managers in the state of Florida.
- Began with the city on October 1, 1975, as the first Director of Community Services.
- Established Broward County's first senior center in Pembroke Pines.
- Later he became Director of Code Enforcement, Assistant City Manager, and City Clerk.
- In 1989, became City Manager, a position he has held for the past 35 years.

Throughout City Manager Dodge's leadership, Pembroke Pines more than doubled in size, along with sustained improvements to its infrastructure, parks, and municipal services. The City Manager guided the city through challenges such as hurricanes, infrastructure expansion, and school system growth, while maintaining high standards of governance, integrity, and innovation.

Mayor Castillo concluded by sharing that the city's history could not be written without Charles Dodge, whose vision, commitment, and leadership have become central to its identity. The Key to the City symbolized the community's gratitude, respect, and enduring appreciation for his lifetime of service.

City Manager Dodge took pictures with the Mayor, City Commission, and his family to commemorate the occasion.

- PRE-1** PRESENTATION NO. 1: MAYOR CASTILLO WILL PRESENT A PROCLAMATION TO RAM TEWARI RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 2025 AS HINDU HERITAGE MONTH IN THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES.

Mayor Castillo read the proclamation and presented it to Mr. Ram Tewari in recognition of Hindu Heritage Month in the City of Pembroke Pines.

Mr. Tewari addressed the Commission and read a statement to express his gratitude for the recognition, to shed light about his religion, culture, and spoke about the Diversity and Heritage Advisory Board. Mr. Tewari also highlighted the Diwali Festival celebration with the Commission and audience.

- PRE-2** PRESENTATION NO. 2: AWARDS PRESENTED TO THE WINNERS OF THE ANNUAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK POSTER CONTEST FROM LOCAL SCHOOLS.

Mayor Castillo invited Division Fire Chief Daniel Almaguer to come to the podium and present the winners of the Fire Prevention Contest for 2025. The following students were recognized:

PRIZE	SCHOOL	GRADE	ARTIST'S NAME
FIRST	Montessori Academy	K	Zahra E. Coleman
SECOND	Somerset Academy	K	Leonardo De Santino
THIRD	Pines Charter- Central	K	Lexie Perez
FIRST	Pines Charter- FSU	1	Logan Brown - Absent
SECOND	Pembroke Pines Elem	1	Craig Clare
THIRD	Somerset Academy	1	Alejandro Suarez
FIRST	Cambridge International	2	Kai Ku - Absent
SECOND	Atlantic Montessori	2	Samir Ibrahim - 2x winner
THIRD	Cambridge International	2	Liam Sepulveda
FIRST	Cambridge International	3	Kailyn Echeverri
SECOND	Montessori Academy	3	Lauren Del Campo
THIRD	Atlantic Montessori	3	Luis A. Sanchez
FIRST	Pines Charter- FSU	4	Madison Vincent
SECOND	Pines Charter- FSU	4	Makario Francis
THIRD	Pines Charter- FSU	4	Joi Douze
FIRST	Somerset Academy	5	Lauren G. Barbosa
SECOND	Somerset Academy	5	Carlota Colmenaras
THIRD	Montessori Academy	5	Liam Materi

Fire Chief Almaguer announced a new award from Fire Prevention recognizing the school with the most school participation and Somerset Academy was the recipient of that award.

Assistant Principal Acevedo and Ms. Rocha - Art Teacher were invited to come and take pictures with the students, Mayor, Commission, and Sparky the Fire Department Mascot.

PRE-3 PRESENTATION NO. 3: MAYOR CASTILLO WILL PRESENT A PROCLAMATION TO TOM CAMINITI, RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 2025 AS ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES.

Mayor Castillo read and presented a proclamation to Rom Caminiti, recognizing October 2025 as Italian Heritage Month in the City of Pembroke Pines.

Mr. Caminiti read his speech recognizing famous Italians and expressing gratitude to his family, the Mayor, and the Commission for the honor. He extended special thanks to Francie Novo and Lana Tropeano for their exceptional coordination of the city's events. In addition, he acknowledged Breast Cancer Awareness, LGBTQ, Down Syndrome Awareness, and Anti-bullying Prevention which were also recognized in the month of October.

PRE-4 PRESENTATION NO. 4: MAYOR CASTILLO WILL PRESENT A PROCLAMATION TO KARIN KOREN RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 2025 AS GERMAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES.

Mayor Castillo read and presented a proclamation to Karin Koren recognizing October 2025 as German Heritage Month in the City of Pembroke Pines.

Mayor Castillo invited Mrs. Koren's husband to join her as she addressed the Commission and audience with a brief word of thanks. She also thanked Commissioner Good for her appointment to the Arts and Culture Advisory Board.

The Koren family then took pictures with the Mayor and Commissioner Good to commemorate the event.

PRE-5 PRESENTATION NO. 5: MAYOR CASTILLO WILL READ A PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 7, 2025 AS MUNICIPAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES.

Mayor Castillo read the proclamation and presented it in recognition of Municipal Day of Remembrance in the City of Pembroke Pines on October 7, 2025. The proclamation honored the victims, called for the release of hostages, and expressed solidarity with the Jewish community. It reaffirmed the city's commitment to reject antisemitism, hatred, and bigotry, and to uphold the safety, dignity, and equal rights of all residents.

The mayor also noted that three local rabbis were invited to the Commission Meeting but could not attend due to a Jewish holiday; he said they would each receive a copy of the proclamation as a gesture of unity and peace.

PRE-7 PRESENTATION NO. 7: MAYOR CASTILLO WILL PRESENT A PROCLAMATION TO THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL COMMUNITY RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 20, 2025 AS INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL DAY IN THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES.

Mayor Castillo along with Commissioner Schwartz and Commissioner Good read the proclamation and presented it to Mr. Shane Wilkinson in recognition of International Air Traffic Control Day in the City of Pembroke Pines on October 20, 2025.

Commissioner Schwartz read a statement about October 20th being International Air Traffic Controller Day, marking the 1961 founding of IFATCA in Amsterdam, an idea first proposed in 1956 by Jacob Wachel of Israel. The day honors air traffic controllers' global contributions to flight safety.

Commissioner Schwartz then recognized Manager Shane Wilkinson at North Perry Airport, and his veteran team, totaling over 160 years of experience and were recognized for their dedication for maintaining operations even during COVID-19, exemplifying their professionalism and commitment to aviation safety.

Mr. Wilkinson thanked the Mayor and Commission for the recognition and then took pictures with the Mayor, Commissioner Good, and Commissioner Schwartz prior to taking his seat.

PRE-6 PRESENTATION NO. 6: ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WINNER OF THE DISTRICT 1
NATALIE BELMONTE GREAT YARD AWARDS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025 .

Mayor Castillo along with Assistant City Manager Mike Stamm, Code Enforcement Supervisor Peter Avino, and Commissioner Good presented the Natalie Belmonte Great Yards Award to Joy Bejasa for District 1.

Commissioner Good presented the certificate and gift card to Ms. Bejasa.

Ms. Bejasa expressed a brief word of thanks for the recognition and took pictures with the Mayor and Commission.

Assistant City Manager Mike Stamm encouraged the audience to use the QR code to nominate residents who have great yards in their area.

ITEMS AT THE REQUEST OF THE PUBLIC

There were no items at the request of the public.

COMMISSION AUDITOR REPORT:

- CAP-1** COMMISSION AUDITOR PRESENTATION ON THE DRAFT 2026 RISK ASSESSMENT AND AUDIT PLAN AND COMPLETED AUDITS OF:
- WASTE PRO SANITATION COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL CONTRACT
 - LOBBYISTS CONTRACTS (ERICKS CONSULTANTS, LAWRENCE J. SMITH P.A., AND SMITH, BRYAN & MYERS, INC.)

A motion was made by Commissioner Good Jr., seconded by Vice Mayor Hernandez, to approve the 2026 Audit Plan. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

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

Nay 0

Eddy Castaneda, Senior Manager of Forvis Mazars Auditors Office, introduced Jamie Amos, Senior Manager to present the following internal audit reports requested by the Commission:

Lobbyist Contracts in terms of financial commitment, lobbyist activities, and impact / value. The House Bills impacted by lobbyists were reviewed. The observations presented were the current lobbyist assessments not including impact and value to the city. Mr. Amos mentioned the score card categories in which the City Manager ranked each of the contracted lobbyists.

The current lobbyist performance report card is completed by the Assistant City Manager with input from the City Manager and four main areas are evaluated: timeliness of work, quality of work, fulfillment of contract requirements, and overall departmental satisfaction. Although these categories are appropriate, they do not measure the lobbyist's actual impact or value to the city.

To address the matter, it was recommended that each lobbyist be required to align their activities with the City's long-term strategic plan or annual priorities. This alignment would be formally included in the report card as a criterion for contract renewal. Mr. Amos said city management agreed with the recommendation.

Mayor Castillo thanked Mr. Amos for the comprehensive report.

Commissioner Rodriguez asked whether there was an annual report detailing everything the lobbyists had done, or if the information only came from the lobbyists.

Mr. Amos clarified that the lobbyists send regular reports summarizing their activities each year. The reports were included in the back up of Agenda Items that the Commission received, but the information tends to be buried within their packets. He suggested that the reports be pulled out and presented separately so they're easier for everyone to see and review.

City Administration Direction:

Commissioner Rodriguez agreed with Mr. Amos and made a

recommendation for city administration to standardize how performance and value are evaluated. The Commissioner referred to an example when administration reviewed how much a grant writer brought in; in comparison to what they were paid and made the recommendation to include the performance comparison as regular practice in each contract or after each session, so the results from all lobbyists could be compared more effectively.

Commissioner Good held his comments until the full lobbyist audit was presented.

Mr. Amos continued the presentation and confirmed their review of the invoices and payment schedules were consistent from the city in accordance with the contractual terms.

Commissioner Good discussed the difficulty of evaluating lobbyist contracts because their success was largely qualitative rather than quantitative. He mentioned that lobbyists sometimes win or lose depending on political factors, and even successful efforts could be overturned by vetoes. The main concern was that it was hard to measure effectiveness and said success should involve actual engagement with state legislators. The Commissioner also made a point that city officials often do lobbying themselves and sometimes find legislators unaware of city priorities, which highlighted a qualitative failure in communication and argue that elected officials, not just city staff, should be involved in scoring or evaluating lobbyist performance, since officials have firsthand experience with legislative advocacy and could better assess lobbyist impact.

Mayor Castillo explained that the lobbyists organization employs in Tallahassee and Washington and act as essential ambassadors when the city cannot be present. The lobbyists play a crucial role in securing beneficial legislation, such as funding charter schools and other appropriations, and in preventing harmful measures. Mayor Castillo also mentioned that being absent from political centers could be detrimental; he highlighted that their chosen lobbyists are often respected on a bipartisan basis, provide valuable insight and connections, and are always available to advise on legislation and key political players. Overall, the mayor believed the lobbyists had done an excellent job at protecting and advancing the organization's interests.

City Administration Direction:

Commissioner Good spoke in agreement with the mayor's comments about the value of lobbyist services, noting that their city has directly benefited from such representation. The Commissioner made a recommendation for the city commission to also take part in evaluating or scoring the lobbyists' performance, in addition to city staff. Commissioner Good emphasized both staff and elected officials should provide input based on their own observations of the lobbyists' work, since the lobbyists served the entire city.

Commissioner Rodriguez voiced concerns about the value and effectiveness of the city's lobbying contracts, particularly at the congressional level. She mentioned that reports from lobbyists often resemble national news summaries rather than providing specific, actionable information relevant to Pembroke Pines. The Commissioner spoke about the need for measurable metrics such as the number of meetings arranged or tangible advocacy outcomes and suggested incorporating these performance indicators into all of the lobbyist contracts. Commissioner Rodriguez also mentioned that the reports should include detailed updates on grant opportunities and follow-up actions, not just general political summaries. She said the city should expect more in-depth, locally focused, and results-driven reporting to justify the \$36,000 expense and ensure accountability from its consultants and lobbyists.

City Manager Dodge confirmed that the discussion about improving lobbyist reporting and establishing measurable metrics was noted.

City Administration Direction:

Commissioner Good made a motion for the city commission to participate in the scoring and evaluation process for lobbyists. The mayor said it was agreed by consensus and directed the city attorney to review the proposal and provide a Memorandum on how to reframe the process.

Additionally, Commissioner Rodriguez suggested gathering input from all members on what they expect to see in lobbyist reports and incorporating those expectations as part of the lobbyists' contractual

obligations.

Commissioner Schwartz suggested separating discussions about Tallahassee and Washington, D.C., mentioning that the city had more influence at the state level. The Commissioner proposed that the Tallahassee lobbyists create a scorecard identifying which members of the Broward legislative delegation support or oppose the City of Pembroke Pines. This would help the city understand where lawmakers stand and strengthen its advocacy strategy. The Commissioner explained that lobbyists already know which representatives are allies or obstacles but that such insights are missing from the current reports and should be included as an educational component. He said the detailed, behind-the-scenes information such as legislators' engagement and actions in committees would provide the most value for the city's investment in lobbying efforts.

Vice Mayor Hernandez thanked the mayor for discussing lobbying matters and expressed agreement with Commissioners Good and Rodriguez. He acknowledged that federal lobbying presented unique challenges but stressed that federal reports needed to be more detailed and insightful, not just summaries of national news. The Vice Mayor spoke in favor of Erick's Consulting team for being highly responsive and successful, particularly during the legislative session. He mentioned Pembroke Pines had a strong session overall, crediting both the lobbyists and the city attorney's efforts, but reiterated the need for better, more quantifiable reporting, especially regarding available funding. Vice Mayor Hernandez said his goal for the upcoming session was protecting home rule and spoke about the right of local governments to govern their own affairs as a top priority in future Tallahassee lobbying contracts.

Mr. Amos then presented the audit for Waste Pro of Florida. The audit focused on evaluating Waste Pro of Florida's compliance with its contractual obligations to the City of Pembroke Pines, specifically in the areas of billing, payment processing, and management of customer complaints. Under the current arrangement, the City collects customer payments for solid waste services and then remits those funds to Waste Pro each week. An accountant prepared and verified the payment documentation using reports generated by the City's Technology Services team. Payments to Waste Pro were calculated by deducting administrative and franchise fees from the total customer payments.

Before processing, all documentation was reviewed and approved by the accounting supervisor in the Finance Department, then forwarded to Accounts Payable for payment.

Regarding customer complaints, Waste Pro was required by contract to respond to all service-related complaints within 24 hours and record them electronically in the TracEZ system, which would be accessible to the City's contract administrator. The current contract between the City and Waste Pro ran from September 2022 through September 2028, with annual rate adjustments tied to the Consumer Price Index. Residential customers would receive a consolidated bill that included water, sewer, and solid waste charges.

Mayor Castillo informed the residents in the audience who were present for Item 17 that he would address the matter shortly.

Mr. Amos continued to present the audit results between July 2024 and June 2025, the TracEZ system recorded 181 complaints. Approximately 41% of those appeared unresolved within the 24-hour requirement; however, further inquiry revealed that Waste Pro's administrative staff often failed to update the system promptly once issues were resolved. The delay in data entry created the appearance of untimely complaint resolution which prevented the city from accurately assessing vendor performance. In the June 2025 Contract Performance Report Card, Waste Pro received a score of 5 out of 10 for complaint resolution and 10 out of 15 for service accuracy. Despite those figures, the number of complaints was extremely low compared to the total service volume of 181 complaints out of more than 4 million collections annually, equating to about 0.004525% of all collections, with some later deemed invalid.

Mr. Amos recommended that the City collaborate with Waste Pro to establish a remediation plan addressing the delays in the TracEZ reporting process. The auditor further advised the City to continue monitoring future reports to verify that Waste Pro implemented effective corrective actions. Those improvements would help ensure better accountability, accurate performance tracking, and sustained service quality for residents.

Vice Mayor Hernandez expressed concerns about Waste Pro's reporting but acknowledged that the company was generally a good

vendor for the city. He also raised an issue about the city ordinance governing fee collections and vendor payments, noting that it may be about 33 years old and likely outdated. Vice Mayor Hernandez emphasized the need to review and update the ordinance to ensure the city collected appropriate fees and vendors were paid more promptly. He said he intended to personally look into the matter and wanted it noted for the record.

Commissioner Good spoke about Waste Pro and how the vendor handled 4 million collections per year with only 181 complaints, which indicated strong service. The Commissioner spoke in line with the vice mayor's earlier point, that the audit could benefit from an additional review layer to examine the system more thoroughly.

The mayor instructed Mr. Amos to pause his third audit report in order to address the consent agenda item, as parents and residents, along with their children, were present in the audience. Mr. Castaneda agreed to postpone the final report until after the consent agenda was addressed.

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 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

1. MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A REPLACEMENT TRANSFER PUMP FOR THE CITY'S WATER TREATMENT PLANT FROM PSI TECHNOLOGIES, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$55,550, PURSUANT TO SECTION 35.18(C)(7)(D) OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

2. MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE AND MAINTENANCE OF ONE (1) RISO FT5230 INKJET PRINTER FROM TOSHIBA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,094, UTILIZING PRICING ESTABLISHED BY THE SOURCEWELL CONTRACT # 112124, PURSUANT TO SECTION 35.18(C)(6) OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

3. MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUSINESS LEASE AGREEMENT WITH CHOICES FOR LIFE INC. FOR THE LEASE OF 3,566 SQUARE FEET OF SPACE AT 6700 SW 13 STREET, PEMBROKE PINES, FL 33025 (VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTER) TO OPERATE A SCHOOL AND ADULT TRAINING PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, FOR A ONE YEAR TERM BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1, 2025, AT AN ANNUAL RENT PAYMENT OF \$58,147.71.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

4. MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF SODIUM HYDROXIDE 25% AND 50% BY WEIGHT ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS FROM BRENNTAG MID-SOUTH, INC. UTILIZING THE PINELLAS COUNTY AGREEMENT BID# 23-0392-ITB FOR AN ANNUAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$47,080, PURSUANT TO SECTION 35.18(C)(5) OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

5. MOTION TO APPROVE AN ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT WITH MICROSOFT AND THE PURCHASE OF VARIOUS ESSENTIAL MICROSOFT SOFTWARE PRODUCTS FOR THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FROM INSIGHT PUBLIC SECTOR, INC., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$739,747.27 A YEAR FOR A THREE-YEAR PERIOD, PURSUANT TO SECTION 35.18(C)(7)(I) OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

6. MOTION TO APPROVE AN AGREEMENT FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE CHILD EXPLOITATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE (CEHTTF) IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

7. MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF FIRE RESCUE MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT FROM HENRY SCHEIN FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$81,750, AND FROM MEDLINE INDUSTRIES, INC. FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$59,850.00, UTILIZING THE SAVVIK BUYING GROUP CONTRACT #2024-02 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 PURSUANT TO SECTION 35.18(C)(6) OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

8. MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF FIRE RESCUE MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT FROM THE BROWARD SHERIFF'S OFFICE (BSO) FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$225,400.00 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026, WITH NO CHARGE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE FEES, MARKUP PRICING, OR SHIPPING PURSUANT TO SECTION 4.12(A)(1) OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

9. MOTION TO RATIFY THE CITY MANAGER'S EXECUTION OF THE PUBLIC EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION LETTER OF AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT AND THE STATE OF FLORIDA AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION, INVOLVING A \$699,355.62 PAYMENT TO THE STATE FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL PUBLIC EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

10. MOTION TO APPROVE THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES AND S KATZ, INC. FOR MEDICAL DIRECTOR SERVICES FOR THE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT, TO INCLUDE CLINICAL OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE EMT TRAINING PROGRAM FOR AN INITIAL FIVE (5) YEAR TERM WITH THE OPTION TO RENEW FOR ADDITIONAL FIVE (5) YEAR TERMS.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

11. MOTION TO APPROVE REQUEST TO ADVERTISE SOLICITATION(S):
- (A) RE-25-07 "NEW CHILLER FOR STUDIO 18"
 - (B) PL-25-01 "GRANT ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS"
 - (C) PL-25-02 "GENERAL CONTRACTORS FOR HOME REPAIR PROJECTS"
 - (D) TS-25-18 "EXAGRID HARDWARE SUPPORT RENEWAL"
 - (E) TS-25-19 "SHAREFILE SOFTWARE LICENSING RENEWAL"
 - (F) TS-25-20 "SOPHOS ENDPOINT PROTECTION"

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

12. MOTION TO APPROVE THE AWARD OF IFB #CS-25-03, "PROPANE WET FUELING FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES SHUTTLE BUSES," TO THE SOLE BIDDER, BLOSSMAN GAS INC., IN AN ANNUAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$112,000.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

13. MOTION TO APPROVE THE ASSIGNMENT, ASSUMPTION, AND CONSENT AGREEMENT WHEREBY BETTOLI TRADING CORP. WILL ASSIGN THE AGREEMENT FOR "VENDING MACHINE SERVICES AGREEMENT" TO COMPASS GROUP USA, INC., EFFECTIVE AUGUST 20, 2025 AND APPROVE THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

14. MOTION TO RELEASE PERFORMANCE BOND #2555753 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$356,898.11 FROM SOUTHWEST HAMMOCKS, LLLP., ACCEPT THE MAINTENANCE BOND #2555762 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$46,127.90 (WHICH IS 20% OF THE CERTIFIED ENGINEER OF RECORD'S COSTS FOR WATER & SEWER IMPROVEMENTS) FOR SOUTHWEST HAMMOCKS - PINES HEALTH PARK, LOCATED AT 8201 PEMBROKE ROAD, PEMBROKE PINES, FL 33025

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

- 15.** MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2025-2026 PEMBROKE PINES CHARTER SCHOOLS (PPCS) FLORIDA SAFE SCHOOLS ASSESSMENT TOOL (FSSAT), THE 2025-2026 FSU/FSUS DISTRICT FSSAT BEST PRACTICES, THE UPDATED K-12 THREAT MANAGEMENT POLICY, THE UPDATED K-12 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN, AND TO AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIPT OF THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL HARDENING GRANT.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

- 16.** MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 26, 2025, CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025, FIRE ASSESSMENT HEARING, AND THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2025, SHADE SESSION, SECOND BUDGET HEARING, AND REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

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

(A) District Board of Trustees of Broward College, The - Emergency Medical Technician ("EMT") Ride Along - Renewal

(B) Emilio's BBQ Catering Services Corp. - Gift Shop/food services at the Senior Center - Renewal

(C) Global Payments Direct, Inc., a Global Payments Company - Credit Card Processing Services - Renewal

(D) SmartCop, Inc. - Public Safety Automatic Records Management - Renewal

(E) State of Florida, Emergency Management Division (The) - Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement - Renewal

(F) Syn-Tech Systems, Inc. - FUELMaster and FMLive - Renewal

ITEMS (E), (F) and (G) WILL EXPIRE, 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:

(G) Alexander Design + Build, LLC. - PSPW-22-07 Citywide Fencing (Pool Expansion) - Non Renewal

(H) Gomez and Son Fence Corp. - PSPW-21-11 Citywide Fencing - Non-Renewal

(I) Techgroupone, Inc. - PSPW-21-11 Citywide Fencing - Non-Renewal

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

19. MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF UTILITIES PARTS, FITTINGS, AND ACCESSORIES, ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS FROM CONSOLIDATED PIPE & SUPPLY COMPANY INC, FORTILINE, INC., AND FERGUSON US HOLDINGS INC, UTILIZING PRICING ESTABLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST FLORIDA GOVERNMENTAL PURCHASING COOPERATIVE GROUP (CO-OP) BID NO. ITB 25-017, FOR AN ANNUAL AGGREGATE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$500,000, PURSUANT TO SECTION 35.18(C)(6) OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES.

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

- ADD-1** MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EVALUATION COMMITTEE AND TO AWARD RFQ # PSUT-25-06 "ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR ION EXCHANGE ADDITION TO THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT FOR PFAS REMOVAL" TO HAZEN AND SAWYER AND TO DIRECT THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT FOR SERVICES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH FLORIDA STATUTE 287.055, CONSULTANTS COMPETITIVE NEGOTIATIONS ACT (CCNA).

A motion was made to approve on the Consent Agenda

- 17.** MOTION TO APPROVE FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,707,962 FOR YEAR ONE PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE THREE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN.

There was no action taken on the original motion.

A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Good, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, to bifurcate the item into two separate items: 1) Parks Projects and 2) Roadway Infrastructure Projects. 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 Vice Mayor Hernandez, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez to approve the Parks Projects. 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 Good, seconded by Vice Mayor Hernandez, to defer the Roadway Infrastructure Projects to the next meeting. 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 1st VOTE BEING TAKEN:

Commissioner Rodriguez read Item 17 into the record by title and said she would reserve her comments until after the public comments.

The following member of the public spoke on the item:

Dennis Valenzuela, 330 SW 95th Terrace, Pembroke Pines, FL

Commissioner Rodriguez thanked the community, especially families and young people, for attending the meeting and emphasized the importance of civic engagement and understanding how City Hall worked. The commissioner noted that young residents represent the future of the city and encouraged them to stay involved as they grew up.

Commissioner Rodriguez also suggested holding future meetings in more accessible locations and times, such as parks during games or after practices, to better include families' perspectives. The city could invite residents to share ideas on how the city can better communicate and involve them in decision-making, particularly regarding parks and local projects.

Neil Charley, President of West Pines United Soccer Club, invited the city officials to speak at the club's annual December celebration, offering it as a venue to connect with parents and families.

Commissioner Rodriguez appreciated the invitation and expressed interest in using such opportunities to share information about city matters. Commissioner Rodriguez also called on Christina Goulding, Assistant City Manager/Recreation and Cultural Arts Director who discussed updates on community project funding described in the city's strategic plan.

Assistant City Manager Goulding also responded about the senior center and explained that although there was interior space at the senior center, parking was currently inadequate, so expansion for parking was being explored for future years. She said the city was focusing first on funding Year 1 of a three-year plan, which was reduced from an original

\$296 million proposed to about \$97 million. \$47 million proposed for recreation and \$50 million proposed for roads and bridge projects. Ms. Goulding said the purpose of the agenda item was to focus on the first year's projects.

Commissioner Rodriguez's requested information on coordination with the school board since some schools might close, merge, or be redefined, officials might want to be cautious about funding related amenities such as crosswalks or improvements, until decisions are finalized. Future adjustments could swap or delay certain school-related projects based on the board's direction.

Assistant City Manager Goulding mentioned the importance of phased planning, design work, and cost clarity so the city could make informed decisions and adjust as more information became available.

Vice Mayor Hernandez thanked the parents and children for attending the meeting and acknowledged their civic engagement. He then discussed improvements at the SW Focal Point Senior Center, mentioning the \$400,000 in grants to be used for new parking spaces and highlighting the center as a national model serving 400-500 seniors daily. The Vice Mayor expressed that the city had strong support for seniors compared to other cities.

Regarding Parks and Recreation, Vice Mayor Hernandez expressed strong support for allocating \$200,000 each to the Chapel Trail Soccer Park and West Pines Soccer Park for design-phase improvements and described the investments as worthwhile community spending. He encouraged ongoing youth and parent participation in Commission meetings and stressed that public funds should be reinvested locally.

Commissioner Good then raised concerns about the fast-tracked nature of the proposal, said he expected more discussion and workshops before approving specific projects. The Commissioner was supportive of the listed recreation and facility improvements, and spoke about the need for equitable investment, especially in the city's older parks and neighborhoods on the east side of Pembroke Pines. Commissioner Good also pointed out that Pines Optimist Park, the city's oldest sports park, received minimal upgrades because it's ownership by Broward County Aviation under a lease, making improvements more complicated.

He urged continued efforts to preserve and enhance that park, noting its vital importance to the surrounding community. Commissioner Good raised concerns about district representation and fairness in how project funds were being distributed, mentioning that none of the proposed roadway and infrastructure projects would benefit District 1. He stated that while he fully supported the community and recreation facility improvements, he could not approve the roadway portion as presented. To address this, Commissioner Good made a substitute motion to bifurcate the item separating the park and recreation projects from the roadway and infrastructure projects, so that each could be considered and voted on separately. The Commissioner said he was open to continuing the discussion on the roadway improvements at a later time if the two matters could be reviewed separately.

Commissioner Schwartz mentioned that typically all members were allowed to speak before a motion was acted upon. Commissioner Schwartz then began discussing the city's August 26th workshop, stating that city manager had been directed to propose solutions consistent with the public's wishes. The Commissioner said voters had rejected most of the items currently under consideration by a nearly two-to-one margin.

Mayor Castillo weighed in on Commissioner Schwartz's statement, explaining that voters had not voted against the projects themselves but had only rejected the financing mechanism for funding them. The mayor clarified that every project under discussion was part of the city's strategic plan, which had been formally adopted by the City Commission. Commissioner Schwartz responded that the plan was not unanimously supported, emphasizing that he had voted against its final approval in December of the previous year. The mayor reiterated that, while not unanimous, the plan was nonetheless adopted by majority vote and remained the city's official strategic plan.

Commissioner Schwartz then spoke about the issue of restricted funds. He referenced the \$66 million funds originally earmarked for a police, fire, and public safety building, questioning whether it was still designated for that purpose. City Manager Dodge confirmed that the \$66 million had initially been restricted but was later rolled into a broader \$290 million capital plan that covered parks, roadways, and public safety projects collectively. Of that total, roughly \$110 million was designated for the eventual public safety building, since \$66 million alone would not be

sufficient to cover construction costs.

City Manager Dodge continued to clarify that at the August 26th workshop, the City Commission had reached a consensus to begin design work on several city projects using available cash reserves, rather than waiting for new funding or voter approval. He explained that because votes could not be taken during workshops, the commission had instead provided general direction to move forward. The city's plan was structured over multiple years: the first year focused on project design and preparation, and years two and three allocated funds for construction. Specific allocations included \$200,000 each for Chapel Trail and West Pines soccer parks for artificial turf design in year one, followed by \$2.4 million per park for construction in later years. Additional funds were designated for citywide playground replacements, park renovations, and walkway improvements. Mr. Dodge reiterated that the \$66 million being discussed was not a restricted fund but rather part of the city's general fund reserves, available for capital investments.

Discussions ensued among the commissioners who expressed their viewpoints on how to proceed. Concerns were raised about spending from reserves without re-engaging the public, especially after the non-passage of the recent bond referendum. Commissioner Schwartz suggested that before committing funds, the city should survey residents who voted in that election to understand which elements of the proposed projects they might still support. Commissioner Rodriguez responded to the Commissioner about the item on the agenda being the appropriate time to address the matter a second time.

Mayor Castillo weighed in to clarify the purpose of the item. The mayor noted that the defeated bond issue sought approval for funding, not for the individual projects, and that the public's message was about avoiding additional taxation. Consequently, the commission directed staff to find alternative means of financing necessary improvements, which led to the current plan to use reserve funds. The mayor reiterated that the agenda item under discussion dealt only with project design work, not full construction, and that the design phase was a prerequisite for moving projects forward in the future. He also clarified that the police station project, mentioned during discussion, was not part of the current agenda. The mayor referenced the Monday Night Memo and expressed displeasure with the tool not being utilized in preparation for the

Commission Meetings.

PRIOR TO THE 2nd VOTE BEING TAKEN:

Commissioner Schwartz raised concerns about the design work for city parks, particularly in District 2, noting that some parks had recently been redone. There was confusion about which parks were being referenced, with names such as Johnson Street, Pembroke Lakes, Flamingo Park, and Pasadena Park mentioned. Assistant City Manager Goulding clarified that some of those parks were not on the current project list, which led to back-and-forth questions about scope and priorities.

Commissioner Schwartz asked City Manager Dodge about how the design phase would be handled, asking whether one firm would manage all projects or if multiple firms would be involved. He also wanted to know if the District Commissioners would have a chance to ensure that the designs reflect the residents' preferences rather than just the city's master plan. He cited Pasadena Park as an example, where residents opposed planned improvements linked to a \$200,000 budget item, highlighting the importance of local input.

Discussions ensued between Vice Mayor Hernandez and Commissioner Schwartz concerning allocated fund disbursement between the districts.

City Manager Dodge responded by clarifying that the city would solicit proposals from multiple firms rather than assigning all work to one company. Some projects, like Chapel Trail Soccer Park and West Pines, had very specific scopes, such as artificial turf or parking lot renovations. He also noted that Pasadena Park was not part of the current year's projects but was scheduled for year two. The Commission would have the opportunity to review proposals and vote on the firms selected for each project.

PRIOR TO THE 3RD VOTE BEING TAKEN:

Mayor Castillo recessed the meeting for five minutes.

After the meeting reconvened, Commissioner Good expressed concern about the proposed road and traffic safety projects, mentioning that he

had understood they would be funded through leveraged surtax dollars rather than city funds. He said that it was his impression that the city would not need to use its own money for these projects. Additionally, the commissioner pointed out that none of the proposed roadway infrastructure improvements benefited District 1, which he represents. He highlighted specific issues in his district, such as congestion and safety problems near Charter School East on Pembroke Road and other schools located within residential areas, where parents' vehicles often damage lawns and block traffic.

Mayor Castillo weighed in and said the plan was a proposal which could be amended or changed, but it was a good starting point to address the needs of the city and some of the suggestions were based upon the recommendations of the police department.

City manager Dodge added that while the initial plan involved leveraging surtax funds by borrowing against them, there were ongoing legal and financial uncertainties about whether surtax/gas tax dollars could be used as collateral and deferred to City Attorney Goren.

City Attorney Goren explained that his office, along with the Assistant City Manager/Finance Director, had consulted with the Deputy County Attorney and the city's financial advisors, Ford and Associates. Both parties expressed concerns about the bondability of the surtax funds, emphasizing that the county's long-term commitment to those revenues was uncertain. This lack of consistency created challenges in using surtax dollars as security for financing future projects.

Mayor Castillo added that he had spoken directly with four County Commissioners regarding the uncertainty surrounding the use of surtax funds for municipal capital projects. The county's concern, he noted, was that if a city's debt service exceeded its apportioned share of surtax revenues, it could place the city at financial risk. However, Mayor Castillo pointed out that the city still had access to other funding sources, such as road and bridge funds, that could be used to help offset project costs.

The Mayor agreed that the commission could defer the traffic component of the project plan until the next meeting, allowing time for the workshop and further discussion to ensure all districts, including District 1, received appropriate consideration.

The city commission discussed how to move forward with the selection and funding of projects for Phase One of a larger, multi-phase city initiative. The discussion centered on whether the program should focus on citywide or district-specific projects, and how much funding between \$6 million, \$9 million, or \$12 million should be allocated initially. The commissioners agreed that the questions required further consideration and input from all districts to ensure fairness and balanced representation.

Mayor Castillo recommended deferring the item until the next meeting in November, with a workshop to be held beforehand. The purpose of the workshop would be for each district commissioner to work with the city manager to identify which projects they would like to see included in Phase One. The process would allow staff to prepare a revised list of projects that reflect district priorities and could be supported unanimously by the full commission. The commission expressed support for this approach, mentioning the goal was collaboration and equitable distribution of projects, not to shortchange any district.

It was also noted that the proposed projects stemmed from the city's long-standing traffic master plan and strategic plan, which had been developed over several years. The commission agreed that while not all projects could be completed immediately, Phase One should establish momentum and lay the groundwork for subsequent phases.

QUASI JUDICIAL CONSENT AGENDA:

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

20. MOTION TO PASS PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-15 ON FIRST READING.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-15 IS AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2028; PROVIDING FOR AN AMENDED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 FOR THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECOND AND FINAL READING IS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 19, 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Good Jr., seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, to pass the Ordinance 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

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN:

City Attorney Goren read Proposed Ordinance 2025-15 into the record by title.

COMMISSION AUDITOR PRESENTATION ON THE DRAFT 2026 RISK ASSESSMENT AND AUDIT PLAN continued:

Jamie Amos, Senior Audit Manager continued to present information about the city's audit plan. Mr. Amos presented the three-phase process for conducting a citywide risk assessment and developing the internal audit plan for fiscal year 2026.

In Phase One, the team would gather information through surveys and interviews with leadership, functional areas, and key stakeholders. The auditors would identify major initiatives and assess how these could affect the city's overall risk profile.

Phase Two would involve evaluating and prioritizing risks based on their potential impact on business performance, the likelihood of occurrence, and the maturity of governance, controls, and monitoring/feedback processes.

In Phase Three, the auditors draft the internal audit plan, selecting proposed projects based on the organization's risk evaluation. The plan would include both high- and medium-risk areas and was designed to be flexible, allowing for updates during the year as priorities shift.

The proposed internal audit plan for FY 2026 included several key projects:

Procurement Process Review (250 hours): Evaluate purchasing and RFP procedures to ensure fairness and competitive bidding.

Fleet Management Controls (200 hours): Assess controls over vehicle use, maintenance, and tracking.

Budget and Funding Management (100 hours): Review how the

manages budget constraints and external funding gaps.

Permitting Process Efficiency (300 hours): Examine building permitting and inspection processes for delays or compliance issues.

Utility Billing Accuracy (200 hours): Verify accuracy of water meter readings and billing controls to address high water bills.

Remediation Validation (80 hours): Confirm corrective actions from prior audits have been implemented effectively.

Special Projects (120 hours): Reserved time for ad hoc or emerging audit needs identified by city officials.

Project Management: Covers reporting, meetings, and administrative tasks.

Mr. Amos explained the plan was flexible and served as a menu of projects that can be adjusted at any time throughout the year. Commissioners can approve the plan now and amend it later to add or change focus areas as new priorities arise.

Vice Mayor Hernandez inquired about when the final deadline would be to amend the internal audit plan since adjustments might be needed as the year progresses. Mr. Amos responded that there was no fixed cutoff date as the plan functioned as a living document that could be changed or expanded at any time. The Commission could approve the plan as it was and later add or revise projects as priorities evolved.

Mayor Castillo weighed in and said the “special projects” category included 120 flexible hours reserved for new or emerging audit needs; those hours could be used or left unused without affecting the overall agreement. If those hours were removed, the total project time would drop to 1,210 hours, with an estimated cost of \$284,000, which was within the city’s usual audit budget range as confirmed by the Commission’s auditor.

Vice Mayor Hernandez clarified he was not suggesting a reduction in audit work but wanted to understand whether the number of hours allocated to specific projects such as increasing procurement from 250 to 300 hours could be adjusted later. Mr. Castaneda confirmed that the internal audit plan was a flexible, living document, meaning projects and hours could be modified throughout the year as priorities changed or new issues arose. Approval of the plan did not lock the commission into fixed projects or time allocations.

Commissioner Good suggested the auditors have individual conversations with each commissioner to gather input and then compile a project scope to bring back for approval. Commissioner Good asked for clarification on the next steps and what was being proposed for the upcoming fiscal year. One of the items mentioned was the need to include both customer service and billing audits for Utilities and Waste Pro and said those processes should be included.

Mayor Castillo referenced previous meetings that had already addressed certain topics like customer service and billing as part of risk assessments.

The Commission Auditors agreed to meeting with the City Commission to discuss the audit plan further.

City Manager Dodge explained that residential water billing included garbage fees, while commercial accounts were handled differently, affecting vendor reimbursements.

Commissioner Schwartz requested to see a list of projects completed in the last five years and then stated he would address the matter separately to move the agenda forward.

Mayor Castillo inquired the audit plan required commission approval by vote. City Attorney Goren clarified for the record that the discussion concluded with the decision to approve the proposed plan, which incorporated holding individual conversations with commissioners and coordinating with auditors. Those discussions would help refine the project scope and ensure a well-informed approach be implemented over the next fiscal year.

21. MOTION TO PASS PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-16 ON FIRST READING.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 2025-16 IS AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA AMENDING CHAPTER 35 OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES, ENTITLED "PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES; PUBLIC FUNDS;" PROVIDING FOR COMPREHENSIVE REVISIONS TO THE CITY'S PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES, AS DETAILED IN EXHIBIT "A," ATTACHED HERETO AND INCORPORATED HEREIN; AMENDING THE PROCUREMENT THRESHOLD REQUIRING COMMISSION APPROVAL; PROVIDING FOR EXEMPTIONS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECOND AND FINAL READING IS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 19, 2025.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Vice Mayor Hernandez, to defer the Ordinance until the next meeting. 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 2025-16 into the record by title.

Commissioner Rodriguez referenced a previous decision regarding whether all bids should automatically go to the city commission for approval from August 26, 2025, Commission Workshop. Initially, the commissioner favored requiring commission review, but after further discussion, especially with feedback from Commissioner Good that she no longer felt comfortable with that approach. She referenced Section 35.19, which would allow the city manager's discretion over which bids needed commission review, and concluded that mandatory review for all bids, particularly smaller ones, was unnecessary. Commissioner Rodriguez also sought input from her colleagues on the matter and on establishing a reasonable threshold for review.

Assistant City Manager Gomes explained the reason for reducing mandatory commission involvement with certain procurement processes. He mentioned that requiring all bids to go before the commission slowed down the process because each item was reviewed multiple times: before advertisement, during bidding, after evaluation, and before the award. Assistant City Manager Gomes provided statistics from 2024 and said the City Commission saw over 60 agenda items for solicitations and another 60 for awards, yet questions from the commission were rare and typically minor. Mr. Gomes commented that waving mandatory commission review for smaller projects aligned with practices in other cities and saved staff time without compromising oversight.

In response, Commissioner Rodriguez spoke about the larger contracts and the importance of reviewing RFQs or RFPs to ensure vendors' roles aligned with the city's goals. She mentioned that while smaller technical items may not need close oversight, contracts affecting departments like the building or water services should be carefully evaluated, including how vendors interact with residents and clients. The Commissioner suggested a middle ground where contracts below a certain threshold may not require review, but larger or more impactful contracts warrant

due diligence and the opportunity to ask questions as needed.

Assistant City Manager Gomes responded about the city manager's discretion to bring certain projects, particularly those with high public interest or complex contracts, before the city commission for approval. Mr. Gomes also responded that it was inefficient to solicit bids for projects that the commission might ultimately reject, so pre-approval helps avoid wasted effort.

Commissioner Rodriguez responded by acknowledging Mr. Gomes' response but stressed the need for a clear policy or threshold to maintain the elected body's authority and ensure a balance between administrative discretion and commission oversight. The goal was to define a line that allows smaller, less critical items to be handled administratively while larger or more significant projects receive commission input.

Vice Mayor Hernandez acknowledged Commissioner Good and mentioned his expertise in municipal and county procurement. The Vice Mayor emphasized that the city's procurement threshold had not changed in 27 years, which was outdated given current costs. He said \$25,000 was far too low for the city's size and modern expenses. Vice Mayor Hernandez appreciated the inclusion of "quick quotes" in the memo, despite the additional pages it created and expressed openness to discussion and compromise with his colleagues. Acknowledging the elected body's oversight role and stressed the need to update the threshold, the Vice Mayor also noted that frequent workshops may not be practical, especially given the complexity of procurement and other city functions.

Commissioner Good spoke about how the Commission had little opportunity to participate in reviewing solicitations before they went out, limiting their input on evaluations, recommendations, or contract awards. He stressed the early participation was critical and provided an example of the Pines Village Water Main Replacement project, where commission input allowed sewer work to be included, demonstrating the importance of their involvement in shaping solicitations for public benefit. Commissioner Good commented removing the early review opportunity and proposed striking language that would delay or limit commissioner input.

With regards to the quick quote process, Commissioner Good spoke in support of increasing the threshold from \$25,000 to \$100,000 for convenience but emphasized that proper procurement processes and contract terms should remain intact. The Commissioner added skipping formal bids could compromise contractual protections and cautioned that even with quick quotes, agreements were necessary for services to ensure the city's interests were protected.

Assistant City Manager Gomes clarified that the specific quick quote mentioned was for product purchases, which typically did not require a full contract. He explained that different types of quick quotes may include agreements, particularly for services, and would include similar contractual protections as a formal RFP or IFB.

Commissioner Good continued to raise concerns about ambiguous language in certain sections of the proposed procurement procedure such as allowing the Assistant City Manager to delegate authority to a designee, questioning who qualified and expressed discomfort with delegating significant decision-making authority to someone without executive-level responsibility. Additionally, Commissioner Good disagreed with placing contracts approved as in the best interest of the city on the consent agenda and said those items should be on the regular agenda for discussion. Commissioner Good raised concerns about who would ultimately be responsible if a factual finding later turned out to be inaccurate or misleading. The proposed language appeared to shift responsibility for determining the facts from the City Commission to the City Manager. The commissioner wanted clarification to ensure that elected officials would not be held accountable for statements or findings they did not make themselves.

City Attorney Goren explained under the current provisions of the existing code; the Commission would be required to make a factual finding to get to the exemption process. The intent behind the proposed change was to allow the City Manager to make the factual findings that supported an exemption.

Assistant City Manager Gomes addressed the concerns of the Commission with regards to the factual findings in the best interests of the city and said the adjustment was the reason for the proposed

language.

Commissioner Good continued to question whether the City Commission could be removed entirely from accountability for factual findings if they are made by staff.

City Attorney Goren indicated that if that was the Commission's intent, the language in the ordinance could be revised to make that explicit. The exchange highlighted the broader issue of maintaining accountability while delegating administrative authority. However, City Attorney Goren emphasized that, legally, any challenge would be directed at the city as a whole rather than at an individual commissioner or staff member.

Commissioner Rodriguez made a point if there was a clerical or scrivener's error in a section concerning liability claim approvals.

City Attorney Goren responded if a vendor or contractor were to dispute a decision, they would sue the City of Pembroke Pines, not the city manager, procurement director, or any individual official. Mr. Goren also pointed out that while staff may handle the factual findings, the final decision still rests with the Commission, which must ensure its actions have a sound legal and factual basis.

Commissioner Good inquired who would be removed based up the error and then made the recommendation to strike the language in the section of the procurement code pertaining to the factual findings in the best interests of the city.

Commissioner Good also spoke about how the language inconsistently stated that claims up to \$100,000 could be approved by the City Manager and City Attorney without Commission approval, while also saying that claims exceeding \$50,000 required Commission approval.

Assistant City Manager Gomes confirmed that the \$50,000 threshold was a mistake and should be corrected to \$100,000 to align with the new policy.

Commissioner Good then referenced Section 3.25 of the code, which dealt with open market procedures. The Commissioner continued to speak in favor of any purchase over \$25,000 going through a formal bid

process. Commissioner Good later questioned whether the section on change orders, specifically allowing purchases totaling up to \$100,000 without commission approval would conflict with another rule that required city commission approval for any amount over \$25,000. He also expressed concern about Section 35.34, which would transfer authority from the city commission to the city manager for approving agreements with private businesses that have no public expenditure. The Commissioner said he was not willing to give up the commission's approval role, even for contracts with no cost to the city.

Assistant City Manager Gomes explained that if an initial purchase was under \$100,000 and not subject to commission approval, a small change order that keeps the total cost under \$100,000 did not need to go to the commission either. However, if a change order exceeds \$25,000 by itself, or if the total cost after the change exceeds \$100,000, then it must be reviewed and approved by the city commission.

When discussing Section 35.34, Assistant City Manager Gomes explained that the proposed change would only apply to agreements involving zero city funds. For example, a partnership with the Red Cross that provided free training for fire department staff. Since no money was being spent, these arrangements were considered administrative matters that could be approved by the city manager without needing commission action.

Mayor Castillo inquired why a formal contract was necessary for arrangements that involved no cost to the city, such as the Red Cross training example. The Mayor repeatedly asked whether a memorandum of understanding (MOU) could be used instead, since department heads already use MOUs regularly for small or administrative matters. Mayor Castillo said creating contracts for such agreements seemed like unnecessary bureaucracy and additional work. He said commission approval for zero-cost contracts could over complicate simple partnerships and reduce commission oversight by transferring approval power to the city manager. The Mayor mentioned that not every agreement needs to be formalized as a contract, and many issues could be handled through non-contractual agreements.

City Attorney Goren responded that contracts were necessary to manage liability and to make sure both parties' obligations are clearly

stated. Without a contract, City Attorney Goren explained there could be legal exposure or unclear terms regarding responsibilities and immunity. When asked why an MOU wouldn't suffice, City Attorney Goren responded that even MOUs are still formal commitments between parties, and depending on their nature, some may need commission review. He emphasized that intergovernmental agreements, for example, between the city and the county or school district should come before the commission because state law and the city charter favor formal documentation of commitments between public agencies.

Commissioner Rodriguez asked for clarification by giving examples, such as the agreement between the city and the Broward County School Board that allowed mutual use of facilities without expenditure. The Commissioner asked whether such arrangements would fall under the same rule. Mr. Gomes and City Attorney Goren responded that such agreements may have no cost but are often brought before the commission out of transparency and good practice, even when not legally required.

Commissioner Good then raised concerns about Section 35.38 regarding Bid Protest Procedures. The Commissioner mentioned that the responsibility for procurement decisions had gradually been delegated downward first from the city commission to the city manager, then to the procurement director, and then potentially to a designee of that director. Commissioner Good objected to this additional layer of delegation and said that the procurement director should personally handle all matters related to bid protests since they represent both the city manager and the commission in those processes. Allowing the director to appoint a designee dilutes accountability and lowers the level of authority involved in critical procurement matters.

Assistant City Manager Gomes explained that the reference to a designee was meant for contingency purposes. He said there are strict timeframes in the bid protest process that require timely responses, and if the procurement director was incapacitated or unavailable, a qualified assistant director may need to act temporarily, to ensure that deadlines and legal requirements are met without interrupting city operations.

Commissioner Rodriguez suggested that if the intent is only to cover emergencies or temporary absences, that it should be explicitly defined

in the policy language. She recommended adding a definition or clarification in the ordinance to make it clear that a designee is allowed only under limited circumstances such as incapacity so that the rule is not open to broad interpretation.

Commissioner Good reiterated that the designee provision had never existed before and expresses discomfort with its inclusion. The Commissioner also expressed that adding such delegation lowered the authority involved in important procurement decisions and moved oversight too far down the ranks.

Commissioner Schwartz called on Assistant City Manager Jonathan Bonilla and thanked Mr. Gomes for participating in the process. Commissioner Schwartz mentioned to Mr. Gomes that he was unaware of a previous conversation he had had with Mr. Bonilla and Mr. Dodge from a month prior. The Commissioner highlighted that the document under discussion included a CPI (Consumer Price Index) component for procurement of over \$100,000, but the component is no longer part of the revised ordinance. The Commissioner confirmed that the CPI was removed based on prior discussions and verification by Assistant City Manager Bonilla. Commissioner Schwartz also clarified calculations related to adjusting amounts over a 27-year period and explained the effect of removing the CPI on long-term thresholds. He continued explaining the responsibilities of districts and the mayor in relation to the ordinance. The Commissioner mentioned the need for transparency in city operations and noted the risk of keeping the public uninformed. He discussed staff turnover and the loss of historical knowledge, emphasizing that the current revision was based on work from many years ago with a previous commission. Commissioner Schwartz spoke about the evolution of fiscal stability in government and raised concerns about oversight, referencing other cities with OIG involvement. He stated that while some changes are acceptable, most are too significant to adopt immediately, and advocated for smaller steps forward, evaluation periods, and possibly a sunset provision to revisit the ordinance. Commissioner Schwartz also raised concerns about public understanding of the city manager's responsibilities, particularly regarding authority over financial decisions.

Mayor Castillo weighed in and said the Commission was not ready to vote on the item even though it had been previously discussed in a

workshop. Mayor Castillo expressed frustration that the Commission was not ready to address the issue at hand. Even after workshops and discussions, the matter still felt unclear and likened the matter to a Picasso where the shape was visible but not fully understandable. The mayor mentioned that many questions should have been asked earlier and that the commission seemed uncomfortable moving forward. He suggested that little could be accomplished at the meeting and asked Assistant City Manager Gomes for the motivation behind the proposed revision to the procurement policy.

Assistant City Manager Gomes highlighted several motivations for the policy revision. First, efficiency: staff time was tied up with small projects like buying servers, laptops, or band equipment for charter schools. The process required multiple rounds of approval, which slowed progress on larger projects, like removing harmful chemicals from the water supply. The goal was to streamline those smaller procurements so staff could focus on bigger priorities.

Mr. Gomes also spoke about sustainability as a factor: current processes generated extensive agenda books and consumed significant staff time. In 2024 alone, 563 agenda items were processed, with 33% of the items being related to procurement. Streamlining those processes could improve city operations without compromising essential projects.

Mayor Castillo said he appreciated the explanation from Assistant City Manager Gomes. The Mayor reflected on the management lesson about balancing cost, time, and quality, noting that overemphasis on any one element would undermine the overall outcome. Mayor Castillo recognized that staff were constrained by red tape to maintain review comfort for the commission but questioned whether the internal controls were sufficient.

The Mayor suggested a more efficient communication system that could preserve necessary oversight without slowing down staff. For instance, project management software could provide updates at different stages, giving the commission comfort without micromanaging. He emphasized trust in city management for reasonable spending, citing \$100,000 as an example of an amount that should not require excessive review.

The Commission also discussed the point about staffing and resource allocation. While department directors may not openly request more staff, although investing in people ultimately saved money and increased efficiency.

Mayor Castillo concluded that despite workshops, memos, and earlier agenda distribution, the group was not prepared to have a meaningful discussion and mentioned the late hour, suggesting that the item may need to be deferred due to the lack of consensus.

Commissioner Schwartz discussed the procurement and technology and said staff had not addressed how AI could make government processes more efficient, particularly in writing bid specifications. The Commissioner mentioned the significant spending on outdated technology, such as copiers and printed agenda books, and suggested that there were opportunities to explore cost savings through new technology.

Mayor Castillo responded, emphasizing that people processed information differently and that the debate over paper versus digital formats was unproductive. The Mayor encouraged action rather than discussion alone, urging staff the Commissioner to explore technological solutions with procurement rather than merely talking about potential improvements. The Mayor stressed that commissioners should come prepared to meetings with a consensus, and if they were not ready to vote, the item should be deferred.

Commissioner Rodriguez then discussed the complexity of the agenda item. The Commissioner requested clarification and suggested that items, especially those above the \$100,000 threshold, be reviewed piecemeal. She also recommended clearly notating sections of the ordinance (A, B, C) to make it easier to track specific discussion points and votes.

Vice Mayor Hernandez agreed that workshops were necessary to fully address questions and concerns.

The Mayor urged the Commission to work together and avoid repeated deferrals, stressing that coming unprepared gums up the works.

RESOLUTIONS:**22. MOTION TO ADOPT PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2025-R-42.**

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2025-R-42 IS A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, THE VICE MAYOR, THE CITY MANAGER, THE CITY CLERK AND THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO SIGN VOUCHERS AND CHECKS, TO MAKE DEPOSITS AND WITHDRAWALS, AND TO AUTHORIZE TRANSACTIONS ON INVESTMENTS PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S INVESTMENT POLICY ORDINANCE AND AS PROVIDED BY LAW; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Hernandez, seconded by Commissioner Good, to adopt Proposed Resolution No. 2025-R-42. 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: 3932

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN:

City Attorney Goren read Proposed Resolution 2025-R-42 into the record by title.

23. MOTION TO ADOPT PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2025-R-43.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE REALLOCATION OF HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM CONSORTIUM COOPERATION AGREEMENT FUNDS FROM THE PURCHASE ASSISTANCE STRATEGY TO A NEW MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING STRATEGY, TO BE IMPLEMENTED WITH BROWARD COUNTY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUNITY LAND TRUST ("SFCLT"), FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRESERVING AFFORDABLE HOUSING WITHIN THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR DISBURSEMENT OF HOME PROGRAM FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO EFFECTUATE THE REALLOCATION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion was made by Commissioner Good, seconded by Commissioner Schwartz, to adopt Proposed Resolution No. 2025-R-43. 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: 3933

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN:

City Attorney Goren read Proposed Resolution 2025-R-43 into the record by title.

Commissioner Good highlighted the rapid progress of the project and emphasized its significance to the public. The Commissioner commended staff for developing a comprehensive plan in coordination with the County Land Trust (CLT) and the county itself. Commissioner Good stressed the importance of the project because it provided genuine affordable housing for residents earning between 30% and 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI), contrasting it with other projects that catered to higher income levels (120%+ AMI). The Commissioner recognized the collaboration of the three sponsoring groups and congratulated the staff for their coordination efforts and noted the project's potential impact on the community.

Commissioner Schwartz agreed with the previous comments and pointed out the positive impact on districts one and two, particularly emphasizing that the project would not exacerbate traffic or other typical rental-related issues. He said it was a first step in broader plans for the area and extended thanks to Mr. Stamm and his staff for their months of dedicated work. Commissioner Schwartz expressed strong support for the project and appreciation for the collaborative efforts that made it possible.

24. MOTION TO ADOPT PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2025-R-44.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2025-R-44 IS A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA; AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 3884 TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FROM \$375,936.00, INCLUSIVE OF 2% OF THE COSTS FOR ALLOWANCE AND 10% OF THE EXPECTED COSTS FOR CONTINGENCIES TO ADD AN ADDITIONAL \$132,801.56 FOR A NEW TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED OF \$508,737.56; DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO TAKE ANY AND ALL ACTION NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion was made by Commissioner Good, seconded by Vice Mayor Hernandez, to adopt Proposed Resolution No. 2025-R-44. 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: 3934

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN:

City Attorney Goren read Proposed Resolution 2025-R-44 into the record by title.

REGULAR AGENDA:**25. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPOINT TWO (2) MEMBERS TO THE POLICE AND FIRE PENSION BOARD, FOR A TWO YEAR TERM, WHICH WOULD EXPIRE IN JUNE 2027.**

Motion was made by Mayor Castillo, seconded by Commissioner Good, to appoint Thomas Moran to the Police and Fire Pension Board. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay 0

Motion was made by Mayor Castillo, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, to appoint Gregory Irizarry to the Police and Fire Pension Board.

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

Nay 1 - Commissioner Schwartz

PRIOR TO THE 1ST VOTE BEING TAKEN:

City Attorney Goren read Item 25 into the record by title.

Mayor Castillo passed the gavel to Vice Mayor Hernandez and spoke about the importance of the Police and Fire pension fund, a \$1 billion fund that both invested money and paid pensions to retired first responders. The Mayor mentioned that while the fund was performing reasonably well, earning 7-8% annually, the hope was for higher returns (11-14%) to avoid over-reliance on city tax dollars. Mayor Castillo also explained that the City Commission only appoints three of the nine members, and the rest are appointed by police and fire representatives. He stressed the need for highly skilled financial professionals living in Pembroke Pines to serve on the board, acknowledging the past members' contributions but underscoring that future appointments were purely business decisions.

Mayor Castillo thanked Commissioner Rodriguez and Mike Ross from the Miramar Pembroke Pines Chamber of Commerce for helping to attract qualified candidates with financial backgrounds. The Mayor highlighted one candidate in particular, Greg Irizarry, a senior vice president at Northern Trust, mentioning his extensive licenses and 25 years of experience with managing large accounts. The Mayor expressed confidence that Greg Irizarry had the strongest resume among the applicants and made the following recommendations:

To reappoint Tom Moran as chair and consider Greg Irizarry for appointment, praising all applicants and recommending that all the applicants' information be kept on file for future openings.

Commissioner Schwartz made inquiries with Mr. Tom Moran who responded about his experience, stating he had served eight years on the board, including four years as chair prior to his retirement. He explained that the board followed the investment policy set by the City Commission and left actual investment decisions to professional money managers. Mr. Moran confirmed the fund had historically achieved around 8% returns, with occasionally higher returns, and consistently ranked in the top 10% of similarly sized pension funds nationally.

Mr. Moran also clarified the role of board members: they could question money managers and consultants but could not make unilateral investment decisions without a board vote. He affirmed that adding a certified investment professional or registered investment advisor to the board would be beneficial, as it would enhance oversight and add value to the decision-making process.

Commissioner Schwartz also inquired about how many registered investment advisors were currently among the applicants for appointment. Responses indicated uncertainty, after which the Mayor confirmed he had reviewed all applications and identified the two candidates he felt were best qualified, intending to make motions for their appointment.

Commissioner Schwartz explained that this portion of the discussion was for public understanding, noting that he and Mr. Moran had discussed fund performance and oversight for several years to ensure its long-term health. Mr. Moran thanked the Commission for previously approving revisions to the investment policy, explaining that at every quarterly meeting over the past eight years, the board's consultant had stated performance could improve if the board were released from the former 60/40 investment allocation restriction. He expressed optimism that the recent change would yield higher returns.

Commissioner Schwartz thanked Mr. Moran for his ongoing service and dedication to protecting retirees' benefits, emphasizing that his leadership ensured funds were managed responsibly and without undue risk. The Commissioner asked Mr. Moran to describe recent changes within the fund's management structure. Mr. Moran confirmed that while the consultant had not changed, the board had replaced a few money management firms based on long-term performance evaluations. Mr. Moran explained that the board focused on five- to ten-year performance trends, preferring managers who outperform their benchmarks over time rather than those with only short-term gains.

Mayor Castillo spoke and noted that although an 8% return on investments appeared strong, the city's expenses are far higher than those of other comparable programs. He said the current rate of spending; about 55 cents of every city dollar going into one fund was

unsustainable and mentioned that a more reasonable contribution would be around 30-35 cents. The Mayor cited the city's auditors, who recently described the fund as unsustainable in their report, as evidence that the matter was not just his opinion. The Vice Mayor emphasized the importance of appointing highly qualified individuals to investment boards, particularly those with strong financial backgrounds who could volunteer their expertise to benefit the city. Mayor Castillo praised the current board chair for excellent service, helping to implement a long-awaited new investment policy, and working to improve the city's returns. He concluded by reaffirming his support for the chair's reappointment and stressed that better investment performance would help the city avoid raising taxes while still funding essential services like police, fire, and infrastructure.

Vice Mayor Hernandez and Commissioner Rodriguez also thanked the nominee for their service and voiced support for Mr. Moran's reappointment.

Discussions ensued and Commissioner Schwartz reminded the commission about the proper process involved with making a motion, receiving a second, allowing commission discussion, and then opening the floor to public comments before taking a vote.

The following member of the public spoke on the item:

Jack McCluskey, 2241 NW 82nd Way, Pembroke Pines, FL addressed the Commission. Mr. McCluskey noted the poor audibility at the meeting and recommended sound system improvements. He then questioned the residency of several of the twelve pension board applicants, naming Gregory Irizarry who was later confirmed as a Pembroke Pines resident and Mr. Katz of North Miami Beach. He also mentioned applicants' possible conflict of interest due to employment with Northern Trust, a firm used by the board.

With regards to a claim that the pension fund was taxpayer-subsidized, Mr. McCluskey disagreed and referenced State Statutes 175 and 185 requiring the state to allocate and remit funds to the city within 48 hours. He highlighted the fund's strong standing over \$1 billion in assets and ranked in the top 10% nationally and noted that some applicants misunderstood relevant statutes and finances.

Vice Mayor Hernandez asked the city attorney whether there were any issues with the applicants that were presented to the commission. City Attorney Goren responded that, based on his review, there were no apparent issues unless the applicants had been inaccurate in their filings, which he could not independently verify.

Out of respect, the Vice Mayor granted Mr. McCluskey more time because the discussion had already exceeded the normal time limit.

Mr. McCluskey spoke about the applicants' qualifications, including a Ph.D. and several retired officers, eight with financial backgrounds as required. Mr. McCluskey closed by reflecting on his 13 years of service, dedicated to his two sons, a retired Pembroke Pines police officer and a retired Hallandale Beach firefighter, and thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve.

PRIOR TO THE 2ND VOTE BEING TAKEN:

Mayor Castillo then moved to appoint Gregory Irizarry to the Pembroke Pines Police and Fire Pension Board.

Commissioner Schwartz raised a point of clarification, stating he did not see documentation in Mr. Irizarry's application confirming company approval from Northern Trust regarding potential conflicts of interest. He asked Mr. Moran, the Police and Fire Pension Board Chair, to confirm whether the board had any business with Northern Trust.

Mr. Moran confirmed that the pension board had recently hired Northern Trust as its custodian bank. He clarified that Northern Trust did not invest funds but managed disbursement of benefits to retirees. The firm replaced the previous custodian earlier that month due to operational issues.

Mayor Castillo reiterated that Northern Trust served as the fund's custodian and not an investment manager. The Mayor also confirmed he had spoken directly with several applicants, including Mr. Irizarry, who stated he had received clearance from his company to apply.

Commissioner Schwartz then introduced an alternative nomination for

Mr. John Curran, and noted that Mr. Curran was one of three financial planners among the applicants and a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. Commissioner Schwartz highlighted Mr. Curran experience with Foresters Financial, his volunteer work mentoring underserved youth on financial literacy, and his prior brief service on the pension board, stating that his familiarity with board operations and investment policy made him an excellent candidate.

Commissioner Rodriguez spoke about her intent to support Mr. Irizarry's nomination based on his qualifications.

Commissioner Good agreed, and stated that of all the applications reviewed, Mr. Irizarry appeared to be the most qualified candidate.

The Vice Mayor, with input from City Attorney Goren, confirmed the procedural order for voting on nominations. The first nomination Mr. Irizarry would be voted upon first; if approved by majority, no vote on the alternate nomination Mr. Curran would be necessary.

Commissioner Schwartz raised concern regarding the optics of potential conflict, noting that although Northern Trust served only as custodian, appointing one of its executives to the pension board could appear improper to the public. The Commissioner emphasized that under ethical standards, even the appearance of conflict should be avoided, and thus he could not support the nomination despite recognizing Mr. Irizarry's strong qualifications.

Mayor Castillo responded that an appearance of confusion was not equivalent to an appearance of impropriety. He stressed that Mr. Irizarry, a Senior Vice President at Northern Trust, had received ethical and operational clearance from his employer. Since the company itself had approved of his participation, the Mayor stated there was no actual conflict.

Commissioner Schwartz maintained that there was no evidence of such written clearance provided in the application materials.

Mayor Castillo commented that any challenge to that evidence could be made after the vote.

REPORTS OF LEAGUE AND MPO REPRESENTATIVES

Commissioner Rodriguez reported that the last league meeting coincided with a Jewish holiday, so there wasn't a recent session. With regards to the upcoming meeting, Commissioner Rodriguez said she informed staff that she would not be attending due to a small family matter and that the Vice Mayor would attend in their place.

The Mayor offered congratulations and well wishes for Commissioner Rodriguez's personal matter.

Commissioner Good reported the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting was deferred to a later date.

REPORTS OF THE CITY MANAGER AND CITY ATTORNEY

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO COMBINE THE TWO NOVEMBER MEETINGS, AND HAVE ONE MEETING ON NOVEMBER 19TH.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Vice Mayor Hernandez, to combine the two meetings in November and have one meeting on November 19, 2025.

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

Nay 0

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN:

City Manager Dodge recommended that the City Commission combine the scheduled meetings of November 5th and November 19th due to a scheduling conflict on November 5th. The proposal would result in a single meeting to be held on November 19th.

26. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION TO APPROVE THE NECESSARY FLORIDA BAR CONFLICT WAIVER FOR THE CITY'S ENGAGEMENT OF DENNIS MELE, ESQ OF THE GREENSPOON MARDER LAW FIRM TO PROVIDE CERTAIN PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES TO THE CITY FROM TIME TO TIME AND AS DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED ENGAGEMENT LETTER RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING AND OTHER ASSOCIATED MATTERS AS MAY BE ASSIGNED BY THE CITY.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Vice Mayor Hernandez, to approve the necessary Florida Bar Conflict Waiver for the City's engagement of Dennis Mele. 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 26 into the record by title.

City Attorney Goren clarified that under Florida Bar rules, only the City Commission, as the governing body could authorize such a waiver, not the City Attorney personally. He referenced similar situations, such as the city's previous bond refunding where outside counsel had dual roles without conflict, noted that the waiver followed the same precedent, and was routine in nature.

COMMISSION ITEMS:

27. COMMISSIONER JAY D SCHWARTZ ITEM #1: PRESENTATION AND RECOGNITION OF THE NORTH PERRY AIRPORT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS FOR INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER DAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025.

Item 27 was presented together with Presentation 7.

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 - 11:09 P.M.

CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES

Gabriel Fernandez
City Clerk