



**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
of THE MARY ESTHER CITY COUNCIL  
September 24, 2024 - 6:00 PM**

195 Christobal Road – North, Mary Esther, FL 32569

**CITY COUNCIL PRESENT**

Chris Stein, Mayor  
Bernie Oder, Councilmember  
Richard Lawson, Councilmember

April Sutton, Mayor Pro Tem  
Susan Coxwell, Councilmember

**CITY STAFF PRESENT**

Jared Cobb, City Manager  
Hayward Dykes, City Attorney  
Dillon Morris, City Clerk

Heather Day, Finance Director  
Shawn Lindsey, Public Works Director

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Chad Rewis, OSCO Captain

Jeff Wagner, OCWFD Chief

**1. INVOCATION**

No invocation was given.

**2. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Stein at 5:59 p.m.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Stein led the pledge of allegiance.

**4. ROLL CALL**

The City Clerk called the roll as reflected above.

**5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mayor Stein asked if the council wished to make any changes to the agenda. Hearing none, Mayor Stein asked for a motion. Mayor Pro Tem Sutton initiated the motion, seconded by Councilmember Coxwell. The motion passed 4-0.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>PASSED (4-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem April Sutton
<b>SECOND:</b>	Councilmember Susan Coxwell
<b>AYES:</b>	Bernie Oder, April Sutton, Richard Lawson, Susan Coxwell
<b>NAYS:</b>	None

**6. FY 2025 BUDGET HEARING**

**6.1. Staff Presentation**

Finance Director Day led the conversation for the FY 2025 budget. Mayor Stein made the following public announcement:

- The name of the taxing authority is the city of Mary Esther.
- The rollback rate is 4.7665 mills.
- The percentage increase by which the millage rate exceeds the rollback rate is 5.45%.
- The millage rate to be levied for fiscal year 2025 is 5.0261 mils.

**6.2. Public Comment**

Mayor Stein opened public comment at 6:04 p.m. The public had no comments, so Mayor Stein closed public comment at 6:05 p.m.

**6.3. Second Reading of Ordinance 2024-04, Establishing the FY 2025 Millage Rate**

City Clerk Morris read the title for Ordinance 2024-04. Mayor Stein asked for a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2024-04, setting the FY 2025 millage rate at 5.0261 mills. Councilmember Coxwell initiated the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sutton. The motion passed 4-0.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>PASSED (4-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Susan Coxwell
<b>SECOND:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem April Sutton
<b>AYES:</b>	Bernie Oder, April Sutton, Richard Lawson, Susan Coxwell
<b>NAYS:</b>	None

**6.4. Reading of Resolution 24-07, Adopting the FY 2025 Budget**

City Clerk Morris read the title of resolution 24-07. Mayor Stein asked for a motion to adopt resolution 24-07, adopting the FY 2025 budget. The motion was initiated by Councilmember Oder, seconded by Councilmember Lawson. The motion passed 3-1.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>PASSED (3-1)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Bernie Oder
<b>SECOND:</b>	Councilmember Richard Lawson
<b>AYES:</b>	Bernie Oder, Richard Lawson, Susan Coxwell
<b>NAYS:</b>	April Sutton

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**7.1. Reading of Resolution 24-08, Amending the Comprehensive, Fee, Fine and Revenue Schedule**

City Clerk Morris read the title of resolution 24-08. Mayor Stein asked for a motion to approve resolution 24-08, amending the comprehensive fee, fine, and revenue schedule. Councilmember Oder initiated the motion, seconded by Councilmember Lawson. Mayor Stein asked if there was any discussion, with Mayor Pro Tem Sutton leading the discussion voicing her concerns with increasing the rates. The motion passed 3-1.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>PASSED (3-1)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Councilmember Bernie Oder
<b>SECOND:</b>	Councilmember Richard Lawson
<b>AYES:</b>	Bernie Oder, Richard Lawson, Susan Coxwell
<b>NAYS:</b>	April Sutton

**7.2. Consideration of FY 2025 Pay Schedule**

Finance Director Day led the discussion about the FY 2025 pay schedule. Mayor Pro Tem Sutton expressed concern over the low part-time rate, but Finance Director Day stated that part-time workers were moved to the respective full-time pay schedule. Mayor Stein asked for a motion to approve the FY 2025 pay schedule as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Sutton initiated the motion, seconded by Councilmember Coxwell. The motion passed 4-0.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>PASSED (4-0)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mayor Pro Tem April Sutton
<b>SECOND:</b>	Councilmember Susan Coxwell
<b>AYES:</b>	Bernie Oder, April Sutton, Richard Lawson, Susan Coxwell
<b>NAYS:</b>	None

**7.3. City Float Discussion**

Public Works Director Lindsey led the discussion on the city float. The mayor and council discussed using the city float for other events. Councilmember Oder brought up the idea of all municipalities chipping in money for a shared float. Mayor Pro Tem Sutton discussed looking into more options. The mayor and council continued to discuss other options, such as renting a float, putting a tent on the current float, contingency plans for weather, and looking into other options. The mayor and council came to a consensus to do more research and discuss this earlier for next year.

**8. ADJOURN**

Mayor Pro Tem Sutton discussed the ECRC being awarded a USDOT grant.

Councilmember Coxwell had no additional comments.

Councilmember Lawson had no additional comments.

Mayor Stein discussed that the Veterans Day Parade is moving along and yard of the month.

Councilmember Oder discussed other avenues for the parade float discussion.

City Clerk Morris reminded the mayor and council to check their mailboxes.

City Attorney reminded everyone to stay safe from the storm.

City Manager Cobb discussed that the city is monitoring the storm and discussed his attendance at the ICMA conference.

The council meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes approved at 10/7/2024 meeting.

*Dillon Morris*

Dillon Morris, City Clerk

