



**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
of THE MARY ESTHER CITY COUNCIL
June 16, 2025 - 6:00 PM**

195 Christobal Road – North, Mary Esther, FL 32569

CITY COUNCIL PRESENT

Chris Stein, Mayor
April Sutton, Councilmember
Susan Coxwell, Councilmember

Bernie Oder, Mayor Pro Tem
Larry Carter, Councilmember
Richard Lawson, Councilmember

CITY STAFF PRESENT

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

Tyler Reed, Community Development Director
Shawn Lindsey, Public Works Director

OTHERS PRESENT

1. INVOCATION

No invocation was given.

2. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Stein at 6:00 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. Councilmember Sutton initiated the motion, seconded by Councilmember Coxwell. The motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	PASSED (5-0)
MOVER:	Councilmember April Sutton
SECOND:	Councilmember Susan Coxwell
AYES:	Larry Carter, Bernie Oder, April Sutton, Richard Lawson, Susan Coxwell
NAYS:	None

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Parks and Greenways Master Plan Presentation

Ron Yearwood, Barge Design Solutions, led the discussion on the parks and greenways master plan. He discussed the planning process phases, the benefits of parks, connectivity, future public fund investments, public feedback, the existing park inventory, Springdale Park, Elliot Park, the library open space, Bryn Mawr Park, the Jesse Rogers Cemetery, Oak Tree Park, Town Lane, Oak Tree Nature Preserve, South Bryn Mawr Park, the boat ramp, Brian Circle Pond, Azalea Park, systemwide recommendations, maintenance, programming, implementation, funding strategies, and the next steps. Mayor Stein inquired about the costs, with Mr. Yearwood displaying an adjustable spreadsheet that allowed numbers to be plugged in. Mayor Pro Tem Oder inquired about installing cameras and signs in the park, with Mr. Yearwood stating that he

could look into it. Councilmember Sutton asked if the numbers take into account hiring contractors, and Mr. Yearwood stated that they do. City Manager Cobb asked if the council would like to see any of the parks scaled down. Councilmember Sutton said she was not comfortable until the city completed a successful park renovation. Mr. Yearwood stated that the spreadsheet could be edited and changes made as needed. Councilmember Carter asked if the parks could be developed to grow or change in the future. Mr. Yearwood discussed the multi-use fields on some of the plans. Councilmember Sutton asked how many staff members would be required to maintain the parks. Mr. Yearwood discussed the spreadsheet accounts for those costs and detailed maintenance costs. Councilmember Coxwell asked about including a dog agility course and asked about the future of the community garden. City Manager Cobb discussed that the parks are changeable, the plans shown are just concepts, and that the community garden, in the plans, was moved to a more central location. Councilmember Carter discussed a partnership with the air force base, and Mayor Pro Tem Oder seconded his point with partnering with the county. Kevin Kennoy, Barge Design Solutions, added that these plans will be phased in chunks. Mayor Stein asked about ways to get more community feedback.

6.2. Resolution 25-05, Approving the Professional Services Agreement with RedSpeed Florida, LLC

Mayor Stein asked the clerk to read the title of the resolution. City Clerk Morris read the title of Resolution 25-05. Mayor Stein asked for a motion to approve Resolution 25-05, approving the professional services agreement with RedSpeed Florida, LLC. Councilmember Sutton initiated the motion, seconded by Councilmember Carter. The motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	PASSED (5-0)
MOVER:	Councilmember April Sutton
SECOND:	Councilmember Larry Carter
AYES:	Larry Carter, Bernie Oder, April Sutton, Richard Lawson, Susan Coxwell
NAYS:	None

6.3. Progress Update on New City Hall

City Manager Cobb provided an update on the progress of the new city hall, seeking feedback on hurricane shutters on the building. City Clerk Morris pulled up images of the city hall (see attachments). Councilmember Sutton asked if the shutters could serve as an operations facility for staff in the event of an emergency. Councilmember Carter asked if this could be pushed into the next fiscal year, and City Manager Cobb stated that it could. City Manager Cobb also sought feedback on lettering on the mall side or the Mary Esther Boulevard side. Council favored a mural on the mall side and lettering on the Mary Esther Boulevard side. Councilmember Sutton also discussed placing a time capsule on the property. Mayor Pro Tem Oder discussed changing the flag pole light. Councilmember Carter discussed eventually relocating the flagpole to the front of the building.

6.4. PAWS Animal Control Discussion

City Manager Cobb led the discussion of the PAWS Animal Control contract. City Manager Cobb discussed the challenges and history with PAWS and the other cities that deal with PAWS. Councilmember Sutton asked if the county could provide the service with PAWS and the city pay with City Attorney Dykes stating that he does not know if PAWS would provide service in our jurisdiction. Council and City Manager Cobb discussed potential alternatives to PAWS. City Manager Cobb said he asked if PAWS would offer the same rate as the county and is awaiting an answer, and if the council would like that contract or alternatives. Councilmember Carter asked what to do if the city gets a call in the interim. City Attorney Dykes stated that he does not know what to do in the circumstance, but the city could sign the contract and utilize the 90-day termination clause while looking for other vendors. Council and City Manager Cobb discussed pricing in the contract and with PAWS.

Councillmember Sutton thanked Jacobs and maintenance for their work around the city.

Councillmember Sutton liked the fence around Ray's pond, removing the bleachers from Springdale park, and having a flag sponsorship for the city with the new city hall during Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

Councillmember Lawson had no additional comments.

Mayor Stein asked about an indentation on a sidewalk on North Street, with Public Works Director Lindsey stating it was a sewer that Jacobs was working on, and then his crew would repair it.

Councillmember Carter thanked everyone for their support and asked about using a different yard of the month sign.

Mayor Pro Tem Oder had no additional comments.

City Attorney Dykes had no additional comments.

City Clerk Morris reminded the council of their ethics training, cybersecurity training, financial disclosures, checking their mailboxes, the upcoming Florida Clerk's Conference, and being out of the office on Friday.

City Manager Cobb reminded that City Hall will be closed for Juneteenth and thanked maintenance for their work.

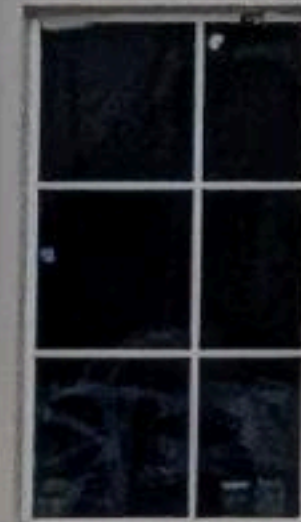
The council meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Minutes approved at the 7/7/2025 meeting.

Dillon Morris
Dillon Morris, City Clerk

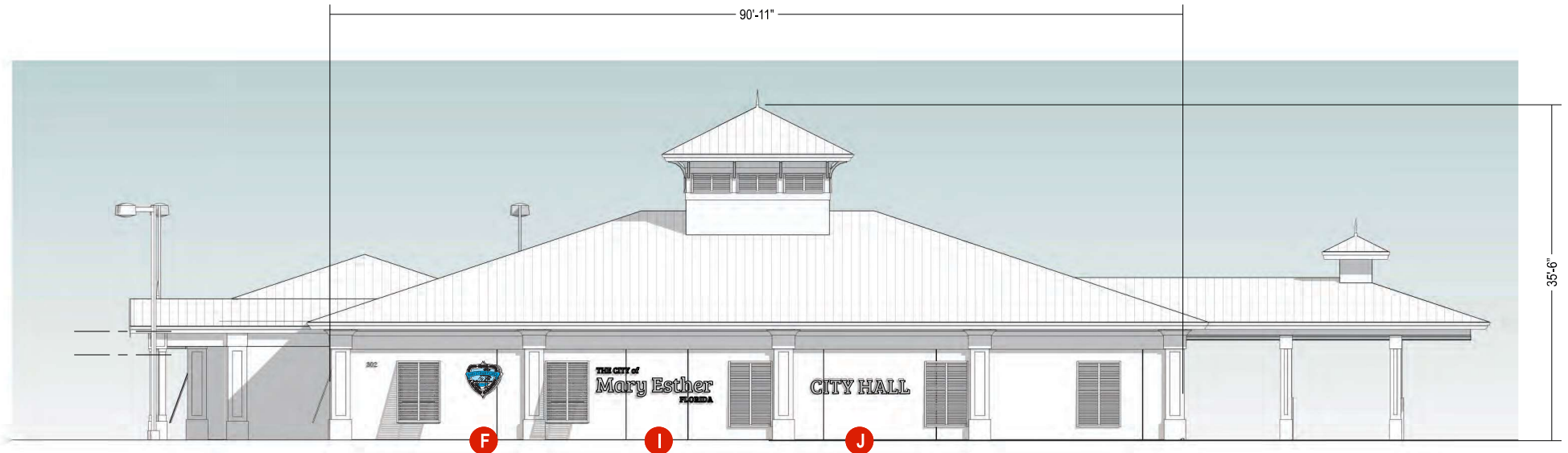






AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

South Elevation
 Scale: 3/32"=1'-0"



SignArt

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 Charlotte, NC 28213
 P: 704.597.9801
 www.signartsign.com

JOB ID: 43497

ISSUE DATE: 04/02/25

CUSTOMER: Stockton Construction

SALESPERSON: Brandon Souther

DESIGNER: HC

JOB LOCATION: Mary Esther City Hall

302 Mary Esther Blvd.

Mary Esther, FL 32569

FILE PATH: Mary Esther City Hall/43497

REVISIONS: 1 HC 04/14/24

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APPROVED FOR PRODUCTION

Date:

Signature:

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