



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
of THE MARY ESTHER CITY COUNCIL**

August 4, 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 (Virtual)
Richard Lawson, Councilmember

CITY STAFF PRESENT

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Chad Rewis, OSCO Captain

Jeff Wagner, OCWFD Chief

1. INVOCATION

Jeff Wagner, Fire Chief, Ocean City-Wright Fire Control District, gave the invocation.

2. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Stein at 6:02 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. Mayor Stein asked for a motion for Councilmember Carter to participate virtually. Councilmember Sutton initiated the motion, seconded by Councilmember Coxwell. The motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	PASSED (4-0)
MOVER:	Councilmember April Sutton
SECOND:	Councilmember Susan Coxwell
AYES:	Bernie Oder, April Sutton, Richard Lawson, Susan Coxwell
NAYS:	None

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 Lawson initiated the motion, which Councilmember Sutton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

6. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

6.1. Yard of the Month

The yard of the month nominations for August were shown. After some discussion, Councilmember Coxwell made a motion to select 186 Brewer Cir. as the Yard of the Month for August 2025, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Oder. The motion passed unanimously.

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

6.2. Jacobs Thank You Letter

Mayor Stein read a thank-you letter to all of Jacobs for their work on the Highway 98 line break. He then presented the thank-you letters and city coins to those who showed up.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Stein asked if the council wished to make any changes to the consent 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

7.1. Financial Report

7.2. Public Works Report

7.3. Library Report

7.4. Fire Department Report

7.5. Community Development Report

7.6. Jacobs Report

7.7. Law Enforcement Report

7.8. Minutes of the July 7th, 2025, Regular Council Meeting

7.9. Minutes of the July 21st, 2025, Special Council Meeting

8. CITIZENS WHO HAVE REQUESTED TO BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA

None.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

None.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1. Consideration of Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with FDOT to Landscape Mary Esther Boulevard

Shawn Lindsey, Public Works Director, led the discussion of the joint partnership agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation to landscape Mary Esther Boulevard. Mayor Pro Tem Oder asked about the maintenance costs, and Public Works Director Lindsey discussed the actions the crew would take, but he does not have a specific number at this time. City Manager Cobb added that the city was already responsible for maintaining the medians. Mayor Stein asked City Clerk Morris to read the title of Resolution 25-09, to which he did. Mayor Stein asked for a motion to approve the joint powers agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation and proceed to bidding the project, and approve Resolution 25-09. Councilmember Coxwell initiated the motion, seconded by Councilmember Lawson. The motion passed unanimously.

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

11.2. Consideration of FDEP Agreement NO. NW007 for Highway 98 Water Main Replacements and Upgrades

Shawn Lindsey, Public Works Director, led the discussion of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection agreement for Highway 98 water main replacements and upgrades. Mayor Stein asked if anyone had any questions, to which no one did. Mayor Stein asked City Clerk Morris to read the title of Resolution 25-10 (see attachment), to which he did. Mayor Stein asked for a motion to approve FDEP Agreement No. NW007 Highway 98 water main replacements and upgrades, and approve resolution 25-10. Mayor Pro Tem Oder initiated the motion, seconded by Councilmember Lawson. The motion passed unanimously.

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

11.3. Consideration of Emergency Management Contracts, Including Updated Rate Schedules

Jared Cobb, City Manager, led the discussion on the consideration of emergency manager contracts and updated rate schedules. Mayor Stein asked if the council wished to discuss the topic further. Hearing none, Mayor Stein asked for a motion to approve the one-year contract renewal and rate schedule with Tetra Tech. 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
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11.4. Consideration of Agreement with LiveOak Fiber for Internet Services at Designated City Facilities

Jared Cobb, City Manager, led the discussion of the agreement with LiveOak Fiber for internet services at designated city facilities. Mayor Stein asked who the city currently has with City Manager Cobb stating the city presently uses Cox. Mayor Stein asked if the council wished to discuss the topic further. Hearing none, Mayor Stein asked for a motion to approve the agreement with LiveOak Fiber for internet services at the existing City Hall/Public Works/Library complex and the new city hall facility, and authorize the city manager to execute all necessary documents. Councilmember Lawson initiated the motion, seconded by Councilmember Sutton. Councilmember Carter inquired about the contract's duration, to which City Manager Cobb replied that it was a three-year contract. The motion passed unanimously.

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

12. COUNCILS' STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

Councilmember Sutton discussed attending the United Way annual dinner, the retirement of a public affairs representative from the base, and upcoming events.

Councilmember Coxwell asked if the Veterans Day meeting would still be on November 11th, as it is a Tuesday. After some discussion, Mayor Stein said he would discuss it at the next meeting for the Veterans Day parade. Councilmember Coxwell also discussed the possibility of holding a workshop on cybersecurity to educate residents about potential scams.

Councilmember Lawson had no additional comments.

Councilmember Carter asked if the community garden will have two plots next year. City Manager Cobb stated that the parks plan has not been finalized yet; once it is, priorities will be established. Councilmember Carter asked if, before the end of the year, the city could have a workshop to discuss the Okaloosa County Sheriff's contract. City Manager Cobb stated that the next meeting would revisit the scope to discuss and determine how to move forward.

Mayor Pro Tem Oder discussed the retirement of Vicky Stever from the Okaloosa County Library Cooperative, working with the House and Senate about museum and library funding, the next library cooperative meeting, and teaching people how to use binoculars.

13. OTHER COMMENTS

City Attorney Dykes had no additional comments.

City Clerk Morris reminded the council about their mailboxes, ethics training, cybersecurity training, and the next council workshop.

Tyler Reed, Community Development Director, discussed the feedback on the comprehensive plan, stating that the reading will move forward and the two recommendations will be implemented to ensure compliance. Mayor Stein asked what the two objections were. Community Development Director Reed stated that objection one was that it should align more closely with the year 2050, and objection two was regarding the standards for the density and intensity of the new zoning district.

Wiebke Anderson, 2 Azalea Dr, inquired about any updates regarding the PAWS situation. City Manager

Cobb stated that he was hopeful of bringing something next month, but nothing is set in stone.

City Manager Cobb discussed the mass communications software demos the city went through.

14. **ADJOURN**

The council meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Minutes approved at the September 3rd, 2025 meeting.

Dillon Morris
Dillon Morris, City Clerk



