



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

April 6, 2026 - 6:00 PM

195 Christobal Road – North, Mary Esther, FL 32569

CITY COUNCIL PRESENT

Chris Stein, Mayor
April Sutton, Councilmember
Bernie Oder, Councilmember

Susan Coxwell, Mayor Pro Tem
Larry Carter, Councilmember
Richard Lawson, 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
Tyler Reed, Community Development Director

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael Rader, OSCO Captain

Jeff Wagner, OCWFD Chief

1. INVOCATION

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

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 discussed a request to move item 7.2 into its own item as 11.8. He then asked if there were any other changes to the agenda. Hearing none, Mayor Stein asked for a motion to approve the agenda with the change. 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:	April Sutton, Susan Coxwell, Richard Lawson, Larry Carter, Bernie Oder
NAYS:	None

6. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

6.1. Reading of the 2026 Election Results

City Clerk Morris read the results of the 2026 election results into the record.

6.2. Installation of the Newly Elected Officials

City Clerk Morris swore in Mayor Stein, Councilmember Carter, and Mayor Pro Tem Oder into their positions

6.3. Selection of Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Stein discussed the selection of Mayor Pro Tem, asking if Councilmember Lawson would be interested, but he declined. He then asked if Councilmember Coxwell was interested,

and she said she was. There was some discussion. Mayor Stein asked for a motion to appoint Councilmember Coxwell as Mayor Pro Tem. The motion was initiated by Councilmember Lawson, seconded by Councilmember Sutton. The motion passed unanimously.

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

6.4. First Public Hearing – FFY 2025 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application

Shawn Lindsey, Public Works Director, introduced Jeffery Winters, Cornerstone Community Partners, who then discussed the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application. There was some discussion among the council. Mayor Stein opened up the floor for public comment. Hearing none, Mayor Stein closed the floor for public comment. Jeffery Winters discussed the next steps. Mayor Stein asked for a motion to conduct the First Public Hearing for the FFY 2025 CDBG application, accept public comment into the record, and direct staff and Cornerstone Community Partners to proceed with development of the application consistent with the input received. Councilmember Lawson initiated the motion, seconded by Councilmember Carter. The motion passed unanimously.

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

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Stein asked if the council wished to make any changes to the consent agenda, mentioning the previously discussed change. Hearing no others, Mayor Stein asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Coxwell initiated the motion, seconded by Councilmember Sutton. The motion passed unanimously.

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

7.1. Monthly Financial Report

7.2. Minutes of the March 2nd, 2026, Regular Council Meeting

7.3. Minutes of the March 25th, 2026 City Council Workshop

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. Ordinance 2026-02 Electric Bicycles, Motorized Scooters, and Micromobility Devices

Tyler Reed, Community Development Director, discussed Ordinance 2026-02, what it is, and why it is being brought before the council. There was some discussion from the council. Michael Rader, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, provided comments on the Council's questions. Mayor Stein asked City Clerk Morris to read the title of Ordinance 2026-02 into the record, to which he did.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MARY ESTHER, FLORIDA; CREATING ARTICLE V UNDER CHAPTER 18 OF THE MARY ESTHER CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLED "ELECTRIC BICYCLES, MOTORIZED SCOOTERS, AND MICROMOBILITY DEVICES"; AND PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, CODIFICATIONS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Stein asked for a motion to approve a first reading of Ordinance 2026-02, creating Article V of Chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances to establish regulations governing electric bicycles, motorized scooters, and micromobility devices within the City of Mary Esther. The motion was initiated by Councilmember Sutton, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Coxwell. The motion passed unanimously.

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

11.2. Resolution 26-07: Selection of the City's Long-Term Wastewater Solution

Jared Cobb, City Manager, discussed the selection of the city's long-term wastewater solution, providing the background and providing information gathered on both options presented. There was some discussion among the council. Scott Jernigan, Jacobs Engineering, provided comments on the council's questions. The council reached a consensus to postpone this item until the May regular council meeting.

11.3. Consideration: Expedited Purchase Approval for Sewer Line Cleaning and Lining

Josh Robinson, Jacobs Engineering, discussed the need for purchase approval for sewer line cleaning and lining. There was some discussion among the council. Mayor Stein asked for a motion to declare a procurement emergency for the Highway 98 sewer lateral rehabilitation based on a 75% blockage condition and risk of sanitary sewer overflow; to authorize the city manager to award purchasing orders for cleaning, re-CCTV inspection, CIPP lining of the two sewer laterals crossing under US Highway 98 at East Miracle Strip Pkwy in a combined amount not to exceed \$125,000; and to direct staff to continue pursuing reimbursement from the responsible parties and their insurers. Councilmember Sutton initiated the motion, seconded by Councilmember Carter. The motion passed unanimously.

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

11.4. Consideration: Task Order with Kimley-Horn for Water and Sewer System Hydraulic Models

Tyler Reed, Community Development Director, discussed the need for the water and sewer system hydraulic models and their use. There was some discussion among the council. Brock Jones, Kimley-Horn, provided comments on the Council's questions. Mayor Stein asked for a motion to approve the task order with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., under the city's continuing professional services agreement (RFQ 2021-02), in an amount not to exceed \$100,000, and to authorize the City Manager to execute the task order. Councilmember Sutton initiated the motion, seconded by Councilmember Lawson. The motion passed unanimously.

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

11.5. Consideration: Task Order with Barge Design Solutions for Replacement of Bridges at Oak Tree Nature Park

Shawn Lindsey, Public Works Director, discussed the replacement of bridges at Oak Tree Nature Park. There was some discussion among the council. Mayor Stein asked for a motion to approve the task order with Barge Designs Solutions, under the city's continuing professional services agreement (RFQ 2021-02), for professional engineering services for the Oak Tree Nature Park Pedestrian Bridge Replacement project in the amount not to exceed \$34,000 and authorize the city manager to execute the task order. Mayor Pro Tem Coxwell initiated the motion, seconded by Councilmember Sutton. The motion passed unanimously.

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

11.6. Consideration: Process for Amending the City Charter

Councilmember Oder brought forward the discussion of amending the city charter and the process for doing so. Dillon Morris, City Clerk, provided some additional comments related to the topic. There was some discussion among the council. The council came to a consensus that City Clerk Morris obtain more information to bring back to the council in the May regular council meeting.

11.7. Consideration: Annual City Clerk Evaluation

Jared Cobb, City Manager, discussed the city clerk's evaluation score and comments. Mayor Stein asked if there was any discussion. Upon hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve

the performance review for the City Clerk, as presented. Councilmember Lawson initiated the motion, seconded by Councilmember Sutton. The motion passed unanimously.

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

11.8. Monthly Performance Report

Jared Cobb, City Manager, discussed the change in the new monthly report for the council and how to read the information. There was some discussion among the council.

12. COUNCILS' STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

Councilmember Sutton discussed the upcoming Okaloosa Walton Transportation priorities, specifically discussing the opening of Hill Avenue to Anderson Drive. There was some discussion among the council on this topic. She also discussed being honored to share the Homerule Hero and thanked Mayor Stein and City Manager Cobb for the help in Tallahassee, and City Clerk Morris for handling the travel arrangements.

Mayor Pro Tem Coxwell had no additional comments.

Councilmember Lawson had no additional comments.

Mayor Stein congratulated Councilmember Sutton and Councilmember Oder on winning the Homerule Hero awards and that the yard of the month program will continue next month.

Councilmember Carter discussed the upcoming America 250 parade in Crestview and asked what the cities plans for the event was. There was some discussion among the council on how to handle it.

Councilmember Oder discussed the Northwest Florida League of Cities being the most active in the state, the next library cooperative meeting, Destin's donation of 10 scholarships, budget cuts to the cooperative, the property tax issue, the upcoming AFSOC Airman of the Year award, and the upcoming Northwest Florida League of Cities summer event.

13. OTHER COMMENTS

City Attorney Dykes had no additional comments.

City Clerk Morris reminded the council to check their mailboxes, file their financial disclosures, do their cybersecurity training, do their ethics training, those sworn in to see him after to sign their certificates, and to schedule quarterly meetings with him.

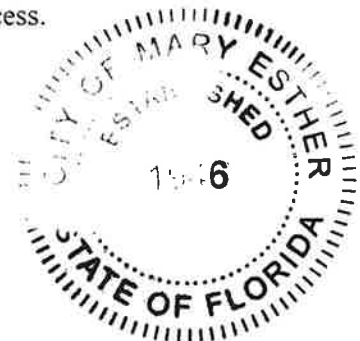
City Manager Cobb discussed the upcoming budget calendar and process.

14. ADJOURN

The council meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Minutes approved at the meeting.

5/4/2026



Dillon Morris

Dillon Morris, City Clerk

