

**MINUTES OF
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
ORANGE BEACH CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 5, 2025 – 5:12 P.M.
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The Orange Beach City Council met to review potential items for the August 19, 2025, agenda.

The following members were present:

Councilmember Jeff Silvers
Councilmember Jerry Johnson
Councilmember Annette Mitchell
Councilmember Jeff Boyd
Mayor Tony Kennon

The following members were absent:

Councilmember Joni Blalock

The following items were discussed:

1. Discuss appointment of an interim police chief. Michelle Bugos, HR Director, explained the need for Council to appoint an interim police chief due to Chief Brown's impending retirement on September 1, 2025. She stated that Administration and HR have met with sergeants and lieutenants in the Police Department and have provided Mayor and Council with a summary of those meetings. Councilmember Silvers nominated Lt. Trent Johnson. There was no opposition. This item will move forward to the next council meeting on August 19, 2025.
2. Discuss request from Art Center to replace porch fans. Desiree Hodge, Coastal Arts Center Director, stated that the current porch fans and controller at the Art Center cannot be repaired and need to be fully replaced. The price for replacement is around \$7,600. Mayor and Council supported moving forward with the purchase.
3. Discuss proposals for 2026 Performing Arts production. Ford Handley, City Administrator, presented the two options given by the Performing Arts staff – Guys and Dolls, and Mamma Mia. During the conversation, Ford was notified by staff that Mamma Mia just announced that it is going on tour, which means that the rights are now unavailable. Given that news, City Council supported moving forward with Guys and Dolls.
4. Resolution declaring a vehicle owned by the City of Orange Beach as surplus and unneeded and authorizing the donation of said property to the Orange Beach Board of Education.
5. Resolution declaring a vehicle owned by the City of Orange Beach as surplus and unneeded and authorizing the donation of said property to the Saint Stephens Volunteer Fire Department.
6. Resolution awarding Police Chief Steve Brown his duty weapons and badge as part of his retirement benefits.
7. Adopt Transportation Plan for FY2026.
8. Resolution authorizing the execution of a service order with Uniti Fiber LLC for the lifeguard building at the resident beach.
9. Resolution authorizing the execution of amendment five to the subaward grant agreement with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the RESTORE Act state expenditure plan funded expansion of the Orange Beach Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Program.

10. Resolution authorizing the execution of a cooperative agreement with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) for the city to provide permitting, regulating, monitoring, and inspection services.
11. Resolution reappointing Penny Groux to the Gulf Shores and Orange Beach Tourism Board of Directors.
12. Resolution authorizing the execution of a performance contract with Brandy Reeves for tennis instruction services.
13. Set a public hearing date for an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 172, the Zoning Ordinance, Case No. 0414-PUD-25, The Wharf Landing Villas PUD. Public hearing set for September 2, 2025.

Public Comments:

1. Jerry Mitchell, 24310 Perdido Beach Boulevard, asked, "What is a 'Hot Shop'?" Mayor Kennon and Councilmember Mitchell explained that it is the glass blowing studio at the Coastal Arts Center. Mr. Mitchell also asked to hear first-hand what pressure caused the Police Chief to resign, citing an article in the Mullet Wrapper. Councilmember Boyd stated that the topic cannot be discussed due to it being an internal investigation involving personnel.
2. Robert Freeland, resident, expressed his concern with a statement published in the USA Today dated July 15, 2025, quoting an article from Montgomery that an environmental advocacy group has warned that Alabama beaches are polluted and unsafe for swimmers. Mr. Freeland asked that City Council and City staff take action to protect the City's image.
3. John McCabe, 4976 Bay Drive, and Officer Seth McVickers spoke about the upcoming "Battle of the Badges" event at the Orange Beach Sportsplex on October 25, 2025, where the Coastal Alabama Senior Softball League and teams from the Orange Beach, Gulf Shores, and Foley Police and Fire Departments will compete in a friendly softball tournament. Admission is free with donations welcomed to support the 2026 United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) Regional K-9 Trials to be held in Orange Beach in February 2026.

Executive Session:

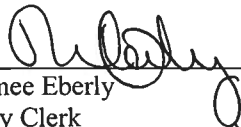
1. **Motion made (Johnson/Silvers) to enter executive session to discuss pending litigation.** The City Attorney advised the Council that a declaration was required by the Open Meetings Act for an Executive Session; therefore, she stated for the record that she was duly qualified and had the personal knowledge to provide the requisite declaration for the stated purposes of the Executive Session authorized by the Act. Vote unanimous in favor. **Motion passed.** Mayor Kennon stated that Council would not reconvene.

Time in: 5:43 P.M.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Time: 6:17 P.M.

APPROVED this 2nd day of September, 2025.



Renee Eberly
City Clerk

