

**MINUTES OF
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
ORANGE BEACH CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 2, 2026 – 5:23 P.M.
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The Orange Beach City Council met to review potential items for the June 16, 2026, agenda.

The following members were present:

Councilmember Jack Robertson
Councilmember Ginger Harrelson
Councilmember Robert Stuart
Councilmember Jerry Johnson
Mayor Tony Kennon

The following members were absent:

Councilmember Jeff Silvers

The following items were discussed:

1. Discuss silent auction donation request for the 2026 Alabama Governor's Conference on Tourism. Desiree Hodge, Art Center Director, specified that the request is for \$100 to go towards student scholarships related to hospitality and tourism. Mayor Kennon asked Jamie Logan, City Attorney, to verify the legality of the city making such a donation.
2. Resolution authorizing the purchase of a Dispatch Radio Console for the Police Department through State Bid from Motorola Solutions, Inc., in the amount of \$39,007.20.
3. Resolution authorizing the purchase of Office Furniture for the Fire Department through State Bid from McAleer's Office Furniture Company, Inc., in the amount of \$59,108.96.
4. Resolution authorizing submittal of a FY2025 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application for the purchase of SCBA Units.
5. Resolution amending the Fee Schedule for the Coastal Arts Center of Orange Beach.
6. Resolution authorizing the execution of a use agreement with Blue Marlin Grand Championship, LLC, for safety barricades during the 2026 Blue Marlin Grand Championship event.
7. Resolution authorizing the execution of a task order with Sawgrass Consulting, LLC, to provide professional services for Orange Beach Recreation Complex Improvements in an amount not to exceed \$170,600.
8. Resolution authorizing execution of Change Order No. 2 with Roy Lewis Construction Corporation for drainage improvements adjacent to the Fire Training Center in an amount not to exceed \$15,983.63.
9. Resolution authorizing execution of a task order with GeoCon Engineering and Materials Testing, Inc., to provide a preliminary soil study for Kids Park Playground Shade Structures in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.
10. Reminder: Public hearing and first reading for an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 172, the Zoning Ordinance, Case No. 0503-PUD-26, Bubba's Seaside Mini Golf PUD on June 16, 2026.
11. Reschedule public hearing and first reading for an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 172, the Zoning Ordinance, Case No. 0403-PUD-26, Pirates Voyage PUD from June 16, 2026, to July 21, 2026. Third and final deferral by applicant. Public hearing rescheduled to July 21, 2026.

Public Comments:

1. Jeff Smith, Fire Chief, informed City Council that a SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) grant request will be added to the next council meeting agenda to staff another fire emergency response apparatus.
2. Ford Handley, City Administrator, recognized employees David Dale and Brenda Langston for being back-to-back recipients of the Island Spirit Award.
3. Barbara Burns, resident, shared her concerns about the negative impacts to ingress and egress to and from the Beaver Creek Subdivision stemming from new southbound state bridge traffic. Mayor, Council, and City Staff discussed various possibilities and promised continued requests to ALDOT for a solution. Yo Johnson, resident, recommended reaching out to the regional TPO (Transportation Planning Organization).
4. Gayle Dauphin, Beaver Creek resident, spoke in favor of a traffic signal at the entrance to the Beaver Creek Subdivision. Mayor Kennon expressed understanding, but explained that ALDOT has made it clear that a traffic light at that location is unlikely due to their rules and regulations on traffic flow. Councilmember Robertson suggested a temporary sign with a caution message.
5. Darrel Volesky, Tarpon Lane resident, also voiced his concerns about the hazardous traffic area.
6. Mayor Kennon recognized Adilyn-Mae and Hazlee Bailey, Miss Military Stars.
7. Randall Rickard, 26881 2nd Street, shared his concerns regarding the golf cart rental industry in Orange Beach. His request for a residential business license was denied by City Council in 2025, and was told at the time that City Council would be making some changes to the Golf Cart Rental Ordinance, but no changes have been made. Mr. Rickard spoke against out-of-town golf cart rentals and potential creation of local monopoly. Ford Handley, City Administrator, explained that City Council is still reviewing possible changes to the Golf Cart Rental Ordinance. Councilmember Stuart confirmed that City Council has discussed the topic multiple times, still plan to make changes, and also intend on addressing the use of e-bikes. Mayor Kennon gave his opinion against operating commercial rentals in residential neighborhoods. Councilmember Harrelson shared that she does not believe in governmental monopolies, but that there is a real concern regarding the number of rental golf carts, and is trying to find a middle ground. Councilmember Robertson agreed that out-of-town rentals should not be in Orange Beach, and that fewer golf carts is better, but that he is trying to be fair.
8. Darrel Volesky, resident, spoke about issues with unregistered street vehicles.
9. John McCabe, Bay Drive resident, thanked Mayor and Council for their past support of the Coastal Alabama Senior Softball League. He shared that the money raised by last year's tournament went towards supporting the K-9 Trials held this past February in Orange Beach.
10. Councilmember Jerry Johnson announced his resignation from City Council in order to provide more support to his ailing 14-year-old grandson, who is battling serious medical issues. He spoke of his love for the City, and encouraged residents to appreciate Orange Beach for being a statewide success story. Mayor Kennon praised Jerry and Yo Johnson for their steadiness over the years. Councilmembers Robertson, Harrelson, and Stuart each added their commendations.
11. Wade Fillmore, Sailfish Lane resident, Lauder Place POA President, requested that the City lower the speed limit in the Lauder Place neighborhood from 25 to 15 MPH for safety reasons. He explained that the POA voted unanimously for bringing this request to the City Council. Jamie Logan, City Attorney, responded that the City will review the request.
12. Darrel Volesky, Lauder Place resident, spoke in opposition to lowering the speed limit, and stated that the issue is children at play on fast e-bikes. He also disputed the authority of POAs (Property Owners Associations) versus HOAs (Homeowners Associations). Mayor and Council explained that formal requests from resident associations have generally held weight in the past.

13. Kim Ard, 6205 Yellowfin Street in the Lauder Place neighborhood, spoke in favor of lowering the speed limit to protect neighborhood children.
14. Albert Jackson, 5811 Monterey Avenue, Pensacola, Florida, spurred by recent social media activity, shared an incident he had witnessed in October where an Escambia County Deputy picked up a homeless individual on the Florida side and dropped off the individual at the Flora-Bama towards the Alabama State line. He encouraged compassion for the homeless from all.
15. Councilmember Ginger Harrelson recognized State Representative Frances Holk-Jones for her attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Time: 6:27 P.M.

APPROVED this 7th day of July, 2026.



Renee Eberly
City Clerk

