

**MINUTES OF
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
ORANGE BEACH CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 11, 2025 – 5:18 P.M.
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The Orange Beach City Council met to review potential items for the March 18, 2025, agenda.

The following members were present:

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

The following members were absent:

None

The following items were discussed:

1. Reschedule Council and Committee of the Whole Meetings from April 1, 2025, to April 2, 2025, to be held at the Performing Arts Center. Meeting was rescheduled to April 2, 2025, at the Performing Arts Center.
2. Appoint voting delegate for the Alabama League of Municipalities Annual Convention and the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation Annual Membership Meeting to be held in Huntsville, May 13-16, 2025.
3. Resolution establishing fees for Orange Beach Sportsplex field rentals.
4. Resolution authorizing the execution of a Coastal Weather Research Center Agreement with the University of South Alabama to provide weather information services.
5. Resolution authorizing the purchase, surplus, and transfer of certain parcels and authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and execute real estate purchase agreements and such other documents as may be required to close the transactions contemplated herein.
6. Resolution authorizing the execution of a professional services agreement with Thompson Engineering, Inc., for transportation, traffic, and other engineering services.
7. Resolution authorizing the execution of a master professional services agreement with Deckard Technologies, Inc., for short-term rental identification and monitoring.
8. Resolution authorizing execution of a performance agreement with McLean Motor Sports Productions, LLC, for a Spring 2025 "Bama Coast Cruisin'" car show event.
9. Resolution authorizing a franchise renewal for July Enterprises, Inc., dba Coastal Express Shuttle, to operate a taxi service within the city limits and police jurisdiction of the City of Orange Beach.
10. Ordinance amending Chapter 30, Article III, Section 30-45 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Orange Beach, Alabama, entitled "Noises Prohibited."
11. Ordinance amending Chapter 38, Article III, Section 38-65, "Definitions," and Chapter 50, Article V, Division 3, Section 50-352, "Illegal Acts," of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Orange Beach, Alabama, to add vaping to the definition of smoking and to prohibit tobacco and nicotine vending machines.

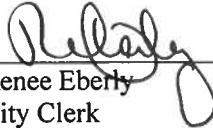
Public Comments:

1. Amy Crawford, SunMed Modern Wellness, requested that Council consider revising the City Code to allow the selling of beverages containing hemp extracted THC. SunMed has CBD seltzers containing THC that they would like to sell in their Orange Beach store. She stated that Rouses is already selling similar products, and that other local businesses are interested in selling these products. She also advocated for phytocannabinoids as an alternative to alcohol. Council expressed some concerns regarding the inability to differentiate THC derived from hemp or marijuana through testing, that employees would fail a drug test after consuming these seltzers, and the effect on the City's family-friendly brand. Council commented that they would likely wait for State legislation to clarify this regulatory frontier.
2. Roger Crawford, SunMed Modern Wellness, proposed a tax on hemp-based products to be split between the school and police.
3. Ray Grooms, disabled veteran and attorney, spoke in favor of CBD products.
4. Chelsea Roeck, Gulf Coast Roast, spoke in favor of CBD seltzers.
5. Jordan Epperson spoke in favor of CBD seltzers.
6. Chris Dickhute spoke in favor of CBD seltzers.
7. Jeremy Little, CMC Gas, announced a price decrease for both commercial and residential customers.
8. Jerry McCutchen, 8Reale, had some questions about vape vending machines.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Time: 6:13 P.M.

APPROVED this 2nd day of April, 2025.



Renee Eberly
City Clerk

