



# CITY OF OKEECHOBEE

55 SE THIRD AVENUE  
OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2023**

**6:00 PM**

**FINAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING  
AND REGULAR MEETING  
OFFICIAL AGENDA**

**Mayor**  
Dowling R. Watford, Jr.  
**Vice Mayor**  
Monica Clark  
**Council Members**  
Noel Chandler  
Bob Jarriel  
David McAuley

<b>Mission Statement:</b>	The mission of the City of Okeechobee is to provide accommodating services that enhance the quality of life for our citizens and businesses in a fiscally sound manner.
<b>Vision Statement:</b>	The City of Okeechobee will maintain a vibrant and prosperous community built on our heritage, history, unique character, and small-town atmosphere.

## I. CALL TO ORDER

## II. ATTENDANCE

## III. AGENDA AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. Requests for the addition, deferral, or withdrawal of agenda items.
- B. Motion to adopt agenda.
- C. Public participation for any issues not on the agenda requires an Agenda Item Form or Comment Card. Citizen comments are limited to 3 minutes per speaker unless otherwise approved by the Mayor.

## IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Motion to dispense with the reading and approve the Minutes for September 5, 2023.
- B. Motion to approve August 2023 Warrant Register.
- C. Motion to ratify the reappointment of Mr. Josh Sanders as the Fifth Trustee to the Firefighters Pension Fund, term beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2027.

## V. PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATION ITEMS

- A. Presentation honoring Police Services Coordinator Jeanna Kovak for 20 years of service.
- B. Presentation honoring Police Officer Skip Eddings for 20 years of service.

## VI. FINAL READING – PUBLIC HEARING OF BUDGET ORDINANCES

- A. Mayor to announce that the purpose of this Public Hearing is to consider the final reading of ordinances for the proposed Millage Rate levy and proposed Budget for Fiscal Year October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.
- B. Mayor to announce the proposed Millage Rate levy represents 2.84 percent more than the roll-back rate of 6.1801 computed pursuant to Florida Statutes 200.065(1).
- C. Motion to read by title only and adopt proposed Ordinance No. 1279, levying a Millage Rate of 6.3556 on all real and tangible personal property for proposed Fiscal Year October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024 (**Exhibit 1**).
- D. Motion to read by title only and adopt proposed Ordinance No. 1280, setting the annual Budget for Fiscal Year October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024 (**Exhibit 2**).

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A.** Motion to adopt proposed Resolution No. 2023-08 authorizing the execution and accepting a Highway Lighting Maintenance and Compensation Agreement No. 432726-1-78-12 with the Florida Department of Transportation (**Exhibit 3**).
- B.** Motion to approve the 2023-2024 School Resource Officer Program agreement for the Okeechobee County School Board (**Exhibit 4**).
- C.** Motion to ratify street sweeping services for March through September, 2023 in the amount of \$15,862.00 with USA Services (**Exhibit 5**).
- D.** Motion to approve an agreement in the amount of \$17,767.00 to Craig A. Smith and Associates for the Construction Engineering Inspection for the SW 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Paving Improvement Project (**Exhibit 6**).
- E.** Motion to approve or deny, with or without contingencies, Preliminary Plat Application No. 23-009-TRC/PP, replatting Lots 6 through 10, TAYLOR CREEK MANOR, Plat Book 3, Page 4, Okeechobee County public records, into a new Plat consisting of 12 lots (one for each townhome), common area and access tracts, titled BRIDGEWATER ON TAYLOR CREEK, submitted by John J. Rice, on behalf of property owner B & T Fair Investments, Inc., consisting of 1.39± acres and located at 116 SE 8th Avenue (**Exhibit 7**).
- F.** Discussion regarding Okeechobee Utility Authority's interest in the recently disassembled communications tower.
- G.** Discussion regarding a possible Tobacco Free Parks Ordinance.
- H.** Discussion regarding the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

**VIII. CITY ATTORNEY UPDATE**

**IX. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE**

**X. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**XI. ADJOURN MEETING**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED** that if any person desires to appeal any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at this proceeding, such an interested person will need a record of the proceeding, and for such purpose may need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. City Clerk recordings are for the sole purpose of backup for official records of the Clerk. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Clerk's Office in person or call 863-763-9814, Hearing Impaired: Florida Relay 7-1-1 no later than four business days prior to proceeding.

**BE ADVISED** that should you intend to show any document, picture, video, or item to the Council in support of or opposition to any item on the agenda; a copy of the document, picture, video, or item must be provided to the City Clerk for the City's records.