



Hernando County
Board of County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

January 13, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, in the John Law Ayers County Commission Chambers, Government Center, Brooksville, Florida.

<u>Attendee Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
Jerry Campbell	Chairman
Ryan Amsler	Vice Chairman
Steve Champion	Second Vice Chairman
John Allocco	Commissioner
Brian Hawkins	Commissioner
Toni Brady	Deputy County Administrator
Omar DePablo	Development Services Director
Scott Herring	Public Works Director
Jon Jouben	County Attorney
Christopher Linsbeck	Community Services Director
Jeffrey Rogers	County Administrator
Carla Rossiter-Smith	Chief Procurement Officer
Nienke Osinga	Deputy Clerk
Heidi Prouse	Deputy Clerk

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

AGENDA

Motion

To approve the Agenda with changes.

(Note: County Administrator Jeffrey Rogers announced that the presentation for Item No.K-1 [Annual Budget Development Process and Budget Calendar Review for FY 2026-27] had two revisions as provided to the Board.)

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Steve Champion
SECONDER:	Brian Hawkins
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Hernando County Sheriff Al Nienhius provided an update regarding Animal Services, including introduction of Animal Services Director David Paloff.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Citizens commented on various topics and issues.

BOARD/STAFF RESPONSES

The Board and/or staff responded to questions and concerns expressed during Citizens' Comments.

Comm. Champion temporarily left the meeting and returned shortly thereafter.

RECESS/RECONVENE

The Board recessed at 11:50 a.m. and reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Acceptance of FY 2025-26 State Department of Health Emergency Medical Services Grant Funds for Improvement and Expansion of Pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services and Associated Budget Resolution

Access Request to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Integrated Disbursement and Information System for Community Development Block Grant Management by Program Coordinator

Amendment No. 2 to Grant Agreement With State Department of Environmental Protection for Septic to Sewer Conversion District A, Phases 1 and 2 Project and Associated Budget Resolution

Contribution In Aid of Construction Agreement Between Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative, Inc., and Hernando County Solid Waste for Municipal Solid Waste Cell No. 4 Construction Project for Solid Waste and Recycling Department

Ratification of Donation Agreements Through County Travel Trailer Units Program for Disaster Housing Relief

Request Submitted by Library Services to Apply for 2026 Seeds of Knowledge Library Demonstration Garden Grant With Florida Wildflower Foundation

Declaration of Various Tangible Property as Surplus for Disposal and Removal From Fixed Asset Inventory

Letter Recognizing Hernando County Crime Stoppers, Inc., as Official Crime Stoppers Program for Hernando County

Satisfaction of Interim Disposal Special Assessment Lien for Daniel J. Westfall, Jr.

Transmittal of List of Accounts Payable Disbursements for Weeks Ended November 21, 2025, November 28, 2025, and December 5, 2025

Approval of Minutes for Land Use Meeting of September 2, 2025

Approval of Minutes for Regular Meeting of September 9, 2025

Approval of Minutes for Tentative Budget Hearing of September 11, 2025

Approval of Minutes for Regular Meeting of September 23, 2025

Release of Performance Bond and Acceptance of Maintenance Bond for Somerset Bay Phase 1A

Resolution Proclaiming January 2026 as Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Resolution Proclaiming January 18, 2026, Through January 24, 2026, as National Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists Week

Resolution Proclaiming January 19, 2026, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day

Motion

To approve the Consent Agenda (Budget Resolution Nos. 2026-010 and 2026-011 and Resolution Nos. 2026-012 through 2026-014).

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Steve Champion
SECONDER:	Ryan Amsler
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

Notice of Purchasing Policy Exceptions for October 2025

Notification From Duke Energy Florida, LLC, Advising of Upcoming Right-of-Way Vegetation Management Activities

Transmittal of Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority Special District Public Facilities Updated Report

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Proofs of publication of Notices of Public Hearing were noted for the scheduled public hearings.

Ex Parte Communications

Chairman Campbell and Comms. Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins announced the ex parte communications that they had had concerning the quasi-judicial petitions being considered at this meeting.

County Attorney Jon Jouben advised the Commissioners that any ex parte communications, however received, could play no part in their deliberations.

Adoption of Informational Packet

The Agenda packet that was submitted to the Board included written information regarding the cases to be considered which needed to be accepted into evidence for the hearings.

The staff recommended that the Board accept the Agenda packet, including the staff reports, into evidence as if read aloud in their entirety.

Motion

To approve.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Steve Champion
SECONDER:	Brian Hawkins
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

Petition Submitted by Matthew Woodham, Angela Woodham, Genny Rebecca Sikes, James Eric Sikes, Stacey Lyn Durgan and Melissa Ann Gulvin to Vacate Utility and Drainage Easements Located in Ridge Manor

There was no public input.

Motion

To approve the staff recommendation (Resolution No. 2026-015).

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Brian Hawkins
SECONDER:	Steve Champion
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

Petition Submitted by Michael Robert Ryan and April R. Ryan to Vacate Utility and Drainage Easements Located in Royal Highlands

There was no public input.

Motion

To approve the staff recommendation (Resolution No. 2026-016).

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Brian Hawkins
SECONDER:	Steve Champion
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

Petition Submitted by Roger E. Emery to Vacate Utility and Drainage Easements Located in Ridge Manor

There was no public input.

Motion

To approve the staff recommendation (Resolution No. 2026-017).

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Steve Champion
SECONDER:	Brian Hawkins
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

Proposed Ordinance Amending Civil Penalties for Certain Parking Violations

Comm. Amsler temporarily left the meeting and returned shortly thereafter.

The Board accepted public input on this matter.

Motion

To approve the staff recommendation (Ordinance No. 2026-01).

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Ryan Amsler
SECONDER:	Steve Champion
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

Proposed Ordinance Imposing Local Government Infrastructure Surtax

The Board accepted public input on this matter.

Comm. Champion made the following Motion:

Motion

To approve as long as 10, 13, 14, that language is removed.

(Note: The Motion pertained to interlineal amendments to remove the phrase "body worn cameras" on Page5, Line 10; and to remove the phrase in Lines 13 and 14 of the same page, to include but not limited to body worn cameras, as recommended by County Attorney Jon Jouben.)

Comm. Champion restated his Motion as follows:

Restated Motion

To eliminate body worn cameras from the topic.

Comm. Champion revised his Motion as follows:

Revised Motion

To approve with changes on Page 5, Line 10, it would now read one half sales tax surtax for law enforcement and public safety; and for Lines 12, 13 and 14, in order to fund the Hernando County Sheriff's Office acquisition of law enforcement infrastructure as defined by law shall Hernando County levy a one-half cent sales surtax (Ordinance No. 2026-02).

Comm. Amsler seconded the Motion.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Steve Champion
SECONDER:	Ryan Amsler
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

COUNTY ATTORNEY JON JOUBEN

Renewal of Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Requested by PatientCare EMS Solutions d/b/a MedFleet, LLC, for Provision of Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support Ambulance Transport Services

Comm. Champion temporarily left the meeting.

Motion

To approve the staff recommendation.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Ryan Amsler
SECONDER:	Brian Hawkins
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Allocco and Hawkins
AWAY:	Champion

RECESS/RECONVENE

The Board recessed at 1:40 p.m. and reconvened at 1:50 p.m.

Comm. Champion was present when the meeting reconvened.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR CHRISTOPHER LINSBECK

Presentation of Hernando County Parks Master Plan From Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

Motion

To approve the staff recommendation.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	John Allocco
SECONDER:	Steve Champion
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

Discussion Regarding Location for Linda Pedersen Park Observation Tower Replacement**Motion**

To move forward with Option No. 1 at Linda Pedersen Park.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Brian Hawkins
SECONDER:	Steve Champion
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET DIRECTOR ERIN DOHREN

Annual Budget Development Process and Budget Calendar Review for FY 2026-27

Budget Resolution Recognizing Purchase Orders Carried Over From FY 2025

Budget Resolutions Recognizing Increased Community Development Block Grant Funds and Decreased HOME Investment Partnership Program Funds for Housing and Supportive Services Department

DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES CARLA ROSSITER-SMITH

Approval of Short Listed Firms for Architectural and Engineering Services for Fire Rescue and Emergency Services Fire Station Prototype Designs (Contract No. 25-RFQ01153/AP)

Award of Contract and Professional Services Agreement With McKim and Creed, Inc., for Engineering Services for Gretna and Hexam Water Treatment Systems Improvement Project (Contract No. 25-RFQ00955/AP; Amount: \$2,944,448.80)

Award of Quote and Work Authorization Agreement With MVH Construction, LLC, for Fire Station No. 7 Remodel Project Located on Mondon Hill Road (Contract No.23-T00040/AP Q 42; Amount: \$106,845.55)

Change Order No. 3 to Purchase Order With Thomas Howell Ferguson, P.A., for Emergency Planning and Grant Program Management Services for Hurricane Milton (Contract No. 23-TFG0218; Amount: \$397,272.00)

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/COUNTY ENGINEER SCOTT HERRING

Lease Agreement With RATP Dev USA, Inc., for Property Located at Department of Public Works Facility, 700 Aeriform Drive, Brooksville

Motion

To approve Item Nos. K-1 through K-3, L-1 through L-4 and M (Budget Resolution Nos. 2026-018 through 2026-020).

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Brian Hawkins
SECONDER:	John Allocco
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

RECESS/RECONVENE

The Board recessed at 3:10 p.m. and reconvened at 3:25 p.m.

COMMISSIONER RYAN AMSLER

Discussion Regarding Proposed Ordinance for Protecting Law Enforcement, Constitutional Rights and Local Control Ordinance Pertaining to Future Installation or Operation of Automated License Plate Readers on Hernando County Property or Rights-of-Way

Comm. Amsler made the following Motion:

Motion

To approve the staff recommendation.

Comm. Champion seconded the Motion.

Chairman Campbell announced that this Item was a discussion and would be a consensus. He further announced that there was no Motion or second on the floor.

Comm. Amsler rescinded his Motion.

Comm. Amsler made a requested Board consensus to schedule a public hearing, have it reviewed by the County Attorney's Office and to bring this Item back to the Board for discussion at a future Board meeting.

RECESS/RECONVENE

The Board recessed at 5:05 p.m. for the Special Meeting scheduled to begin at 5:01 p.m. and reconvened at 5:30 p.m. upon the adjournment of the Special Meeting.

Discussion Regarding Proposed Ordinance for Protecting Law Enforcement, Constitutional Rights and Local Control Ordinance Pertaining to Future Installation or Operation of Automated License Plate Readers on Hernando County Property or Rights-of-Way

There was Board consensus to direct staff to schedule a workshop to discuss license plate readers located on Hernando County property or rights-of-way at a future date.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR JEFFREY ROGERS

Appointment of Member to Planning and Zoning Commission Until December 31, 2028

Motion

To appoint Steven Markford.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Ryan Amsler
SECONDER:	Steve Champion
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

Appointment of Members to Citizen Advisory Task Force for Community Development Block Grant Program

Motion

To appoint Michael Newman and William Telesco.

RESULT:	ADOPTED
MOVER:	Brian Hawkins
SECONDER:	Steve Champion
AYES:	Campbell, Amsler, Champion, Allocco and Hawkins

Update Regarding Ongoing Board Directives

There was Board consensus to direct County Administrator Jeffrey Rogers to research options to regulate puppy mills within the County and to bring it back to the Board for discussion on a future Agenda.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Board commented on various issues.

Comm. Champion requested Board consensus to direct County Attorney Jon Jouben to research options regarding the ordinance pertaining to Community Development Districts a/k/a CDD fees, and to bring back to the Board for discussion on a future Agenda.

The Board concurred.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.