



CITY OF BARTOW  
**CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**  
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026 AT 6:00 PM  
OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE  
CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
450 NORTH WILSON AVE., BARTOW, FL 33830

**AGENDA**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
2. INVOCATION - Rev. Jerome Davis, St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
4. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS
  - a. Issuance of a proclamation recognizing January 19, 2026 as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and George H. Gause Day in the City of Bartow. Being accepted by Mrs. Cheri Kelley, representing the Bartow Deacons and Stewards Alliance.
5. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT  
At this time, the Commission will receive comments from the public regarding matters not appearing on this agenda.
6. CITY ANNOUNCEMENTS
7. REPORTS OF CHARTER OFFICERS
  - a. City Manager Communications
    1. Employee Resource Group (A-Team) Update
    2. New Employee Orientation Program Update
    3. Presentation of \$3.3M Parks & Recreation Improvements Update — Jason Hargrove Parks, Director of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts
    4. FY 25-26 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Projects Update — Howard Smith, CRA Director, Billy Groover, Public Works Director & Kyle Lasek, Asst. Director of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts.
    5. Update on Body-Worn Cameras and Red-Light Cameras Programs — Stephen Walker, Chief of Police
  - b. City Attorney Communications

c. Legislative Updates

8. AGENDA MODIFICATION/APPROVAL

9. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

At this time, the Commission will receive comments from the public regarding matters that appear on this agenda, not otherwise scheduled for a separate Public Hearing.

10. HEARINGS – FIRST AND SECOND READINGS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. Public hearing and final reading of Ordinance No. 2025-25 — AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BARTOW, FLORIDA; PROPOSING FOUR AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BARTOW; SPECIFICALLY TO MODIFY SECTION 2.02 RELATING TO THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF CITY COMMISSIONERS; TO MODIFY SECTION 2.03 RELATING TO THE TIMING OF ELECTIONS; TO MODIFY SECTION 2.05 RELATING TO THE SELECTION OF A MAYOR; AND TO MODIFY SECTION 4.06 RELATING TO THE SCHEDULE OF CITY ELECTIONS; PROVIDING THAT UPON FINAL PASSAGE OF THE ORDINANCE FOR THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT AT THE NEXT CITY ELECTION FOR A VOTE OF THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF BARTOW; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE UPON FINAL PASSAGE.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of December 15, 2025 City Commission Regular Meeting minutes.
- b. Approval of November 17, 2025 City Commission Workshop minutes (TPO update).
- c. Approval of July 17 & 18, 2025 City Commission Budget Workshop minutes.
- d. Approval of the Management Career Ladder Relocation PTO Program.
- e. Approval to reappoint Board Member Bill Bohde to the Recreation Advisory Board for a three-year term ending January 2029.
- f. Approval of City Commissioner absences for December 15, 2025 excusals: None

12. OTHER COMMISSION BUSINESS

a. OLD BUSINESS

b. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration of request by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to grant an honorary City of Bartow “Key to the City” to Retired Colonel Cynthia E. Cook.

### 13. RESOLUTIONS

- a. RESOLUTION NO. 26-4251-R - A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BARTOW, FLORIDA, URGING MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT THE 2026 FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES' LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR DESIGNEE TO DO ALL THINGS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THIS RESOLUTION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENER ERRORS, PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

### 14. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- a. GARY BALL
- b. LEO E. LONGWORTH
- c. TRISH PFEIFFER
- d. LAURA SIMPSON
- e. TANYA TUCKER

### 15. ADJOURNMENT

Please be advised that if you desire to appeal from any decisions made because of the above hearing or meeting, you will need a record of the proceedings and in some cases a verbatim record is required. You must make your own arrangements to produce this record. (Florida Statute 286.0105). The City Commission may continue the public hearing(s) to other dates and times as it deems necessary. Any interested party shall be advised that the date, time, and place of any continuation of these or continued public hearings may be announced during the hearing and that no further notices regarding this matter will be published. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the City Clerk's Office at 450 N. Wilson Avenue, P.O. Box 1069, Bartow, Florida 33831-1069 or phone (863) 534-0100 within 2 working days of your receipt of this meeting notification; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 1-800-955-8771. Posted at City Hall, Bartow Public Library, the City's website: [www.cityofbartow.net](http://www.cityofbartow.net) and Facebook page on December 31, 2025.