



CITY OF BARTOW
CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026 AT 6:00 P.M. (EST)
OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 450 N. WILSON AVE., BARTOW, FL 33830

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. INVOCATION – Pastor Jesse Maxwell, Bible Baptist Church of Bartow
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
4. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS
 - a. Recognition of Mayor’s Art Club Award Recipients – Peyton Pawley and Lilly Prince.
 - b. Issuance of proclamation recognizing May 21-25, 2026 as the 63rd Annual Sheriffs Youth Villa Classic Golf Tournament. Being accepted by Committee Members of the Sheriffs Youth Villa Classic Golf Tournament.
 - c. Issuance of proclamation recognizing May 20, 2026 as Emancipation Day in Florida. Being accepted by Ms. Zelma Harris, Juneteenth Committee Co-Chairperson.
 - d. Issuance of proclamation recognizing May 2026 as National Pet Month. Being accepted by Jessica Ball with “Maggie Sue” of Hounds Downtown and Linda Holcomb with “Teddy”.
 - e. Issuance of proclamation recognizing May 2026 as National Bike Month. Being accepted by Commissioner Trish Pfeiffer and Bob Pfeiffer.
 - f. Issuance of a proclamation recognizing May 2026 as Teacher Appreciation Month. Being accepted by Principal Nadia Lewis, Assistant Principal Alatheia Towles and faculty of James E. Stephens Elementary School.
 - g. Presentation of May Beautification Awards – Kyle Lasek, PRCA Asst. Director.
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. FY 26-27 Non-Profit and Community Partner Funding Update – Mike Herr, City Manager and Peter Lear, Deputy City Manager
2. Bartow Police Department Recruiting Strategies – Stephen Walker, Chief of Police
3. Presentation of Summer Library Programs – Christine Hielscher, City Librarian
4. Update on Parks & Recreation Projects – Kyle Lasek, PRCA Asst. Director
5. Update on Bartow Bash Summer Program – Gwen Young, Recreation Program Supervisor.

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. First reading and consideration of Ordinance No 2026-04 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BARTOW, FLORIDA, RELATING TO ELECTIONS AND THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF CITY COMMISSIONERS; AMENDING SECTION 34-2 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; ESTABLISHING DATES FOR THE QUALIFYING PERIOD FOR THE ELECTION OF CITY COMMISSIONERS; EXTENDING THE CURRENT TERMS OF OFFICE OF SITTING COMMISSIONERS TO CORRESPOND WITH RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY CHARTER; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE CORRECTION OF SCRIVENER’S ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of May 4, 2026 City Commission Regular Meeting minutes.
- b. Approval of May 4, 2026 City Commission Workshop minutes. (PRWC Update)
- c. Approval of May 4, 2026 Mayor’s Art Club Student Art Reception minutes.
- d. Approval of City Staffing Reorganization Plan.
- e. Approval of City Commissioner absence(s) for May 4, 2026 excusal(s): None

12. OTHER COMMISSION BUSINESS

- a. OLD BUSINESS – NONE

- b. NEW BUSINESS – NONE

13. RESOLUTIONS

- a. RESOLUTION NO 26-4263-R – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OF THE CITY OF BARTOW TO SELL OR DISPOSE OF SURPLUS OR OBSOLETE VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT.

14. ATTORNEY/CLIENT SESSION

- a. AN ATTORNEY/CLIENT SESSION OF THE CITY COMMISSION WILL BE HELD PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES 286.011(8). THIS IS A CLOSED SESSION.

15. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

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

16. ADJOURNMENT

Please be advised that if you desire to appeal 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 notice 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 on May 14, 2026.

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CITY OF BARTOW

Welcome to the City of Bartow's City Commission meeting. We are glad you are here, and we appreciate your interest in our Community. We value your comments and participation.

To assist you in making presentations to the City Commission, please consider the following procedural guidelines.

- ❖ We do not generally allow comments during our work session unless the Mayor or Commission to clarify an item specifically asks for them. If comments are solicited, we ask you to subject yourself to a maximum three-minute comment. We ask that you be patient and save your comments for the regular Commission meeting.
- ❖ Each speaker shall provide his or her name and address to the Clerk on our Speaker's Identification form prior to the beginning of the meeting.
- ❖ We encourage you to speak and become active in your city but please do so at the appropriate time on the agenda.
- ❖ Comments on items scheduled for Public Hearing will be allowed only during the announced Public Hearing period.
- ❖ In the meeting, section titled "**Consideration of Questions from the floor, Petitions and Communications**", you may comment on any other matters, subject to a maximum time limit of three minutes to speak. In the event of a large number of speakers in a particular meeting, your time may be limited in order to allow all an opportunity to speak. Speakers going over the allotted time limit may be called out of order by the Mayor and asked to return to their seats.
- ❖ While speaking, speakers shall refrain from personal attacks, abusive language, issues in litigation or under investigation, and issues that the Commission deems as not falling within their area of responsibility.

These guidelines are intended to help us streamline our meeting time so that we may conduct business in an orderly manner on your behalf. It is not our intent to keep our citizens from participating in the democratic process.

We are glad you are here and hope you find your experience with your City Government a good one. Thank you for attending.

Sincerely,

Tanya Tucker
Mayor

ORDINANCE ADOPTION PROCEDURE

First Reading of Ordinances

1. After the caption of the Ordinance is read, the motion should be to set the same for public hearing (or to continue to a time certain - in which event there shall be an immediate vote on the motion to continue; if that motion fails, the following process would continue):
2. After the motion is seconded, the Mayor announces that this is not a public hearing.
3. The Mayor then may upon call on Staff to explain the Ordinance in a reasonable length of time.
4. The City Commissioners may direct questions to Staff.
5. The Mayor asks the Clerk to call the roll for a vote. Only under extraordinary circumstances should this vote be negative (and never regarding a quasi-judicial matter, such as zonings, rezonings, plat approvals, etc.).

Second Reading of Ordinances

1. After the caption of the Ordinance is read, the motion should be to adopt or to defeat the Ordinance (or to continue to a time certain - in which event there shall be an immediate vote on the motion to continue; if that motion fails, the following process would continue):
2. After the motion is seconded, the Mayor announces that this is a public hearing and announces the following procedure and that it shall apply to all second readings on the Agenda:
 - (a) First Staff shall explain the Ordinance.
 - (b) The Applicant and/or his representatives shall then speak.
 - (c) Members of the public shall have a maximum of three (3) minutes each to present their views.
 - (d) A member of the public who wishes to represent more than two people may at the discretion of the Mayor or Commissioners be allowed additional time to speak.
 - (e) City Commissioners may direct questions to any speaker (whose time to speak shall not be affected by the length of their answers).
 - (f) Speakers should not be redundant by repeating remarks of previous speakers, although they are welcome to announce their approval of previous remarks by other speakers.
 - (g) Addressing the Commissioners without being recognized, clapping, shouting, hooting and the like from the audience will not be tolerated, nor will personal attacks by speakers.
 - (h) Within these parameters, everyone who wishes to speak shall be given that opportunity.
3. When all the speakers have been heard, the Mayor closes the public hearing, asks for comments from the Commissioners and then asks the Clerk to call the roll for a vote.



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Youth Villa Classic is held annually over Memorial Day Weekend at the Bartow Golf Course; and

WHEREAS, the tournament and its associated events serve as a significant fundraising source for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Villa, located in Bartow; and

WHEREAS, the tournament has historically raised almost \$2,000,000 in support of the Youth Villa; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches is to prevent delinquency and to develop strong, lawful, resilient, and productive citizens who contribute positively to their communities, and the Youth Villa in Bartow specifically provides housing for up to 20 college students, along with the environment, support, and programs necessary to help them become productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, 2026 marks the 63rd anniversary of the tournament, with this year's events including the Sponsors and Patrons Golf Scramble and the men's tournament, which will take place May 22-25, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the success of the tournament and its related events is made possible through the continued dedication and support of its patrons, sponsors, and volunteers, including the members of the 63rd Anniversary Sheriff's Youth Villa Classic Committee:

Sheriff Grady Judd
Karen Guffey
Chris Banks
Lekeyia Lott

Wayne Witczak
TJ McLaulin
Jane Grantham
Pam Renew

Karen McLean
Grace Lassiter
Wally Edwards
Tracy Anderson

NOW, THEREFORE, I Tanya Tucker, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Bartow, Florida, do hereby proclaim May 18-25, 2026 as the:

SHERIFFS YOUTH VILLA CLASSIC 63RD ANNIVERSARY WEEK

and encourage all citizens of Bartow to support and participate in the events commemorating this milestone occasion.

DATED and PRESENTED at Bartow, Florida, this 18th day of May 2026.

CITY OF BARTOW

By: _____
Mayor Tanya Tucker

ATTEST WITH SEAL:

By: _____
City Clerk Jacqueline Poole

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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Bartow City Commission recognizes that the Observance of the end of slavery is part of the history and heritage of Florida and of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Union Brigadier General Edward M. McCook arrived in Tallahassee to receive the surrender of Florida’s Confederate troops on May 10, 1865. On May 20th, McCook formally announced President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation from the steps of the Knott House, effectively ending slavery in the state; and

WHEREAS, Emancipation Day in Florida is traditionally celebrated on May 20th to recognize the emancipation of African American slaves, as proclaimed in Tallahassee on May 20, 1865, 11 days after the end of the American Civil War and two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was first issued by President Abraham Lincoln; and

WHEREAS, this date is recognized throughout Florida in celebration of America’s commitment to liberty and equality in accordance with the United States Constitution, the Emancipation Proclamation, issued by President Lincoln on January 1, 1863, and the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution which abolished slavery, ratified by Congress on December 6, 1865; and

WHEREAS, as a governmental body, the City of Bartow City Commission opposes and rejects any form of oppression and supports the City of Bartow citizens other organizations working to achieve racial equality and to protect the human rights of all people; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tanya Tucker, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Bartow, Florida do hereby proclaim May 20, 2026 as

EMANICIPATION DAY

in the City of Bartow, Florida, and urge all citizens to take this opportunity to focus on promoting racial healing, reconciliation, restoration and justice during this day and every day and to reflect on and quantify the significant role that African Americans have played in the history of the United States and in Bartow.

DATED and PRESENTED at Bartow, Florida, this 18th day of May 2026.

CITY OF BARTOW

By: _____
Mayor Tanya Tucker

ATTEST WITH SEAL:

By: _____
City Clerk Jacqueline Poole

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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, pets bring joy, comfort, and companionship to millions of Americans, enriching our homes and communities with unconditional love and loyalty; and

WHEREAS, National Pet Month is an opportunity to celebrate the many benefits of pet ownership, as well as to recognize the responsibilities that come with caring for animals; and

WHEREAS, responsible pet ownership includes providing proper nutrition, regular veterinary care, identification, safe shelter, and love, along with ensuring pets are spayed or neutered to reduce overpopulation; and

WHEREAS, pet adoption is a compassionate choice that saves lives and gives animals in shelters and rescues a second chance at happiness in a loving home; and

WHEREAS, pet owners play a vital role in public safety and community well-being by adhering to local animal ordinances, preventing pets from becoming nuisances or dangers, and treating animals humanely at all times; and

WHEREAS, animal shelters, veterinarians, rescue organizations, and volunteers in the City of Bartow are essential partners in protecting animals and supporting pet owners in our community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bartow recognizes the important role pets play in the lives of our residents and encourages citizens to consider adoption, practice responsible ownership, and show compassion to all creatures.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tanya Tucker, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Bartow, Florida, do hereby proclaim May 2026 as:

NATIONAL PET MONTH

and encourage all residents to celebrate the companionship of pets, to promote responsible pet care, to consider adopting animals in need, and to support efforts that improve the lives of animals in our community.

DATED and PRESENTED in Bartow, Florida this 18th day of May 2026.

CITY OF BARTOW

By: _____
Mayor Tanya Tucker

ATTEST WITH SEAL:

By: _____
City Clerk Jacqueline Poole

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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, each May, communities across America recognize **National Bike Month** to celebrate the many benefits of bicycling and to encourage people of all ages to enjoy biking as a form of recreation, transportation, and physical activity; and

WHEREAS, bicycling promotes a healthier lifestyle, reduces traffic congestion, improves air quality, and supports local economies; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bartow is proud to offer residents and visitors access to the **Ft. Fraser Trail**, a scenic and accessible multi-use path that supports outdoor recreation, active transportation, and a stronger connection to our natural environment; and

WHEREAS, promoting cycling aligns with the City's vision for a healthier, more connected, and more sustainable community; and

WHEREAS, the City encourages safe cycling practices, respect between cyclists and motorists, and the use of proper safety gear to ensure enjoyable and responsible biking experiences for all; and

WHEREAS, National Bike Month provides an excellent opportunity for families, individuals, and schools to embrace the joys of biking and explore all that Bartow has to offer by bike.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tanya Tucker, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Bartow, Florida, do hereby proclaim May 2026 as:

NATIONAL BIKE MONTH

and urge all residents to celebrate the power of bicycling by embracing a healthy, active lifestyle and enjoying our community's valuable resource, the Ft. Fraser Trail.

DATED and PRESENTED in Bartow, Florida this 18th day of May 2026.

CITY OF BARTOW

By: _____
Mayor Tanya Tucker

ATTEST WITH SEAL:

By: _____
City Clerk Jacqueline Poole

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PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, teachers serve as mentors, role models, encouragers, and champions for the students of the City of Bartow, dedicating countless hours to educating, inspiring, and preparing future generations for success; and

WHEREAS, the impact of a great teacher extends far beyond the classroom, shaping lives, strengthening families, building character, and helping create a stronger and more vibrant community; and

WHEREAS, teachers continuously go above and beyond their daily responsibilities by sacrificing personal time, resources, energy, and unwavering commitment to ensure every child has the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed; and

WHEREAS, throughout every month of the year, teachers remain steadfast in their dedication to students by offering guidance, encouragement, compassion, and support both academically and personally; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bartow recognizes that education is one of the foundations of a thriving community and acknowledges the extraordinary contributions made by teachers in our public, private, charter, and faith-based schools, as well as educational support staff and administrators; and

WHEREAS, Bartow's Teacher Appreciation Month provides an opportunity for citizens, families, students, businesses, and community leaders to express gratitude and appreciation for the tireless efforts and lasting influence of educators; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bartow proudly celebrates and honors all teachers whose dedication, patience, and sacrifice help shape the future leaders of tomorrow.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tanya Tucker, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Bartow, Florida, do hereby proclaim May 2026 as:

TEACHER APPRECIATION MONTH

in the City of Bartow, Florida, and encourage all residents to recognize, thank, and support our teachers not only during the month of May, but throughout the entire year, for their unwavering commitment and service to the students and families of our community.

DATED and PRESENTED in Bartow, Florida this 18th day of May 2026.

CITY OF BARTOW

By: _____
Mayor Tanya Tucker

ATTEST WITH SEAL:

By: _____
City Clerk Jacqueline Poole

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April Beautification Winners

By Kyle Lasek



City of Bartow

ITEM NO. 4.g



Residential Winner:

Mike and Gail Mulville

875 E Stuart

Residential Winner

Keith Anderson

- 2125 Rosewood drive





Commercial Winner



- HWY 60 and Crown Ave



ITEM NO. 7.a.1

CITY OF BARTOW, FLORIDA

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Commissioners, City of Bartow City Commission

FROM: Mike Herr, City Manager and Peter Lear, Deputy City Manager

DATE: April 6, 2026

SUBJECT: UPDATE - FY 2026-2027 Nonprofit and Community Partners Funding Process

SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

The City of Bartow annually solicits funding requests from not-for-profit organizations, tax-exempt entities, community-based organizations, and community partners. These funds support resident-focused services that either enhance existing City programs or address unmet needs. Successful applications demonstrate community impact, innovative ideas, clear work plans, collaboration, leadership development and long-term sustainability. Per Commission direction, performance indicators from the previous year's awards are now required in applications from prior recipients; this requirement has been incorporated into the process.

STAFF ANALYSIS / UPDATE

On May 15, 2026, staff conducted a comprehensive informational session for nonprofit organizations. This session covered key highlights of SB 1134 (local government spending restrictions), a detailed overview of the proposed FY 26-27 grant funding budget, specifics of the funding application and presentation process, and a thorough review of all relevant deadlines to ensure applicant compliance.

Important Dates Summary:

June 5, 2026, 5:00 PM – Funding application due to include a copy of the organization's budget, bylaws and state/federal IDs. It is mandatory for applicants who meet criteria to present to the City Commission.

June 17, 2026, 5:00 PM – Funding Presentation due. Must be submitted in PDF or PowerPoint format.

June 25, 2026 – City Commission Special Meeting to receive presentations

- **9:00 AM** - Community Partners
- **10:30 AM** - Non-Profit and Community Events

July 22, 2026, 9:00 AM and **July 24, 2026, 9:00AM** – Budget Workshops

FISCAL IMPACT

No immediate budget impact. Funding allocations will align with presentations and remain within approved FY 2026-2027 limits.

ATTACHMENTS

Informational Session Agenda and Presentation
Invitation Letter to Present
Copy of FY 25-26 Final Awards



**CITY OF BARTOW
NON-PROFIT & COMMUNITY PARTNER FUNDING
INFORMATIONAL SESSION**

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026 AT 10:00 A.M. (EST)
BARTOW CITY HALL, COMMISSION CHAMBERS
450 N. WILSON AVE., FL 33830

AGENDA

1. SB1134 HIGHLIGHTS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT SPENDING RESTRICTIONS
2. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED GRANT FUNDING FOR FY 26-27
3. FUNDING APPLICATION AND PRESENTATION PROCESS

FY 26-27 Non-Profit Funding Informational Session

May 15, 2026

City Hall

450 N. Wilson Ave



City of Bartow

Florida Statutes - 2026



- The State of Florida passed two bills that will impact the City's ability to provide funding
 - SB 1134 – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)
 - Prohibits using public funds for DEI initiatives
 - Recipients of grants must certify they do not use the funds for prohibited DEI initiatives
 - Violations are considered to be misfeasance or malfeasance
 - Residents can file lawsuits against the local government

Florida Statutes – 2026



- SB 1566 – Local Government Financial Transparency and Accountability Act
 - Mandates local governments identify 10% in potential budget cuts
 - Based on current year budget that would be \$4.1M
 - Cannot affect essential services, fire and police

Background



- Bartow actively provides aid to local nonprofits, supporting their efforts to serve the community. This partnership strengthens vital services and has a positive impact on residents' quality of life.
- The City of Bartow receives annual applications for funding from local non-profit organizations as part of the budget process
- \$306,900 total approved in the FY25-26 budget for non-profit organization awards

FY 25-26 COMMUNITY EVENTS, NONPROFITS & COMMUNITY PARTNER FUNDING REQUESTS



COMMUNITY EVENTS				
Name of Requestor	FY 24/25 Request	FY 24/25 Award	FY 25/26 Request	FY 25/26 Award
Bartow Juneteenth Empowerment Community Org., Inc.	\$8,000	\$5,400	\$8,000	\$5,400
Bartow Community Relations Committee	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Total	\$13,000	\$9,400	\$13,000	\$10,400
NON-PROFITS				
Name of Requestor	FY 24/25 Request	FY 24/25 Award	FY 25/25 Request	FY 25/26 Award
Achievement Academy Inc	-	-	\$10,000	\$1,000
Backstage Theater	-	-	\$12,500	\$1,000
Bartow Community Service Center	\$65,000	\$31,000	\$65,000	\$35,000
Bartow Deacons & Stewards Alliance	\$15,000	\$3,500	\$15,000	\$4,000
Bartow Youth Football & Cheer	\$3,000	\$2,200	\$4,000	\$3,000
Boys & Girls Club of Pok County	-	-	\$25,000	\$1,000
Breast Cancer Foundation of Central Florida	\$15,000	\$3,000	\$30,000	\$2,600
Everything Wheels Inc	-	-	\$12,820	-
Fatherhoodz, Inc.	\$20,000	\$2,000	-	-
Kids PACK, Inc.	\$20,000	\$4,600	\$10,800	\$3,200
Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine	\$7,500	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$6,500
Liberty Link Foundation 360 Incorporated	\$14,600	\$12,000	\$14,900	\$10,000
Lighthouse for the Blind & Low Vision	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$2,500
Luster African American Heritage Museum	\$35,000	\$3,000	\$35,000	\$3,100
Mini Movers LLC	-	-	\$7,000	-
MyMedtech Medical Academy Inc	-	-	\$30,000	-
Neighborhood Community Outreach	-	-	\$20,000	-
Top Buttons Inc	-	-	\$25,000	\$1,000
Volunteers in Service to the Elderly (VISTE)	\$7,500	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$5,600
Willie Bush Foundation, Inc.	\$12,000	\$4,200	\$12,000	\$2,000
Total	\$219,600	\$80,500	\$329,020	\$81,500
COMMUNITY PARTNERS				
Name of Requestor	FY 24/25 Request	FY 24/25 Award	FY 25/26 Request	FY 25/26 Award
Bartow Chamber of Commerce	\$29,000	\$27,000	\$40,000	\$28,000
Bartow Economic Development Council	\$150,000	\$124,000	\$125,000	\$124,000
Main Street Bartow, Inc.	\$20,000	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$21,000
Neighborhood Improvement Corporation	\$47,500	\$46,500	\$47,500	\$42,000
Total	\$246,500	\$216,500	\$233,500	\$215,000
TOTAL ALL CATEGORIES	\$479,100	\$306,400	\$575,520	\$306,900



Non-Profit Presentations

1. Community Events and Community Non-Profit Organizations
2. Community Partner Presentations

Presentation Specifics

1. 10 minutes or less per presentation, 5 minutes for questions
2. Will include:
 1. Introductions
 2. Previous performance on awards if applicable
 3. Overview for how you will use the funds
 4. Address application criteria
 5. Performance metrics of service to the citizens of Bartow

Helpful Tips



1. If you have previously been awarded funding, specify how that funding was used and its impact
2. Limit your presentation to 10 minutes or less
3. Introduce yourself and your organization
4. Provide a compelling overview for how you will use the funds
5. Storytelling is a great way for us to visualize the impact your non-profit will make
6. Make sure use of funds is within city limits
7. When possible, provide metrics for how the dollars will be spent
i.e. Serves XX citizens, provides XX meals
8. Address application criteria as applicable
9. Presentation must be submitted in either PDF or PowerPoint format by June 17, 2026, by 5:00 PM to jpoole.clerks@cityofbartow.net



Non-Profit Application Criteria

1. Citywide benefit or public purpose to residents of the City of Bartow
2. Ability to complete program/project within the fiscal year received
3. Projected number of beneficiaries as compared to amount requested
4. Nonprofit organization has a record of meeting its mission and the capacity to complete proposed program/service
5. Addresses a priority area of the city
6. Fulfills a needed service with minimal or no duplication by other organizations
7. Meets a public need that is not addressed by city services, or which supplements an existing service provided by the city
8. Identifies clearly defined measurable metrics or outcomes
9. Impacts the local economy
10. Completeness of the application

General Review Process



DEADLINE TO SUBMIT
APPLICATION BY JUNE 5,
2026



DEADLINE TO SUBMIT
PRESENTATION BY JUNE
17, 2026



PRESENTATIONS BY
COMMUNITY PARTNERS
AND NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATIONS ON
JUNE 25, 2026



COMMISSION TO
PROVIDE AWARD
AMOUNT



STAFF TO PROVIDE
AVERAGE AWARD
AMOUNT OF EACH
APPLICATION



COMMISSION TO
DISCUSS AND MAKE
FINAL AWARD
SELECTION



What's the next steps?

- June 25, 2026 - Community Partner Presentation to Commission at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers at City Hall
- June 25, 2026 - Non-profit Presentations to Commission at 10:30 AM in Commission Chambers at City Hall
- Scoring to be conducted by individual Commissioners and reviewed based on averages to identify final amount of award per submitter
- Commission approves final budget in September
- City staff sends award letters after October 1st
- Organizations to submit invoices for awards beginning October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027



Open Q&A Session



June 10, 2026

Greetings,

Thank you again for applying for funding from the City of Bartow for FY 2026–2027. Please be advised that the City Commission will review funding request presentations at a Special Meeting scheduled for:

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026

Commission Chambers – City Hall
450 N. Wilson Avenue, Bartow, FL

9:00 AM – COMMUNITY PARTNERS

10:30 AM – NON-PROFIT & COMMUNITY EVENTS

During this meeting, applicants will have the opportunity to present key aspects of their programs or services. Each organization will be allotted up to 10 minutes to highlight the main components of its application and proposed projects.

If you have any questions, please contact Peter Lear, Deputy City Manager, at plear@cityofbartow.net or 863-534-0100, ext. 1347.

Jacqueline Poole
City Clerk

FY 25-26 COMMUNITY EVENTS, NONPROFITS & COMMUNITY PARTNER FUNDING REQUESTS

COMMUNITY EVENTS				
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Fatherhoodz, Inc.	\$20,000	\$2,000	-	-
Kids PACK, Inc.	\$20,000	\$4,600	\$10,800	\$3,200
Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine	\$7,500	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$6,500
Liberty Link Foundation 360 Incorporated	\$14,600	\$12,000	\$14,900	\$10,000
Lighthouse for the Blind & Low Vision	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$2,500
Luster African American Heritage Museum	\$35,000	\$3,000	\$35,000	\$3,100
Mini Movers LLC	-	-	\$7,000	-
MyMedtech Medical Academy Inc	-	-	\$30,000	-
Neighborhood Community Outreach	-	-	\$20,000	-
Top Buttons Inc	-	-	\$25,000	\$1,000
Volunteers in Service to the Elderly (VISTE)	\$7,500	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$5,600
Willie Bush Foundation, Inc.	\$12,000	\$4,200	\$12,000	\$2,000
Total	\$219,600	\$80,500	\$329,020	\$81,500
COMMUNITY PARTNERS				
Name of Requestor	FY 24/25 Request	FY 24/25 Award	FY 25/26 Request	FY 25/26 Award
Bartow Chamber of Commerce	\$29,000	\$27,000	\$40,000	\$28,000
Bartow Economic Development Council	\$150,000	\$124,000	\$125,000	\$124,000
Main Street Bartow, Inc.	\$20,000	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$21,000
Neighborhood Improvement Corporation	\$47,500	\$46,500	\$47,500	\$42,000
Total	\$246,500	\$216,500	\$233,500	\$215,000
TOTAL ALL CATEGORIES				
	\$479,100	\$306,400	\$575,520	\$306,900

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Bartow Police Department Recruiting Strategy

Current and Recommended Recruiting Priorities

- **Strengthen our employer brand:** Consistently highlight Bartow as a department that values professionalism, training, officer wellness, community engagement, and opportunities for advancement. Also, highlighting the draw to the area and quality of life in Bartow/Polk County. Henry is working on this on targeted social media engagement, but we could be faster about putting out content.
- **Recruit year-round, not only when openings exist:** Maintain an active pipeline through social media, ride-alongs, community events, colleges, military transition contacts, academies, and employee referrals. We have visited Academies in the area to sell our culture to recruit new candidates. We will now visit colleges, universities and military bases to extend our recruitment pool. We have also participated in pinning ceremonies for safety patrols, had booths at recruiting events, attended SEU Career fair as well as other smaller career fairs, and have reached out to local post-secondary institutions to provide our academic services to students in Criminal Justice and Criminology classes.



Bartow Police Department Recruiting Strategy

Current and Recommended Recruiting Priorities

- **Use our people as recruiters:** Equip supervisors and line officers with talking points so every employee can help identify and encourage strong candidates. Our people are our best recruiters, and they are beginning to buy into that. Several officers have reached out to me with updates on recruiting they are doing. Potential to incentives these recruiting efforts exists.
- **Create multiple entry points:** Target certified officers, non-certified candidates, explorers, cadets, PSAs, and other public-safety support positions that can become future officer pathways.
- **Speed up the hiring process:** Good candidates are often lost when background, testing, interviews, and conditional offers take too long. A disciplined and candidate-friendly timeline matters. WE HAVE TO BE FASTER AT THIS (IACP and others point to this as the best way to increase keep qualified candidates)



Bartow Police Department Recruiting Strategy

Current and Recommended Recruiting Priorities

- **Sell development and culture:** Emphasize mentorship, specialty assignments, fair supervision, modern equipment, and a healthy culture grounded in accountability and teamwork. We are creating a pipeline for recruits that appreciate that we are a more family-friendly employment pitch
- **Get grants to upgrade our department:** Upgrading our equipment, training, and technology will make our department more appealing to potential candidates, especially lateral police officers. Currently in the process of applying for \$1.5 million in grants



Bartow Police Department Recruiting Strategy

Current and Recommended Recruiting Priorities

- **Use our people as recruiters:** Equip supervisors and line officers with talking points so every employee can help identify and encourage strong candidates. Our people are our best recruiters, and they are beginning to buy into that. Several officers have reached out to me with updates on recruiting they are doing. Potential to incentives these recruiting efforts exists.
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Bartow Police Department Recruiting Strategy

30 days	Identify a recruiting lead, standardize the department recruiting message, and build a simple outreach calendar. Cut time-to-hire timeline
60 days	Launch a targeted digital campaign, increase academy and military outreach, and formalize an employee referral push.
90 days	Review and continue to evaluate time-to-hire, applicant drop-off points, and diversity of the applicant pool; adjust the process where candidates are being lost.
Ongoing	Assessing failure points, identify weakness in the process, actively solicit feedback from those recently hire or the “near misses” that we lost to other agencies

Bottom line: Bartow will compete best for talent when recruiting is proactive, fast, personal, and tied to a compelling vision of service, support, and career growth.



Bartow Police Department Recruiting Strategy

The department currently has thirteen sworn vacancies. Of those, we have three (3) individuals we are sending to the Law Enforcement Academy in June, another four (4) currently in the background hiring stage, leaving us six (6) current vacancies. We have recently interviewed another four (4) applicants and have eight additional applicants to review as of 05/15/26.

We have three non-sworn (civilian) position openings. The openings are for Police Intelligence Analyst, Axon Computer Application Specialist and Records Clerk. We are currently reviewing the applications and will be scheduling interviews for the next few weeks.



Bartow Police Department Recruiting Strategy



BARTOW POLICE DEPARTMENT
WE'RE HIRING
CERTIFIED POLICE OFFICERS AND THOSE ENROLLED IN THE POLICE ACADEMY OR EOT PROGRAM



Starting Salary
\$66,325.50 - \$75,066.90
DEPENDENT ON YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Additional Shift Differential for those assigned to night shifts

- 12 Paid Holidays
- 24hrs of Personal Leave
- 152hrs of Universal Leave
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Take Home Vehicle Program*
- Excellent Health Benefits
- Excellent Retirement Benefits**
- 8 year DROP Program



*Take Home Vehicle Program limited to 40 miles from City Limits
** Retirement Benefits, 6 yr vesting, 20 years of service, 3.15% multiplier, 2% COLA
The Bartow Police Department is an Equal Opportunity Employer and strongly encourages all qualified candidates to apply



BARTOW POLICE DEPARTMENT – FOCUSED ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

Recruiting Incentives/Signing Bonuses

Bonus Type	Current	Installment	Amount	Proposed	Installment	Amount2
Internal Employee Bonuses						
Recruiting Incentive (EOT)	\$500	Hire		\$1,000	Hire	\$500
		FTO End			FTO End	\$500
Recruiting Incentive (Entry)	\$500	Hire		\$1,000	Hire	\$500
		Academy End			Academy End	\$250
		FTO End			FTO End	\$250
Candidate Bonuses						
Hiring Bonus (Florida Certified Officer)	\$3,000	Hire		\$10,000	Hire	\$5,000
		FTO End			FTO End	\$1,000
		Probation End			Probation End	\$4,000
Hiring Bonus (EOT)	\$3,000	Hire		\$5,000	Hire	\$2,500
		FTO End			FTO End	\$500
		Probation End			Probation End	\$2,000
Hiring Bonus (Entry)	\$3,000	Hire		\$5,000	Hire	\$2,500
		FTO End			FTO End	\$500
		Probation End			Probation End	\$2,000
Education Hire Bonus	Associates/Tech School/Trade School 60 Credit Hours			\$2,500	Hire	\$1,500
					Probation End	\$1,000
Education Hire Bonus	Bachelor's Degree or Higher/ At least 4 Years Active Military Service			\$5,000	Hire	\$2,500
					Probation End	\$2,500
Total Bonuses	Highest Possible Bonus (Hiring Bonus + Bach. Degree or Military Service)			\$15,000	Hire	\$7,500
					Probation End	\$7,500

* Each Police Officer Candidate Bonus Requires 4 year commitment

* Florida Certified would have to have civilian law enforcement service to qualify for the bonus

* If the 12 vacant candidacies had a breakdown of 6 Entry/EOT bonuses, 3 had Entry/EOT and 60 Credits and 3 had Entry/EOT and Bach./Military, we would spend \$30,000; \$22,500; and \$30,000 respectively. If 6 of those were recruited by our officers that is another \$6,000 in internal bonuses. The total of bonuses paid would be approximately **\$88,500** spread out over months to a year potentially. Base salary (not including benefits) for a new hire is \$57,720 per year. With 12 openings there is a salary savings of at least **\$690,000** a year

47 Authorized and
12 Vacant as of 4/24/2026



Bartow Police Department Recruiting Strategy

Questions?



BARTOW POLICE DEPARTMENT – FOCUSED ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

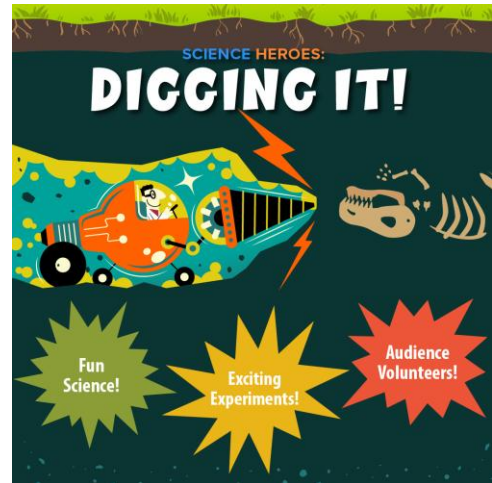


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City of Bartow
BARTOW PUBLIC LIBRARY

ITEM NO. 7.a.3



UNEARTH YOUR STORY

THIS SUMMER, LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE EARTH, YOUR COUNTRY, AND YOUR COMMUNITY! READ AND EARN WEEKLY PRIZES, THEN ATTEND THEMED PROGRAMS TO UNEARTH YOUR STORY AT THE BARTOW LIBRARY!

SUMMER KICK-OFF: JURASSIC CARNIVAL 6/10/26 10AM	SUPER SUMMER SHOW: DINOSAUR MUSICAL 6/24/26 10AM	SUPER SUMMER SHOW: SCIENCE HEROES 7/8/26 10AM	SUPER SUMMER SHOW: GATORLAND 7/15/26 10:30AM	GOODBYE SUMMER PARTY 7/31/26 10AM
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SUPER SUMMER SHOWS (LISTED ABOVE) WILL BE HELD AT THE BARTOW CIVIC CENTER
2250 S FLORAL AVE, BARTOW, FL, 33830
ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!

JUNE FAMILY PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY KIDS GET COOKING: DIRT CUPS 6/12/26 2PM-3PM FLORIDA PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY NETWORK PRESENTATION 6/17/26 3:30PM-4:30PM KIDS GET FISHING PRESENTED BY THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS REGISTRATION REQUIRED 6/26/26 9AM-10AM	JULY FAMILY PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY BARTOW GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS MONARCHS AND MILKWEED 7/7/26 4PM-5PM HUMAN LIBRARY 7/15/26 2PM-4PM AMERICAN GIRL PARTY 7/22/26 10AM-12PM	TEEN PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY LIVE ACTION OREGON TRAIL 7/10/26 1PM-3PM HAMILTON SING ALONG 7/18/26 1PM-4PM
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REGULAR PROGRAMMING:

BOOK BABIES THURSDAYS 10AM	SONGS AND STORIES THURSDAYS 11AM	LEGO CLUB: 6/10, 6/24, 7/8, 7/22 3:30PM	POKEMON CLUB 6/13, 6/27, 7/11, 7/25 11AM	TEEN FANDOM 6/9 AND 7/14 4PM-6PM	TEEN ANIME CLUB 6/13, 6/27, 7/11, 7/25 1PM
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Bartow Public Library 2150 S Broadway Ave, Bartow FL (863)534-0131



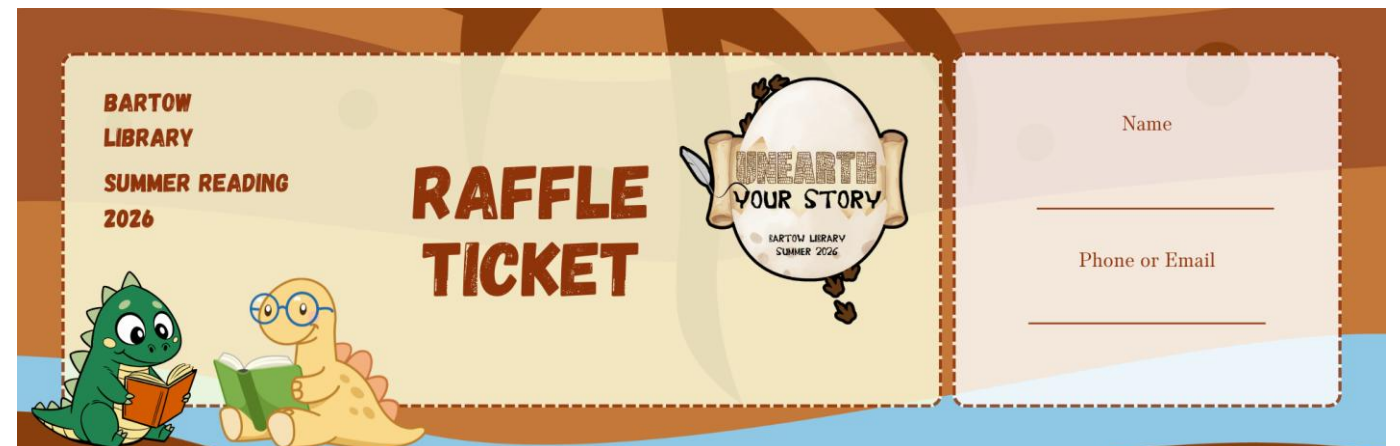
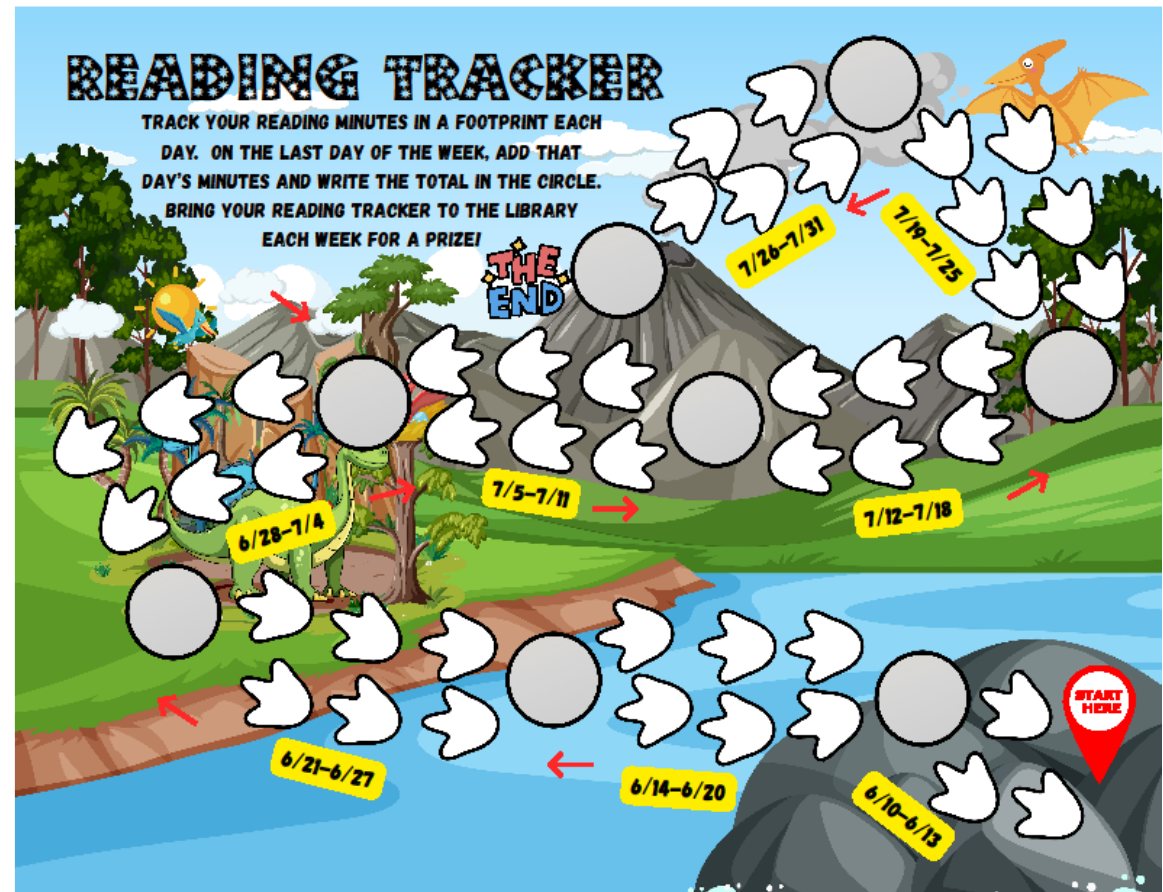
Weekly Reading Incentives

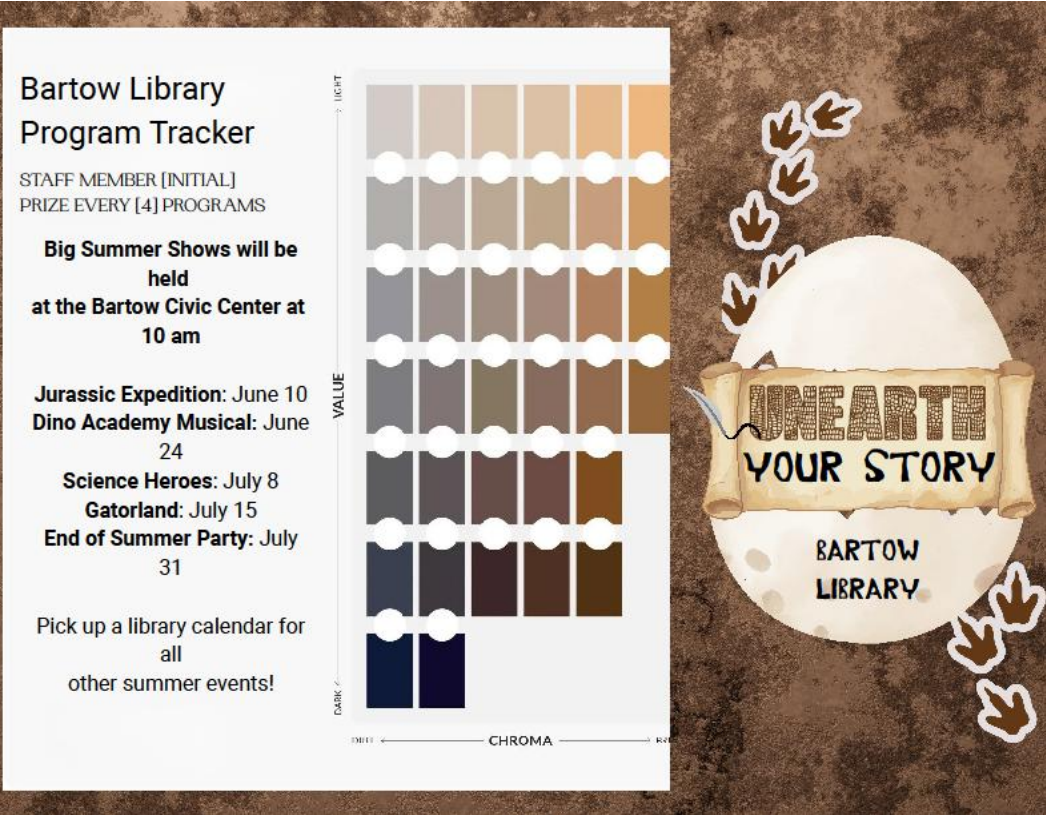
1 hour - Select a free book

2 hours - Raffle Ticket or
Vox Dinosaur Card

3 hours - Dinosaur pin for
lanyard

** Special pin given for
attending 4 programs.





Special pin given for attending 4 programs.



PCLC Summer Challenge

For Adults

Let's Get Crafting: Journal Jars Thursday, June 4th

Start writing your life story! Make your own journal jar with guided journal-writing prompts and customize a notebook with colorful paper and stickers that will inspire you to write.



Join us for a fun time filled with painting and music while cooling off with ice cream!

Paint & Scoop Saturday, June 6th

A pink-themed flyer for the 'Paint & Scoop' event. At the top center is the City of Bartow logo. The title 'PAINT & SCOOP' is written in large, bold, pink letters. Below the title is a section titled 'The Pitch' with a list of activities: 'Join us for a special Paint & Sip session', 'Featuring an Ice Cream Bar!', and 'FREE' next to each. To the left and right of this section are illustrations of ice cream cones. Below 'The Pitch' is a section titled 'The Details' with a list of event information: 'Saturday, June 6th', 'From 2-4PM', 'Ages 18 and up', 'Registration Required', and '(888) 534-0131', each followed by 'FREE'. At the bottom is a section titled 'The Location' with the address: 'Bartow Public Library', '2150 S Broadway Ave', and 'Bartow, FL 33830', each followed by 'FREE'. An illustration of an easel with a painting of an ice cream cone and a paint palette is at the bottom left.

For Adults

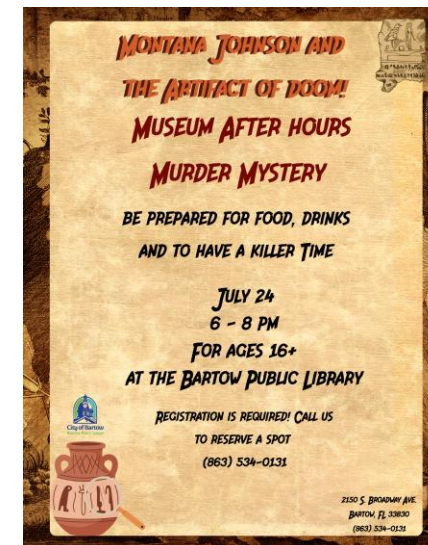
Intro to Ancestry.com
Saturday, June 20th

An introduction to the Ancestry website and genealogy for those interested in their family history.



After Hours Murder Mystery
Friday, July 24th

Unleash your inner archaeologist at our Indiana Jones-inspired murder mystery party! An ancient artifact has been stolen, and everyone's a suspect...until you unearth a murder! Solve the murder and the robbery before the rest of you become HISTORY.



American Trilogy with
Dave Deluca

Wednesday, July 15th

Celebrate America's 250th anniversary with a tribute concert to three men who lived the American Dream: Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, and Neil Diamond.



Tales of the Town:
Bartow's 250 Tribute

June & July

In a series of 8 short videos, local historian, Lloyd Harris, will share a variety of stories from Bartow's history, including notable Bartowans and historical landmarks still around.

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FY25-26 Special Projects Update

City of Bartow Parks, Recreation &
Cultural Arts Department



City of Bartow

ITEM NO. 7.a.4

Cart Barn

Budget: \$300,000

Procurement Method: CCNA Civil and CMAR

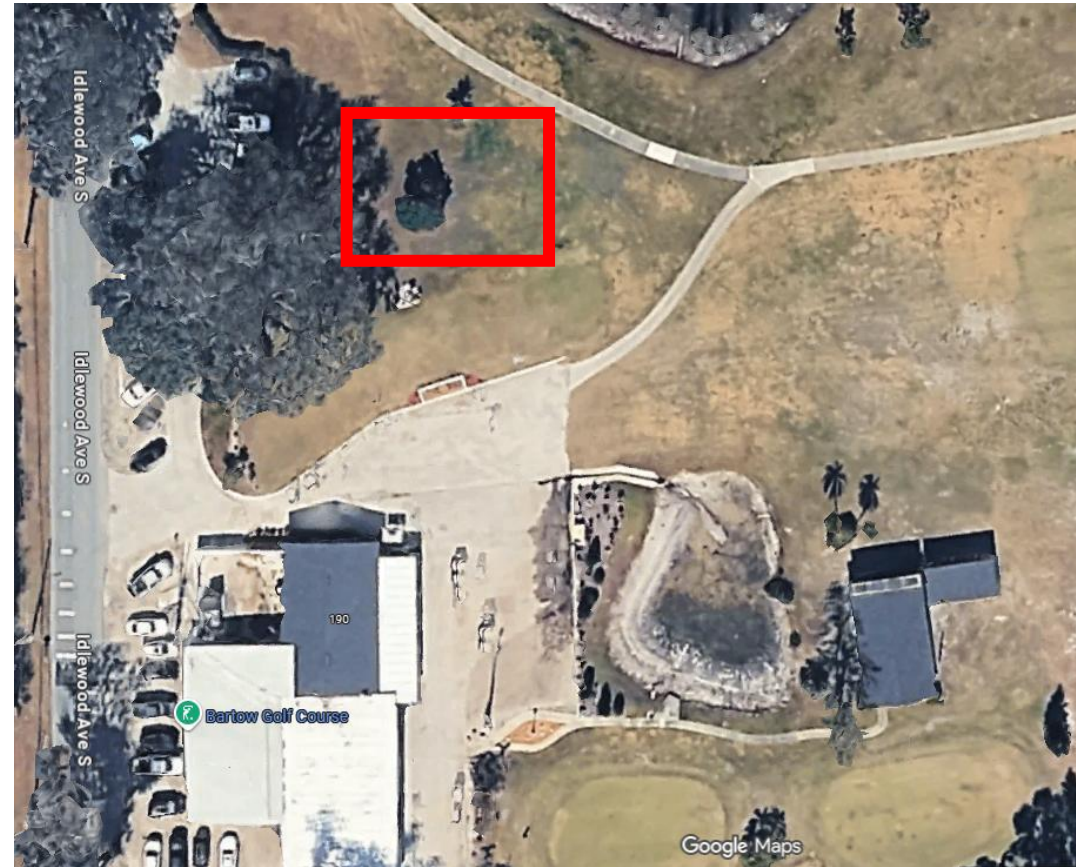
Start Date: Target Start Date is June 15th

Completion Date: Targeting Early September

Current Update: PW handling process.

Civil Work to be completed by Kimberly Horn.

Hinkleman has been contacted to create the barn.



New Plumbing



Budget: \$70,000 (Public Works)

Procurement Method: Quotes

Start Date: TBD

Completion Date: End of July Current

Update: Public Works developed the scope of work and has submitted to purchasing. Given the nature of this project, we are looking to keep the project as consolidated as possible with the timeline to limit any closures to Mulligans.



Story Trail



Budget: \$691,000

Procurement Method: ITB- Awarded

Start Date: May 18th 2026

Completion Date: November 24th 2026 (per the contract 190 days from the start.)

Update: Met with company and signed award documents 4/14.

Contract was signed and executed May 8th.

Bartow Sports Complex Parking Lights



Budget: \$120,000

Procurement Method: RFP

Start Date: Currently in Negotiations

Completion Date: 90 days from award for the materials to be delivered. PW has agreed to help with the installation

Last Update: second RFP meeting 4/21

Current Update: Lowest responsive bid came in over budget met with Contractor today to discuss alternatives to get us closer to our budget number without sacrificing the main objectives of the project



Perry Weather System



Budget: \$27,200

Procurement Method: Sole Source

Start Date: February 2026

Completion Date: Install completed May 11th 2026

Last Update: Install completed activating systems week of May 11th

Current Update: All equipment has been received, assembled, installed final touches being performed. Volume adjustments



Pittas Restrooms



Budget: \$37,500

Procurement Method: Quotes

Start Date: July 5th

Completion Date: August 15th

Last Update: starting after July 4th event to minimize impact to the contracted leagues

Current Update: Meeting with Contractors on May 1st to walk project and quote are due back 5/20



Skate Park



Budget: \$425,000

Procurement Method: Sourcewell Contract

Start Date: TBD

Completion Date:

Last Update: meeting with American Ramp Company, contract being signed by legal

Current Update: Contract is being reviewed with legal requested changes were submitted 4/23/26.



Electronic Locks Restrooms



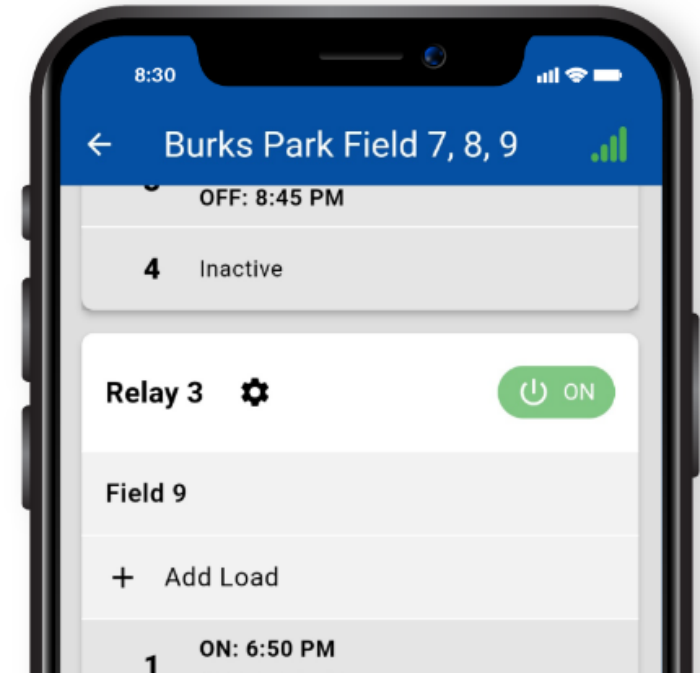
Budget: \$25,000

Procurement Method: Quotes

Start Date: April 10th

Completion Date: April 27th

Current Update: Electronic locks up and running. Debugging a few door mechanism issues to ensure proper locking procedures. Door handles will always remain locked and the system will allow visitors to open the restroom with a simple pull.



Carver Recreation Field Lights- CDBG



Budget: \$52,000; \$29,000 funded through CDBG

Procurement Method: ITB

Start Date: TBD

Completion Date: 60 Days from Award

Current Update: Bid Info Sheet submitted to Purchasing.
Will need to be posted for 30 days as we are using CDBG
Funds





Restroom Cameras

Budget: \$72,354

Procurement Method: Piggyback

Start Date: 5/1/2026

Completion Date: In Progress

Restrooms to be covered:

Richland Manor

Mary Holland Park x3

Nye Jordan

Summerlin Park

Downtown

Carver Rec Center

Mosaic Park

MLK Gazebo

Over the Branch



Civic Center Cameras



Budget: \$31,166

Procurement Method: Piggyback

Start Date: 3/19/26

Current Update: Planned for install the 1st week of June. Supply Chain issues have caused some delays.



Polk Street Community Center Cameras



Budget: 35,572

Procurement Method: Piggyback

Start Date: TBD

Completion Date:

Current Update: New quote received May 13th. We have a PO prepared and in use. Waiting on delivery and installation



Carver Recreation Center Cameras



Budget: \$37,515

Procurement Method: Piggyback

Start Date: TBD

Completion Date: TBD

Current Update: Installing to start this week (May 18th) most all the equipment is in just the multi sensor which is on back order till 5/22





Community Center Chairs

Budget: \$37,515

Procurement Method: Piggyback

Start Date: 11/11/2025

Completion Date: May 22nd in warehouse

Current Update: Shipment expected to arrive at their warehouse in New Jersey May 22nd, ready to ship the week of May 24th with an expected on the road time of 6 business days. Target date has been moved accordingly to June 1st.



Questions?

Thank you



City of Bartow

Bartow Bash Summer Camp 2026

Recreation Program Supervisor
Gwendolyn Young



City of Bartow

ITEM NO. 7.a.5

Bartow Bash Summer Camp



City of Bartow
Parks & Recreation

Bartow Bash Summer Camp

JUNE 8 – JULY 31
MONDAY – FRIDAY
7:30AM – 5:30PM DAILY

Fun & Creative Activities For Boys & Girls 5-12 Years Old

Free Breakfast **\$65 a week/per camper** **Free Lunch**

Activities :

- Storytelling
- Table & Outdoor Games
- Arts & Crafts
- Swimming/Water Days
- Weekly Field Trips
- Music & Dancing
- AND TONS OF FUN

Register Here

Polk Street Center
1255 Polk Street

Carver Rec Center
520 Herbert Dixon Blvd

More Information :
(863) 534-0161 bartowrec.recdesk.com/Community/Program

⚠️ There will be **NO CAMP** on June 19th or July 3rd due to the holiday



Summer Camp – Let's Get Started!

- **June 8 through July 31, 2026**

Get ready for an exciting summer filled with fun, learning, sports, games, arts and crafts, field trips, and unforgettable memories!


- **Camp Sites**

- Carver Recreation Center (60 campers)
- Polk Street Community Center (30 Campers)

- **Campers**

- Ages 5 to 12
- Kindergarten through 5th Grade

- **Hours of Operation**

-  Monday – Friday
7:30 AM to 5:30 PM Daily



Summer Camp – Let's Get Started! Cont.



- **Cost**
 - \$ \$65 per Camper
- **Registration**
- Register:
 - Online at Bartowrec.recdesk.com
 - By QR Code
 - Or In Person
- **Payment Options**
 - Pay for the full eight weeks
 - Or pay weekly



Come join us for a summer packed with adventure, friendship, creativity, and fun. Summer Camp is the place to be!



The Enjoyment of Summer Camp

- Fun Group Activities

- Arts and Crafts
- STEM
- Board Games
- Outdoor Play



- Sports Activities – Kickball, Pickleball, Dodgeball, Four Square

- Field Trips

- Will show all field trips later in presentation

- Making New Friends





Partnering within the City Departments

Getting to know your Firemen

- We are creating opportunities for our youth to connect with firemen in positive, meaningful ways by inviting them into our programs to:
 - Greet and engage with the youth
 - Share real-life stories, experiences, and important truths
 - Provide tokens and items representing their departments
 - Allow youth to explore their emergency vehicles and equipment
 - **Schedule Visits:**
 - **Fire Department**
 - 10 AM to 10:45 AM @ Polk Street Community Center – Trenton New, Fire Driver
 - 11AM to 12:30 AM @ Carver Recreation Center – Trenton New, Fire Driver

We will also look to set up times with our Police Department during the Summer.

Partnering within the City Departments



- We are also working with **Bartow Public Library** providing summer activities at our centers as well as joining in with the library and their Civic Center activities.
- **June 24** – 10AM to 11AM - Dinosaur Academy Music @ Bartow Civic Center
- **June 30** – 10AM to 11PM - Youth Activity @ Carver Recreation Ctr.
- **July 14** – 10AM to 11AM – Youth Activity @ Public Library
- **July 31** – 10 to 12 noon - End of the Summer Party

Sponsors



We have reached out to businesses in the City of Bartow to help provide services for our youth programs and influence them with free advertisement and community support.

- **PCSB Free Lunch Program** – Free Lunches – 6/8 through 7/23.
- **Book Bus** – Distributing Free books all summer at both sites
- **Hibbett Sports** – Water bottles for 90 youth
- **Mulligans** –providing a lunch meal for 90 campers on 7/29
- **Sista's w/Soul** – Providing a spaghetti lunch
for summers staff and campers on 7/31





2026 Field Trips

 <p>City of Bartow PARKS & RECREATION</p>	<h1>2026 FIELD TRIPS</h1>	
 <p>Crayola Experience ORLANDO</p> <p>JUNE 10</p>	 <p>JUNE 17</p> <p>Glazer Children's Museum</p> <p>INTERACTIVE EDUCATIONAL IMMERSIVE</p> <p>TAMPA, FL</p>	 <p>LAKE EVA Water Park IN POLK COUNTY</p> <p>JUNE 23</p>
 <p>RAY'S</p> <p>ST. PETERSBURG, FL</p> <p>JUNE 25</p>	 <p>FLORIDA CHILDREN'S MUSEUM</p> <p>JULY 1</p> <p>LAKELAND, FL</p> <p>SCIENCE ARTS MUSIC</p>	 <p>ORLANDO, FL</p> <p>GATORLAND ALLIGATOR CAPITAL OF THE WORLD™</p> <p>JULY 8</p>
 <p>Medieval Times DINNER & TOURNAMENT</p> <p>JULY 15 KISSIMMEE, FL</p>	 <p>elev8 FUN INDOOR ADVENTURE PARKS</p> <p>TAMPA, FL</p> <p>JULY 22</p>	 <p>LAKE EVA Water Park IN POLK COUNTY</p> <p>JULY 30</p>



Field Trips Schedule

Our campers are in for an exciting summer filled with fun, adventure, learning, and unforgettable experiences! Check out our amazing lineup of field trips planned for Summer Camp 2026.

Event Date	Site Visiting
June 10, 2026	Crayola Experience, Orlando – everything to do with color
June 17, 2026	Glazer Children’s Museum / Splash Pad / Curtis Hixon Water Park
June 23, 2026	Lake Eva Aquatics and Park. Haines City
June 25, 2026	Tampa Bay Rays Game Baseball Game, St. Pete
July 1, 2026	Florida Children’s Museum / Bonnet Springs Park
July 8, 2026	Gatorland Park , Orlando
July 15, 2026	Medieval Times, Orlando
July 22, 2026	Elev8 Fun Tampa (Family Fund Center), Tampa
July 30, 2026	Lake Eva Aquatics and Park, Haines City

Questions?

Thank you



City of Bartow

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ITEM NO. 10.a

CITY OF BARTOW, FLORIDA

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Commissioners, City of Bartow City Commission
THROUGH: Mike Herr, City Manager
FROM: Sean R. Parker, City Attorney
DATE: May 14, 2026
SUBJECT: **City Commissioner Term of Office and Qualifying Ordinance of 2026**
Consider on First Reading and approve Second Reading the City Commissioner Term of Office and Qualifying Ordinance of 2026 (Ordinance 2026-04) to update terms of office and update Chapter 34 of the Code of Ordinances

SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

As the Commission is aware, there were 4 proposed Charter amendments placed on the April 2026 ballot, all having to do with the mechanics of shifting the election cycles for City Commission seats to the November cycle in odd-numbered years. All of the proposed amendments were approved by the voters, including the move to November, creating 4-year terms instead of 3, and other mechanical items to align everything with the new cycle of elections. That approval now prompts the need to extend the terms of office for the current sitting Commissioners and make other administrative changes to align everything with the new cycle.

STAFF ANALYSIS

The proposed change to Chapter 34 of the Code is an update to the timing of qualification. Instead of a February qualification week, setting up an April election, we will now have a September qualifying week, setting up a November election cycle. The other significant update in this ordinance is the extension of the current terms of office for all 5 Commissioners, so that your current terms match up with the new election cycles. Since you will now have the installation of new Commissioners and selection of a Mayor in January, your terms will run through that first meeting in January of the given years. The updated terms are as follows:

Seat 1 (At Large) – Tanya Tucker – Term extended to January 3, 2028

Seat 2 (Central District) – Laura Simpson – Term extended to January 3, 2028

Seat 3 (North District) – Trish Pfeiffer – Term extended to January 7, 2030

Seat 4 (At Large) – Gary Ball – Term extended to January 7, 2030

Seat 5 (East District) – Leo E. Longworth – Term extended to January 7, 2030

This extension of terms is authorized in both Chapters 100, and 166 of the Florida Statutes, as further cited in the Ordinance.

ITEM NO. 10.a

FISCAL IMPACT

The City should enjoy savings through the combination of less frequent elections, and consolidation with other cities on the odd-numbered year, November cycle.

RECOMMENDATION

City Staff recommends the City Commission consider on First Reading and then approve on Second reading, after a proper public hearing, the changes proposed to Sections 34-2 of the Code of Ordinances, and the appropriate extensions of terms of office for all City Commissioners.

ATTACHMENTS

ORDINANCE NO: 2026-04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BARTOW, FLORIDA, RELATING TO ELECTIONS AND THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF CITY COMMISSIONERS; AMENDING SECTION 34-2 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; ESTABLISHING DATES FOR THE QUALIFYING PERIOD FOR THE ELECTION OF CITY COMMISSIONERS; EXTENDING THE CURRENT TERMS OF OFFICE OF SITTING COMMISSIONERS TO CORRESPOND WITH RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY CHARTER; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE CORRECTION OF SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

With attachment

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WHEREAS, pursuant to Fla. Stat. §166.021 (2025), the City of Bartow, Florida ("CITY") has the power to enact legislation concerning any subject matter upon which the State Legislature may act, except when expressly prohibited by law; and

WHEREAS, specifically pursuant to Fla. Stat. §166.021(4) (2025), the CITY may make updates to the selection of election dates and qualifying periods for candidates and for changes in terms of office necessitated by such changes in election dates; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Fla. Stat. §100.365(2) (2025), the CITY may, by ordinance, change the dates for qualifying and for the election of members of the governing body of the municipality and provide for the orderly transition of office resulting from such date changes; and

WHEREAS, in April 2026, the electors of the City of Bartow approved 4 separate amendments to the City Charter related to the timing of elections for City Commissioner, the length of terms of office for City Commissioners, the timing of any necessary run-off elections and the annual election of a Mayor; and

WHEREAS, Section 34-2 of the Code of Ordinances sets forth the terms and conditions for qualifications for candidates for City Commission, and the timing of and deadlines for applications for office must be submitted to the City Clerk; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the recently approved amendments to the City Charter, it is necessary to make the appropriate amendments to the Code of Ordinances, and to extend the terms of office of the

currently sitting City Commissioners to align with the new schedule of elections which will now occur in the November election cycle during odd-numbered years;

NOW THEREFORE

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF BARTOW:

SECTION 1. This ordinance shall be commonly known as the “City Commissioner Term of Office and Qualifying Ordinance of 2026” and may be so cited.

SECTION 2. Chapter 34 of the Code of Ordinances shall be revised and modified, as set forth in Exhibit ‘A’ to this ordinance, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein, such copy consisting of one (1) numbered pages. In accordance with §166.041(2), Florida Statutes, added language to existing code provisions shall be underlined and deleted language from existing code provisions shall be ~~stricken through~~.

SECTION 3. Pursuant to the newly approved Charter amendments, and the authority of Fla. Stat. §166.021 (2025) and Fla. Stat. §100.365 (2025), the terms of office for the currently sitting City Commissioners are hereby extended to align with the newly approved election schedule, as follows:

Seat 1 (At Large) – Tanya Tucker – Term extended to January 3, 2028

Seat 2 (Central District) – Laura Simpson – Term extended to January 3, 2028

Seat 3 (North District) – Trish Pfeiffer – Term extended to January 7, 2030

Seat 4 (At Large) – Gary Ball – Term extended to January 7, 2030

Seat 5 (East District) – Leo E. Longworth – Term extended to January 7, 2030

SECTION 4. All existing ordinances of the City of Bartow in conflict with this ordinance are repealed to the extent necessary to give this ordinance full force and effect.

SECTION 5. If any provision or portion of this ordinance is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be void, unconstitutional, or unenforceable, then all remaining portions, provisions, and regulations of this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. Any scrivener’s error created as a result of the passage of this ordinance may be

corrected by City of Bartow staff, without further legislative action, so long as the intent of this ordinance is preserved, by filing a revised copy thereof with the City Clerk's office with the terms "Staff Revised" and the revision version number in the style of the ordinance.

SECTION 7. It is the intent of the City Commission that the provisions of Exhibit 'A' to this ordinance shall be codified as and become and be made a part of the permanent Code of Ordinances of the City of Bartow. The provisions of Exhibit 'A' to this ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention and the word "ordinance", or similar words, may be changed to "section," "article", or other appropriate word. Further, it is the intent of the City Commission that the implementing and instructional sections of this ordinance, Sections 1 through 8, shall not be codified. The Code codifier is granted liberal authority to codify the provisions of Exhibit 'A' to this ordinance, including the authority to modify cross-references as he or she may see fit to capture the intent of this ordinance.

SECTION 8. This ordinance shall take effect upon final passage.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED on first reading at the Regular meeting of the City of Bartow City Commission held this 18th day of May, 2026.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on second reading at the Regular meeting of the City of Bartow City Commission held this 1st day of June, 2026.

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CITY OF BARTOW

Tanya Tucker, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jacqueline Poole, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Sean R. Parker, City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE:

Mike Herr, City Manager

EXHIBIT "A"

Sec. 34-2. - Qualifications of candidates for city commission.

The qualification period for candidates for the city commission shall commence at 9:00 a.m. on Monday of the first full week of ~~February~~ September and shall end at 5:00 p.m. on Friday of that week. Every person who shall become a candidate for nomination in the regular election shall qualify to become such candidate by filing with the city clerk, during the qualification period, his or her application to have his or her name printed on the ballot as a candidate and stating the seat to which the applicant seeks election. The application shall be in a form adopted by resolution by the city commission. All applications shall be accompanied by an affidavit that the candidate is a qualified elector of the city; that he or she has been a resident of the city continuously for 18 months immediately preceding the date of commencement for the term of office for which he or she seeks election; that he or she will hold no public office except for that of notary public, an officer in the national guard, or an officer in the organized reserve of the armed forces of the United States, upon the commencement of the term of office for which he or she seeks election; that he or she has not become and is not a candidate as a nominee or representative of any political party, or any committee or convention representing or acting for any political party; and if the candidate is seeking election to seat 2, 3 or 5 on the city commission, that he or she resides in the required district of the city, as depicted on the following diagram A, city commissioner residence districts.

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City of Bartow

CITY OF BARTOW

CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026, AT 6:00 P.M. (EST)

OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE

BARTOW CITY HALL – COMMISSION CHAMBERS

450 N. WILSON AVE, BARTOW, FL 33830

MINUTES

The City Commission of the City of Bartow met at a Regular Meeting on May 4, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Bartow City Hall, Commission Chambers, 450 N. Wilson Avenue, Bartow, FL 33830. Notice of this meeting was posted at City Hall, Bartow Public Library, and on the City's website www.cityofbartow.net and Facebook page on April 30, 2026.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

City Clerk Poole called the roll; attendance was as follows:

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Gary Ball, Commissioner Leo E. Longworth, Commissioner Trish Pfeiffer, Vice Mayor Laura Simpson and Mayor Tanya Tucker.

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Members Present: City Manager Mike Herr, City Attorney Sean Parker, PRCA Director Jason Hargrove, Fire Chief Jay Robinson, Deputy Fire Chief Byron Moore, Deputy Fire Chief James Schall, Police Chief Stephen Walker, Communications Director Laurie Hayes, Asst. City Manager John Hall, Code Compliance & Neighborhood Services Director Tray Towles, Asst. PRCA Director Kyle Lasek, Asst. Electric Director Tony McDuffie, Wastewater Plant Manager Wiley Pratt, Water Plant Manager Tony Martinez, Public Works Director Billy Groover, Ofc. Duane Paul, Sgt. John McKee, Detective Arturo Gonzalez, Ofc. Tyler Baggett, Asst. IT Director Dan Franceour, Asst. Finance Director Linna Cai, Deputy City Clerk Donna Donaldson, Asst. City Clerk Kaylee Fussell, Cpt. William Stevens, Cpt. Luke Hauser, Deputy Chief Kyle Dowdy, Deputy Chief Darrell Wilson, Director of Community Affairs & Special Projects Pam Sams, Management Asst. Angel Ruse, GIS Analyst Jason Alber, City Clerk Jacqueline Poole.

2. INVOCATION

Bishop Anthony Roberts, New Beginnings Church gave invocation.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Commissioners and audience gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

4. **OATH OF OFFICE AND PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION**

City Attorney Parker officiated both swearing-in ceremonies, noting that he was pleased to have such a good crowd present to witness the occasions.

- a. **City Attorney Parker will officiate, and Pastor Adam Mayfield of Church for the One will administer the Oath of Office to Commissioner Gary Ball, Seat 4, At-Large District.**

City Attorney Parker officiated the swearing-in ceremony for Commissioner Gary Ball.

Pastor Adam Mayfield of Church for the One administered the oath of office to Commissioner Ball, with family members present at the podium.

- b. **City Attorney Parker will officiate, and Senior Pastor Don'Tavius L. Sanders of St. James AME Church will administer the Oath of Office to Commissioner Leo E. Longworth, Seat 5, East District.**

City Attorney Parker officiated the swearing-in ceremony for Commissioner Leo E. Longworth.

Senior Pastor Don'tavius L. Sanders of St. James AME Church administered the oath of office to Commissioner Ball, with church members present at the podium.

Mayor Tucker congratulated both commissioners on their reelection following the conclusion of the ceremonies.

5. **PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

- a. **Smith Lane Smith Lane Joint Fire Station Update Presentation – Keith Tate, Polk County Facilities Management Director.**

Mr. Keith Tate, Polk County Facilities Management Director, presented an update on the Smith Lane Joint Fire Station project. He provided context on the project's location between Highland City and Bartow, noting that to the right of the construction site, Lakeland Regional Health would eventually be building a project of their own. He emphasized the importance of the proposed new road shown in the original architectural submission, explaining that extending the driveway and utilities to the end of the property prior to Lakeland Regional's construction beginning was part of the city's obligation under the joint arrangement. He reviewed the floor plan, noting that the left side of the station would be the City of Bartow's portion containing two apparatus bays while the

right side would be the county's portion with three bays. He shared a rendering of the station exterior, noting it would feature bifold doors, which no other county station currently has. He also presented interior images illustrating the dining and office areas, modeled after other completed stations. Regarding the budget, he confirmed the project remains at a 60/40 split with an estimated budget of \$12,000,000. He noted the Guaranteed Maximum Price is expected to be known around mid-September 2026. He explained that the estimated construction start date is ahead of when 100 percent construction documents will be completed, as he is pushing for early release of the site package to facilitate road and utility extension in advance of the Lakeland Regional project. The estimated project completion date is September 2027, approximately 12 to 14 months of construction.

Commissioner Pfeiffer raised the topic of fire prevention education for Spessard Holland Elementary across the retention pond. She expressed hope that the new station would host this school's children during Fire Prevention Week.

Mr. Tate responded that operational matters of that nature are the purview of the City of Bartow and Polk County Fire Rescue. He closed by thanking the commission for the opportunity to present and indicated he would return when project costs are more fully known

- b. **Issuance of proclamation recognizing May 6-12, 2026, as Nurses Week. Being accepted by Kristin Williams, RN CN II, Same Day Surgery at Bartow Regional Medical Center.**

City Attorney Parker read the proclamation in its entirety.

Mayor Tucker presented the proclamation.

Ms. Williams noted that BayCare is very attentive to nursing recognition during the week, with something planned every day, whether food, prizes, or acknowledgment from staff.

- c. **Issuance of proclamation recognizing May 11-16, 2026, as National Police Week. Being accepted by Police Chief Stephen Walker, BPD Police Officers & BPD Citizen Advisory Committee Members.**

City Attorney Parker read the proclamation in its entirety.

Mayor Tucker presented the proclamation.

Chief Walker came forward and introduced his team that was present: Deputy Chief Kyle Dowdy, Deputy Chief Darrell Wilson, Capt. William Stevens, Capt. Luke Hauser, Sgt. John McKee, Detective Arturo Gonzalez, Ofc. Duane Paul and Ofc. Tyler Baggett and Police Citizens Advisory Board Members: Ryan Cellucci, Jessica Cornell & Marie Wilmot. Chief Walker offered sobering remarks, noting that National Police Week is a somber occasion and acknowledging that the

department came close to adding a name to the memorial when Officer Sills was shot, noting that his vest saved his life. He invited all commissioners and members of the public to attend the Polk County Memorial Service at the RP Funding Center at 10:00 AM on Thursday, describing it as "a very somber ceremony" that recognizes all law enforcement officers killed in Polk County.

- d. **Issuance of proclamation recognizing May 2026 as Community Action Month. Being accepted by Albert Miller, Community Services & Economic Development Division Director, Agricultural and Labor Program, Inc. (ALPI).**

City Attorney Parker read the proclamation in its entirety.

Mayor Tucker presented the proclamation.

Mr. Miller accepted the proclamation on behalf of the board of directors and CEO Arlene Dobison. He noted that ALPI has been in operation for approximately 65 years and that in Polk County alone, the organization serves between 2,000 and 3,000 low-income families throughout the year, including a large number from the Bartow area. He described their purpose as providing emergency assistance and helping families move out of poverty, noting a key philosophy within community action: "Any movement whatsoever to the positive is a good movement." He expressed gratitude for the recognition and indicated he looks forward to returning the following year.

- e. **Issuance of proclamation recognizing May 2026 as Teen Pregnancy Prevention Awareness Month. Being accepted by Tiara Merricks, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Alliance Coordinator, Healthy Start Coalition of Hardee, Highlands & Polk Counties, Inc.**

City Attorney Parker read the proclamation in its entirety.

Mayor Tucker presented the proclamation.

Ms. Merricks thanked the commission for the proclamation and announced that on June 12, the organization will be hosting its Annual Teen Summit at the Stewart Center from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

- f. **Issuance of proclamation recognizing May 2026 as Aviation Appreciation Month. Being accepted by Bartow Airport Executive Director John Helms and staff.**

City Attorney Parker read the proclamation in its entirety.

Mayor Tucker presented the proclamation.

Executive Director Helms accepted the proclamation and offered brief remarks, congratulating both reelected commissioners and extending gratitude to the full

commission. He stated Bartow Airport will continue to move forward and lead the way in Florida and the nation, and we couldn't do any of that without your support.

g. **Issuance of proclamation recognizing May 17-23, 2026, as Public Works Week. Being accepted by Public Works Director Billy Groover and staff.**

City Attorney Parker read the proclamation in its entirety.

Mayor Tucker presented the proclamation.

Director Groover introduced members of his team present from Fleet, TCS, Solid Waste & GIS. He expressed pride in his team, stating they give their heart and soul every day to the City of Bartow, and noted that the volume of work accomplished over the last two years had been remarkable.

Commissioner Pfeiffer also offered brief thanks to Director Groover for hanging artwork on two days' notice.

h. **Issuance of proclamation recognizing May 3-9, 2026, as Municipal Clerk's Week. Being accepted by City Clerk Jacqueline Poole and staff.**

City Attorney Parker read the proclamation in its entirety.

Mayor Tucker presented the proclamation.

City Clerk Poole offered brief remarks, thanking the commissioners and the community, and acknowledging that the work of the clerk's office is hectic but deeply valued. She noted with light humor that she had unintentionally committed to saying she would be staying in the role for another 18 years at the previous year's ceremony.

i. **Issuance of proclamation recognizing May 2026 as Historic Preservation Month. Being accepted by Denise Bohde, Polk County Historical Association Board of Directors.**

City Attorney Parker read the proclamation in its entirety.

Mayor Tucker presented the proclamation.

Ms. Bohde accepted the proclamation and spoke enthusiastically about the significance of the occasion, noting that this year the celebration carries added weight as the country approaches America's 250th anniversary. She encouraged citizens and families to explore local history through special events, tours, lectures, and community programs, and invited everyone to visit the History Center's Historic Museum & Library.

Mr. Lloyd Harris also spoke briefly, echoing the pride the community has always shown toward its history, referencing the city's longstanding tagline: "Bartow,

where history comes alive." He encouraged residents to celebrate America's 250th anniversary and thanked the commission for the proclamation

6. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

At this time, the Commission received comments from the public regarding matters not appearing on this agenda.

City Attorney Parker reminded all speakers addressing the City Commission that while making comments during any time set aside for public comments or public hearings to refrain from making any personal attacks, derogatory comments, commenting on any items in litigation or under investigation, or any other matters that do not fall within the purview of the City Commission. Public speakers are limited to three minutes. Yielding of time is not customary during public comments. General public comment is the public's chance to speak and be heard and is not a time typically for questions and answers. Refer to the agenda to seek the appropriate time to make comments. Speaker cards are located on the tables to the left of the room and with the City Clerk. Fill out the speaker card and give it to the clerk when you come to the podium. Before you begin your remarks, state your name and address for the record.

Mayor Tucker opened the public comment period.

Gerald J. Cochran, 1615 North St., Bartow. Mr. Cochran addressed the commission about budget spending and park maintenance. He observed that the city has 18 parks and recreation facilities throughout Bartow, many of which are maintained by outside contractors rather than city staff. He described witnessing six riding lawnmowers operated by outside contractors cutting grass at Mary Holland Park, including the adjacent library grounds, and questioned the cost of that arrangement. He also expressed frustration about restrooms at the north end of Mary Holland Park and at the cemetery being consistently locked. He further raised concerns about his neighborhood being bypassed for improvements such as parks, curbs, and sidewalks while other parks receive investment.

Mayor Tucker addressed his restroom concern directly, informing Mr. Cochran that automatic locking mechanisms had been installed that day and should be operational within a few days, set to automatically unlock and lock at designated times.

Marci Schiller, 690 Stanford St., Bartow. Ms. Schiller addressed the commission on several quality-of-life topics. She raised concern about the noise of squeaky school bus brakes on residential routes during early morning hours, noting whether this was a city or county matter but hoping the city could advocate for a solution. She also commented on vehicles traveling through downtown and residential neighborhoods playing music at excessively loud decibel levels and expressed uncertainty about how to address the issue. She revisited a suggestion she had made in January about making recycling bins more engaging, likening them to basketball hoops to reduce litter. She shared that she bikes frequently and carries

two small trash bags on her handlebars to pick up metal debris from the road, adding with humor that a week she skipped the practice, she got a flat tire. Finally, she inquired about the status of the city pool, noting that summer was approaching and that her husband would not agree to having a pool.

City Manager Herr responded at length to the pool inquiry, offering a detailed history of the city's deliberations. He noted the pool had been closed for approximately three to four years before he arrived in 2023, and that the current commission had asked him and the Parks and Recreation Director to evaluate whether reserves built up by the previous city manager could fund a new or upgraded pool. The city engaged Straughn Trout, an architectural firm, which initially estimated a new pool at approximately \$3,500,000 for budgeting purposes. After entering preliminary design, the estimate was refined to approximately \$6,500,000. He noted further that annual personnel and operating costs were estimated at approximately \$1,100,000 per year. He explained that in the current fiscal and political environment, he could not recommend proceeding. He cited the anticipated property tax relief measures being considered at the state level, noting that if homesteaded residential property taxes were eliminated or phased out, the city could lose between \$3,800,000 and \$4,000,000 in recurring annual revenue. He also noted that reserve funds are one-time money and that the city faces a more urgent need, that the Fire Station Headquarters downtown has been in operation since 1969, with at least two independent architectural opinions advising against further investment in the building due to its deteriorated condition and health and safety concerns for firefighters. He stated he anticipates needing to reserve funds to help finance a new downtown fire station and would be pursuing legislative appropriations to assist with that cost. He surmised he could not justify spending money on an aquatics program when we have that need. In response to a follow-up question from Ms. Schiller about whether new homeowners would be paying property taxes in the interim, City Manager Herr confirmed that current residents, including those in new developments like Stuart Crossing, are paying property taxes. He clarified the distinction between homesteaded residential properties (which would be affected by the proposed exemption), rental properties, commercial properties, and industrial properties (which would not be affected).

Commissioner Pfeiffer requested that City Manager Herr prepare a public statement about the pool situation, noting that residents continue to ask commissioners about it and that a clear, official communication would help ensure consistent messaging. She acknowledged that cities like Winter Haven and Haines City have pools but also have much larger populations and commercial tax bases. She noted the complexity of the city's fiscal situation including that approximately 36 percent of the city's property is tax-exempt due to its status as the county seat. She asked that this context also be included in the communication.

Commissioner Longworth said the way he sees it is that the City simply cannot afford or maintain the kind of pool we had before, especially with the property tax reforms that could be coming. He agreed that we do need to communicate with the community. He also raised the point about the city's unique fiscal disadvantage, noting that roughly 36 percent of property in Bartow is tax-exempt due to county

government facilities, which no other neighboring city faces. He said one of the things we have talked about being in favor of was splash pads. He noted they are friendlier and more usable to the community than big pools. He favored the idea of splash pads as they were not as expensive as a pool to maintain.

City Manager Herr agreed to produce a written statement, noting he would ask the City Clerk for a verbatim transcript of his remarks as a basis, and then instruct the communications department to distribute the statement through social media, at the community centers, and on the city's website.

Vice Mayor Simpson added her support for the communication effort and advocated moving forward on splash pads as a viable alternative, expressing the desire to see that brought forward as part of the upcoming budget process.

City Manager Herr confirmed he would be prepared to address splash pad planning as part of the upcoming budget workshops.

In response to Ms. Schiller's concern about the bus noise, she directed her to contact the School Board. She also noted that the police chief and deputy chief had taken note of the loud music concern.

With no further comments, Mayor Tucker closed the public comment period.

7. **CITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Vice Mayor Simpson announced that the National Day of Prayer would be observed on Thursday, with local pastors having organized a time of prayer on the steps of the Polk History Center at noon. She invited all residents to attend, noting that pastors would be offering prayer for the community, city leadership, first responders, and educators.

Commissioner Pfeiffer acknowledged National Small Business Week, noting that multiple commissioners and members of the public are small business owners. She indicated she would be doing outreach on her local page to celebrate small businesses and encouraged residents to patronize local establishments.

8. **REPORT OF CHARTER OFFICERS**

a. **CITY MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS**

City Manager Herr introduced three items for the evening: the Engineering and Planning Services Agreement with Patel Greene, the Bartow Police Department's Social Media Strategies presentation, and a professional recruiting brochure for the Golf Course Operations Manager position.

1. **Engineering and Planning Services Agreement with Patel Greene – John Hall, Asst. City Manager**

City Manager Herr provided background, noting that Planning Director Bob Wieggers had served the city for 25 years before retiring. He outlined the current depth of the planning and building staff with one permitting specialist, one building official, no building inspector, and the now-departed planning director. He expressed concern that the current structure leaves gaps in service coverage when any single staff member is unavailable. He stated the city is open for business and emphasized the need to ensure planning services can continue without interruption. He outlined the proposal to contract with Patel Greene for both planning and engineering services, estimating a combined cost of \$100,000 to carry the city through to September. He noted that once a new planning director is hired, the planning component of the contract would wind down. He stated his intention to also budget for a senior planner reporting to the future director to provide greater organizational depth. On the engineering side, City Manager Herr noted a prior recruitment effort for a city engineer had been largely successful, that a well-qualified candidate was identified and recommended but the candidate ultimately could not afford to relocate. He stated the engineering services contract would provide technical expertise to augment the existing team, particularly for Development Review Committee (DRC) processes. He underscored the importance of catching deficiencies at the DRC stage, before plans enter the field. He indicated his intent to run a similarly transparent and community-engaged recruitment process for the planning director as was used for the police chief search, including input from citizens, small businesses, and commercial entities, as well as structured candidate interviews involving commissioners.

Asst. City Manager Hall presented the staff recommendation formally. He confirmed that Mr. Wieggers' last day was April 24, 2026, and that the recruitment process could take six to seven months or more depending on candidate availability and willingness to relocate. He noted that Patel Greene had been identified from the city's existing continuing engineering services contract, which includes planning services, and that their office is located approximately two blocks away on Main Street, which is a logistical advantage over other firms ten or more miles away. He introduced Lucas Cruz, an AICP-certified planner from Patel Greene. Mr. Cruz is designated as the lead for this engagement.

Commissioner Pfeiffer inquired about recently passed legislative bills related to planning and whether Patel Greene would help navigate those changes.

Mr. Cruz confirmed that they would review any planning issues directed by city staff and assist in interpreting and applying the latest legislation. He acknowledged that the new legislation introduced additional procedural requirements.

Commissioner Longworth asked for clarification on how the arrangement would function operationally such as in how applicants would interface with Patel Greene, how the process would work for the Planning and Zoning

Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment, and who would handle presentations.

Asst. City Manager Hall confirmed that city staff would serve as the intake point for all development plans, controlling when and what Patel Greene works on, which would also help manage costs. He explained that Patel Greene would be responsible for site plan review, grading, roadway, stormwater, utilities, environmental permits, traffic studies, performance bonds, construction engineering and inspection, as-built documentation, GIS support, and presentations to both the City Commission and Planning Commission as needed. Hall stated clearly that staff would be the intake point and noted this was important for both process control and cost management.

City Attorney Parker also offered his endorsement of the arrangement, noting he was pleased to have met with the Patel Greene team and that their depth of expertise would be a tremendous asset during the interim period.

MOTION was made by Commissioner Ball, seconded by Vice Mayor Simpson to approve the Engineering Services Agreement with Patel Greene for Engineering and Planning Services.

VOTE TO THE MOTION WAS AS FOLLOWS:

AYE: Ball, Longworth, Pfeiffer, Simpson, Tucker
NAY: None

Motion carried.

2. **Bartow Police Department's Social Media Strategies 2026 – Chief Walker & BPD Team**

Police Chief Walker, joined by Deputy Chief Dowdy and Deputy Chief Wilson, presented the Bartow Police Department's social media performance and strategy update for 2026. Chief Walker noted that City Manager Herr had seen the presentation and asked for it to be shared with the full commission. Chief Walker stated that the department had essentially no social media presence for some time after the person managing their accounts retired. When the person retired and their name was removed from the social media accounts, it locked department out entirely and it took some hard work to regain access. Since rebuilding the program in January 2025, the department has achieved 2,200,000 views, over 2,900 new followers, and an average of 80,000 video views per episode, all with zero expenditure on advertising. He noted that views are up 206 percent, unique viewers up 184 percent, three-second views up 416 percent, interactions up 439 percent, and new followers up 177 percent. Chief Walker shared that using an advertising industry metric known as "cost per thousand," the estimated earned media value of the department's content based on industry averages of \$5 to \$8 per thousand impressions is between \$11,000 and \$17,600 in equivalent advertising value.

He highlighted the department's "Red Light Runner of the Week" series as a standout example, noting it consistently achieves over 80,000 views per episode. He described the series as achieving multiple objectives: illustrating the real-life consequences of traffic violations, demonstrating active enforcement, building public trust, and generating shareable content. Chief Walker described the content as entertaining as well as informative, crediting lead content creator Henry Clagett for his creative instincts and what the Chief described as his "smooth jazz voice." The commissioners were shown two video examples. The first was a promotional video for Axon Translate, a newly deployed tool that enables officers to communicate in 52 different languages in real time, filmed in the style of a professional product advertisement. Chief Walker noted that the video's production quality was such that he feared staff member Clagett would get recruited by Axon because of his talent. He explained the operational significance of the technology, noting the diversity of Bartow's population and the value of being able to communicate with residents in their native language. The second video shown was a "day in the life" style recruiting video featuring Officer Imani Williams, which highlighted her personality, journey into law enforcement, and favorite local spots in Bartow. Chief Walker noted that the format serves multiple purposes simultaneously: it showcases officer personality, explains why officers join the department, highlights local businesses, and organically recruits from diverse demographic groups. He noted that Officer Williams is also being featured in allowing potential recruits from different backgrounds to "see themselves" in the department's content. He outlined the department's current platform presence on Facebook and Instagram, with YouTube being an upcoming addition. He noted that TikTok would not be pursued due to existing concerns about the platform. He emphasized that social media is "not just nice to have, it is a force multiplier," and that it reaches a broader audience than any amount of in-person community engagement alone. He acknowledged that some information cannot be shared publicly due to active investigations and reminded the public not to report crimes via Facebook or messaging apps but to call 911.

Commissioner Pfeiffer observed with dry humor that the Bartow Police Department has more followers than Bartow has people that vote.

Chief Walker closed by expressing pride in his team, stating that he doesn't brag a lot, but noted he was decent at building high performance teams and that has been his goal all along. In response to a question from a Commissioner about future reporting, Chief Walker confirmed that at the June 1 commission meeting he would provide a comprehensive core report covering crime statistics and other measurable performance data, with the intent of providing such reports quarterly or twice per year.

Golf Course Manager Recruitment Brochure

City Manager Herr distributed the newly developed recruiting brochure for the Golf Course Operations Manager position, created by Laurie Hayes, Cheri

Kercher, and Jason Hargrove. The brochure features engaging visuals such as the golf course, pro shop, and Mulligan's Bar and Grill, alongside vital community information. It outlines the responsibilities, desired qualifications, and skills suitable for potential candidates, enhanced by appealing imagery of local events and personalities. The document is shared through platforms like governmentjobs.com, PGA of America, and LinkedIn, emphasizing Bartow's professional and cultural environment through its presentation. City Manager Herr, noting the robust recruitment effort already commenced, expects strong candidate interest and selection for this role.

b. **CITY ATTORNEY COMMUNICATIONS**

City Attorney Parker noted that with both commissioners now sworn in, he would bring back to the next commission meeting the ordinance process to extend commissioner terms in alignment with the November election cycle, as approved through the recent charter amendments. He stated this would include a reminder of which seats are being moved to which duration.

City Attorney Parker provided an update and statutory disclosure regarding the pending Emilie matters. He noted that the most significant development since the last meeting was a discussion among attorneys about the most efficient path forward, with the parties agreeing to avoid running three parallel legal tracks simultaneously and instead focusing on a special magistrate proceeding pursuant to statute with that individual also potentially serving as a mediator. He indicated that dates in June are being explored for the first meaningful session and that he would need to convene a shade meeting with the commission pursuant to Florida Statute Chapter 286.011(8)(a). He stated he was targeting the May 18 meeting for the shade session and would coordinate with City Clerk Poole on the required notices. He explained that the meeting format would involve recessing the regular meeting to go into the shade session and then returning to complete the regular meeting. He noted that outside litigation counsel Ralph DeMeo would be present for the shade meeting.

City Attorney Parker acknowledged receiving communications from citizens who had been attentive during the Emilie Development approval process and noted he had provided as much explanation as possible within appropriate limits. He confirmed that if any public proceedings such as oral arguments or public hearings occur in the circuit court appeal, those will be made publicly available so citizens may attend and observe.

c. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

Commissioner Pfeiffer noted that the legislative situation had already been covered during the General Public Comment discussion about property tax reform.

9. **AGENDA MODIFICATION / APPROVAL**

MOTION was made by Commissioner Longworth, seconded by Commissioner Ball to approve the agenda as presented.

VOTE TO THE MOTION WAS AS FOLLOWS:

AYE: Ball, Longworth, Pfeiffer, Simpson, Tucker

NAY: None

Motion carried.

10. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

At this time, the Commission received comments from the public regarding matters appearing on this agenda, not otherwise scheduled for a separate public hearing.

Mayor Tucker opened the public hearing.

Becky Niles, 845 S. Oakwood Loop, Bartow. Ms. Niles addressed agenda item 8.b.1, the Engineering and Planning Services Agreement with Patel Greene. She raised concerns about the financial impact on taxpayers and what she characterized as a reactive rather than proactive response to Mr. Wiegiers' retirement. She noted that she had been aware since the prior year that Mr. Wiegiers intended to retire and described his departure as a known transition. She referenced publicly available salary data indicating that Mr. Wiegiers had earned over \$113,000 in 2024 and that the city manager's salary exceeded \$188,000 in 2023, contrasting those figures with the city's median household income of approximately \$66,000 to \$68,000. She calculated that the \$100,000 contract could cost up to \$25,000 per month and expressed concern that had a transition plan been in place, the gap could have been avoided. She also questioned whether the job posting had been distributed broadly enough, noting it appeared only on the city's website a week prior. She posed several direct questions: when did the replacement search officially begin, why was outreach limited to the city's website, and were bids or proposals obtained from competing firms? She argued that from a taxpayer perspective, proximity was the least of her concerns in evaluating the contract's cost-effectiveness.

City Manager Herr responded directly, thanking Ms. Niles for her engagement and taking the opportunity to provide additional context surrounding Mr. Wiegiers' retirement. He explained that despite several inquiries over time, Mr. Wiegiers had not provided a definitive retirement date until the first week of April when he handed him his letter of resignation. It said it left him with approximately 25 days to formulate a response plan. He emphasized that he respected Mr. Wiegiers' timing decisions throughout this process, stating he didn't want to create an impression that he was trying to force him out the door because he was not. City Manager Herr elaborated on the decision to contract Patel Greene, framing it as a proactive and strategic move rather than reactive. He highlighted that the firm's setup brings together complementary disciplines of planning and engineering under one professional team, providing a depth of expertise the city had not previously accessed. He underscored the contract's cost-effectiveness, noting its value in efficiently bridging

the gap left by Mr. Wieggers' departure while ensuring the city's planning and engineering functions continue uninterrupted. By securing Patel Greene's services, he aimed not only to maintain current service levels but to potentially enhance them by leveraging the firm's resources and proximity to deliver timely, professional support.

With no further comments, Mayor Tucker closed the public comment period.

11. **HEARINGS – FIRST AND SECOND READINGS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS – NONE**

12. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. **Approval of April 20, 2026, City Commission Regular Meeting minutes.**
- b. **Approval to renew Duke Energy Florida LLC non-exclusive Electric Franchise Agreement for a ten-year term.**
- c. **Approval to appoint Yolanda Floyd to the Beautification Advisory Board with a term ending May 2029. Recommendation being made by Commissioner Pfeiffer.**
- d. **Approval of City Commissioner absence(s) for April 20, 2026, excusal(s): None**

MOTION was made by Commissioner Ball seconded by Vice Mayor Simpson to approve Consent Agenda as presented.

VOTE TO THE MOTION WAS AS FOLLOWS:

AYE: Ball, Longworth, Pfeiffer, Simpson, Tucker

NAY: None

Motion carried.

13. **OTHER COMMISSION BUSINESS**

- a. **OLD BUSINESS – NONE**
- b. **NEW BUSINESS – NONE**

13. **RESOLUTIONS**

- a. **Resolution No. 26-4262-R – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BARTOW, FLORIDA, APPOINTING PRIMARY AND ALTERNATE DIRECTORS TO THE POLK REGIONAL WATER COOPERATIVE (PRWC) BOARD OF DIRECTORS; ESTABLISHING THE**

TERM OF THE APPOINTMENT; PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION OF THIS RESOLUTION TO PRWC; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Attorney Parker read the resolution by title only:

“A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BARTOW, FLORIDA, APPOINTING PRIMARY AND ALTERNATE DIRECTORS TO THE POLK REGIONAL WATER COOPERATIVE (PRWC) BOARD OF DIRECTORS; ESTABLISHING THE TERM OF THE APPOINTMENT; PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION OF THIS RESOLUTION TO PRWC; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.”

MOTION was made by Commissioner Longworth, seconded by Commissioner Ball to reappoint Commissioner Pfeiffer as the Primary Director and Vice Mayor Simpson as the Alternate Director to the Polk Regional Water Cooperative Board of Directors for one year.

ROLL CALL VOTE TO THE MOTION WAS AS FOLLOWS:

AYE: Ball, Longworth, Pfeiffer, Simpson, Tucker
NAY: None

Motion carried.

b. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

a. **GARY BALL**

Commissioner Ball thanked the community for placing him back in his position, keeping his remarks brief and appreciative.

b. **LEO E. LONGWORTH**

Commissioner Longworth echoed Commissioner Ball's sentiments, thanking the community for giving him another chance.

c. **TRISH PFEIFFER**

Commissioner Pfeiffer had no additional comments.

d. **LAURA SIMPSON**

Vice Mayor Simpson had no additional comments.

e. **TANYA TUCKER**

Mayor Tucker had no additional comments.

c. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Tucker adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Tanya Tucker

ATTEST:

City Clerk Jacqueline Poole

(City Seal)



**CITY OF BARTOW
CITY OF BARTOW CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026, AT 5:00 PM OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE
CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS
450 NORTH WILSON AVE., BARTOW, FL 33830**

MINUTES

The City Commission of the City of Bartow met at a Workshop on May 4, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at Bartow City Hall, Commission Chambers, 450 N. Wilson Avenue, Bartow, FL 33830. Notice of this meeting was posted at City Hall, Bartow Public Library, and on the City's website www.cityofbartow.net and Facebook page on April 30, 2026.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

City Clerk Poole called the roll; attendance was as follows:

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Gary Ball, Commissioner Leo E. Longworth, Commissioner Trish Pfeiffer, Vice Mayor Laura Simpson and Mayor Tanya Tucker.

Commissioners Absent: Leo E. Longworth

Staff Members Present: City Manager Mike Herr, City Attorney Sean Parker, Fire Chief Jay Robinson, Asst. City Manager John Hall, Business & Community Engagement Coordinator Cheryl Baksh; Water Plant Manager Tony Martinez and City Clerk Jacqueline Poole.

2. POLK REGIONAL WATER COOPERATIVE (PRWC) UPDATE – ERIC DEHAVEN, PRWC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Eric DeHaven, Executive Director of the Polk Regional Water Cooperative (PRWC) took a moment to recognize Commissioner Pfeiffer for her service on the PRWC board, noting that she has served as the Chairman of the Southeast Project for approximately one year. He also recognized former Commissioner Steve Giffens, who served on the PRWC board for approximately three years. Mr. DeHaven expressed sincere appreciation for Bartow's continued support of the cooperative.

Background and Purpose of the PRWC

Mr. DeHaven explained why the PRWC exists, describing it as a regional agency of Polk County and its 15 municipalities, with the central goal of identifying alternative water supplies and constructing the infrastructure necessary to bring those supplies online to meet the region's long-term future water demands. He

described the cooperative's operating model as essentially a subscription service: the PRWC identifies projects that will meet members' future water supply needs, members sign up and request a specific quantity of water from each project, and costs are allocated accordingly. He provided a brief history of the organization: the concept originated in 2012 when Polk County as a region identified its looming water supply challenge; the cooperative was formally established in 2016 through the execution of an interlocal agreement signed by all members; in 2018, four alternative water supply projects were studied; implementation agreements for the two currently active projects, the Southeast and West Polk Wellfields, were executed in 2022; and today both projects are in final design and construction, with over \$200 million already invested.

Regulatory and Growth Drivers

Mr. DeHaven emphasized that to fully understand the PRWC's mission, the Commission needed to appreciate the regulatory environment governing water supply in Polk County. He referenced a map showing the Southwest Florida Water Management District boundary, with Polk County situated at its center, and explained that Polk County sits within two Water Use Caution Areas. He said the Southern Water Use Caution Area, became effective in the early 2000s and began limiting Upper Floridan Aquifer withdrawals, particularly near impacted lakes where water levels were not meeting required thresholds. He said the second and far more consequential driver today is the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) region, which encompasses the entirety of Polk County. He stated the Central Florida Water Initiative places limitations on our existing Upper Floridan aquifer supplies and explained that this is the very source from which Bartow and every other municipality in Polk County currently draws its water. These limitations were put in place to protect natural resources such as lakes, rivers, springs, and wetlands, noting as an example that the Peace River has suffered from years where it's been below the minimum flow that was allowed for it. He said the second major driver was population growth. He acknowledged that Polk County has been one of the leading counties in the nation for growth over recent years, and while future growth trajectories are uncertain, it is certain that growth will continue and water demand will rise with it. He explained that the Florida Legislature formally adopted the CFWI rule in 2021, establishing a hard cap on Upper Floridan Aquifer use. Using a graphic of a barrel to illustrate the concept, he stated that at the end of 2025, the maximum all municipalities in Polk County can collectively pump from the Upper Floridan Aquifer is approximately 88 million gallons per day with the exact figure still to be formally set by the Water Management District over the coming months. As of the end of 2024, municipalities collectively pumped approximately 81.5 million gallons per day, meaning the region is fast approaching its regulatory ceiling. All future water supply needs, estimated at approximately 32 million gallons per day, must come from alternative water sources. He said the PRWC is working on bringing that 32 million gallons online through a regional perspective. He also acknowledged the financial reality that comes with this transition, that everyone has been feeling rate increases, impact fee increases, special surcharges and things like that. He said it's unavoidable when you start bringing in these alternative water supplies, simply

because the days of our cheap water source, the Upper Floridan Aquifer, are over. Regarding current water usage distribution across the county, he noted that Bartow accounts for approximately 4 percent of the 81.5 million gallons per day being pumped, with Lakeland and Polk County together accounting for close to 60 percent of overall use. Many of the smaller municipalities fall below 1 percent. Mr. DeHaven gave a detailed update on the two active PRWC projects.

Southeast Wellfield Project

Mr. DeHaven said this project is projected to cost approximately \$572 million in total, though he noted that recent bidding activity has shown costs coming in somewhat lower than planned in the January 2026 Business Plan. Bartow has subscribed to receive 360,000 gallons per day from this project, representing approximately 2.21 percent of the total project allotment. The full allotment target to be met by 2045 is 16.3 percent of the region's alternative water supply needs. He explained the technical basis of the project: rather than drawing from the Upper Floridan Aquifer, the Southeast project draws from the Lower Floridan Aquifer, which sits substantially deeper; wells will pump from approximately 1,500 to 1,800 feet below surface, compared to 600 to 1,000 feet for Upper Floridan wells in Polk County. The substantial geological confinement layer between the two aquifers means that pumping the Lower Floridan does not propagate impacts upward into the Upper Floridan or into surface water systems, qualifying it as a recognized alternative water source. Because the Lower Floridan produces saltier, more mineralized water, the project will treat it through reverse osmosis (RO). He explained the water balance of RO treatment: for every 10 gallons treated, 8 gallons are distributed as finished drinking water and 2 gallons must be disposed of as concentrated brine reject water. That rejected water is injected deep underground via a deep injection well drilled to 8,000 feet. He noted that one such injection well has already been constructed, and that the quality of the water being injected is superior to the water naturally present at that depth. The project's infrastructure includes 5 Lower Floridan raw water wells, 6 miles of raw water transmission line, and 61 miles of finished water transmission line distributing treated water westward to Bartow and northward to Davenport and Haines City. The project is well underway in construction, site grading is complete, underground electrical and piping work is finished, and the water storage tank is now rising as the first vertical structure on-site. A Polk County fire station will eventually share the site. The Water Production Facility is expected to begin delivering water by 2028, with Bartow receiving its proportional share at that time. He stated of the \$572 million total project cost, \$239 million comes from grant funding and pointed out that contributions from the Water Management District or the State that do not require repayment. He expressed encouragement about this figure and noted the cooperative continues to pursue additional grants.

West Polk Wellfield Project

Mr. DeHaven described the West Polk Wellfield Project, which is smaller in scale than Southeast but follows the same design principles. The project is currently

estimated at approximately \$221 million, with approximately \$68 million in grant funding secured to date. He noted that every year the cooperative is securing additional grant funding through mechanisms such as the Heartland Headwaters Act and legislative appropriations. The West Polk project is designed as a 10 million gallon per day facility, with the first phase bringing 2.5 million gallons per day of drinking water online by 2032. Current member subscriptions total approximately 7.88 million gallons per day, with some excess capacity expected to be absorbed by members in future years. The project includes 4 raw water wells (one already constructed) and a deep injection well that reached its total depth of 8,000 feet just the prior week at the time of the presentation. The Water Production Facility itself will begin final design now, with construction beginning in 2029.

Financial Overview and Cost to Bartow

Mr. DeHaven explained that each January the PRWC produces an annual Business Plan, which is required under the organization's master bond resolution. The Business Plan projects anticipated costs to each member over the next 10 years, incorporating updated planning assumptions, and is designed to help members plan for PRWC costs within their own rate studies and financial planning processes. He encouraged all member cities to regularly update their rate studies to account for incoming PRWC costs. He described PRWC's principal funding mechanism: a Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) construction loan of \$262 million covering both the Southeast and West Polk projects. This loan carries a 4 percent interest rate and does not require repayment until 35 years after construction is complete. He also referenced State Revolving Fund (SRF) construction loans at approximately 1 percent interest, which carry a shorter repayment window. He described the strategy of balancing the two loan instruments to allow members to grow into the costs over time as much as possible. Additional funding includes \$52 million in state appropriations and a \$227 million Water Management District grant. In total, the combined financial package for the two projects over approximately 35 years represents a \$796 million program. He walked the Commission through the Business Plan projections. For Fiscal Year 2027, Bartow's projected total payment to the PRWC is \$369,527, broken down as follows:

- \$289,192 in base project costs
- \$2,624 for a newly proposed Conservation Specialist contract position (Bartow's pro-rata share, based on water use, of a \$65,000 total cost for a county-wide conservation specialist)
- \$77,711 set aside for Combined Projects work, including initial efforts on a potential Peace River Reservoir including an executed MOU with Mosaic to evaluate a potential reservoir site on Mosaic property, a water use permit application with the Water Management District for pulling water from the Peace River, and the launch of a regional supply planning process

Mr. DeHaven explained the cost trajectory going forward: a notable jump occurs between FY2028 and FY2029, when the Southeast project begins delivering water

and Bartow begins paying operational costs for that facility. A second jump occurs around FY2032–2033 when the West Polk project comes online and operational costs for that project begin. He emphasized that these costs are directly proportional to the quantity of water each member has subscribed for, which is why larger users like Lakeland and Polk County pay the highest amounts. In closing, Mr. DeHaven said through a true-up process that has been audited by the PRWC's auditor, Mike Brynjelsen, the cooperative has identified approximately \$66,000 in over-collections from Bartow in prior years. This credit will be formally presented at the PRWC's May 20th board meeting and will reduce Bartow's FY2027 payment accordingly.

Commissioner Pfeiffer offered enthusiastic praise for Mr. DeHaven, describing him as a brilliant director and noting that this is one of those areas of expertise that not many people enjoy. She expressed that the PRWC is lucky to have him given the complexity of the subject matter and the many moving parts involved. Commissioner Pfeiffer also noted that she had encouraged Mr. DeHaven to bring this kind of presentation to all member cities, commenting that representatives on the PRWC board who come from various city commissions need to really be aware of the full picture. She pointed out, for example, that Haines City carries a notably high cost in the projections, drawing attention to how significantly subscription levels drive member costs.

Mr. DeHaven acknowledged the Commissioner's comments and noted that he had recently presented it to Winter Haven and Polk County and was scheduled to present to Lake Hamilton the following day. He reiterated his availability and willingness to return to Bartow at any time to answer questions. He also mentioned that a more detailed, approximately 35-page version of the presentation would be sent to the Commission as a reference resource.

3. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Tucker adjourned the meeting at 5:27 p.m.

Mayor Tanya Tucker

ATTEST:

City Clerk Jacqueline Poole

(City Seal)

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CITY OF BARTOW
CITY OF BARTOW CITY COMMISSION
MAYOR'S ART CLUB – STUDENT ART RECEPTION
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026, AT 5:30 PM OR AS SOON THEREAFTER AS POSSIBLE
CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS
450 NORTH WILSON AVE., BARTOW, FL 33830

MINUTES

The City Commission of the City of Bartow met for the Mayor's Art Club Student Art Reception on May 4, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at Bartow City Hall, Commission Chambers, 450 N. Wilson Avenue, Bartow, FL 33830. Notice of this meeting was posted at City Hall, Bartow Public Library, and on the City's website www.cityofbartow.net and Facebook page on April 30, 2026.

1. OPENING COMMENTS FROM MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR

Mayor Tucker called the reception to order at 5:37 p.m.

The attendees were welcomed to the eighth annual Mayor's Art Club Student Art Reception. It was noted that due to the exceptional quality and volume of submissions this year, the judges selected 13 pieces instead of the usual six. The Mayor remarked that the abundance of outstanding artwork made the selection process particularly challenging.

Acknowledgments and thanks were extended to the following contributors and partners: Ms. Beth Cummings and the Polk Arts & Cultural Alliance for their donation of \$50 gift cards for student artist recognition and Mike Patel from the UPS Store for providing discounted printing services on the pieces and for the gift cards for the participating teachers.

It was also announced that the student artists and their selected works would be featured in an upcoming Art-i-facts print magazine and parents were encouraged to be on the lookout for the publication.

2. INTRODUCTION OF MAYOR'S ART CLUB COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The committee members and partner educators were introduced as part of the formal program. The following committee members and city staff were introduced and recognized for their roles in this year's selection process. Jeanette Crowley, Polk County School Board, Beth Cummings, Polk Arts Alliance, Mike Herr, City Manager, Jason Hargrove, PRCA Director, Cheryl Baksh, Bartow CRA and Jacki Poole, City Clerk and following art teachers whose students represented in this year's reception:

- Alana Lewis – Union Academy, Art Teacher
- Julie TerHaar – Bartow High School & IB, Art Teacher
- Jessica Rothbard – Bartow Middle School, Art Teacher

3. **STUDENT AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

Each student's art piece was displayed and identified by title, school, and age. The following student artists were recognized and called forward to receive their awards and for a photo opportunity with the Mayor and Art Teacher. Commissioner Pfeiffer assisted in coordinating the recognition ceremony.

Jesus Cruz	<i>Study of the Head of Menelaus</i>	Summerlin Academy	17
Jesus Cruz	<i>Brown Mule</i>	Summerlin Academy	17
Satiah Moore	<i>The Blooming Turtle</i>	Bartow High School	15
Jailyn Spaulding	<i>Cupcake Dream</i>	Bartow High School	15
Peyton Pawley	<i>My Inner Personality</i>	Bartow High School	16
Lilly Prince	<i>The Visit From Beyond</i>	Bartow High School	16
Isabel Para Giddings	<i>Toucan</i>	Union Academy	14
Isabel Para Giddings	<i>Pixie</i>	Union Academy	14
Isabel Para Giddings	<i>Culture's Home</i>	Union Academy	14
Anagha Surabhi	<i>Seaweed</i>	Union Academy	13
Sophie Gibson	<i>Chongqing at Night</i>	Union Academy	12
Nyasia Baker	<i>Grace Under Light</i>	Bartow Middle School	13
Shalimar Gonzalez	<i>I'm Lookin' at You</i>	Bartow Middle School	13

It was noted that Sophie Gibson's original submission was a small postcard-sized piece, which was enlarged significantly for display and was selected on the merit of its quality.

Partnership Recognition — Bartow Regional Medical Center

Kelly Dawson, Director of Patient Services at Bartow Regional Medical Center, was invited to speak about the hospital's ongoing partnership with the Mayor's Art Club. Ms. Dawson shared that the hospital has displayed student artwork since approximately 2016–2017, with pieces featured throughout both the original and newly constructed sections of the facility. She noted the meaningful impact the artwork has on patients, some of whom recognize the work of their own children or grandchildren displayed in the hospital. A group photograph was taken with the student artists whose works were selected for placement at Bartow Regional Medical Center, including Jesus Cruz, Nyasia Baker, Peyton Pawley, Lilly Prince, Anagha Surabhi and Isabel Para Giddings.

Mayor Tucker closed the event by thanking all artists for their contributions in keeping the city vibrant and beautiful, noting that the selected works would be displayed in City Hall for the coming year.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Mayor Tucker adjourned the meeting at 5:58 p.m.

Mayor Tanya Tucker

ATTEST:

City Clerk Jacqueline Poole
(City Seal)

ITEM NO. 11.d

CITY OF BARTOW, FLORIDA

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Commissioners, City of Bartow City Commission

THROUGH: Mike Herr, City Manager

FROM: Pete Lear, Deputy City Manager

DATE: May 18, 2026

SUBJECT: Assistant City Manager – Community Development and Neighborhood Services

SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

The City Manager has evaluated the current organizational structure of the leadership team and has created a new organization plan as shown in the attached Organization Chart. With this reorganization, departments related to Community Development and Neighborhood Services will be grouped together and report to a City Manager. Similar to the reorganization done earlier in the year for the other Assistant City Manager, a department director will be promoted and not be replaced to reduce the financial impact on the overall City budget. This change will not create an additional position in the City but rather elevate a current position.

STAFF ANALYSIS

The City of Bartow currently has an organizational chart that is being redone to change the reporting structure of several departments. Under the new plan, the Director of Code Compliance and Neighborhood Services will be elevated to Assistant City Manager – Community Development and Neighborhood Services. The director's position will not be replaced. Under the new structure, this position will oversee Building, Planning and Development and Code Compliance and Neighborhood Services. This new structure will combine services that naturally fit together while allowing oversight by one person.

Currently the City has a Deputy City Manager over the internal services of Human Resources, Information Technology, Grants/Risk Management and Finance. There is also an Assistant City Manager – Infrastructure who oversees Public Works, Utilities and Electric. These two positions have been in place but historically oversaw different functions. This new Assistant City Manager position will oversee the Community Development and Neighborhood Services. This allows for departments with similar functions to be under the direction of one person who will then report to the City Manager. Also with this latest reorganization, the oversight of like services allows for a better team aspect for items as they arise.

With this reorganization, the City Manager will still have 10 people reporting directly to him but be presented with more cohesive approaches to items by the Deputy and Assistant City Managers. Also, the City Manager will maintain the departments that most directly affect the community; Fire, Police, Community Redevelopment and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts.

The City will operate more effectively with this and the previous organizational changes. The attached organizational chart allows the departments to be organized in a way that groups

ITEM NO. 11.d

natural teams together in areas of Community Development, Internal Services and Infrastructure. This grouping will allow for ideas from all stakeholders in a specific area to work together rather than in silos. For the two areas overseen by the Assistant City Managers, this allows for better customer service to the public for the same reason. One person can help navigate the community through their entire area without having to send people to multiple departments. As for the City Manager, this will make him more effective as he will be able to spend his time on higher level work and legislative affairs rather than coordinating multiple departments and the day-to-day activities that can be more efficiently handled at the Assistant/Deputy City Manager level. As a result, the City Commission and the Community will be better served.

By assigning the two Assistant City Managers to oversee specific departments, most of which are not in the General Fund, the amount of salary and benefit costs for these two positions being funded by taxpayer dollars is actually decreasing. This reallocation of costs will result in savings to taxpayers of approximately \$215,000 annually for these two positions.

FISCAL IMPACT

This new position will result in an increase in current year's salary and benefits of \$12,275. Funding for this is available in the budget. The annual salary for the position will be \$135,375 based on the current pay plan. Currently the Director salary is covered fully by the General Fund. With this new position, one-third of the salary and benefits will be covered by the Building Fund. This will result in an overall decrease to the General Fund of approximately \$30,000 annually.

RECOMMENDATION

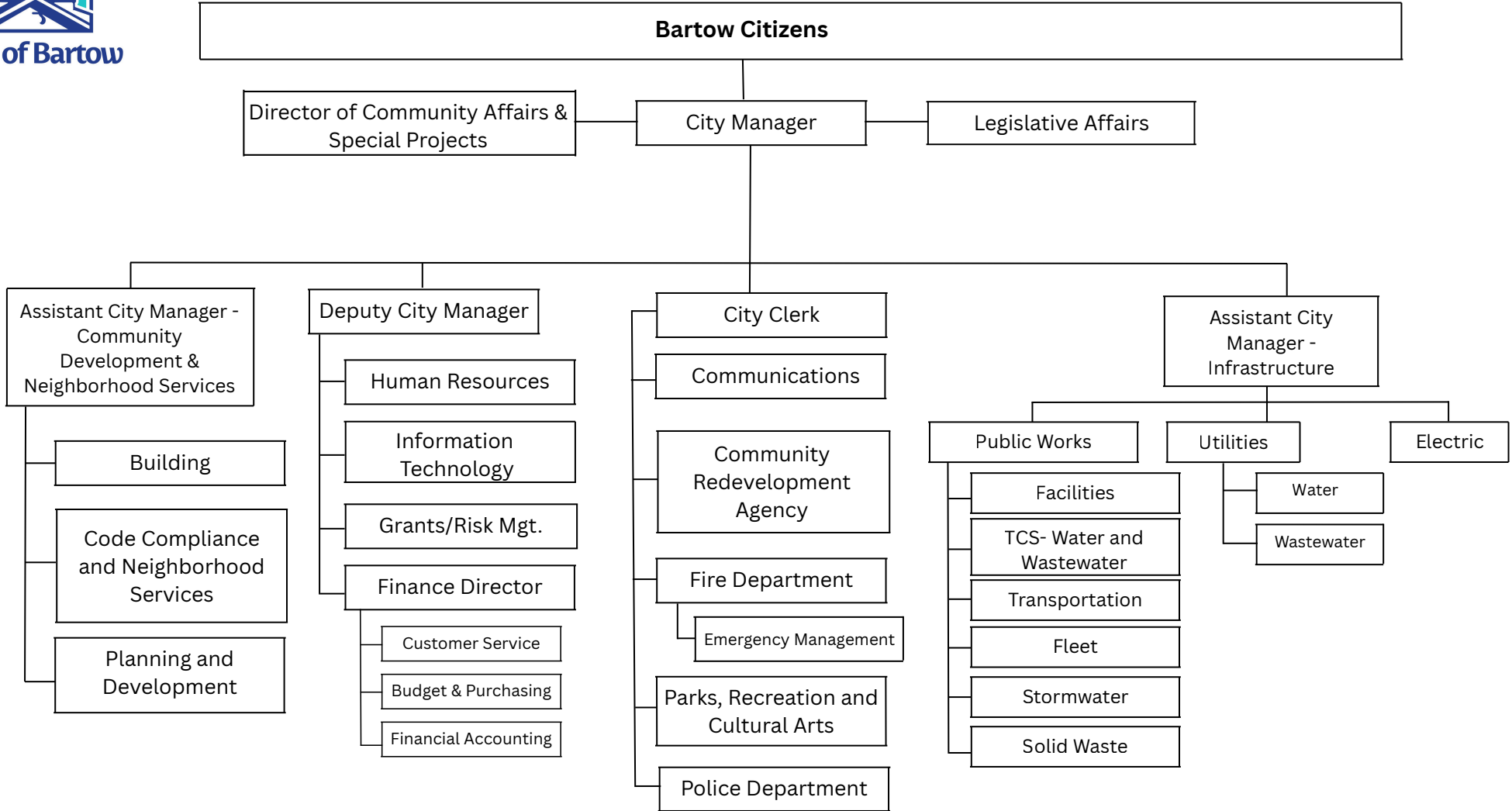
Approval of the new Organizational Chart

ATTACHMENTS

New Organizational Chart



CITY OF BARTOW ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



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ITEM NO. 13(a)

CITY OF BARTOW, FLORIDA

TO: City of Bartow Commission
THROUGH: City Manager Mike Herr
FROM: Public Works Director Billy Groover
DATE: May 18, 2026
SUBJECT: Resolution No. 26-4263-R - Authorization to sell or disposal of surplus or obsolete vehicles and/or equipment

SUMMARY

Request is to authorize the City Manager to sell or dispose of surplus or obsolete vehicles and equipment that no longer serves a purpose.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with section 2-288 of the City of Bartow Code of Ordinances it has been determined that the vehicles and equipment itemized in "Exhibit A" of the resolution have no further use to the City of Bartow.

STAFF ANALYSIS

As a part of the vehicle and equipment replacement program these vehicles have been scheduled and replaced. These vehicles have been turned into fleet by various departments. It was determined that there was no use for them in other city departments. As in the past these units would be advertised and sold at absolute auction.

All items in "Exhibit A" of the resolution have been inspected for safety. Continued maintenance of the vehicles and equipment by the city does not efficiently serve a public purpose.

RECOMMENDATION

- That the Commission authorize the City Manager to sell or dispose of surplus and obsolete vehicles and equipment.

NEXT STEPS

1. Finalize vendor agreements to dispose of surplus equipment.

ATTACHMENTS

- Exhibit A

RESOLUTION NO 26-4263-R

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OF THE CITY OF BARTOW TO SELL OR DISPOSE OF SURPLUS OR OBSOLETE VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BARTOW, FLORIDA:

WHEREAS, the City of Bartow is in possession of surplus and obsolete vehicles and office equipment as described in Exhibit "A"; and

WHEREAS, the surplus and obsolete vehicles and office equipment may retain value in the resale market, such as scrap or in the use of other governmental entities; and

WHEREAS, the continued use and maintenance of the surplus vehicles and office equipment by the City of Bartow does not efficiently serve a public purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Commission hereby authorizes the City Manager to sell or dispose of the surplus and obsolete vehicles and office equipment as described in Exhibit "A".

The appropriate municipal officers are hereby authorized to certify said form on behalf of the City of Bartow.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on the 18th day of May, 2026.

ATTEST:

CITY OF BARTOW

By: _____
Jacqueline Poole, City Clerk

By: _____
Mayor Tanya Tucker

(seal)

Approved as to correctness and form:

Approved as to substance:

By: _____
Sean R. Parker, City Attorney

By: _____
Mike Herr, City Manager

EXHIBIT A

#703 (Police Dept)
2005 Ford F150 2x4
Vin- 1FTRF12235NB39947
Mil-84,849
Asst ID- 001-160

#117 (Golf Course)
2016 John Deere 7400A Mower
Vin- 1TC7400XCEF070039
Hrs.- N/A
Asst ID- 001-4006

#120 (Golf Course)
2019 John Deere Bunker Rake
Vin- 1TC1200AKKT250333
Hrs.- 2307
Asst ID- 001-4017

#1135 (Golf Course)
John Deere 1070 Tractor
Vin- W00440X010013
Hrs.- 7951
Asst ID- N/A

#201 (Public Works)
2005 Ford F150 4x4
Vin- 1FTPX14525NB26814
Mil-94,658
Asst ID- 404-TCS5

#203 (Public Works)
2005 Ford F250
Vin- 1FTNF20545ED06642
Mil- 93,721
Asst ID- 001-203

#212 (Public Works)
2001 Ford F750
Vin- 3FDXF75H31MA64936
Mil- 55,017
Asst ID- 001-23

#218(Public Works)
2005 Ford F150 2x4
Vin- 1FTRF12275NB39949
Mil- 105,985
Asst ID- 001-321

#240 (Public Works)
2008 Chevrolet 3500 Van
Vin- 1GCHG396481132563
Mil- 78,000
Asst ID- 404-TCS3

#241 (Public Works)
2012 Ford F350
Vin- 1FD8W3G64CEC56027
Mil- 90,583
Asst ID- 12-1002

#272 (Public Works)
1995 Ford F800 Dump Truck
Vin- 1FDWF80CXVA78403
Mil- 30,830
Asst ID- 402-7132

#320 (Solid Waste)
2015 Freightliner 114SD Roll Off Garbage Truck
Vin- 1FVHG3DV3GHHS5391
Mil- 202,728
Asst ID- 402-515

#417 (Fire Dept)
1987 Ford F800 Tanker
Vin- 1FDYK87U3HVA63463
Mil-22,295
Asst ID- 103-503

#534 (Parks and Rec)
2005 Chevrolet 1500 2x4
Vin- 1GCEC14V85E273769
Mil-135,986
Asst ID- 001-534

#546 (Parks and Rec)
2006 Sterling Grabber Truck
Vin- 2FZACGD96AV28337
Mil- 113,163
Asst ID- 402-65

#624 (Electric Dept)
2010 Ford F750 Bucket Truck
Vin- 3FRXF7FH6AV264774
Mil- 91,272
Asst ID- 401-90

#659 (Electric Dept)
2004 Ford F150 4x4
Vin- 2FTRF18WX4CA53047
Mil-122,497
Asst ID- 401-15

#705 (Police Dept)
2012 Dodge Charger
Vin- 2C3CDXAG1CH205191
Mil- 96,752
Asst ID- 12-1003

#706 (Police Dept)
2012 Dodge Charger
Vin- 2C3CDXAG3CH205192
Mil- 118,483
Asst ID-12-1004

#707 (Police Dept)
2012 Dodge Charger
Vin- 2C3CDXAG7CH205194
Mil- 96,930
Asst ID-12-1005

#708 (Police Dept)
2012 Dodge Charger
Vin- 2C3CDXAGXCH205190
Mil- 115,129
Asst ID- 12-1006

#709 (Police Dept)
2012 Dodge Charger
Vin- 2C3CDXAG5CH205193
Mil- 88,738
Asst ID- 12-1007

#760 (Police Dept)
2010 Ford Explorer 4x4
Vin- 1FMEU7D83AUA62890
Mil-61,309
Asst ID- 007-580

#798 (Police Dept)
2005 Ford F350 4x4 Flatbed
Vin- 1FDWF37535ED0661
Mil-107,593
Asst ID- 401-632

(Golf Course)
2020 Toro ReelMaster 5510 Mower
Vin- 405304703
Hrs.- N/A
Asst ID- 001-40

#1596 (Parks and Rec)
1996 John Deere Gator
Vin- M04X2SD050344
Hrs- N/A
Asst ID- N/A