



## *City of Naples*

City Council Chamber  
735 Eighth Street South  
Naples, Florida 34102

### **City Council Workshop Meeting – November 17, 2025 – 8:32 a.m.**

It is noted for the record that all: 1) documentation electronically appended hereto is also contained in the file for this meeting with the City Clerk's Office; 2) experts who testified during quasi-judicial hearings were accepted as qualified to do so in their respective fields of expertise; 3) added items are referenced in red as "ADDED ITEM"; and 4) added attachments are referenced in red as "ADDED ATTACHMENT".

#### **1) CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

##### **City Council Members Present**

Teresa Heitmann, Mayor  
Terry Hutchison, Vice Mayor

Berne Barton  
Ray Christman  
Bill Kramer  
Linda Penniman  
Beth Petrunoff

##### **Staff Present:**

Gary Young, City Manager  
Matthew McConnell, City Attorney  
Robert Middleton, Public Works Director

Chad Merritt, Community Services Director  
Michael O'Reilly, Police Lieutenant  
Jessica Rosenberg, Deputy City Clerk

##### **Others Present:**

Patrick Linn  
Jonathan Little  
Donna Adan  
Stephanie Keller  
Louanne Fisher  
Rick Ruppert  
Ralph Alberto  
John Allen  
Michelle Arnold  
John Cross  
Michael Joyce

Craig Kobza  
Michael McCabe  
Greg Melanson  
Michael Schumann  
Peter Weidhorn  
Jay Kohlhagen  
Dr. Richard Schroeder  
Leigh Ferber  
Heidi White  
Anne Psomas

#### **2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Heitmann led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **3) SET AGENDA (add or remove items)**

City Manager Gary Young announced that Item 7A, Discussion of the City's Role in Maintaining Swan Lake Water Quality, will be continued to a future meeting at staff's request. He noted that the current service will be extended for another six months and that staff expects to return with additional information in March or April, 2026.

***MOTION by Christman to SET AGENDA subject to continuing Item 7.A to a future date; seconded by Hutchison and carried 7-0, all member present and voting (Barton-yes, Christman-yes, Hutchison-yes, Kramer-yes, Penniman-yes, Petrunoff-yes, Heitmann-yes).***

#### **4) ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

##### **4.A) Presentation from the Collier Mosquito Control District.**

Patrick Linn, Executive Director of the Collier Mosquito Control District, gave an electronic presentation on District operations, noting its status as an independent special taxing district and that Council Members have been invited to tour the facility.

Executive Director Linn reviewed the District's 75-year history, mission, and structure, emphasizing its role in protecting public health by suppressing disease-carrying and nuisance mosquitoes. He spoke about the recent severe salt-marsh mosquito season and the risks of locally transmitted malaria and dengue.

Executive Director Linn described the District's growth to more than 730 square miles across 11 boundary expansions, funded entirely through ad valorem taxes and governed by a five-member elected board. He said the 1990 campus, damaged during Hurricane Ian, is at the end of its useful life and outlined a long-term master plan: replacing outdated buildings, adding an Immokalee hangar, updating the aerial fleet, including a 2026 SkyCourier, and expanding the drone program.

Executive Director Linn explained that staffing has doubled to support an integrated pest-management model and may grow to 100 employees within a decade. Because the District cannot borrow money, millage increases have been used to save for capital needs. Implementation of the master plan will require coordination among multiple boards.

Executive Director Linn introduced Jonathan Little, Director of External Affairs, who reviewed the District's integrated pest-management strategy and school outreach program, which reached more than 5,300 students last year. He stated that education focuses on science, ecology, and reducing standing water at home.

Director Little explained that surveillance drives all treatment decisions. He said technicians perform daily landing-rate counts and respond to resident complaints with on-site inspections. The expanded research lab now tests mosquito pools in-house within 24–48 hours, he noted, enabling rapid response. He added that recent samples showed no disease. Increased larvicide and annual research projects further strengthen prevention, he claimed.

Director Little reviewed biological controls, including free native mosquito fish and *Bacillus Thuringiensis israelensis* (BTI), a soil bacterium toxic only to mosquito and blackfly larvae. BTI is environmentally friendly, he noted, but too costly for large, protected areas. For adult control, he emphasized that aerial treatments require documented elevated mosquito counts and are regulated by the Florida Department of Agriculture. Ultra-low-volume applications use less than half an ounce per acre and break down quickly.

Director Linn noted mosquitoes can mature in under a week and recommended rinsing containers every three days and using BTI. He explained that lands such as Big Cypress and Picayune lie outside District boundaries and are not treated. He confirmed that all products are regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), with no reported cases of pesticide poisoning. Executive Director Linn added that small parcels generally cannot be excluded from aerial treatment because gaps reduce effectiveness. Only 12 to 15 of the County's 60 mosquito species pose human risks and are targeted, he remarked. He also noted that Malathion and Dibrom are restricted-use pesticides applied only by licensed staff, with strict state reporting, inspections, thresholds, and post-treatment verification.

Executive Director Linn emphasized the essential role of the Naples Airport in enabling large-scale aerial treatments, up to 30,000 acres per mission, and said relocating operations away from an airport would hinder effectiveness. He reviewed facility needs and confirmed that the NAA Board of Commissioners unanimously supported entering lease-extension negotiations. He said

the District's current facilities include a 6,000 square foot administrative building, a 23,000 square foot hangar, about 2,000 square feet of pesticide storage, and 15,000–20,000 square feet of vehicle storage. With staffing expected to reach 100, he said facilities must expand. He noted that an earlier plan to relocate to Immokalee under a 40-year lease was abandoned when construction estimates rose from \$20 million to \$60 million.

Executive Director Linn explained that the District now plans to replace its Naples facilities in phases, starting with a new two-story, 16,000 square foot administrative and laboratory building, estimated to cost just under \$8 million. He said a downsized Immokalee hangar will support operations while the Naples hangar is rebuilt. He noted that the District's millage rate is 0.1349, and the operating budget is just under \$20 million. He concluded by stating that since borrowing is not allowed, long-term planning and reserves are essential, and a 30-year lease extension is needed to justify new construction.

## **5) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Donna Adan** expressed concerns about widespread pesticide spraying, noting that mosquitoes play ecological roles and that some pesticides used in mosquito control are classified as carcinogens. She questioned whether decades of chemical treatments have reduced mosquito populations and argued that treating rare disease cases directly would be more logical than spraying entire communities. She urged the City to pursue environmentally responsible alternatives. **Stephanie Keller** stated that aerial spraying disrupts ecological balance and that Dibrom is banned in the EU and listed as a carcinogen. She added that immunity comes from natural exposure, not chemicals. She also noted disappointment that her 14-year-old son felt dismissed when speaking at a Mosquito Control Board meeting. She requested the ability to opt out of aerial spraying. **Louanne Fisher**, a Naples resident since 1980, questioned the continued reliance on pesticides first approved in 1959, noting that scientific understanding and health research evolve over time. She urged exploration of safer mosquito-control methods and raised concerns about ecological impacts, including effects on pollinators and declining dragonfly populations. She requested the ability to opt out of aerial spraying. **Rick Rupert**, former Naples Airport Authority (NAA) Board Member, spoke about the upcoming Naples Airport Authority (NAA) Board appointments. He read from sections outlining the Board's duties, including maintaining airport facilities and accepting federal and state grants. Mr. Rupert urged the City Council to appoint qualified commissioners committed to fulfilling these statutory responsibilities.

## **6) BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

### **6.A) Interview 11 Applicants for the Naples Airport Authority.**

Deputy City Clerk Jessica Rosenberg introduced the item and noted that ten applicants would be interviewed for appointment on the Naples Airport Authority (NAA). She noted that one applicant, Mike Manginelli, had withdrawn his application.

Before interviews began, Council Member Petrunoff questioned the City's ranking system for selecting NAA Commissioners, arguing that it can produce a winner without four clear affirmative votes and may conflict with the intent of the Airport Authority Act. She proposed replacing rankings with a simple public vote, with each Council Member naming a top choice followed by open discussion and a formal vote.

Mayor Heitmann and City Attorney McConnell clarified that rankings are optional and not legally required, and that any method is acceptable as long as the final appointment receives the required majority vote. Several Council Members agreed the topic deserves discussion but said it should not be decided that day, noting concerns about past rankings and suggesting the issue be revisited during a future procedural review.

The following applicants were subsequently interviewed: Ralph Alberto; John Allen (former Naples Airport Authority member); Michelle Arnold; John Cross (former Planning Advisory Board member); Michael Joyce; Craig Kobza; Michael McCabe (former City Council Member); Greg Melanson; Michael Schumann; and Peter Weidhorn.

After the conclusion of the interviews, Deputy City Clerk Rosenberg stated that appointments were scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, 2025.

[Agenda Memorandum](#)

[Airport Authority - Alberto, Ralph](#)

[Airport Authority - Allen, John](#)

[Airport Authority - Arnold, Michelle](#)

[Airport Authority - Cross, John](#)

[Airport Authority - Joyce, Michael](#)

[Airport Authority - Kobza, Craig](#)

[Airport Authority - Manginelli, Mike](#)

[Airport Authority - McCabe, Michael](#)

[Airport Authority - Melanson, Greg](#)

[Airport Authority - Schumann, Michael](#)

[Airport Authority - Weidhorn, Peter](#)

[Airport Authority Act](#)

## **7) DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **7.A) Discussion of the City's Role in Maintenance Activities of Swan Lake Water Quality.**

Item continued to a later date.

[Agenda Memorandum](#)

[Presentation](#)

### **7.B) A Discussion Providing Direction for a Request for a Private Resident to Install a Seawall at 32nd Avenue South Public Beach Access to Connect Two Private Seawalls on the North and South Residential Properties.**

City Manager Gary Young introduced the item and stated that a private property owner had requested permission to install a seawall at the 32nd Avenue South beach end to connect the two existing private seawalls to the north and south. He said the item was brought to the City Council because of potential liability issues and because staff requires direction before negotiating any terms or redesigning existing beach-access plans. He said the purpose of the workshop discussion was to determine whether the City Council wished staff to continue evaluating the proposal.

Community Services Director Chad Merritt utilized an electronic presentation to show that construction at the 32nd Avenue South beach access had been paused after staff learned of the resident's seawall request. He said the access is currently used for beach-rake entry, emergency-vehicle access, and sand-haul operations, and that staff reviewed alternatives should the seawall make vehicular access impossible. He said 33rd Avenue South can serve as an alternate access point and requires only minor adjustments to accommodate maintenance and emergency vehicles. He stated that connecting the two private seawalls would eliminate the existing gap at 32nd Avenue South and reduce storm-surge velocity during future events, thereby protecting the newly reconstructed beach access and adjacent roadway.

Public Works Director Robert Middleton stated that water entering the gap between seawalls increases surge velocity and damage potential. He said constructing a continuous seawall at a consistent elevation would reduce wave energy, even if overtopping occurs. He said the proposed seawall would not prevent public pedestrian access and would not reduce the number of beach-parking spaces.

In response to Mayor Heitmann, Community Services Director Merritt said design details, such as whether access ramps or stairs would be included, will be determined once the City Council directs staff to pursue the seawall concept.

In response to Council Members Christman and Kramer, Public Works Director Middleton and Community Services Director Merritt explained that the concept envisions a mid-block seawall on 32nd Avenue South, at a height to be determined, with safe pedestrian beach access and beach parking preserved. Community Services Director Merritt added that 33rd Avenue South would

serve as the access point for City beach maintenance and County renourishment, while still allowing resident and visitor access and parking, with only a possible loss of one space to accommodate emergency or maintenance needs. He stated that pedestrians would continue to use 32nd Avenue South for beach access, 33rd Avenue South would become the designated vehicular access point, all detailed design elements, including seawall height, would return to the City Council, and any approved seawall would be privately funded.

In response to Council Member Petrunoff, Public Works Director Middleton confirmed that the connected seawall would not compromise the proposed roadway seawall, noting that each wall uses individual tiebacks and that coordinated construction would not weaken the system. He said the design would not impair the City's future resiliency measures.

***Consensus reached to direct staff to proceed with a study to install a privately funded seawall at the 32nd Avenue South Public Beach Access to connect two private seawalls on the north and south residential properties.***

City Manager Young stated that staff will return with detailed design information, including seawall height and access configuration, and will report on the number of seawalls previously constructed north of the Port Royal Club. He said additional review is necessary before staff undertakes further design work.

[Agenda Memorandum](#)

[Picture of Public Accesses](#)

**7.C) A Discussion and Direction on Safety Barriers at Cambier Park and Public Streets to Enhance Security for Public Usage and Special Events.**

City Manager Gary Young introduced the item and stated that staff was seeking direction on vehicle-barrier options at Cambier Park, 5th Avenue South, and 3rd Street South and suggested treating them as three related but separate efforts. He said staff needed to know whether the City Council wanted formal concepts and designs, pilot installations, or integration into future streetscape and playground projects.

Community Services Director Chad Merritt utilized an electronic presentation that showed that Cambier Park hosts about 125 events per year in roughly 50,000 square feet of open turf in front of the bandshell and that this space directly abuts streets and parking with no fixed protection from vehicles. He noted that 5th Avenue South and 3rd Street South host similar high-attendance events and that all three locations share the same exposure to accidental or intentional vehicle intrusion. He said current safety measures rely on temporary street closures, barricades, and parked trucks, which are labor-intensive and costly. He stated that staff's proposed enhancements include revising the City's event manuals, managing crowd sizes, standardizing barricade types, improving security plans, and installing fixed safety barriers. He said potential barriers include crash-rated bollards, large planters, and low walls designed to stop a box truck traveling at approximately 30 miles per hour. He estimated that protecting Cambier Park would require installing barriers at roughly 250 points, with a preliminary cost of \$800,000 to \$1 million, pending full engineering and architectural design. He stated that on public streets, staff and the Naples Police Department favor removable, sleeve-mounted bollards over in-ground retractable systems because of electrical, maintenance, and salt-water concerns. He said removable bollards can be installed by two staff members and would reduce reliance on heavy temporary barriers.

Lieutenant Michael O'Reilly, Naples Police Department, stated that streets only become event spaces when they are formally closed, while Cambier Park functions as an event space much of the time and currently has no fixed mitigation for vehicle intrusion. He said Department of Homeland Security guidance supports fixed or semi-fixed barriers for recurring high-density pedestrian areas and that appropriately engineered walls, planters, or bollards could all meet crash-rating requirements. He stated that designated access points with removable bollards would be staffed during events so emergency vehicles can be quickly accommodated.

City Council Member Christman offered that Cambier Park functions as the City's "central park" and that any barrier system must be aesthetically pleasing and welcoming. He asked staff to research creative examples from other cities, including low walls and integrated planters, and emphasized balancing safety, aesthetics, and event affordability so that increased security demands do not unintentionally eliminate valued community events.

Lieutenant O'Reilly stated that crash-rated barriers at Cambier Park would substantially reduce or eliminate perimeter street closures and rental barricade needs, lowering recurring security costs that can reach at least \$2,500 per four-hour period for larger events. He said interior security staffing would still be required.

Mayor Heitmann stated that public-safety improvements should not be delayed and that barrier designs should favor bollards and planters that allow bikes and strollers and minimize maintenance, noting potential graffiti and upkeep concerns with continuous walls.

Vice Mayor Hutchison stated that he supports effective, visually appropriate barriers and cautioned that removable systems will require ongoing maintenance due to storm surge and corrosion. He stated that the City Council should select systems that represent a prudent long-term use of public funds.

City Manager Young stated that staff will return with separate, more detailed concepts for Cambier Park, 5th Avenue South, and 3rd Street South, including crash-rated options, costs, and potential funding and cost-sharing approaches, and that a street pilot program may be presented first. He said Cambier Park designs would be coordinated with the forthcoming playground project.

***Consensus reached to direct staff to proceed with design and concept development for safety barriers at Cambier Park and to evaluate removable-barrier and pilot options for 5th Avenue South and 3rd Street South, emphasizing public safety, aesthetics, and fair cost allocation.***

#### [Agenda Memorandum Presentation](#)

### **8) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Jay Kohlhausen** stated that pesticide exposure increases Parkinson's risk and asserted that aerial blanket spraying of Dibrom is unnecessary and harmful. He said that most people bitten by disease-carrying mosquitoes recover quickly and that safer technologies, including targeted systems and larval surfactants, should replace aerial spraying. **Dr. Richard Schroeder** stated that organophosphate compounds such as Dibrom originated as nerve agents and continue to pose risks by inhibiting cholinesterase. He said he believes aerial spraying violates informed consent rights of residents. **Leigh Ferber** stated that organophosphate exposure is now associated with reproductive harm, including reduced sperm motility and disrupted calcium signaling. She said chronic chemical accumulation compromises long-term health and encouraged the City Council to review literature questioning mosquito-borne-disease causation. **Anne Psomas** stated that residents cannot opt out of aerial spraying and that Dibrom's safety data sheets warn against contact with food, water, and skin. She said many ingredients are listed as "trade secrets," making full risk assessment impossible. She stated that residents, particularly those on well water, have reported symptoms after spraying and urged natural mosquito-control alternatives. **Heidi White** stated that Dibrom is banned in several countries and that it contradicts mosquito control's stated mission to "contribute to health." She said aerial spraying affects residents, tourists, wildlife, and locally grown food. She described her personal experience with cancer and the loss of a pet and stated that mosquito spraying occurs frequently in her community. She asked the District to pursue safer, internationally adopted alternatives.

### **9) COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL, AND STAFF**

Council Member Kramer stated that concerns about Dibrom aerial spraying are separate from the agenda item on Mosquito Control District facility rehabilitation and that Council Members can support facility repairs while still questioning spraying practices.

Council Member Kramer said State Representative Adan Botana is willing to meet to discuss potential changes to pending Naples Airport Authority (NAA) legislation and stated that he favors keeping lines of communication open. He noted that the bill is not going away and said the City should remain open to meeting so it is never viewed as closing the door on constructive dialogue. He noted the City already has lobbyists and attorneys engaged but saw no reason not to speak with the legislator if he is requesting discussions. City Attorney McConnell said meetings are already occurring and asked the City Council to provide any potential amendments they would consider so lobbyists have direction.

Council Member Christman said Representative Botana had also returned his call and expressed interest in meeting. He supported routing any proposed amendments through the City Attorney and the City's lobbyist and noted that the City Council's NAA appointments may influence the legislative conversation.

Council Member Petrunoff stated that she supports continued dialogue and providing amendment ideas through the City Attorney but does not believe City appointments alone will significantly affect the bill's outcome. In addition, she noted the emergence of new personal-use mosquito-control technologies that use laser detection and targeting, adding that she has researched them for her own use.

Vice Mayor Hutchison stated that negotiations should be coordinated through the City Attorney and lobbyist, and that the City Council should avoid undercutting professional efforts by pursuing separate, informal strategies.

Mayor Heitmann stated that she views the bill as a Home-Rule concern, that the City has already retained a lobbyist and legal counsel, and that any meeting strategy with state legislators should be coordinated with them.

City Attorney Matthew McConnell requested permission to order title and encumbrance reports when needed, typically \$250 to \$500, through the City Manager; the City Council voiced no objection.

City Attorney McConnell noted that Comprehensive Plan Policy 71.2 calls for quarterly joint meetings between the Naples Airport Authority and the City Council to review the airport budget and development. He asked for direction to work with the City Manager and Naples Airport Authority staff to schedule quarterly meetings, possibly aligned with existing City Council dates. The City Council agreed in concept while asking staff to manage time impacts.

City Manager Young reported ongoing, positive communication with State Senator Kathleen Passidomo, State Representatives Yvette Benarroch and Representative Botana regarding the City's legislative priorities and appropriation requests, stating that those legislators are expected to sponsor the City's requests. He said he is also preparing fiscal impact information for proposed statewide property-tax changes.

Mayor Heitmann asked staff to further research aerial blanket spraying of Dibrom, including health, environmental, and opt-out issues, and report back to the City Council; no member objected. She also asked for a clearer long-term repair plan for 2nd Avenue South between 5th Avenue South and 8th Street South, stating that current conditions remain uneven.

Mayor Heitmann noted that recent NAA minutes show that landing-fee and other revenue options suggested by the City Council were not pursued, and she stated this should be discussed with the NAA at a future joint meeting, especially after new the NAA members are appointed.

## **10) ADJOURNMENT**

6:04 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teresa Lee Heitmann, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patricia L. Rambosk, City Clerk

Meeting clerked by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Rosenberg, Deputy City Clerk

Minutes prepared by:  
David Horton, Executive Assistant

Minutes Approved: 12/10/2025.