



City of Naples

City Council Chamber
735 Eighth Street South
Naples, Florida 34102

City Council Special Meeting – April 6, 2026 – 1:01 p.m.

It is noted for the record that all documentation electronically appended hereto is also contained in the file for this meeting with the City Clerk's Office.

1) CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

City Council Members Present:
Ted Blankenship, Vice Mayor

Berne Barton
Bill Kramer
John Krol
Linda Penniman
Scott Schultz

City Council Members Absent:
Teresa Heitmann, Mayor

Staff Present:
Gary Young, City Manager

Andrew Dickman, Assistant City Attorney
Jessica Hernandez, Deputy City Clerk

Others Present:

Odelsa Dickman

Charissa Dines

2) INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Mayor Blankenship gave an invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) SET AGENDA

No changes.

4) ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

None.

5) NEW BUSINESS

5.A) Executive Session regarding Naples Pride v. City of Naples, et al, Case No. 2025-CV-00291-JES-KCD, United States District Court, Middle District of Florida, Fort Myers Division.

Assistant City Attorney Andrew Dickman announced that City Council would enter an Executive Session for case styled Naples Pride v. City of Naples, et al, Case No. 2025-CV-00291-JES-KCD, United States District Court, Middle District of Florida, Fort Myers Division. The following individuals were in attendance during the Executive Session: Vice Mayor Blankenship; Council Members Kramer, Penniman, Barton, Krol, and Schultz; City Manager Gary Young; Assistant City Attorney Andrew Dickman, Attorney Odelsa Dickman, and Court Reporter Charissa Dines, Dines Court Reporting.

Executive Session: 1:05 p.m. to 1:43 p.m. It is noted for the record that the same Council Members were present when the meeting reconvened.

[Agenda Memorandum](#)  [Public Notice](#) 

5.B) Any Action Taken After Executive Session in , et al, Case No. 2025-CV-00291-JES-KCD, United States District Court, Middle District of Florida, Fort Myers Division.

Council Member Kramer proffered a motion, which was seconded by Barton, that the law firm of Cooper & Kirk, PLLC, assume the lead counsel defense role, with coordination and guidance from the City Attorney's Office, in Naples Pride v. City of Naples, and that the law firm of Roper, Townsend, & Sutphen, P.A., shall withdraw from the case effective immediately.

Public Comment: Dane Senser, Donna Adan, and Jay Kohlhausen each expressed their views on the Naples Pride Event.

MOTION by Kramer that the law firm of Cooper & Kirk, PLLC, assume the lead counsel defense role, with coordination and guidance from the City Attorney's Office, in the case styled Naples Pride v. City of Naples, and that Roper, Townsend, & Sutphen, P.A., shall withdraw from the case effective immediately; seconded by Barton and carried 6-0 (Barton-yes, Kramer-yes, Krol-yes, Penniman-yes, Schultz-yes, Blankenship-yes, Heitmann-absent).

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

7) ADJOURNMENT

1:54 p.m.

Teresa Lee Heitmann, Mayor

Patricia L. Rambosk, City Clerk

Minutes prepared by:

Jessica Hernandez, Deputy City Clerk

Minutes Approved: 4/15/2026.