



City of Naples

City Council Chamber
735 Eighth Street South
Naples, Florida 34102

City Council Regular Meeting – May 6, 2026 – 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; and 3) added attachments are referenced in red as "ADDED ATTACHMENT".

1) CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

City Council Members Present

Teresa Heitmann, Mayor
Ted Blankenship, Vice Mayor

Berne Barton
Bill Kramer
John Krol
Linda Penniman
Scott Schultz

Staff Present:

Gary Young, City Manager
Chad Merritt, Community Services Director
Erica Martin, Planning Director
Charlotte Loewel Human Resources Director
Amy Foster, Benefits Administrator
Russell Thomas, Employee & Labor Relations Mgr.
George Yilmaz, Assistant City Manager /
Director of Critical Infrastructure
Carmen Hernandez, Records and Fiscal Manager
Stephanie McMillion, Administrative Coordinator
Yolence Villagomez, Human Resources Coordinator
Aaron Hopkins, Deputy Director Community Services
Danielle Futia, Special Events and Marketing Manager

Matthew McConnell, City Attorney
Patricia Rambosk, City Clerk
Daniel Ohrenstein, City Engineer
Alison Bickett, Deputy City Engineer
Sean Phillips, Master Officer
Michael Harmeling, Police Sergeant
Ciro Dominguez, Police Chief
Jessica Rosenberg, Deputy City Clerk
Jessica Hernandez, Deputy City Clerk
Ali Duran, Executive Assistant
Dave Horton, Executive Assistant
Ashley Simek, Talent Acquisition Manager
Karyn Nako, Human Resources Generalist

Others Present:

Mark Caldwell
Andre Ferdinand
Patrick O'Connor
Nammie Ichilov
Daniel Kowal
Golda Trantham
Erin Weiner
John Feehan

PJ Coleman
Heather Bow
Melissa Cintra
Lodge McKee
Michelle Arnold
Laura DeJohn
Josh Hildebrand
Frank Verpoorten
Dennis Bolden

2) INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pastor Dr. Mark Caldwell, North Naples Church, gave an invocation. Council Member Schultz subsequently led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) SET AGENDA (add or remove items)

City Manager Gary Young noted that a supplement was issued updating Item 7.M, a Resolution approving the demolition of the building located at 160 through 190 10th Street North, and Item

13.A, a discussion item regarding Traffic Study policy changes. He further advised that Item 14.E, an announcement of an Executive Session, would be added to that day's agenda.

MOTION by Penniman to SET THE AGENDA subject to adding Item 14.E (Announcement of Executive Session); seconded by Barton and unanimously carried, all members present and voting (Barton-yes, Blankenship-yes, Kramer-yes, Krol-yes, Penniman-yes, Schultz-yes, Heitmann-yes).

4) ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

4.A) Do the Right Thing and Presentation of the Newberry Memorial Scholarship.

Master Officer Sean Phillips recognized the following Do the Right Thing (DTRT) Program sponsors, whose contributions increased that year's Newberry Scholarship award from \$1,000 to \$2,500: PJ Coleman of the Naples Gators, Heather Bow of Park Cosmetic Dentistry, the Marvell family, the Sunderland family, and Patrick and Brenda O'Connor. Master Officer Phillips noted that remaining funds would help sustain scholarship funding in future years.

Council Member Kramer reflected on the life and legacy of Marc Newberry, highlighting his contributions and the significance of the Memorial Scholarship established in his honor. A video presentation featuring Marc Newberry was subsequently shared.

Master Officer Phillips announced that the recipient of the Marc Newberry Memorial Scholarship was Andre Ferdinand of Naples High School, recognizing his leadership, volunteer service, and involvement with Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He noted that Mr. Ferdinand was selected to wear retired jersey number 13, previously worn by Rusty Rabbel, a distinction not awarded to a Naples High School player since 1998. Master Officer Phillips further announced that Mr. Ferdinand would continue his academic and athletic career at Princeton University.

Patrick O'Connor, Chair of the DTRT Board, thanked Police Chief Ciro Dominguez for his continued support and noted that the program had recognized more than 250 young adults over its 14-year history.

Chief Ciro Dominguez expressed appreciation to John and Kathy Feehan for their \$75,000 donation for a specially equipped Community Policing Unit vehicle, as referenced in Item 7.A, noting that the contribution reflected the strong partnership between the Police Department and the community. Mr. Feehan stated that his wife had recently completed the Citizens Police Academy and that the family was honored to support the Department's ongoing work.

4.B) Proclamation for Municipal Clerks Week.

Mayor Heitmann read a proclamation designating May 3 through May 9, 2026, as the 57th Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week. City Clerk Patricia Rambosk accepted the proclamation, thanked the Council, and recognized City Clerk's Office staff and prior City Clerks who have served the City. Deputy City Clerks Jessica Rosenberg and Jessica Hernandez, Records and Fiscal Manager Carmen Hernandez, Executive Assistants Ali Duran and Dave Horton, and Administrative Coordinator Stephanie McMillion were also present.

[Timeline of City Clerks \(Staff/Added Attachment\)](#)  [Proclamation \(Staff/Added Attachment\)](#) 

4.C) Proclamation for Public Service Recognition Week.

Mayor Heitmann read a proclamation designating May 3 through May 9, 2026, as Public Service Recognition Week. Human Resources Director Charlotte Loewel accepted the proclamation, recognized her staff, and acknowledged the work of employees across all departments. Human Resources Director Loewel also thanked City Manager Gary Young for his leadership and support in organizing that week's employee recognition events. Benefits Administrator Amy Foster, Labor and Employee Relations Manager Russell Thomas, Talent Acquisition Manager Ashley Simek, Human Resources Generalist Karyn Nako, and Human Resources Coordinator Yolence Villagomez were also present.

[Proclamation \(Staff/Added Attachment\)](#) 

4.D) Proclamation for Jewish American Heritage Month.

Mayor Heitmann presented a proclamation recognizing May 2026 as Jewish American Heritage Month. Nammie Ichilov, President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Naples, accepted the proclamation and stated that it reflected the City's commitment to ensuring all members of the community feel recognized and supported. She then extended gratitude to Police Chief Ciro Dominguez and the Naples Police Department for their ongoing commitment to the safety and security of all residents.

[Proclamation \(Staff/Added Attachment\)](#)

4.E) Update from Chairman, District 4 County Commissioner, Mr. Daniel Kowal.

District 4 Collier County Commissioner Daniel Kowal utilized an electronic presentation to provide a map of county development activity and initiatives affecting areas within District 4 and adjacent to the City. He discussed the potential impact of the Live Local Act along commercial corridors such as Davis Boulevard and Airport Road, noting that recent revisions now permit qualifying residential development within Planned Unit Developments (PUD), although no nearby projects have yet materialized.

Commissioner Kowal also provided updates on several major projects, including ongoing litigation related to the Naples Grande aquatic amenity project, the JW Marriott expansion, Brookside stormwater improvements, Bayview Park redesign efforts, and the Alico Corkscrew Village project, which includes significant land preservation intended to support Florida panther migration corridors.

Discussion ensued regarding tourism impacts, development coordination, stormwater, water quality, transportation, boating safety, and cross-border infrastructure impacts. City Manager Gary Young noted that a joint City-County meeting was being planned for the fall. Commissioner Kowal also highlighted the County's establishment of a northern marine patrol substation to improve boating enforcement and emergency response times.

[District 4 Map \(Kowal/Added Attachment\)](#)

5) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Golda Trantham, honorary chairperson of the Woody Williams Foundation and Chairperson of the Naples Gold Star Families Foundation, requested that the City Council consider approval of a Gold Star Family Memorial in Cambier Park, noting prior support from the Veterans Council and its connection to the nation's 250th Anniversary Celebration. Mayor Heitmann acknowledged the request and noted that informational packets had been distributed to Council Members. Erin Weiner addressed the City Council on behalf of Autism Collier Resource Center founder Stephanie Norton regarding the City's elimination of the River Park inclusive teen program. She expressed concern regarding the impact on families with children with significant disabilities and supported consideration of a dedicated adaptive recreation program. In response, Council Member Kramer stated that the City's concerns related to liability and staffing requirements for participants and noted that alternative placements had been arranged. Mayor Heitmann stated that she would coordinate a meeting with the school system and community organizations to further discuss programming needs. Melissa Cintra was not present when called.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Penniman to APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA; seconded by Blankenship and unanimously carried, all members present and voting (Barton-yes, Blankenship-yes, Kramer-yes, Krol-yes, Penniman-yes, Schultz-yes, Heitmann-yes).

6) MINUTES

6.A) Approval of the April 1, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes and the April 13, 2026 Workshop Meeting Minutes.

[Agenda Memorandum](#) [April 1, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes](#)

[April 13, 2026 Workshop Meeting Minutes](#)

7) RESOLUTIONS

- 7.A) **RESOLUTION 2026-15848** - A Resolution Accepting a Cash Donation in the Amount of \$75,000 from John and Kathy Feehan for the Purchase of a Specially Equipped Vehicle, Necessary Equipment and Supplies for use in the Naples Police Department's Community Policing Unit; Amending the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Adopted by Resolution 2025-15701 by Appropriating Funds from the Donation Account - Naples Police Department; authorizing the Expenditure of Donated Funds for the Purchase of a Specially Equipped Vehicle, Necessary Equipment, and Supplies; Authorizing the City Manager to Issue Purchase Orders; and providing an Effective Date.

Title of the Resolution not read.

[Agenda Memorandum](#)  [Resolution](#)  [Feehan Donation Letter](#) 
[2025-15701 Resolution - FY2025-26 Adopted Budget](#) 
[Resolution 15-13730 Naples Donation Policy](#) 

- 7.B) **RESOLUTION 2026-15849** - A Resolution Approving a Settlement in Ureche, Cristina v. City of Naples, 20th Judicial Circuit Court, Case No. 24-CA-002183; Authorizing the City Manager to Execute All Necessary Documents; Providing for Scrivener's Errors; and Providing an Effective Date.

Title of the Resolution not read.

[Agenda Memorandum](#)  [Resolution](#)  [General Release](#) 

- 7.C) **RESOLUTION 2026-15850** - A Resolution Approving a Settlement in Bruner, Gregory v. City of Naples, Office of the Judge of Compensation Claims, OJCC Case Number 25-0029649JAW; Authorizing the City Manager to Execute All Necessary Documents; Providing for Scrivener's Errors; and Providing an Effective Date.

Title of the Resolution not read.

[Agenda Memorandum](#)  [Resolution](#)  [Settlement Agreement](#) 

- 7.D) **RESOLUTION 2026-15851** - A Resolution Approving an Independent Contractor's Services Agreement Between the City of Naples and Visualscape, Inc., a Florida Corporation, for Planting, Maintaining, and Warranting New Trees and Palms Within the City Rights-of-Way, Medians, and Parks (ITB 26-022) in the Amount Not-to-Exceed \$300,000; Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Independent Contractor's Services Agreement; and Providing an Effective Date.

Title of the Resolution not read.

[Agenda Memorandum](#)  [Resolution](#) 
[Independent Contractor's Services Agreement](#) 

- 7.E) **RESOLUTION 2026-15852** - A Resolution Approving a First Amendment to a Professional Services "Piggyback" Agreement Between the City of Naples and John To Go FL LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, Increasing the Annual Amount \$100,000 for Increased Capacity Services to an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$150,000 for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and the total Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$150,000 for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 for Portable Toilet Rental and Services Using the Collier County ITB No. 22-8009; Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the First Amendment to Professional Services "Piggyback" Agreement; and Providing an Effective Date.

Title of the Resolution not read.

[Agenda Memorandum](#)  [Resolution](#)  [First Amendment "Piggyback" Agreement](#) 

- 7.F) **RESOLUTION 2026-15853** - A Resolution Approving a Construction Agreement Between the Board of County Commissioners of Collier County, the City of Naples and Wright Construction Group, to Provide Construction Services for the Joint Stormwater and Utility Improvement Projects for Big Cypress Golf Estates and Country Club of Naples (Secondary Drainage And Water Main Replacement), in the Amount of \$2,503,202.79; Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Contract; and Providing an Effective Date.

Title of the Resolution not read.

[Agenda Memorandum](#)  [Resolution](#) 

[Interlocal Agreement 2023 and Resolution 2023-1526](#)

[Three Party Construction Agreement](#)

- 7.G) **RESOLUTION 2026-15854** - A Resolution Approving a Task Order with Bowman Gulf Coast, LLC, DBA: Hole Montes, a Bowman Company, a Florida Limited Liability Company, to Provide Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI) and Construction Administration (CA) Services for the Big Cypress Golf Estates and Country Club of Naples Water Main Replacement, in the Amount of \$139,760.40, in Accordance with the Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act; Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Task Order; and Providing an Effective Date.

Title of the Resolution not read.

[Agenda Memorandum](#) [Resolution](#) [Task Order](#)

[Interlocal Agreement 2023 and Resolution No. 2023-15260](#)

- 7.H) **RESOLUTION 2026-15855** - A Resolution Waiving Competitive Bidding Requirements and Approving a Contractor Agreement Between the City of Naples and SMARSH, INC., an Oregon Corporation, for Continuing Professional Archive Capturing Services Through March 18, 2027 in the Annual Amount of \$14,997.98, With an Option of Three (3) One-year Renewals; Repealing Resolution 2026-15824; Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Revised Contractor Agreement; and Providing an Effective Date.

Title of the Resolution not read.

[Agenda Memorandum](#) [Resolution](#) [Agreement](#)

- 7.I) **RESOLUTION 2026-15856** - A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Purchase Order Utilizing the Current Piggyback Agreement with W.W. Grainger Inc., an Illinois Corporation, Authorized to Conduct Business in Florida, Pursuant to the Florida Department of Management Services Contract No. 31160000-25-NASPO-ACS for the Purchase of 1,410 Eight and a Half-Foot Metal Barricades in the Amount of \$179,111.83; and Providing an Effective Date.

Title of the Resolution not read.

[Agenda Memorandum](#) [Resolution](#) [Quote - W.W. Grainger Inc.](#)

[Piggyback Contract - W.W. Grainger, Inc. - 2025-00071](#)

[Florida Department of Management Services Contract No. 31160000-25-NASPO-ACS](#)

- 7.J) **RESOLUTION 2026-15857** - A Resolution Selecting Kimley-Horn And Associates, Inc., A North Carolina Corporation, As The Top-Ranked And Most Qualified Engineering Firm To Provide Professional Services To Prepare And Submit An Economic Development Administration Disaster Supplemental Grant Application For The 5th Avenue South And Sugden Plaza Improvements; Approving A Professional Services Consultant's Agreement Between The City Of Naples Community Redevelopment Agency, The City Of Naples, And Kimley-Horn And Associates Inc., For Phase One Services In The Amount Of \$310,702, With An Owner's Contingency Allowance Of \$20,000; Authorizing The City Manager To Execute The Professional Services Consultant's Agreement; And Providing An Effective Date.

Title of the Resolution not read.

[Agenda Memorandum](#) [Resolution](#) [Consultant's Agreement](#)

[Bid Analysis](#) [EDADS Grant Fact Sheet](#)

- 7.K) **RESOLUTION 2026-15858** - A Resolution Approving an Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Naples and Collier County for the Design and Construction of Road, Utilities, and Stormwater Improvements on Linwood within the Gateway Triangle Community Redevelopment Area to Address Aging Infrastructure Serving the Stormwater and Flooding Concerns; Authorizing the Mayor to Execute the Interlocal Agreement; and Providing an Effective Date.

Title of the Resolution not read.

[Agenda Memorandum](#) [Resolution](#) [Interlocal Agreement](#)

- 7.L) **RESOLUTION 2026-15859** - A Resolution Approving a Right-of-Way Use Agreement between the Gulfshore Playhouse, Inc. and the City of Naples for the encroachment of the Cantilevered Sidewalk and Overhanging Terrace within the City's Public Drainage Easement at 100 Goodlette-Frank Road South on Property Owned by the Gulfshore Playhouse, Inc., More Fully Described Herein; Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Agreement; and Providing an Effective Date.

Title of the Resolution not read.

[Agenda Memorandum](#) [Resolution](#) [ROW Use Agreement](#) [Plans](#)

- 7.M) **RESOLUTION 2026-15860** - A Resolution Approving the Demolition of the Building at 160 through 190 10th Street North, Naples, Florida 34102, Strap #1336001122 85A03; Authorizing the City Manager to take the Necessary Steps to Facilitate the Demolition of the Building and Stabilize and Sod the Parcel; and Providing an Effective Date. (Supplement 1/Updated Item).

Title of the Resolution not read.

[Agenda Memorandum](#) [Resolution](#) [Property Location](#)
[Revised Resolution \(Supplement 1/Added Attachment\)](#)

- 7.N) **RESOLUTION 2026-15861** - A Resolution Waiving the Competitive Bidding Process for the Modernization of Elevators in the Community Development Building and Utilities Administration Building, and the Replacement and Repair of the Elevator in Fire Station 1, as Provided in Section 2-663(1)(d)(3) of the Code of Ordinances, City of Naples; Approving a Piggyback Agreement Between the City of Naples and Mowery Elevator Company of Florida, Inc., a Florida Corporation, Pursuant to the School Board of Lee County ITN No. N257517AN, in the Amount of \$322,275; Approving a City-Controlled Contingency in the Amount of \$15,000; Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Piggyback Agreement; and Providing an Effective Date.

Title of the Resolution not read.

[Agenda Memorandum](#) [Resolution](#) [Mowrey Elevator Piggyback Agreement](#)
[Quote - Community Development Building Modernization](#)
[Quote - Fire Station 1 Repair/Replacement](#)
[Quote - Utilities Administration Building Modernization](#)

8) **OTHER**

- 8.A) Consideration of the following Repeat Special Event Applications: **1)** TNP Front and Center Gala – 5th Avenue South Sugden Plaza; **2)** Halloween Hustle 5K – Baker Park; **3)** TNPA Education Benefit – 5th Avenue South Sugden Plaza; and **4)** 2026 Fifth Avenue South Christmas Walk and Avenue Dining – 5th Avenue South.

[Agenda Memorandum](#) [Special Events Calendar Updated](#)
[TNP Front & Center Gala 2.9.2027](#) [Halloween Hustle 5K 10.9.2026](#)
[TNPA Education Benefit 11.3.2026](#)
[Fifth Avenue South Christmas Walk and Avenue Dining 12.4.2026](#)

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

9) **PUBLIC HEARINGS.**

None.

REGULAR AGENDA

10) **BOARDS AND COMMITTEE**

10.A) **Carver Finance, Inc. Board of Directors Annual Presentation to City Council.**

Lodge McKee, Vice President of the Board of Directors of Carver Finance, Inc., presented the annual update on the George Washington Carver Complex. He noted that all residents receive U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) subsidies and that the property remains the only Section 8 development of its kind in Collier County.

Vice President McKee explained that the current operating agreement would expire in approximately three years and that discussions regarding future restructuring had begun. He stated that the property remains well maintained, with recent roof replacements and successful Hurricane Ian recovery efforts. He also encouraged the City to remain attentive to future affordable housing opportunities and suggested that density incentives be focused on workforce housing projects.

Mayor Heitmann and Council Member Penniman expressed interest in continued discussions regarding the future of the George Washington Carver Complex and its role within Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) planning efforts.

[Agenda Memorandum](#) 

10.B) *CLERK TRACKING 2026-00068* - Recommend Michelle Arnold to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).

City Clerk Patricia Rambosk reviewed the agenda memorandum, explaining that one of the two City-designated seats on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Citizens Advisory Committee had been vacant since 2023, following the resignation of Steven Spar. City Clerk Rambosk noted that no applicants had come forward and that MPO staff member Susan Elli recommended transitioning Michelle Arnold, who currently served in an at-large capacity, into the City's representative seat. City Clerk Rambosk confirmed that Council Member Barton, who currently served on the MPO, had recommended Ms. Arnold for the appointment.

Michelle Arnold confirmed her qualifications and expressed her willingness to serve. Mayor Heitmann noted Ms. Arnold's familiarity with MPO operations and her recent appointment to the Naples Airport Authority Advisory Board (NAA). The following motion was then proffered.

MOTION by Blankenship to RECOMMEND Michelle Arnold for appointment as a City of Naples representative on the Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee for a three-year term; seconded by Penniman and unanimously carried, all members present and voting (Barton-yes, Blankenship-yes, Kramer-yes, Krol-yes, Penniman-yes, Schultz-yes, Heitmann-yes).

[Agenda Memorandum](#)  [Michelle Arnold Application](#)  [MPOCAC Bylaws](#) 

Recess: 10:49 a.m. to 11:03 a.m. It is noted for the record that the same Council Members were present when the meeting reconvened.

10.C) *CLERK TRACKING 2026-00069* - Interview and Consider Reappointing Cynthia Russell to the Moorings Bay Citizens Advisory Committee.

City Clerk Patricia Rambosk explained that Cynthia Russell had served one term on the Moorings Bay Citizens Advisory Committee and was eligible for reappointment. She noted that no other applications had been received since the position was advertised in February and that, at Ms. Russell's request, the interview was scheduled in advance of her summer travel, with the new term to begin in June. She was subsequently interviewed by the City Council.

Council Members expressed support for Ms. Russell's commitment to water quality efforts. Vice Mayor Blankenship suggested that the City's communications staff could assist with broader public education efforts to encourage residents to apply. Mayor Heitmann recommended holding a town hall meeting for Moorings Bay-area residents and encouraged Ms. Russell to continue providing written recommendations and input to the City Council.

MOTION by Blankenship to REAPPOINT Cynthia Russell as a regular member for a three-year term commencing June 17, 2026 and expiring June 16, 2029; seconded by Kramer and unanimously carried, all members present and voting (Barton-yes, Blankenship-yes, Kramer-yes, Krol-yes, Penniman-yes, Schultz-yes, Heitmann-yes).

[Agenda Memorandum](#)  [Cynthia Russell Application](#)  [2017-14069 Resolution](#) 

14.E) Announcement of Executive Session

City Attorney Matthew McConnell requested that the Council schedule a special meeting on May 7, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of seeking advice concerning settlement negotiations or strategy related to litigation expenditures in the matter of City of Naples v. City of Naples Airport Authority et al., Case No. 2026-CA-1094, in Collier County, Florida. City Attorney McConnell then read the Public Notice and said the Executive Session was expected to last two to three hours.

MOTION by Blankenship to SCHEDULE a Special Meeting on May 7, 2026 at 9 a.m. for the purpose of holding an Executive Session regarding the case styled City of Naples v. City of Naples Airport Authority; seconded by Kramer and unanimously carried, all members present and voting (Blankenship-yes, Barton-yes, Kramer-yes, Krol-yes, Penniman-yes, Schultz-yes, Heitmann-yes).

[Agenda Memorandum \(Staff/Added Attachment\)](#) 

[Public Notice \(Staff/Added Attachment\)](#) 

11) ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None.

12) LAND USE MATTERS

None.

13) OLD BUSINESS

13.A) Receive Update by Johnson Engineering, City's Engineering Consultant, on the Traffic Study Policy Changes and Provide Direction (Supplement 1/Updated Item).

Deputy City Engineer Alison Bickett introduced the item.

Laura DeJohn, Director of Planning and Landscape Architecture at Johnson Engineering, provided an update on the proposed changes to the Traffic Study Policy. She explained that the City's existing Traffic Impact Study (TIS) requirements had remained largely unchanged since 2006 and no longer reflected current technology or analytical practices. Utilizing an electronic presentation, she stated that the proposed revisions were part of the broader Downtown Traffic Study and that staff sought City Council's direction to present the proposed policy to the Planning Advisory Board (PAB), followed by First and Second Ordinance Readings to be presented to City Council before the end of September.

Josh Hildebrand, Engineer at Johnson Engineering, outlined the proposed changes, including shifting TIS thresholds from acreage-based triggers to trip generation based on net new a.m. or p.m. peak-hour trips. He described four study categories: de minimis (10 or fewer trips), small scale (under 50 trips), minor scale (50–99 trips with a five-year horizon), and major scale (100 or more trips with a ten-year horizon). He also proposed shifting from two-way to directional traffic analysis and requiring TIS authors to be licensed engineers with at least five years of urban Florida experience. Engineer Hildebrand further described new requirements for cumulative multi-phase trip analysis, study area definitions tied to affected intersections, turn-lane adequacy verification, five-year crash history reviews for major studies, and onsite queuing and circulation plans for developments with drive-through or pickup/drop-off facilities. He noted that multimodal and micro-mobility considerations would also be incorporated.

Deputy City Engineer Bickett explained that, when warranted, applicants would be responsible for funding an independent third-party traffic review, noting that a developer-funded, City-reviewed process is preferable to the City directly hiring consultants due to administrative and liability considerations. In response to questions regarding the objectivity of developer-retained traffic consultants, she stated that the proposed framework establishes stronger standards, requires current data, authorizes independent review when necessary, and relies on licensed engineers who are subject to professional ethical standards.

Council Member Schultz asked whether one-way street configurations had been analyzed as part of the traffic review. Engineer Hildebrand stated the current effort focused on policy language and data collection rather than operational modeling, though such analysis could be added later.

Council Member Krol raised concerns regarding evolving land use assumptions, including variance-related density increases and county development impacts. Deputy City Engineer Bickett confirmed that the draft policy requires consideration of traffic originating outside city limits when applicable.

Vice Mayor Blankenship questioned language stating that TIS requirements would be determined at the City's discretion and asked how projects would be classified. Deputy City Engineer Bickett explained that applicants would first submit traffic generation data, which staff would use to determine the appropriate TIS category, while retaining authority to require studies even for projects appearing de minimis. Engineer Josh Hildebrand added that methodology meetings with staff would be required for minor- and major-scale studies. Vice Mayor Blankenship expressed concern that developers could attempt to avoid studies by characterizing projects as de minimis and suggested clarifying that the determination rests solely with the City.

Council Member Kramer praised the proposed revisions as a significant and practical improvement to the City's traffic review process, while Council Member Barton stated the changes would strengthen the City's ability to evaluate development impacts and encouraged greater coordination with Collier County regarding nearby projects.

Mayor Heitmann sought clarification regarding multimodal and micro-mobility considerations within the proposed TIS policy. Deputy City Engineer Bickett, City Manager Gary Young, and Dr. George Yilmaz, Assistant City Manager, Director of Critical Infrastructure, explained that applicants would be required to address bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and emerging micro-mobility impacts consistent with current and future City policy. Assistant City Manager Yilmaz noted that the framework was intentionally flexible to accommodate evolving transportation modes, including electric bicycles, electric motorcycles, and autonomous vehicles, without requiring major policy revisions. City Attorney McConnell noted that first reading of the Micro-Mobility Ordinance was scheduled for the June 3 Council meeting.

Public Comment: None.

Following further discussion, the following consensus was reached:

Consensus reached to move forward with the proposed policy changes and for staff to proceed with drafting ordinances to present to the Planning Advisory Board (PAB).

[Agenda Memorandum](#)  [Draft Policy Language - APPENDIX C](#) 

[Dec. 8, 2025 - Traffic Study Presentation](#)  [Presentation](#) 

[Tracked Changes - Draft Policy Language - Appendix C \(Supplement 1/Added Attachment\)](#) 

14) NEW BUSINESS

14.A) A Presentation for the Purpose of Selecting a Vendor for the Design and Construction Services of the Cambier Park Playground and a Recommendation on the Best Design and Construction Option Presented.

City Manager Gary Young introduced the item and provided background information. Community Services Director Chad Merritt reviewed the results of the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for design and construction services for the Cambier Park playground. Community Services Director Merritt explained that the RFP was issued on January 5, 2025 and closed on January 17, 2026, with five bids received. He stated that the RFP Committee, comprised of Community Services Director Merritt, Community Services Deputy Director Aaron Hopkins, Planning Director Erica Martin, City Engineer Alison Bickett, Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Administrator Anita Jenkins, and two residents, recommended Playmore West, Inc.; PlayCore Wisconsin, Inc. dba Gametime; and Miracle Recreation Equipment Company as the top three vendors.

Community Services Director Merritt then utilized an electronic presentation to provide an overview and renderings of the proposed designs.

Option 1 - Playmore West, Inc.: A nature-themed design built around interconnected tree structures, log-style climbing elements, a wave slide, a pier-inspired toddler section, and a performance stage with a music wall. Community Services Director Merritt highlighted the company's 15-year warranty on the synthetic turf surfacing, its proximity, based in Fort Myers, and inclusive accessibility features incorporating a forest-path ramping system rather than traditional switchback ramps. He announced that the estimated cost was approximately \$2.19 million.

Option 2 - PlayCore Wisconsin, Inc. dba Gametime: A detailed banyan tree structure with bark-textured surfaces, a raccoon peeking from the trunk, a connected bridge system, a shipwreck and pirate treasure play area, sea turtle and marine life elements, and a separate fish entry structure for younger children. He noted that all three finalists offered inclusive features, though this design had more enclosed elements. He said the estimated cost was approximately \$2.6 million.

Option 3 - Miracle Recreation Equipment Company: A tiki hut-themed design featuring an alligator entry, tree-canopy structures, a fish climbing element, an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) rocker for wheelchair accessibility, and music instruments. He noted that this option's ramp system used a more traditional switchback design with visible metal rails.

Community Services Director Merritt announced that the RFP Committee recommended Playmore West as the first-ranked vendor, followed by PlayCore and Miracle Recreation. He noted that each of the top three vendors previously presented their designs to the Community Services Advisory Board (CSAB), which voted three to two to recommend Playmore West as its first choice, PlayCore as its second choice, and Miracle Recreation as its third choice.

City Manager Young explained that City Council's first objective was to select a preferred design option. He further explained that, once a preferred concept was selected, Council could provide feedback to the selected vendor regarding any desired enhancements, modifications, omissions, or safety concerns.

Council Members Kramer and Schultz supported Option 1 (Playmore West), citing the vendor's local service presence, line-of-sight safety advantages, cooler open construction, the 15-year surfacing warranty, and a cost approximately \$350,000 lower than Option 2. Council Member Kramer specifically raised concerns about closed fish and tree structures in Option 2 that would limit supervision of children, particularly in a camp setting.

Council Members Krol and Barton expressed a preference for Option 2 (PlayCore), citing its closer connection to Naples' natural environment through the banyan tree motif and marine wildlife imagery. Council Members suggested that the design could be enhanced by incorporating a stage and musical elements drawn from Option 1, and by replacing the generic fish and whale with native species such as snook, tarpon, and manatee. Council Member Barton supported adding native animal imagery, including the possibility of a panther.

Vice Mayor Blankenship expressed support for either Option One or Option Two and suggested that the selected design ensure that the new playground area remained accessible to the public during daytime hours even when special events were held in the park.

City Attorney McConnell advised Council Members that the action before them that day was to select a vendor for initial negotiations rather than award a contract. He noted that if negotiations with the selected vendor failed, staff could proceed with negotiations with the second-ranked vendor.

City Manager Young summarized the Council's suggestions regarding potential design elements, noting support for incorporating wildlife themes including tarpon, alligators, panthers, bears, and sea turtles.

MOTION by Barton to PROCEED with negotiations for Option Two; seconded by Krol and carried 5-2, all members present and voting (Schultz-no, Penniman-yes, Blankenship-yes, Barton-yes, Kramer-no, Krol-yes, Heitmann-yes).

[Agenda Memorandum](#)  [Presentation - Cambier Park Playground Project.](#) 

[CSAB Presentation - Playmore West, Inc.](#) 

[CSAB Presentation - Playcore Wisconsin, Inc dba Gametime](#) 

[CSAB Presentation - Miracle Recreation Equipment Company](#) 

Recess: 1:15 p.m. to 1:46 p.m. It is noted for the record that the same Council Members were present when the meeting reconvened.

14.B) A Follow-Up Discussion and Direction Regarding Special Event Capacities, Limiting the Quantity of Events in Public Space, and Special Event Permit Manual Revisions.

City Manager Gary Young introduced the item. Community Services Director Chad Merritt presented a follow-up discussion on proposed revisions to the City's Special Event Permit Manual, last updated in 2022.

Community Services Director Merritt utilized an electronic presentation to review the proposed definition of a special event, which covers any public or private outdoor activity held on a temporary basis apart from normal use of a location. He then reviewed the list of activities that would require a permit. Council Members broadly agreed that the current amplified sound requirements were overly broad, noting that even small-scale uses such as a guitar at a private gathering could trigger the permit process, and expressed support for establishing a tiered or size-based approach.

Vice Mayor Blankenship suggested that smaller neighborhood gatherings and private events not exceeding a certain attendance threshold could be exempt from the permit requirement altogether, provided they were not closing streets and complied with the Noise Ordinance. City Attorney Matthew McConnell noted that staff should retain administrative authority to refer any event to City Council for consideration if staff had concerns, even if the event would otherwise qualify for administrative approval.

Council Member Kramer expressed concern regarding amplified sound permit requirements for events held within airport hangars, questioning the necessity of repeated approvals in areas without nearby residential impacts.

A discussion ensued regarding whether approved special event permits should include a rescission provision if staffing or resources later become insufficient. City Manager Young emphasized the importance of fairness to event organizers and identifying resource limitations prior to approval whenever possible.

Community Services Director Merritt proposed requiring repeat special event organizers to submit their next application within 90 days of their most recent event in order to preserve their event for the following year. Currently, he said, dates are informally held without a defined deadline, which prevents other applicants from reserving those dates. He also proposed requiring a separate monthly application rather than accepting one multi-year submission, which would allow Council Members to evaluate events in the context of the full event calendar.

Community Services Director Merritt noted that the Event Manual needed to clarify what constitutes a nonprofit for purposes of reduced permit fees, as the distinction between a 501(c)(3) and a not-for-profit was causing inconsistency. City Manager Young indicated he would refine the language.

Following a discussion regarding indemnification and liability protections for special events on City property, the following consensus was proffered.

Consensus reached to direct the City Attorney to prepare a standard hold harmless agreement as part of the special event application process, requiring event organizers to indemnify the City in addition to naming the City as an additional insured on applicable insurance policies.

The City Council discussed administrative and cost recovery provisions related to special events, including unpaid balances, cancellation policies, application deposits, and reimbursement requirements for staffing, cleanup, solid waste, traffic control, and other City service impacts.

Community Services Director Merritt subsequently reviewed proposed event capacity limits and weekend availability guidelines for Cambier Park and Baker Park. He said staff proposed that Cambier Park be available for events on the second and fourth weekends of each month and Baker Park on the first and third weekends. Capacities were proposed at approximately 1,000 to 3,000 for Cambier Park and 2,500 to 3,500 for Baker Park, contingent on event configuration, calculated at one person per 10 square feet of usable space, or one person per 12 square feet when vendors are present.

Council Members discussed limiting special events at Baker Park to two weekends per month to preserve its passive park character, while allowing up to three weekends per month at Cambier Park during season and two weekends during the off-season. Discussion also included restricting event applications to City residents or City-based organizations. Following discussion, the following consensus was proffered.

Majority consensus reached for staff to return with revisions to the Special Event Permit Manual that establish clearer categories for small, minor, and major special events; provide administrative approval authority for smaller or less impactful events subject to Special Event Committee review; and further evaluate proposed capacity limits for Cambier Park, including the staff-recommended range of 1,000 to 3,000 attendees depending on event configuration. The consensus included overall support for limiting Baker Park events to two weekends each month, allowing events in Cambier Park two weekends each month outside of season, and allowing flexibility for a third weekend between January 1 and April 30.

Vice Mayor Blankenship noted that the new playground at Cambier Park should remain accessible to the public during daytime hours regardless of whether an event was occurring. City Manager Young and Community Services Director Merritt noted that Fleischman Park was intentionally excluded from this framework due to its year-round use for organized athletic leagues under existing license agreements.

Community Services Director Merritt then reviewed staff's proposed three-tier violation structure: a first offense would result in a written notice and notation in the applicant's file; a second offense would result in loss of deposit and a one-year suspension; and a third offense would result in a five-year suspension and loss of all approved event dates. City Manager Young suggested that the five-year suspension tier should involve City Council review before it is imposed. Council Member Barton raised concerns about due process in gray-area situations, such as disputed attendance counts, and noted that enforcement language should be clear and fair.

Public Comment: Frank Verpoorten, Executive Director of Naples Art Institute, described the long history of the Art Institute's three annual Art Fairs held at Cambier Park, the oldest of which has been operating for 48 years. He explained that moving or changing the dates of these events would be extremely difficult due to the National Art Fair circuit's scheduling conflicts. He also explained that relocating the events to Baker Park would raise parking and operational challenges, as the Art Institute building serves as a headquarters for artists. Executive Director Verpoorten noted that the Art Institute had already reduced the frequency of its smaller "Art in the Park" events from six to three in recent years in recognition of community concerns about

overcrowding. He asked that the City Council consider the Art Institute's historical ties to the city when establishing new restrictions.

Council Member Krol and Mayor Heitmann both acknowledged the Art Institute's deep history and its role in the Community Redevelopment Agency's (CRA) vision. City Attorney McConnell advised Council Members that policy decisions must be made on general criteria and not with specific events in mind.

Community Services Director Merritt agreed to bring a formal Resolution back to the City Council after circulating the draft manual to all members for individual feedback.

Mayor Heitmann expressed the need for future City Council workshops related to food truck policies, distinctions between City-sponsored and City-organized events, and regulation of ceremonies at beach access locations.

[Agenda Memorandum](#)  [Special Event Manual Updates - Draft](#) 

[Special Event Manual \(Current Version\) - Approved September 2023](#) 

[Naples Art Institute Handout \(F.Verpoorten/Added Attachment\)](#) 

14.C) *RESOLUTION 2026-15862* - A Resolution Amending the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Budget Adopted by Resolution 2025-15700 to Appropriate Funds From the General Fund to the FY 2025-26 City Attorney's Office Budget for Other Legal Services for Specialized Legal Representation in the Amount of \$125,000; and Providing for Scrivener's Errors and an Effective Date.

City Attorney Matthew McConnell read the title of the Resolution and explained that the request was not an increase to the City Attorney's overall budget, but rather an increase to the specialized legal services line item within the City Attorney's office budget. He reported that of the \$150,000 previously authorized for specialized legal counsel, approximately \$100,001 had been spent to date on the services of outside counsel Jamie Cole and Andrew Barr, leaving approximately \$50,000 remaining. The additional \$125,000, he said, would bring the total authorized amount to \$275,000, with approximately \$174,000 available for the remainder of the fiscal year through September 30.

Council Member Schultz expressed concern about escalating costs related to ongoing litigation.

Public Comment: None.

MOTION by Blankenship to APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-15862; seconded by Krol and carried 6-1, all members present and voting (Blankenship-yes, Krol-yes, Barton-yes, Kramer-yes, Schultz-no, Penniman-yes, Heitmann-yes).

[Agenda Memorandum](#)  [Resolution](#) 

14.D) *RESOLUTION 2026-15863* - A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Increase the Budget Amount for Specialized Aviation Legal Services in the Amount of \$35,000 with Greenberg Traurig, LLP; Providing Scrivener's Errors and Effective Date.

City Attorney Matthew McConnell read the title of the Resolution. He clarified that the Resolution did not represent an additional budget appropriation beyond what was approved under Item 14.C, but rather extended the City Manager's spending authority for the services of Andrew Barr of Greenberg Traurig, LLP, which was set to exceed the \$35,000 per-vendor threshold established in the City's Code. He noted that funds for this payment would come from the appropriation approved under Item 14.C.

Council Member Schultz reiterated concerns regarding the escalating costs and long-term commitment associated with the litigation, questioning whether the anticipated benefits justified continued expenditures.

MOTION by Kramer to APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-15863; seconded by Penniman and carried 6-1, all members present and voting (Penniman-yes,

Schultz-no, Krol-yes, Barton-yes, Blankenship-yes, Kramer-yes, Heitmann-yes).

[Agenda Memorandum](#)  [Resolution](#) 

Recess: 3:45 p.m. to 3:54 p.m. It is noted for the record that the same Council Members were present when the meeting reconvened.

ORDINANCES

15) FIRST READING ORDINANCES

- 15.A) **FIRST READING** First Reading of an Ordinance related to the Six-Month Review of Live Entertainment Permits. An Ordinance Amending Regulations Relating to the Six-Month Review of Live Entertainment Permits; Amending Subsection (e)(7) of Section 56-125, Live Entertainment Permit, of Article IV, Standards Applicable to Commercial Districts, of Chapter 56, Supplemental Standards, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Naples; Providing for Codification; Conflicts; Severability; Correction of Scrivener's Error; Construction; Publication; and Providing an Effective Date.

City Attorney Matthew McConnell read the title of the Ordinance. Planning Director Erica Martin presented the item at First Reading, explaining that the purpose was to streamline the six-month review process for new live entertainment permits. Planning Director Martin noted that Section 56-125 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Naples requires every permit approval to come back to the City Council approximately six months after issuance, regardless of whether any violations or issues had occurred. She noted that of the 16 live entertainment permit approvals conducted since 2024, only one raised a concern, and that the business had already closed.

Planning Director Martin then reviewed proposed changes, including replacing the word "review" with "report," which would allow staff to place the six-month status update on the Consent Agenda if no violations occurred. She said the City Council would retain the authority to schedule a formal hearing for revocation or modification if the report reflected violations. She noted that separate Code provisions already allow the City Manager to suspend a permit for safety concerns at any time and that two verified violations within one calendar year would automatically trigger a City Council hearing regardless of the six-month review cycle.

City Attorney McConnell noted that prior to Second Reading, the word "that" would be removed from the violation criteria language to ensure each listed ground for review was treated as independently sufficient rather than dependent on the nuisance clause.

Public Comment: None.

MOTION by Kramer to APPROVE ITEM 15.A AT FIRST READING; seconded by Barton and unanimously carried, all members present and voting (Krol-yes, Schultz-yes, Blankenship-yes, Barton-yes, Kramer-yes, Penniman-yes, Heitmann-yes).

[Agenda Memorandum](#)  [Ordinance](#)  [PAB Staff Report](#) 

[Live Entertainment Staff Presentation](#)  [Sec. 56-125. Live Entertainment Permit](#) 

16) SECOND READING ORDINANCES

- 16.A) **ORDINANCE 2026-15864** - An Ordinance Amending Article I, in General, of Chapter 36, Traffic and Vehicles, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Naples for the Purpose of Providing for Definitions and Providing for Regulations Relating to Electric Bicycles; and Providing for Codification, Conflicts, Severability, Correction of Scrivener's Errors, Construction, Publication, and an Effective Date.

City Attorney Matthew McConnell read the title of the Ordinance. City Engineer Daniel Ohrenstein confirmed there had been no changes since First Reading and that the item was before the City Council for final adoption.

Public Comment: None.

MOTION by Barton to ADOPT ORDINANCE 2026-15864; seconded by Krol and unanimously carried, all members present and voting (Barton-yes, Penniman-yes, Blankenship-yes, Krol-yes, Kramer-yes, Schultz-yes, Heitmann-yes).

[Agenda Memorandum](#)  [Ordinance - Second Reading](#) 

[Naples Business Impact Estimate](#)  [Presentation](#) 

[March 16, 2026 Council Workshop Meeting Minutes](#)  [County Ordinance 2025-22](#) 

16.B) ORDINANCE 2026-15865 - An Ordinance Amending Article 2 Titled Council, Section 2.5(1) of the City Charter Pertaining to the "Salary" of the Mayor and Council members of the City of Naples to Adjust the Salaries of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Naples; Providing for a Referendum on the Question of Approval of the Proposed Amendment in English and Spanish; Providing for Filing the Revised Charter as Amended with the Florida Department of State; Providing for Coordination with the Supervisor of Elections of Collier County, Florida; Providing for Conflicts; Severability; Correction of Scrivener's Error; Construction; Publication; and an Effective Date.

City Attorney Matthew McConnell read the title of the Ordinance. He noted that the Ordinance, which would have amended the Charter to adjust specific dollar amounts for Mayoral and Council Member salaries by referendum, was made unnecessary by Item 16.C, which would instead remove salary figures from the Charter and allow adjustments by Ordinance following a Blue-Ribbon Committee recommendation.

Public Comment: None.

MOTION by Kramer to ADOPT ORDINANCE 2026-15865; seconded by Barton and FAILED 0-7, all members present and voting (Schultz-no, Penniman-no, Blankenship-no, Barton-no, Kramer-no, Krol-no, Heitmann-no).

[Agenda Memorandum](#)  [Ordinance - Second Reading](#) 

[Business Impact Estimate](#) 

16.C) ORDINANCE 2026-15866 - An Ordinance Amending Article 2 Titled Council, Section 2.5(1) and 2.5(2) of the City Charter Pertaining to the "Salary" of the Mayor and Councilmembers of the City of Naples to Give the Power to Adjust the Salaries of the Mayor and Council to the Blue Ribbon Committee of the City of Naples; Providing for a Referendum on the Question of Approval of the Proposed Amendment in English and Spanish; Providing for Filing the Revised Charter as Amended with the Florida Department of State; Providing for Coordination with the Supervisor of Elections of Collier County, Florida; Providing for Conflicts, Severability, Correction of Scrivener's Error, Construction, Publication and an Effective Date.

City Attorney McConnell read the title of the Ordinance and explained that the Ordinance would remove salary amounts from the Charter and authorize the City Council to adjust Mayoral and City Council salaries by Ordinance, based on the recommendation of the Blue-Ribbon Committee.

Public Comments: None.

MOTION by Kramer to ADOPT ORDINANCE 2026-15866 subject to amending the language so that any salary adjustment will only be made by ordinance; seconded by Barton and unanimously carried, all members present and voting (Penniman-yes, Kramer-yes, Schultz-yes, Blankenship-yes, Barton-yes, Krol-yes, Heitmann-yes).

[Agenda Memorandum](#)  [Ordinance - Second Reading](#) 

[Business Impact Estimate](#) 

17) PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

18) COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL, AND STAFF

Council Member Schultz raised concerns about the Naples Airport Authority's (NAA) initiation of its own Chapter 164 Conflict Resolution process against the City, citing the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) preemption and related legal arguments. City Attorney Matthew McConnell confirmed that the NAA had declined the City's request to consolidate both proceedings. Council Member Schultz warned that ongoing litigation could generate further

counterclaims, including potential First Amendment challenges related to the five candidates who had filed to run as NAA Commissioners. In response, Council Member Kramer requested that further discussion of airport litigation be deferred in anticipation of the Executive Session scheduled for May 7, 2026.

Council Member Penniman asked whether a change to municipal election dates, previously suggested by the League of Women Voters, had been followed up on. City Attorney McConnell confirmed that the election date change referendum would be deferred until the March 2028 ballot, following consultation with the Supervisor of Elections, to avoid placing four referendum questions before voters at once.

Council Member Krol expressed appreciation for Commissioner Kowal's attendance and suggested that the City consider inviting each County Commissioner individually to a future City Council meeting. He also praised the quality of work done on the Cambier Park playground proposals. Council Member Krol proposed exploring voluntary annexation of commercial properties along the City's borders. Mayor Heitmann encouraged Council Member Krol to research the topic further, referencing earlier City Council deliberations regarding Pelican Bay annexation and the legal distinctions between voluntary and involuntary annexation. City Attorney McConnell confirmed that voluntary annexation was legally available and offered to research procedural requirements.

Council Member Schultz suggested that commercial-only annexation would avoid the complexities of residential annexation and could bring significant assessed value into the City. He specifically mentioned areas along Davis Boulevard, at Waterside Shops, and in the vicinity of the Davis Triangle as potential revenue-enhancing annexation areas. Vice Mayor Blankenship suggested a workshop discussion in the fall to evaluate advantages and disadvantages.

City Attorney McConnell raised a procedural matter regarding the Code Enforcement Board, noting that the Board would not have a quorum for meetings scheduled in May, June, and July due to vacancies and anticipated travel. He explained that the Code Enforcement Board's attorney had advised that Florida Statutes Chapter 162 permits the Board to set its own Rules of Procedure and that a majority attending virtually could constitute sufficient participation. City Attorney McConnell stated that his own position had been that a physical quorum must be present. Following discussion, the following consensus was proffered,

Consensus reached to allow the Code Enforcement Board to meet without a physical quorum for the summer months, May through August, provided a majority of members participated virtually.

Vice Mayor Blankenship reported on meetings with Verizon representatives regarding interrupted cellular service gaps along Gulf Shore Boulevard North and the Miracle Mile area, noting that four small cell towers had been approved, fiber installation was underway, and service was expected to be operational by mid-July. He stated that the issue represented a public safety concern for high-rise residents who no longer maintain landlines.

Vice Mayor Blankenship updated the City Council on outreach meetings regarding the Naples Community Hospital's (NCH) construction activities, noting that a request for extended concrete pour hours had been withdrawn following neighborhood opposition, while a request related to steel work remained under review.

City Council discussed the proposed Gold Star Family Memorial, with Vice Mayor Blankenship expressing support for advancing the request to the Community Services Advisory Board (CSAB) to review and provide a recommendation. City Manager Gary Young confirmed that a site walk and review process would be initiated.

Vice Mayor Blankenship raised the possibility of the City participating in the LA28 Olympic Torch Relay. City Manager Gary Young explained that the relay typically brings approximately 300 to 400 support personnel to a host city for a day, with a ceremonial event and overnight stay before the torch moves on, and that approximately 62 cities across the country were being selected.

Consensus reached to direct the City Manager to explore the opportunity for the City to participate in the LA28 Olympic Torch Relay.

City Manager Young advised that available dates for a joint meeting with the NAA were June 4, 5, and 8, 2026. Following a brief discussion, the following consensus was proffered.

Consensus reached to submit June 4th as the preferred date, with June 5th and 8th as alternatives.

City Manager Young addressed the City's summer camp staffing challenges. Community Services Director Chad Merritt reported that the City had reached an agreement with StarAbility to occupy the former River Park Teen Program space at no charge and to operate programming for the older-age group (13 to 22) during the transition period until StarAbility's new facility, donated through Hodges University, is completed. Community Services Director Merritt noted that the City would continue to operate its inclusive camp for younger children and would coordinate with StarAbility on pool access and joint activities. He also acknowledged that staffing for summer camps remained a challenge and encouraged qualified applicants to apply through the City's website.

City Manager Young reminded the City Council that future meeting scheduling may also need to accommodate potential Chapter 164 conflict resolution timelines involving the Naples Airport Authority. He also confirmed that Collier County had expressed willingness to participate in a joint City-County meeting; however, due to existing meeting demands and scheduling constraints, staff recommended targeting the fall to allow adequate preparation and development of discussion topics and priorities. Council Members supported that approach, noting that budget and capital improvement discussions may also identify topics appropriate for joint discussion.

Council Member Schultz introduced Dennis Bolden, an intern from American University. City Council welcomed him to the City.

Mayor Heitmann recognized Chief Philip Pennington's report on a technical rescue performed by crews from Firehouse 1 on May 6, 2026, in which a window-cleaning worker who fell from a ladder to a lower roof was safely packaged and extracted using aerial and basket equipment in coordination with the Naples Police Department and Collier County Emergency Medical Services.

Mayor Heitmann also provided an update on the City's America 250 Celebration activities, noting that the student essay contest had closed with strong participation, that judges were reviewing submissions, and that the three winning students would present their essays at the May 20, 2026 City Council meeting. Mayor Heitmann announced that the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) would participate in the nationwide "Sharing the Spirit of America" synchronized reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 8, 2026, by conducting its reading on the steps of City Hall. She also noted that a Tree Fest event featuring a live oak planting at Baker Park was scheduled for June 6.

19) ADJOURNMENT

5:25 p.m.

Teresa Lee Heitmann, Mayor

Patricia L. Rambosk, City Clerk

Meeting clerked by:

Jessica Hernandez, Deputy City Clerk

Minutes prepared by:
David Horton, Executive Assistant

Minutes Approved: 6/17/2026.