

# City of Clearwater

*Main Library - Council Chambers  
100 N. Osceola Avenue  
Clearwater, FL 33755*



## Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, September 17, 2025**

**6:00 PM**

**Special Meeting**

**Main Library - Council Chambers**

**City Council**

## Roll Call

**Present:** 5 - Mayor Bruce Rector, Vice Mayor Lina Teixeira, Councilmember David Allbritton, Councilmember Ryan Cotton and Councilmember Michael Mannino

**Also Present:** Jennifer Poirrier – City Manager, Daniel Slaughter – Assistant City Manager, Alfred Battle – Assistant City Manager, David Margolis – City Attorney, Rosemarie Call – City Clerk, and Nicole Sprague – Deputy City Clerk.

***To provide continuity for research, items are listed in agenda order although not necessarily discussed in that order.***

### ***Unapproved***

#### **1. Call to Order – Mayor Rector**

*The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.*

#### **2. Administrative Public Hearings**

#### **3. Second Readings - Public Hearing**

- 3.1** Adopt Ordinance 9848-25 on second reading, declaring the millage rate to be levied for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026, for operating purposes including the funding of pensions, debt service, and road maintenance for capital improvement expenditures at 5.8850 mills, which is a 4.34% increase from the rolled back rate of 5.6402 mills.

In accordance with Chapter 200 of the Florida Statutes, which defines requirements for the Determination of Millage and the rules governing Truth in Millage (TRIM) compliance, the City Council must hold two public hearings to adopt a final millage rate for the new fiscal year. The adoption of this ordinance to establish the millage rate and the two related budget ordinances are an integral part of fulfilling these requirements.

The City Council set a tentative millage rate of 5.8850 mills on July 10, 2025, which is the rate that appeared on the TRIM notices mailed to taxpayers in August. The millage rate of 5.8850 mills represents a 4.34% increase from the rolled back rate of 5.6402 mills.

Ordinance 9848-25 is presented in order to adopt the millage rate of 5.8850 mills to support the operating and capital improvement budgets for the 2025/26 fiscal year.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY:**

The budgeting process aligns resource allocation to the advancement of our community in all five strategic priorities: high performing government, economic and housing opportunity, community well-being, environmental stewardship, and superior public service.

**Ordinance 9848-25 was presented and read by title only.**

**Vice Mayor Teixeira moved to adopt Ordinance 9848-25 on second and final reading. The motion was duly seconded and upon roll call, the vote was:**

**Ayes:** 5 - Mayor Rector, Vice Mayor Teixeira, Councilmember Allbritton, Councilmember Cotton and Councilmember Mannino

- 3.2** Adopt Ordinance 9849-25 on second reading, adopting an operating budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026; authorizing the City Manager to issue such instructions that are necessary to achieve and accomplish the service programs so authorized; authorizing the City Manager to transfer monies and programs among the departments and activities within any fund as provided by Chapter 2 of the Clearwater Code of Ordinances.

In accordance with Chapter 200 of the Florida Statutes and the rules governing Truth in Millage (TRIM) compliance, the City Council must hold two public hearings to adopt the budget. The adoption of this ordinance and the related ordinances adopting the 2025/26 millage rate and the Capital Improvement Budget are an integral part of fulfilling these requirements.

On June 30, 2025, the City Manager provided the City Council with a Preliminary Annual Operating and Capital Improvement Budget that outlined estimates of revenues and expenditures for the 2025/26 fiscal year. The City Manager presented the preliminary budget at the City Council meeting on July 10, 2025, for Council discussion and citizen input. In addition, a Special Budget Work Session was held on August 6, 2025, for Council discussion of the proposed budget.

The following changes have been made to the preliminary operating budget and are included in the ordinance for adoption of the fiscal year 2025/26 operating budget.

In the General Fund:

Ad valorem revenues are increased to account for the change in values reflected in the preliminary tax roll.

Intergovernmental revenues are increased to reflect the Florida Department of Revenue's final projection for state revenue sharing.

Fine revenues for red light camera fines are increased based on actual receipts.

Miscellaneous and transfer-in revenues are adjusted (net zero) to account for revenues in the correct categories (transfer between funds).

Non-Departmental expenditures are reduced for the transfer of TIF to the CRA to account for the change in values reflected in the preliminary tax roll.

Expenditures are increased in the Police Department to correct for a calculation error in salaries.

In the Parking Fund:

Expenditures are increased to correct the transfer out of Parking Enforcement fines to balance the transfer to the General Fund.

In the Special Development Fund:

Revenues are increased for Parks and Recreation Impact Fees and an allocation of prior year Recreation Facility Impact Fees to provide project funding budgeted in the Capital Improvement Program.

Offsetting expenditures are increased to transfer impact fee revenue to provide funding for the Countryside Pickleball project as budgeted in the Capital Improvement Plan.

A worksheet detailing these changes made to the final budget for fiscal year 2025/26 is attached.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY:**

The budgeting process aligns resource allocation to the advancement of our community in all five strategic priorities: high performing government, economic and housing opportunity, community well-being, environmental stewardship, and superior public service.

*One individual spoke in support.*

*One individual thanked Council for their dedicated efforts and said*

*providing the City Manager strategic goals is more important than adopting a budget, which implements the priorities.*

**Ordinance 9849-25 was presented and read by title only.**

**Councilmember Allbritton moved to adopt Ordinance 9849-25 on second and final reading. The motion was duly seconded and upon roll call, the vote was:**

**Ayes:** 5 - Mayor Rector, Vice Mayor Teixeira, Councilmember Allbritton, Councilmember Cotton and Councilmember Mannino

- 3.2** Adopt Ordinance 9850-25 on second reading, adopting the capital improvement program budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025 and ending September 30, 2026; approving the six-year capital improvement program which shall be reevaluated at the beginning of each fiscal year; authorizing the City Manager to issue such instructions that are necessary to achieve and accomplish the capital improvements so authorized; authorizing the City Manager to transfer money between projects in the capital improvement program; appropriating available and anticipated resources for the projects identified.

In accordance with Chapter 200 of the Florida Statutes and the rules governing Truth in Millage (TRIM) compliance, the City Council must hold two public hearings to adopt the final budget. The adoption of this ordinance and the related ordinances adopting the 2025/26 millage rate and operating budget are an integral part of fulfilling these requirements.

On June 30, 2025, the City Manager provided the City Council with a Preliminary Annual Operating and Capital Improvement Budget that outlined estimates of revenues and expenditures for the 2025/26 fiscal year. The City Manager presented the preliminary budget at the City Council meeting on July 10, 2025, for Council discussion and citizen input. In addition, a Special Budget Work Session was held on August 6, 2025, for Council discussion of the proposed budget.

The following changes have been made to the Preliminary Capital Improvement Budget and are included in the ordinance for adoption of the capital improvement budget.

- The Clearwater Country Club Bridge Replacement project has been removed from the Capital Improvement Budget. This change is due to the golf course operator assuming full responsibility for managing and funding the replacement of bridges.
- 1 Two state grants have been awarded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) resulting in the following project increases:

- North Beach Stormwater Project - \$1,500,000 budgeted in fiscal years 2026 and 2027.
- 1 Citywide Docks & Seawalls Project - \$1,500,000 budgeted in fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY:**

The budgeting process aligns resource allocation to the advancement of our community in all five strategic priorities: high performing government, economic and housing opportunity, community well-being, environmental stewardship, and superior public service.

**Ordinance 9850-25 was presented and read by title only.**

**Councilmember Mannino moved to adopt Ordinance 9850-25 on second and final reading. The motion was duly seconded and upon roll call, the vote was:**

**Ayes:** 5 - Mayor Rector, Vice Mayor Teixeira, Councilmember Allbritton, Councilmember Cotton and Councilmember Mannino

**4. City Manager Reports – None.****5. City Attorney Reports – None.****6. Closing comments by Councilmembers (limited to 3 minutes)**

*Councilmember Cotton thanked staff for their efforts in presenting a budget that safeguards the people's money. He suggested that staff next year present a budget that is between the current millage and the rollback rate.*

**7. Closing Comments by Mayor**

*The Mayor thanked staff for all of their efforts in identifying savings and presenting a strong budget.*

**8. Adjourn**

*The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.*

Attest

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor  
City of Clearwater

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk