

# City of Clearwater

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



## Meeting Minutes

**Monday, September 29, 2025**

**6:00 PM**

**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. Invocation – Pastor Bob Brubaker from Christ Community Presbyterian Church****3. Pledge of Allegiance****4. Special recognitions and Presentations (Proclamations, service awards, or other special recognitions. Presentations by governmental agencies or groups providing formal updates to Council will be limited to ten minutes.) – Given.**

**4.1** Fire Prevention Week Proclamation, October 5-11, 2025

**4.2** Public Natural Gas Week Proclamation, October 5-11, 2025 - Brian Langille, Executive Director Gas System

**4.3** NewGen Presentation and Council Discussion.

*NewGen Representative Scott Burnham provided a PowerPoint presentation.*

*In response to questions, Mr. Burnham said NewGen did not speak with representatives of Pinellas County regarding servicing the enclave areas. NewGen made the assumption that the City would be able to serve those areas as they do with water utilities and natural gas utilities. He said, relative to any revenues Pinellas County receives, that can be worked out in the future. He said it is his understanding that if the City does not renew the franchise agreement with Duke Energy on December 31, 2025, the City will continue receiving the remittance of the franchise and sales tax revenues. NewGen assumed if the City has a contract to operate the system, the operator would be there during outages, which include storm response. Mr. Burnham said the*

*assumption was also made that the City would have access to American Public Power Association as part of the mutual aid program. Florida operates on a bilateral contract basis, which is regulated by the federal government. NewGen's analysis was based on what Winter Park is doing right now. Mr. Burnham said NewGen proposes to use revenue bonds, not general obligation bonds. The revenue bonds are pledged to the future revenues of the electric utility sales.*

*Ten individuals supported renewing the franchise agreement with Duke Energy.*

*Eight individuals supported exploring options and opposed renewing the franchise agreement with Duke Energy.*

*One individual encouraged the consideration to partner with other municipalities to create a Pinellas County electric company.*

*One individual questioned the actual cost associated with creating a municipal owned electric utility.*

*One individual submitted an email detailing requirements if a municipal-owned electric utility is pursued (see page 37).*

*One individual submitted an email outlining deficiencies made by NewGen (see page 38).*

*The Council recessed from 7:56 p.m. to 8:08 p.m.*

*In response to questions, Mr. Burnham said the revenue needs of the utility will change over time. The City Attorney said if the franchise agreement expires and nothing else has happened (the City has not signed a new franchise agreement or purchased any distribution assets), similar to the labor contracts, the agreement will continue as it has been.*

*Discussion ensued with support expressed to pursue the next phase.*

**Councilmember Cotton moved to move forward with an appraisal and potential timeline in the event the City makes a purchase offer. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.**

## **5. Approval of Minutes**

- 5.1** Approve the minutes of the September 18, 2025 City Council meeting as submitted in written summation by the City Clerk.

**Vice Mayor Teixeira moved to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2025 City Council meeting as submitted in written**

summation by the City Clerk. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

### **Public Hearings - Not before 6:00 PM**

#### **6. Administrative Public Hearings**

- 6.1** Declare as surplus for the purpose of transfer to Adel Youssef and Vivien Kandel, certain unaddressed real property located at Heather Ct.; approve the agreement for transfer of real property; and authorize the appropriate officials to execute same together with all other instruments required to affect closing.

The unaddressed City-owned property located at Heather Ct. is 0.160 acres in size. Staff believes this parcel to be an uneconomic remainder of land and a confirmation of such status shall be made by the City Council through the approval of this agenda item.

The Pinellas County Property Appraiser defines this property under property use code 9600 (sewage disposal, solid waste, drainage reservoirs, borrow pit, marsh, mangrove, sand dune, waste land) and has assigned a "just market" value of \$85.00 to the property.

The request for letters of interest was published on May 14, 2025. Respondents were given 30 days to submit a letter of interest. One submission was received from the individual who owns the adjacent property, a homesteaded single-family residence. The letter of interest included an offer of \$85.00 for the parcel, which aligns with the Property Appraiser's Just Market Value. On July 28, 2025, the Technical Review Committee convened and issued a positive recommendation for the submitted letter of interest. Based on this, staff now recommends declaring the subject property as surplus and proceeding with its disposition and sale, for the proposed sale price of \$85.00.

**APPROPRIATION CODE AND AMOUNT: N/A**

**USE OF RESERVE FUNDS: N/A**

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY:**

Objective 2.4 - Supports equitable housing programs that promote household stability and reduces the incidence of homelessness within Clearwater.

**Councilmember Allbritton moved to declare as surplus for the purpose of transfer to Adel Youssef and Vivien Kandel, certain unaddressed real property located at Heather Ct.; approve the agreement for transfer of real property; and authorize the appropriate officials to execute same together with all other instruments required to affect closing. The motion was duly**

**seconded and carried unanimously.**

- 6.2** Continue to 10/15/2025: Declare as surplus for the purpose of donating to C.I.M.H.Z Management LLC., certain real property located at 1164 La Salle St, for the development of affordable housing; approve the agreement for transfer of real property; and authorize the appropriate officials to execute same together with all other instruments required to affect closing.

**No action taken.**

- 6.3** Authorize award of a construction contract to C and T Contracting Services, LLC, for Northeast Water Reclamation Facility (NE WRF) Sand Filters Rehabilitation in the amount of \$5,469,339.00 pursuant to ITB 23-0045-UT and authorize the appropriate officials to execute the same.

The Public Utilities Engineering Department issued Invitation to Bid (ITB) 23-0045-UT, Northeast Water Reclamation Facility Sand Filters Rehabilitation (NE WRF), and received three bids on July 23, 2025. The lowest responsible bid meeting all the plans and specifications was submitted by C&T Contracting Services, LLC. The Engineer of Record (EOR), Tetra Tech, evaluated the bids and recommended awarding the contract to C&T Contracting Services, LLC. The project, located at the NE WRF, 3290 SR 580, Safety Harbor, FL 34695, includes rehabilitating 12 sand filters, replacing valves and actuators, addressing structural concerns, and removing and replacing a 30 in. x 42 in. sluice gate. These improvements aim to enhance the filtration process, ensure optimal water quality, and extend the lifespan of the filtration system.

On May 16, 2024, City Council approved an initial work order to EOR Tetra Tech for design, bidding, engineering and inspection services during construction in the amount of \$315,951.00.

Construction is scheduled to take 420 consecutive calendar days from the issuance of the Notice to Proceed.

The City of Clearwater's Public Utilities Department is responsible for owning, operating, and maintaining the NE WRF.

**APPROPRIATION CODE AND AMOUNT:**

3277327-530100-M1906 \$5,469,339.00

To provide additional funding needed for this project, a first quarter budget amendment will transfer Utility R&R revenue of \$1,200,000.00 from project 327-96212, Sanitary Sewer Upgrades/Improvements, and \$2,200,000.00 from project 327-96664, Water Pollution Control R&R. These projects are funded by revenues from the Water and Sewer Utility Enterprise Fund.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY:**

This project aligns with the Council's Strategic Plan objective of achieving a High Performing Government through proactive maintenance of public infrastructure. Approval of this construction award will help ensure the continued efficiency and reliability of the City's wastewater treatment operations.

*One individual spoke in opposition.*

**Councilmember Mannino moved to authorize award of a construction contract to C and T Contracting Services, LLC, for Northeast Water Reclamation Facility (NE WRF) Sand Filters Rehabilitation in the amount of \$5,469,339.00 pursuant to ITB 23-0045-UT and authorize the appropriate officials to execute the same. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.**

- 6.4** Authorize the City Manager and designated city representatives to enter into negotiations with Pinellas County for an interlocal agreement for the City of Clearwater's participation in the Regional Resource Recovery Facility (RRRF).

Pinellas County is proposing the development of a Regional Resource Recovery Facility (RRRF) to provide a long-term, regional solution for biosolids management. The project is currently in Phase 2, which involves the development of bid specifications for the design, construction, and operation of the facility. The County is seeking partner commitments from neighboring municipalities, including the City of Clearwater, to participate in the RRRF through an interlocal agreement.

The RRRF aims to address pending regulatory changes and water quality concerns by creating beneficial, reusable, and marketable products from biosolids, such as renewable energy, fertilizers, and compost. The project has explored several treatment technologies, including conventional digestion and thermal drying, thermal hydrolysis process (THP) digestion and thermal drying, and options incorporating pyrolysis and gasification.

Pinellas County has provided preliminary estimated total annual costs for various treatment scenarios. For Clearwater, the estimated monthly cost per household ranges from \$6.19 to \$6.60, depending on the technology chosen, compared to the current monthly cost of \$2.52. These estimates will be refined as the project progresses.

Participation in the RRRF would require the City to enter into an interlocal agreement with Pinellas County. The terms of this agreement, including cost-sharing, capacity reservation, and other operational details, will be

determined through negotiation. This agenda item seeks authorization for the City Manager and designated city representatives to begin these negotiations to explore the feasibility and potential benefits of Clearwater joining the regional facility. The interlocal agreement would be brought back to City Council for consideration once the essential terms and conditions have been negotiated.

**APPROPRIATION CODE AND AMOUNT: N/A**

**USE OF RESERVE FUNDS: N/A**

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY:**

This item aligns with the Council's Strategic Plan to achieve a High-Performing Government by maintaining public infrastructure through systematic management efforts and fostering regional cooperation. It also supports the City's strategic goal of Environmental Stewardship by exploring sustainable and forward-looking solutions for biosolids management.

*Public Utilities Interim Director Michael Flannigan provided a PowerPoint presentation.*

*Vice Mayor Teixeira departed Chambers at 8:30 p.m. and returned at 8:32 p.m.*

**Councilmember Cotton moved to authorize the City Manager and designated city representatives to enter into negotiations with Pinellas County for an interlocal agreement for the City of Clearwater's participation in the Regional Resource Recovery Facility (RRRF). The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.**

- 6.5** Approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for the operation and maintenance of a Visual Approach Slope Indicator (VASI) at the Clearwater Executive Airport and authorize the appropriate officials to execute same.

The FAA wishes to renew their lease through a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Clearwater to continue to operate and maintain the VASI's at Clearwater Executive Airport without cost to the City. Installed at the ends of both runways, the VASI is a critical safety navigational aid that helps ensure that aircraft make the proper approach for landing by indicating the appropriate glide angle as a visual reference to pilots approaching the runways.

The first 20-year lease was approved by City Council in 1985, and the second

20-year lease was approved by City Council in 2005 and is set to expire September 30, 2025. The term of this MOU would start October 1, 2025, and expires on September 30, 2045.

**APPROPRIATION CODE AND AMOUNT: N/A**

**USE OF RESERVE FUNDS: N/A**

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY:**

High Performing Government: 1.2 Maintain public infrastructure, mobility systems, natural lands, environmental resources, and historic features through systematic management efforts.

**Vice Mayor Teixeira moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for the operation and maintenance of a Visual Approach Slope Indicator (VASI) at the Clearwater Executive Airport and authorize the appropriate officials to execute same. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.**

- 6.6** Authorize purchase orders to multiple vendors for the purchase of computer parts, product maintenance, servers, and network equipment in the cumulative not-to-exceed amount of \$3,500,000.00, for term October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026, or through expiration of the respective contract if earlier, pursuant to Clearwater Code of Ordinances Section 2.563 (1)(c), piggyback, and Section 2.561(5), small purchases, and authorize the appropriate officials to execute same.

The Information Technology Department is requesting authorization to procure computer and network supplies from various vendors to include parts, cabling, servers, computers, power supplies, licensing, and wireless and security technology for the maintenance and upgrade of the city's computer network and equipment.

Purchases will be obtained through various piggyback contracts, including optional extensions as listed and approved by sourcing agencies.

The list of vendors with their piggyback contracts is as follows:

**Amazon:**

- Online Marketplace State of Utah LS4679. Valid through 5/5/2030.  
<<https://www.omniapartners.com/suppliers/amazon-business/public-sector>>
- Online Marketplace for the Purchase of Products and Services: Prince William County Public Schools, VA R-TC-17006. Valid through 1/18/2026 with option to renew for three (3) additional two-year periods through 1/18/2028.  
<<https://www.omniapartners.com/suppliers/amazon-business/public-sector>>

**AVI-SPL:**



- Omnia Partners (State of Florida) Audio Visual Equipment & Accessories 52161500-24-OMNIA-ACS-TX. Valid through 3/31/26  
<[https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business\\_operations/state\\_purchasing/state\\_contracts\\_and\\_agreements/alternate\\_contract\\_source/audio\\_visual\\_equipment\\_accessories\\_and\\_services](https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing/state_contracts_and_agreements/alternate_contract_source/audio_visual_equipment_accessories_and_services)>

**CDW-Government LLC:**

- OMNIA (City of Mesa, AZ) 2024056-01 - GOV - Contract: 2424056-01. Valid through 7/1/2028. [CDW | OMNIA Partners | Contract Documents](https://www.omniapartners.com/suppliers/cdwg/public-sector/contract-documents)  
<<https://www.omniapartners.com/suppliers/cdwg/public-sector/contract-documents>>
- SVAR (State of Florida) 43230000-23-NASPO-ACS. Valid through 4/24/2027. [Software Value Added Reseller \(SVAR\) / Alternate Contract Source / State Contracts and Agreements / State Purchasing / Business Operations - Florida Department of Management Services](https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing/state_contracts_and_agreements/alternate_contract_source/software_value_added_reseller_svar)  
<[https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business\\_operations/state\\_purchasing/state\\_contracts\\_and\\_agreements/alternate\\_contract\\_source/software\\_value\\_added\\_reseller\\_svar](https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing/state_contracts_and_agreements/alternate_contract_source/software_value_added_reseller_svar)>
- Sourcewell 121923-CDWG Tech Catalog. Valid through 2/27/2028. CDW-G: Contract 121923-CDW | Sourcewell  
<<https://www.sourcewell-mn.gov/cooperative-purchasing/121923-CDW>>

**Carahsoft, Inc:**

- Omnia Software Solutions and Services (Region 4 ESC - TX) Contract Number: R240303. Valid through 12/31/2027 with the option to renew for two (2) additional one-year periods through 12/31/2029. [Carahsoft | OMNIA Partners | Contract Documents](https://www.omniapartners.com/suppliers/carahsoft/public-sector/contract-documents)  
<<https://www.omniapartners.com/suppliers/carahsoft/public-sector/contract-documents>>
- Omnia Contract 23-6692-01 Technology Products, Solutions and Related Services Cobb County, GA. Valid through 4/30/2028. Carahsoft | OMNIA Partners | Contract Documents  
<<https://www.omniapartners.com/suppliers/carahsoft/public-sector/contract-documents>>

**DGR:**

- OMNIA PARTNERS CONTRACT 01-154 (IT Security and Data Protection Solutions) (Region 14 ESC-TX) Valid Through 11/30/2026. Option to renew for two (2) additional one-year periods through 11/30/2027.  
<https://www.omniapartners.com/suppliers/fortinet/public-sector/contract-documents#contract-1517>  
<<https://www.omniapartners.com/suppliers/fortinet/public-sector/contract-documents>>
- SOURCEWELL CONTRACT 121923-DGR. Valid through 02/27/2028 DGR Systems: Contract 121923-DGR | Sourcewell  
<<https://www.sourcewell-mn.gov/cooperative-purchasing/121923-dgr>>
- SVAR 43230000-23-NASPO-ACS (State of Florida) Valid through 04/24/2027. [Software Value Added Reseller \(SVAR\) / Alternate](https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing/state_contracts_and_agreements/alternate_contract_source/software_value_added_reseller_svar)

[Contract Source / State Contracts and Agreements / State Purchasing / Business Operations - Florida Department of Management Services](https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing/state_contracts_and_agreements/alternate_contract_source/software_value_added_reseller_svar)  
<[https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business\\_operations/state\\_purchasing/state\\_contracts\\_and\\_agreements/alternate\\_contract\\_source/software\\_value\\_added\\_reseller\\_svar](https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing/state_contracts_and_agreements/alternate_contract_source/software_value_added_reseller_svar)>

**DOF Creations:**

- OMNIA PARTNERS CONTRACT 01-154 (IT Security and Data Protection Solutions) (Region 14 ESC-TX) Valid through 11/30/2026. Option to renew for two (2) additional one-year periods through November 30, 2027.  
<https://www.omniapartners.com/suppliers/fortinet/public-sector/contract-documents#contract-1517>  
<<https://www.omniapartners.com/suppliers/fortinet/public-sector/contract-documents%23contract-1517%20>>

**GovConnection DBA Connection Public Sector Solutions:**

- Sourcwell - 121923-GVC. Valid through 2/27/2028. [Connection: Contract 121923-GVC | Sourcwell](#)  
<<https://www.sourcwell-mn.gov/cooperative-purchasing/121923-GVC>>
- Omnia (Region 4 ESC - TX) R210402. Valid through 5/31/2026.  
[Connection | OMNIA Partners | Contract Documents](#)  
<<https://www.omniapartners.com/suppliers/connection/public-sector/contract-documents>>
- NCPA: National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance- NCPA 01-144 (Region 14 ESC - TX). Valid through 11/30/2026. [NCPA 01-144 / OMNIA - National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance - Connection Public Sector Solutions](#)  
<<https://www.govconnection.com/public-sector/contracts/ncpa>>

**HP Inc:**

- State of Florida (NVP PC5) 43230000-23-NASPO-ACS. Valid through 04/24/2027.  
<[https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business\\_operations/state\\_purchasing/state\\_contracts\\_and\\_agreements/alternate\\_contract\\_source/software\\_value\\_added\\_reseller\\_svar](https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing/state_contracts_and_agreements/alternate_contract_source/software_value_added_reseller_svar)>
- State of Florida MFD 44100000-24-NASPO-ACS. Valid through 07/31/2026.  
<[https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business\\_operations/state\\_purchasing/state\\_contracts\\_and\\_agreements/alternate\\_contract\\_source/multi-function\\_devices\\_copiers\\_and\\_related\\_software\\_and\\_services](https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing/state_contracts_and_agreements/alternate_contract_source/multi-function_devices_copiers_and_related_software_and_services)>

**InSight Public Sector Inc:**

- State of Florida Contract No. 43230000-23-NASPO-ACS. Valid through 04/24/2027.  
<[https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business\\_operations/state\\_purchasing/state\\_contracts\\_and\\_agreements/alternate\\_contract\\_source/software\\_value\\_added\\_reseller\\_svar](https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing/state_contracts_and_agreements/alternate_contract_source/software_value_added_reseller_svar)>
- Omnia Contract 23-6692-03 Technology Products, Solutions and Related Services Cobb County, GA. Valid through 4/30/2028  
<https://www.omniapartners.com/suppliers/insight-public-sector/public-sector/contract-documents#contract-1846>

<<https://www.omniapartners.com/suppliers/insight-public-sector/public-sector/contract-documents%23contract-1846>>

**Morsecom Inc:**

- PEPPM National Contract 533902-126 Ruckus Wireless. Valid through 12/31/2025. <https://www.peppm.org/contracts/783400/#overview>  
<<https://www.peppm.org/contracts/783400/>>
- PEPPM National Contract 535122-153 Ruckus Wireless. Valid through 12/31/2025. <<https://www.peppm.org/contracts/783648/%20%20>>
- TIPS Contract 230105 Technology Solutions Products and Services. Valid through 5/31/2028. <<https://www.tips-usa.com/vendorProfile.cfm?RecordID=B0584CB756B5740D58BBC361F8FE714B>>

**SHI International Corp:**

- State of Florida Contract No. 43230000-23-NASPO-ACS. Valid through 04/24/2027.  
<[https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business\\_operations/state\\_purchasing/state\\_contracts\\_and\\_agreements/alternate\\_contract\\_source/software\\_value\\_added\\_reseller\\_svar](https://www.dms.myflorida.com/business_operations/state_purchasing/state_contracts_and_agreements/alternate_contract_source/software_value_added_reseller_svar)>
- TIPS - Tech. Solutions, Products & Services 230105. Valid through 5/31/2028. <<https://www.tips-usa.com/vendorProfile.cfm?RecordID=7D90DFBE5334489DF430FE8FF41599D3>>
- Omnia 2024056-02 (City of Mesa, AZ). Valid through 7/1/2028. <<https://www.omniapartners.com/suppliers/shi/public-sector/contract-documents>>
- Sourcewell contract 121923-SHI. Valid through 2/27/28. <<https://www.sourcewell-mn.gov/cooperative-purchasing/121923-SHI>>

Authorization to add additional vendors as needed is also requested following the proper procurement process with oversight from the Procurement Division to include small dollar purchases subject to Clearwater Code of Ordinances Section 2.561(5).

**APPROPRIATION CODE AND AMOUNT:**

Funds are available in various departmental cost centers in object codes 550100 (Office Supplies), 550400. (Operating Supplies), 550800 (Computer Parts), 530100 (Professional Services), 530300 (Contractual Services), and 530500 (Maintenance) as well as various Capital Improvement Projects to fund these purchases.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY:**

These purchases help accomplish strategic objectives 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4. The Information Technology Department maintains critical public infrastructure to deliver sustain a high level of service to support a safe and healthy community.

**Councilmember Allbritton moved to authorize purchase orders to multiple vendors for the purchase of computer parts, product maintenance, servers, and network equipment in the cumulative not-to-exceed amount of \$3,500,000.00, for term October 1, 2025**

**through September 30, 2026, or through expiration of the respective contract if earlier, pursuant to Clearwater Code of Ordinances Section 2.563 (1)(c), piggyback, and Section 2.561(5), small purchases, and authorize the appropriate officials to execute same. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.**

- 6.7** Authorize purchase orders to Control Southern, Inc. of Suwanee, GA, DevTech Sales, Inc. of Avon Park, FL, Equipment Controls Company of Norcross, GA, Technico of Lake Worth, FL for the purchase of natural gas meters and regulators in the cumulative annual not-to-exceed amount of \$1,600,000.00 for the term October 1, 2025 through September 31, 2026, with the two, one-year renewal options pursuant to Invitation to Bid 45-25 and authorize the appropriate officials to execute same.

Invitation to Bid 45-25, Natural Gas Meters and Regulators was released on July 11, 2025, and five bid submissions were received on August 11, 2025. Specifications were reviewed for compliance, and following evaluation, Clearwater Gas System (CGS) Energy determined that the four companies listed represent the lowest, most responsible bidders for specific line items. Award is therefore recommended as outlined below:

**PRIMARY AWARDS:**

- **Control Southern of Suwanee, GA:**
  - Items 20-21: Direct Operated Pressure Reducing Regulators
  - Item 22: Constant Pressure Pilot Loaded Regulators
  - Item 23: 2" Flanged Spring Loaded Self-Regulated Regulator
  - Item 24: 2" Female Pipe Thread Loaded, Self Operated Gas Regulator
  - Item 25: 1 1/4" Spring Loaded Self Operated Gas Regulator
  - Items 27-28: Spring Loaded Throttling Relief Back Pressure Regulator
  - Item 29: Backpressure Regulator
  - Item 30: Pressure Reducing Regulator
  - Item 31: Backpressure Regulator
  - Item 36: Pilot Operated Pressure Reducing Regulator
  - Item 37: Pilot Operated Pressure Relief Valve
- **Devtech Sales, Inc. of Avon Park, FL:**
  - Items 3-8: 600, 800, 1000 Class CFG (NTC) Aluminum Meters
  - Item 10: Romet or Roots 5M Rotary Meter
  - Items 11-13: Romet or Roots 7M, 11M, 16M Rotary Meters
  - Items 14-15: HRS 3/4" Angle Body (60 PSIG and 6 PSIG)
  - Items 16-17: HRS 3/4" Globe Body (60 PSIG and 6 PSIG)
  - Items 18-19: HRS 1" Globe Body (60 PSIG and 6 PSIG)
  - Item 32: Strainers

- Item 33: 2" Filter
- Item 34: 3" Filter
- Item 35: 4" Filter
- **Equipment Controls Company of Norcross, GA:**
  - Item 1-2: 200, 400 Class CFH (NTC) Aluminum Meters
  - Item 9: Romet or Roots 3M Rotary Meter
- **Technico of Lake Worth, FL:**
  - Item 26: 1 ¼" Spring Loaded Self Operated Gas Regulator

**SECONDARY AWARDS:**

- **Control Southern of Suwannee, GA:**
  - Items 16: HRS 3/4" Globe Body (60 PSIG and 6 PSIG)
- **Devtech Sales, Inc. of Avon Park, FL:**
  - Item 1-2: 200, 400 Class CFH (NTC) Aluminum Meters
  - Item 9: Romet or Roots 3M Rotary Meter
  - Items 21: Direct Operated Pressure Reducing Regulator
  - Item 26: 1 ¼" Spring Loaded Self Operated Gas Regulator
  - Items 27-28: Spring Loaded Throttling Relief Back Pressure Regulator
  - Item 29: Backpressure Regulator
  - Item 30: Pressure Reducing Regulator
  - Item 31: Backpressure Regulator
  - Item 36: Pilot Operated Pressure Reducing Regulator
  - Item 37: Pilot Operated Pressure Relief Valve
- **Equipment Controls Company of Norcross, GA:**
  - Item 10: Romet or Roots 5M Rotary Meter
  - Items 11-13: Romet or Roots 7M, 11M, 16M Rotary Meters
  - Items 20: Direct Operated Pressure Reducing Regulator
- **Technico of Lake Worth, FL:**
  - Items 14-15: HRS ¾" Angle Body (60 PSIG and 6 PSIG)
  - Items 17: HRS 3/4" Globe Body (60 PSIG and 6 PSIG)
  - Items 18-19: HRS 1" Globe Body (60 PSIG and 6 PSIG)
  - Item 22: Constant Pressure Pilot Loaded Regulators
  - Item 23: 2" Flanged Spring Loaded Self-Regulated Regulator
  - Item 24: 2" Female Pipe Thread Loaded, Self Operated Gas Regulator

To ensure continuity of supply, CGS Energy requests flexibility to purchase from secondary sources as needed. While Equipment Controls Company was

awarded the 200- and 400-series gas meters (Items #1 and #2) as the lowest responsive bidder, CGS Energy currently has a surplus inventory of 2,100 Automated Meter Reading (AMR) endpoints (model ERG-5006-001) that are only compatible with DevTech, (American) meters, which were awarded as the secondary vendor. Purchasing from Devtech enables CGS Energy to utilize its existing inventory and avoid the additional expense of purchasing a different model of AMR not currently stocked in the warehouse.

As a corrective measure, CGS Energy will update its meter endpoint purchase order with Devtech, the sole-source provider of Itron endpoints, to include models compatible with Equipment Controls meters. In the interim, CGS

Energy requests authorization to purchase the 200 and 400 series meters from Devtech, the secondary awardee, to ensure uninterrupted operations and customer service until the existing inventory of endpoints is fully utilized. Once the current inventory has been depleted and provided the combined cost of meters from Equipment Controls with Devtech endpoints remains the most economical option, future purchases will be made from the primary vendor for these meters.

All awarded equipment is code-approved and will be used on the CGS Energy distribution system for new customer installations and for replacing meters that have reached the end of their service life. In addition, CGS Energy is not obligated to expend the entire amount being requested.

**APPROPRIATION CODE AND AMOUNT:**

Funding is budgeted and available in 3237323-96367 (Gas Meter Change-out Capitalized Pinellas) and 3237323-96379 (Gas Meter Change-out Capitalized Pasco).

**USE OF RESERVE FUNDS: NA**

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY:**

Deliver Effective and Efficient Services by Optimizing City Assets and Resources.

Objective 1.5: Embrace a culture of innovation that drives continuous improvement and successfully serves all our customers.

**Councilmember Mannino moved to authorize purchase orders to Control Southern, Inc. of Suwanee, GA, DevTech Sales, Inc. of Avon Park, FL, Equipment Controls Company of Norcross, GA, Technico of Lake Worth, FL for the purchase of natural gas meters and regulators in the cumulative annual not-to-exceed amount of \$1,600,000.00 for the term October 1, 2025 through September 31, 2026, with the two, one-year renewal options pursuant to Invitation**

**to Bid 45-25 and authorize the appropriate officials to execute same. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.**

**6.8 Reappoint Kelly Batsford and Frank Cornier to the Neighborhood and Affordable Housing Advisory Board with terms expiring September 30, 2029.**

**BOARD: Neighborhood and Affordable Housing Advisory Board (NAHAB)**

TERM: 4 years

APPOINTED BY: City Council

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE: Not Required

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT: N/A (See Special Qualifications)

MEMBERS: 7

CHAIRPERSON: Robyn Fiel

MEETING DATE: 2nd Tues. most months

PLACE: Main Library/Council Chambers

STAFF LIAISON: Dylan Mayeux

APPTS. NEEDED: 2

**SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS:** Board to have 1 member in each: Real Estate Professional in Connection with Affordable Housing; Clearwater Resident; Residential Home Building Industry; Advocate for Low Income Housing; Not-For-Profit Provider of Affordable Housing; Banking/Mortgage Industry; Employer's Representative.

**THE FOLLOWING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS HAVE COMPLETED PARTIAL TERMS AND ELEIGIBLE TO SERVE A FULL TERM:**

1. Kelly Batsford - 108 N Mars Avenue, 33755 - Hopes Villages of America employee  
Appointed to fill an unexpired term: 7/10/2025  
Appointed to fill the Citizen who represents employers within the City of Clearwater category.
2. Frank Cornier - 18209 Holland House Loop, Land O Lakes - Tampa Bay Neighborhood Housing Services, President/CEO  
Appointed to fill an unexpired term: 3/6/2025  
Appointed to fill the Citizen who is actively engaged in the residential home building industry in connection with affordable housing category.

**Current Special Qualifications:**

- 1 citizen actively engaged in the residential home building industry in connection with affordable housing
- 1 citizen who resides within the city of Clearwater
- 1 citizen actively engaged as a real estate professional in connection with affordable housing
- 1 citizen actively engaged as an advocate for low-income persons in connection with affordable housing
- 1 citizen actively engaged as a not-for-profit provider of affordable housing

1 citizen who represents employers within the city of Clearwater

**Councilmember Cotton moved to reappoint Kelly Batsford and Frank Cornier to the Neighborhood and Affordable Housing Advisory Board with terms expiring September 30, 2029. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.**

- 6.9** Appoint Richard Foxx to the Neighborhood and Affordable Housing Advisory Board, as the Citizen actively engaged as a real estate professional in connection with affordable housing, with an unexpired term through June 30, 2026.

**APPOINTMENT WORKSHEET**

**BOARD: Neighborhood and Affordable Housing Advisory Board (NAHAB)**

**TERM:** 4 years

**APPOINTED BY:** City Council

**FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE:** Not Required

**RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT:** N/A (See Special Qualifications)

**MEMBERS:** 7

**CHAIRPERSON:** Robyn Fiel

**MEETING DATE:** 2nd Tues. most months

**PLACE:** Main Library/Council Chambers

**STAFF LIAISON:** Chuck Lane

**APPTS. NEEDED:** 1

**SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS:** Board to have 1 member in each: Real Estate Professional in Connection with Affordable Housing; Clearwater Resident; Residential Home Building Industry; Advocate for Low Income Housing; Not-For-Profit Provider of Affordable Housing; Banking/Mortgage Industry; Employer's Representative.

**THE FOLLOWING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER IS NO LONGER ABLE TO SERVE ON THE BOARD:**

1. Lindsay Dicus-Harrison - 12400 Chicksaw Trail, Largo - Dicus Harrison Realty  
Appointed to fill an unexpired term: 01/12/23  
Resigned: 9/19/25

**THE NAME BELOW IS BEING SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION TO FILL THE ABOVE VACANCY:**

1. Richard Foxx - 1129 Charles Street, 33755 - Real Estate/Mortgage Broker

**Current Special Qualifications:**



1 citizen actively engaged in the residential home building industry in connection with affordable housing  
1 citizen who resides within the city of Clearwater  
\*\* citizen actively engaged as a real estate professional in connection with affordable housing  
1 citizen actively engaged as an advocate for low-income persons in connection with affordable housing  
1 citizen actively engaged as a not-for-profit provider of affordable housing  
1 citizen who represents employers within the city of Clearwater

**Vice Mayor Teixeira moved to appoint Richard Foxx to the Neighborhood and Affordable Housing Advisory Board, as the Citizen actively engaged as a real estate professional in connection with affordable housing, with an unexpired term through June 30, 2026. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.**

**6.10** Approve renewal of Legal Services Agreement with the law firm of Baker Hostetler LLP to represent the City in environmental matters and authorize the appropriate officials to execute same.

The City has maintained this agreement since July 1, 2020, and has collaborated with Mr. Pence for over 15 years. The City pays hourly for the highly specialized services provided by Baker Hostetler.

The Council designates the City Attorney to approve billing invoices up to the \$100,000 not to exceed amount.

**APPROPRIATION CODE AND AMOUNT:**

Operating funds are available in cost code 0109600-530100, Professional Services, to fund this contract.

**Councilmember Allbritton moved to approve renewal of Legal Services Agreement with the law firm of Baker Hostetler LLP to represent the City in environmental matters and authorize the appropriate officials to execute same. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.**

**6.11** Approve a retainer agreement with the Dayes Law Firm, PLLC in Jontez Williams vs. Carl Giardino and authorize the appropriate officials to execute same.

Senior Assistant City Attorney Michael Fuino has been appointed as City Attorney for the City of North Port. Mr. Fuino has been representing the City and the City employee(s) named as defendants in this suit. To ensure the successful defense of the City and our employee(s), the City Attorney recommends retaining The Dayes Law Firm to represent the City and our

employee(s) in this matter. The Dayes Law Firm has agreed to undertake this representation pursuant to the attached agreement. The City Council authorizes the City Attorney to approve legal fee invoices in this matter up to the not-to-exceed amount of \$75,000.

**APPROPRIATION CODE AND AMOUNT:**

Operating Funds are available in cost code 0109600-530100, Professional Services, to fund this contract. The operating budget of the City Attorney's Office is funded by General Fund revenue.

**AND**

- 6.12** Approve a retainer agreement with the Dayes Law Firm PLLC in Connie Simon vs. City of Clearwater and authorize the appropriate officials to execute same.

Senior Assistant City Attorney Michael Fuino has been appointed as City Attorney for the City of North Port. Mr. Fuino has been representing the City and city employee(s) named as defendants in this suit. To ensure the successful defense of the City and our employee(s), the City Attorney recommends retaining The Dayes Law Firm to represent the City and our employee(s) in this matter. The Dayes Law Firm has agreed to undertake this representation pursuant to the attached agreement. The City Council authorizes the City Attorney to approve legal fee invoices in this matter up to the not-to-exceed amount of \$75,000.

**APPROPRIATION CODE AND AMOUNT:**

Operating Funds are available in cost code 0109600-530100, Professional Services, to fund this contract. The operating budget of the City Attorney's Office is funded by General Fund revenue.

**AND**

- 6.13** Approve amended retainer agreement with Manson Bolves Donaldson Tanner, P.A. in regard to Bay Esplanade litigation and authorize the appropriate officials to execute same.

Manson Bolves has been defending the City in certain specialized aspects of this quiet title action. Senior Assistant City Attorney Michael Fuino has been defending the City in other aspects. Mr. Fuino has been appointed as the next City Attorney for the City of North Port. As a result, this amended agreement with Manson Bolves will ensure continued and cost effective representation of the City by unifying both aspects of the litigation under a single firm.

**APPROPRIATION CODE AND AMOUNT:**

This expense will be coded to 0109600-530100, Professional Services. A budget amendment may be needed later in fiscal year 2025/2026 to provide additional funding utilizing General Fund reserves. The operating budget of the City Attorney's Office is funded by General Fund revenue.

*One individual said the owner wishes to work with the City and find a Resolution (Re Item 6.13).*

**Councilmember Mannino moved to approve items 6.11 through 6.13. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.**

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

- 7.1** Adopt Ordinance 9825-25 on second reading, amending Clearwater Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2 Administration by amending Article III Appointed Authorities, Boards, Committees, Division 2 Airpark Advisory Board and Chapter 4 Airports and Aircraft by amending Article I In General and Article II Airports.

*One individual spoke in opposition.*

*One individual requested the item be continued until the beacon is installed.*

**Ordinance 9825-25 was presented and read by title only.**

**Councilmember Cotton moved to adopt Ordinance 9825-25 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

- 7.2** Adopt Ordinance 9851-25 on second reading and amend the City's fiscal year 2024/25 operating budget at third quarter.

**Ordinance 9851-25 was presented and read by title only.**

**Vice Mayor Teixeira moved to adopt Ordinance 9851-25 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

- 7.3** Adopt Ordinance 9852-25 on second reading and amend the City's fiscal year 2024/25 capital improvement budget at third quarter.

**Ordinance 9852-25 was presented and read by title only.**

**Councilmember Allbritton moved to adopt Ordinance 9852-25 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

**8. City Manager Reports – None.****9. City Attorney Reports – None.****10. Other Council Action****10.1** Designate Clearwater a Red Star City and adopt Resolution 25-13.

At the September 18, 2025 council meeting, there was council consensus to adopt a resolution designating Clearwater a Red Star City. Staff was directed to place the resolution on the next meeting agenda.

**Resolution 25-13 was presented and read by title only.**

**Councilmember Cotton moved to designate Clearwater a Red Star City and adopt Resolution 25-13. 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

**10.2** Consideration to rename Court Street to Charlie Kirk Way - Councilmember Cotton

This item proposes renaming Court Street to Charlie Kirk Way in honor of Charlie Kirk, who was tragically assassinated for his steadfast defense of faith, freedom, and the right to open debate. Renaming this central thoroughfare would serve as a lasting tribute to the principles he championed and a reminder of our city's commitment to protect and uphold these values for future generations.

**Councilmember Cotton moved to rename Court Street to Charlie Kirk Way.**

**The motion failed for lack of a second.**

*22 individuals spoke in opposition.*

*19 individuals submitted eComments in opposition (see page 22-28).*

*Six individuals submitted emails opposing Item 10.2 (see page 29-36).*

*The Mayor requested Council discuss the process of naming city assets after individuals who served the community at a future work session.*

**11. Closing comments by Councilmembers (limited to 3 minutes)**

*Vice Mayor Teixeira reviewed recent events and thanked all who attended tonight and emailed. She said she attended Ed Armstrong's memorial service; the stories shared reflected a life of kindness, integrity, friendship, and laughter.*

*Councilmembers Allbritton and Cotton thanked all who attended and spoke tonight.*

**12. Closing Comments by Mayor**

*Mayor Rector said there were two controversial items on the agenda and lots of differences in opinions, but he has learned that we are stronger together and have more in common.*

**13. Adjourn**

*The meeting adjourned at 10:06 p.m.*

Attest

---

Mayor  
City of Clearwater

---

City Clerk

# City Council on 2025-09-29 6:00 PM

Meeting Time: 09-29-25 18:00

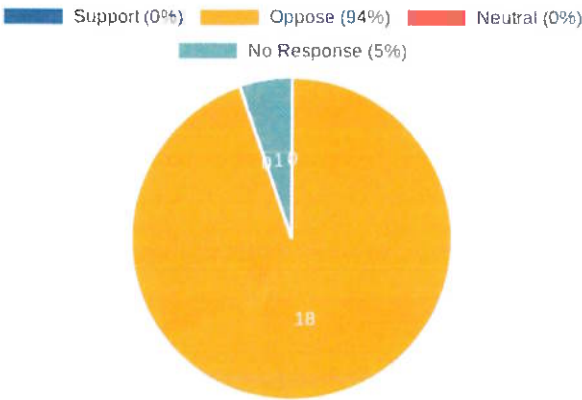
## eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
City Council on 2025-09-29 6:00 PM	09-29-25 18:00	37	19	0	18	0

### Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

#### Overall Sentiment



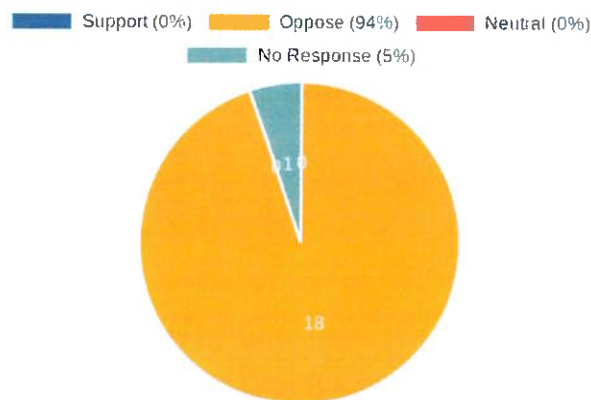
**City Council on 2025-09-29 6:00 PM**  
**09-29-25 18:00**

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
10.2 ID#25-0992 Consideration to rename Court Street to Charlie Kirk Way - Councilmember Cotton	19	0	18	0

**Sentiments for All Agenda Items**

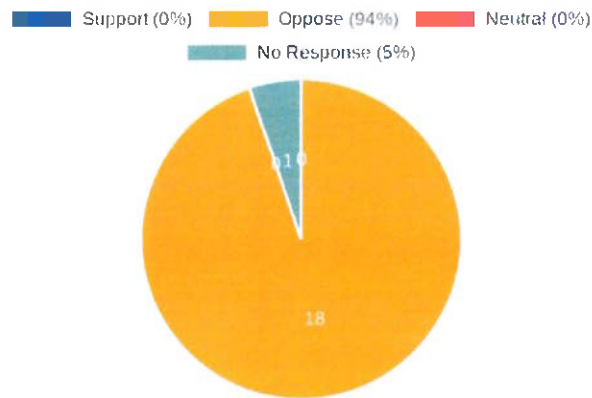
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

**Overall Sentiment**



Agenda Item: eComments for 10.2 ID#25-0992 Consideration to rename Court Street to Charlie Kirk Way - Councilmember Cotton

Overall Sentiment



**Jennifer Brown**

Location:

Submitted At: 2:58pm 09-28-25

While Kirk's murder is sad and tragic, he remains an incredibly divisive personality who regularly insulted marginalized communities, dehumanizing them and inciting violence against them. To honor someone like that in this way would mark Clearwater's agreement with his viewpoints. For that reason, I'd strongly oppose this effort.

**Neil Finn**

Location:

Submitted At: 2:28pm 09-28-25

Charlie Kirk was a controversial figure known for his provocative conservative activism and outspoken views. Honoring him by renaming Court Street is endorsing or overlooking his divisive rhetoric, which many consider inflammatory or harmful. Public streets should be named for individuals who contribute to the well-being of the entire community, not just for a chosen few.

Here are a few examples of Kirk's divisive comments:

"If I see a Black pilot, I'm going to be like, boy, I hope he's qualified."

– The Charlie Kirk Show, January 23, 2024

"Happening all the time in urban America, prowling Blacks go around for fun to go target white people, that's a fact. It's happening more and more."

– The Charlie Kirk Show, May 19, 2023

"If I'm dealing with somebody in customer service who's a moronic Black woman, I wonder is she there because of her excellence, or is she there because of affirmative action?"

– The Charlie Kirk Show, Jan. 3, 2024



"If we would have said that Joy Reid and Michelle Obama and Sheila Jackson Lee and Ketanji Brown Jackson were affirmative action picks, we would have been called racists. Now they're coming out and they're saying it for us ... You do not have the brain processing power to otherwise be taken really seriously. You had to go steal a white person's slot to go be taken somewhat seriously."

– The Charlie Kirk Show, July 13, 2023

Kirk has also promoted conspiracy theories such as falsely claiming that the 2020 election was stolen, undermining trust in democratic institutions. Additionally, Kirk has used language framing the LGBTQ+ community as a threat to traditional values, calling gender identity discussions "toxic" and "dangerous" to society. These instances exemplify his tendency to promote divisiveness and bigotry rather than fostering unity and understanding.

By voting to name a street after Charlie Kirk, you are basically confirming to your constituents that you are okay promoting racism, antisemitism and prejudice towards the LGBTQ+ and other communities. It shows no regard whatsoever, and is an insult, to those in your community who are the subjects of this hateful rhetoric.

Please reject this consideration.

**Jodi Short**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:33am 09-28-25

I do not support renaming a street after someone who does not represent most people in Pinellas County. Most of his statements and beliefs were divisive, not inclusive.

**Lisa Colburn**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:27pm 09-27-25

As a taxpaying Clearwater resident of 20 years, I strongly oppose the proposal to change the name of Court Street.

**Brooke Beloso**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:27pm 09-27-25

I am a citizen of Clearwater in opposition to this agenda item to rename Court Street to Charlie Kirk Way. Charlie Kirk dedicated himself to spreading hate and bigotry, and hate and bigotry deserve no place of honor in our community.

**Rowland Johnson**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:09pm 09-27-25

**\*\*Statement in Opposition to Item 10.2 – Clearwater City Council (9/28/25)\*\***

I strongly oppose Item 10.2 on the agenda, as it represents a profound disregard for the constituents of Clearwater that Councilman Ryan Cotton was elected to serve. The role of an elected official is not to advance personal ideologies but to represent the diverse voices, values, and lived experiences of the entire community. By supporting or aligning with initiatives rooted in polarizing rhetoric, Mr. Cotton risks undermining the very foundation of trust and inclusivity that our city council should uphold.

It is particularly troubling when we recognize the kind of divisive speech that has been championed by public figures Mr. Cotton appears to admire or emulate. For example, in Charlie Kirk's speeches and debates, there have been repeated instances of language that disparages marginalized groups, foments division, and perpetuates harmful stereotypes. Whether in his public comments about immigrants, dismissive remarks about racial equity, or inflammatory responses during debates, this type of rhetoric has been widely condemned as exclusionary and, in many cases, hateful. When such attitudes find their way into the discourse of our local leaders, it sends a chilling message to residents who expect fairness, dignity, and respect from their

representatives.

Our community deserves a council that elevates constructive dialogue, not one that echoes the tone of national figures who thrive on controversy and division. The people of Clearwater are not monolithic; they are a mosaic of cultures, beliefs, and backgrounds. When Mr. Cotton allows his personal opinions, shaped by inflammatory voices, to dictate policy or influence the council's agenda, he disrespects this diversity. Public service requires setting aside personal leanings to prioritize the common good. Anything less is an abdication of duty.

Furthermore, tying city business to ideologies rooted in hostility or exclusion cheapens the integrity of the council chamber. It replaces thoughtful governance with performative politics. Constituents are not asking Mr. Cotton to parrot cable news talking points or debate-club tactics; they are asking him to solve real issues—affordable housing, infrastructure, public safety, and economic development. By indulging in divisive discourse, Mr. Cotton shifts focus away from these pressing needs, leaving residents underserved.

For these reasons, I urge the council to reject Item 10.2 and reaffirm that Clearwater will not allow personal bias and rhetoric that mirrors hate speech to steer its public policy. Our city deserves leadership that listens, respects, and acts in the best interests of all its residents—not just those who agree with one official's personal worldview.

**Megan Carter**

Location:

Submitted At: 3:17pm 09-27-25

There are local heros, firefighters, police and veterans, that are more deserving of this honor.

**Kaleena Zagrzebski**

Location:

Submitted At: 1:12pm 09-26-25

I strongly oppose this proposal to change the name of Court Street in the City of Clearwater. Charlie Kirk left a legacy of hate and division that are a stain on the very fabric of America and an insult to decent humans everywhere. While Charlie Kirk did not deserve to be murdered for his words of hate, neither does he deserve to be venerated nor honored.

**Keely Johnson**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:46am 09-26-25

This is ridiculous. As stupid as changing the name of the Gulf. How much money is it going to cost tax payers to change signs and maps?!?! I don't want my hard earned money changing signs, I want free lunches for students! Access to Health Services! WE DON'T NEED ANOTHER STUPID NAME CHANGE FOR ANYTHING. FIX THE DAILY LIVES OF YOUR CONSTITIENTS!

**Karen Pickell**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:59am 09-26-25

Clearwater is home to a diverse population and is a vacation destination for people of all viewpoints from around the world. Charlie Kirk was a polarizing figure who espoused hateful views of black people, LGBTQ people, and Democrats, among others. His organization published a watchlist of college professors whose teaching he opposed, leading to many of those professors receiving death threats and requiring protection for themselves and their families. Councilman Cotton has shown his true colors with this proposal. This Clearwater resident is horrified at the suggestion that we should tarnish our city's reputation by honoring someone who lacked respect for many of the people who live and visit here. Shame on you, Councilman Cotton.

**Nancy Hapner**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:47am 09-26-25

To the City Council:

I respectfully urge you to reject the proposal to rename Court Street in honor of Charlie Kirk.

#### Lack of local connection

Memorializing someone by naming public infrastructure should reflect their meaningful ties or contributions to Clearwater. Charlie Kirk is a national political commentator, but I do not see how he has materially served or enriched our local community in a way that justifies this honor. In contrast, there are many local leaders, activists, educators, or historical figures whose contributions are direct and relevant to our neighborhoods.

#### The danger of partisanship in public infrastructure

Streets and other public features should ideally be non-partisan, shared by all community members regardless of political views. Naming a street after a polarizing political figure risks alienating residents who don't share his ideology, and may deepen divisions. In multiple other places, similar proposals have prompted fierce backlash from residents precisely because they saw the change as political rather than civic.

#### Controversial and harmful rhetoric

Charlie Kirk has made statements in the past that I and many others in Clearwater find offensive and harmful. He is on-record saying a number of things that are misogynist, racist and anti-Semitic. He said birth control messes with women's brains. He said "black women" don't have the brain power to hold certain jobs, so they have to steal a white man's job. He accused Jews of funding "cultural Marxism" and undermining the United States.

To honor someone publicly is to confer legitimacy. If a figure has a record of polarizing or derogatory statements, choosing them for a street name sends a message about whose values we elevate—and that choice matters.

#### Practical and burdensome implications

Renaming a street is not just symbolic—it imposes real burdens on residents and property owners: address changes, updating mailing and legal documents, possible confusion with services (emergency response, mail delivery), and other administrative costs. Those negative impacts are borne by neighbors regardless of their political views.

#### Risk of re-litigating the past

If a controversial figure is honored today, future generations may view aspects of their legacy more critically. What feels like a celebratory gesture now could become a liability later—or provoke future efforts to remove or rename. We should be cautious about locking in partisanship in our public spaces.

I live off of Court Street. I don't want to have to see this hateful man's name every time I drive downtown. Please do not rename any street in our beautiful city after him.

#### **Michael Sanford**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:42pm 09-25-25

I strongly oppose this shameful proposal to change the name of Court Street in the City of Clearwater. Charlie Kirk left a legacy of hate and division that are a stain on the very fabric of America and an insult to decent humans everywhere. His debates were nothing more than a ruse to give ignorant people an excuse to blame others for their own failings, and while Charlie Kirk did not deserve to be murdered for his words of hate, neither does he deserve to be venerated nor honored. Sadly, this proposal is just one more example of the rampant hypocrisy in today's rotting, festering carcass of the Republican Party.

#### **Laura Hubbard**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:24pm 09-25-25

In the name of harmony, please do not rename anything in Mr. Kirk's honor. He was divisive, calloused & outright racist. Combative, in the name of Christ, doesn't represent this, our beautiful Seminole Clearwaters Gulf town. . And certainly will bring sorrow to the African Americans living here - as well as anyone believing there are better ways to accomplish loving community.

#### **Michelle Cherny**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:54pm 09-25-25

Commissioners,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposal to rename Court Street to "Charlie Kirk Way."

I have lived in Clearwater my entire 49 years, and I care deeply about preserving the history and character of our city. Court Street has long been tied to Clearwater's civic identity — the Old Pinellas County Courthouse, built in 1917–1918 and still in use today, stands at 315 Court Street, anchoring it as part of the judicial center of our community. While I have not found a formal ordinance explicitly stating this is the origin of the name, it is clear that Court Street's identity has been historically associated with the courthouse and the city's judicial core.

Street names carry weight. They tell a story about who we are as a community. Replacing Court Street with the name of a polarizing political commentator with no ties to Clearwater would strip away that context and risk sending the message that our city is more interested in partisan gestures than in honoring its own history. That would be deeply unfair to the neighborhood and to Clearwater residents as a whole.

If the Commission feels a change is necessary, the name should reflect the area itself in a unifying way — such as Heights Avenue or Heritage Avenue — rather than introducing unnecessary controversy. Even better, Court Street should remain Court Street, preserving the name that fits both its history and its civic role.

As a lifelong Clearwater resident, I strongly urge you to reject this proposal. Please preserve Court Street as it is, or if a change must occur, select a name that reflects the neighborhood in a respectful, unifying way.

Thank you for your time and for considering the voices of residents like myself who want the best for our city.

**Ruth Cariola**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:44pm 09-25-25

Absolutely NOT!

Charlie Kirk's murder was horrible. No one condones violence no matter what side of the aisle you are on. Charlie Kirk spoke and condoned hate wrapped up and delivered in Bible scriptures. Clearwater has been damaged enough. This man was no martyr and does not deserve this kind of recognition.

**Elizabeth Schwartz**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:06pm 09-25-25

Kirk is a divisive figure. Leave Court Street alone. The name is perfect as is.

**Patricia Barris**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:59pm 09-25-25

This is extremely divisive and will only divide the community. This is reckless and unnecessary.

**Kim Brown**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:16pm 09-25-25

This would be very disrespectful to the minority community. His views do not align with what I would like our city to represent.

**Barbara Fisher**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:06pm 09-25-25

The man was not as noble as Councilman Cotton asserts. He had many undesirable qualities that go with remembering him by any street dedication. I would be very uncomfortable traveling Court under those circumstances.

## Call, Rosemarie

---

**From:** Bryan B <bryanbeckman63@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 29, 2025 7:37 AM  
**To:** Call, Rosemarie  
**Subject:** Re: Error with website

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of Clearwater. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

---

Hi Rosemarie,

Thank you for your help. Here is what I wanted to submit.

Hello Clearwater Council,

I am writing to oppose the renaming of Court St.

Renaming the street after an extremely polarizing figure will divide our community. Charlie Kirk's murder was tragic, and it shows how much this country needs to allow free speech and that violence is not a solution for differences of opinion. But renaming Court St would only make matters worse. There are many people that support a great future for Clearwater, but do not support Charlie Kirk's vision for America. Please keep that mind.

People in our community want our Council to be focused on streets, safe water, parks, recreation centers, helping us save money, and safe neighborhoods. Please don't bring national politics into our community. We need leaders that stand up for all parts of our community, not just certain portions of it.

Thank you.

Bryan Beckman

On Sep 28, 2025, at 7:05 PM, Call, Rosemarie <[Rosemarie.Call@myClearwater.com](mailto:Rosemarie.Call@myClearwater.com)> wrote:

Good evening, Mr. Beckman,

I apologize for the inconvenience. We are working with the vendor as it appears some individuals are running into issues.

Please feel free to email me your comments and will share them with Council and include them as part of the record.

Sincerely,

Rosemarie

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Bryan B <[bryanbeckman63@gmail.com](mailto:bryanbeckman63@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 28, 2025 5:07:44 PM  
**To:** Call, Rosemarie <[Rosemarie.Call@myClearwater.com](mailto:Rosemarie.Call@myClearwater.com)>  
**Subject:** Error with website

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of Clearwater. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

---

Hi Rosemarie,

I was trying to use the city website to make a public comment, but the website said I needed to update my password. When trying to do that, I kept running into the error below and could not get past it. I wanted to make sure you were aware in case others experienced the same problem.

Thank you.

Bryan Beckman

<Screen Shot 2025-09-28 at 4.02.47 PM.png>

## Call, Rosemarie

---

**From:** M Wright <ncmarjwright@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 29, 2025 8:39 AM  
**To:** ClearwaterCouncil  
**Subject:** ID#25-0992 Consideration to rename Court Street to Charlie Kirk Way

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of Clearwater. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

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Dear Council Member(s),

I strongly oppose the proposal to change the name of Court Street. As a concerned resident of Pinellas County, and on behalf of other residents and property owners in the area, I believe this change would have a negative impact on our community. My opposition is based on the following practical and financial concerns:

1. **Financial burden for residents and businesses:** A street name change would force all residents and businesses to update their legal and financial documents. This includes property titles, driver's licenses, bank accounts, and credit card information. Businesses would face additional costs for changing their marketing materials, signage, and business listings. This is an unnecessary and significant financial burden for the community.
2. **Impact on the Court System and Legal Community:** Significant disruption of court operations and citizen confusion will occur -- notices, directions for court appearances of all sorts, record requests among other items would be impacted by a street name change. There will be a significant cost for these changes, which will fall upon the state and the county, as well as upon Clearwater. The entire local legal community will also be required to change their forms and procedures to reflect a change of address for the courthouse.
3. **Significant administrative hassle:** The process of updating addresses is a time-consuming and frustrating experience for individuals and families. This change would require residents to notify various entities, including utility companies, postal services, financial institutions, and insurance providers.
4. **Public and emergency service confusion:** Changing a long-established street name can cause confusion for postal carriers, delivery services, and, most critically, emergency responders. Even a slight possibility of confusion could delay critical services and pose a safety risk to residents.
5. **Loss of historical identity:** The existing name, Court Street, has been part of our community's history. The loss of this historical marker erodes a piece of our neighborhood's character and heritage.
6. **No demonstrable community benefit:** To my knowledge, the community has not been presented with a compelling reason for this change that would justify the immense cost and disruption it would cause. The proposed change does not address any existing problems related to the street.

I urge you to consider the significant negative impacts this change would have on the community and to reject the proposal to rename Court Street. I believe our collective time and resources would be better spent on other municipal priorities.

Marjorie Wright  
Dunedin, FL



## Call, Rosemarie

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**From:** melinda J. Neal <marneal@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 27, 2025 10:04 PM  
**To:** ClearwaterCouncil  
**Subject:** The Renaming of Court St to Charlie Kirk

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of Clearwater. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

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Greetings.

As a tax paying law abiding citizen of the City of Clearwater i ask that you not rename Court St to Charlie Kirk St. We are a diverse city consisting of many different cultures and races. To rename a street for someone who didn't stand for all and promoted negative content regarding those that not look like him would only create divisiveness. This city represents diverse cultures and people why would commissioners who were voted in by a diverse set of constituents try to support divisiveness.

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

## Call, Rosemarie

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**From:** tbrommboesen <tbrommboesen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 10:25 PM  
**To:** ClearwaterCouncil  
**Cc:** Poirrier, Jennifer; Slaughter, Daniel  
**Subject:** Absurd idea to rename a street Charlie Kirk!

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To: Clearwater City Council,  
We are completely opposed to renaming a street in Clearwater after Charlie Kirk!!

The idea of an elected official of our city, Ryan Cotton pushing the Council's right-wing agenda in clear sight, to rename a street in Clearwater representing a person with extreme right wing views, does in no way represent the citizenry of Clearwater.

We are sorry to say, just because the man was killed tragically, does not make him a hero! There are plenty of real heroes in the state of Florida and in the City of Clearwater that deserve to have a street named after them, and Charlie Kirk is not one of them!

It's even hard to find the words to express what an absolutely absurd, and disturbing idea this is! Serve the city of Clearwater, not your own political interests!

Sincerely opposed!

Theresa and Peter Boesen  
tbrommboesen@gmail.com

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device

## Call, Rosemarie

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**From:** beth davis <beth.g.davis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 11:27 AM  
**To:** ClearwaterCouncil; Poirrier, Jennifer; Kader, Art; Slaughter, Daniel  
**Subject:** Court street in Clearwater

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I oppose the suggestion that this street lose its history, Clearwater being the county seat and the Court House street designation.

Maintain the identity.

The murder of everyone every day is always tragedy. The right to carry a gun exists and so this is our society, now with open carry.

Let's continue to honor our Court building and system.

Even though it will soon be for sale, the name of the street may be our last moment of the past.

Our current grief for one leader should not change the name of our Main Street in Clearwater.

Represent the entire community please.

**Call, Rosemarie**

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**From:** beth davis <beth.g.davis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 29, 2025 10:11 AM  
**To:** ClearwaterCouncil; Poirrier, Jennifer  
**Subject:** Fly USA March 25 changed the name on their communication

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<https://clearwaterexec.com/clearwater-city-council-officially-approves-renaming-of-clearwater-airpark-to-clearwater-executive-airport/>

Please pause, and reconsider putting this residential community at risk without a beacon.

Do not approve this high risk name change.

## Call, Rosemarie

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**From:** Don Urban <don41453@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2025 1:22 PM  
**To:** ClearwaterCouncil  
**Subject:** Meeting Agenda Item ID#25-0958

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To Whom It May Concern,

This email is related to the NewGen Presentation and Council Discussion, specific to the Clearwater Public Power Feasibility Report for the upcoming City of Clearwater Council meeting at 6 pm on Monday, September 29, 2025.

I recently retired from a NERC Reliability Region where I was involved with entity registration, compliance and risk assessment. If CPP's customer load is greater than 75 MW, CPP will need to register as a Distribution Provider (DP) per the NERC Rules of Procedure, Statement of Compliance Registry Criteria, Appendix 5B as an owner, operator or user of the BPS (Bulk Power System). This will then require: (1) CPP to ensure compliance to approximately forty (40) NERC Reliability Standards, (2) be audited every six (6) years by Southeastern Electric Reliability Corporation (SERC) and (3) need to establish a NERC Compliance group or contract this service to a third-party.

I'm not a resident of Clearwater, but Seminole.

Email or call with any questions.

Don Urban  
330-437-7484



**Melissa Seixas**  
State President - Florida

**Duke Energy Florida**  
299 First Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Melissa.Seixas@duke-energy.com

September 29, 2025

Clearwater City Council  
c/o City Manager and City Clerk  
P.O. Box 4748  
Clearwater, FL 33758-4748

**VIA EMAIL**

Rosemarie.Call@myclearwater.com  
Jennifer.Poirrier@myclearwater.com

Re: NewGen Feasibility Study Presentation at City Council Meeting on September 29

Dear Mayor Rector, Clearwater Council Members and City Manager Poirrier,

Duke Energy Florida remains committed to serving our Clearwater customers and looks forward to working with the City on the best path forward—renewing the franchise agreement. We value our relationship with Clearwater and will continue to work with the City each day on projects, opportunities and proactively addressing any concerns. Just last week, we announced local Duke Energy grant recipients, remembering last year's Hurricanes Helene and Milton, when we showed up for our customers when they needed us most. Our commitment to our customers remains stronger than ever.

Please enter this letter into the record during your discussion at the city council meeting today of the NewGen feasibility study.

As NewGen notes in its study, throughout this process, Duke Energy has cooperatively shared information with NewGen so that our customers and the City have accurate information as the City examines the feasibility of taking over Duke Energy's system.

Along those lines, as you undertake a careful review of the study, we ask that you consider the following significant issues with the assumptions made by NewGen. These deficiencies and uncertainties in the study, when corrected, change the picture dramatically, likely eliminating any speculated savings to customers. It is crucial not to be misled by these "findings," as a thorough examination reveals the true impact and potential inaccuracies.

- **ISSUE 1: NewGen's own study makes no definitive findings and shows a city takeover cannot guarantee cost savings or lower rates to customers; NewGen acknowledges a takeover could cost upwards of \$1B**
- **ISSUE 2: An "overnight" transition to a city-owned utility cannot occur so costs will be higher**
- **ISSUE 3: NewGen's estimated start-up costs are inconsistent with their own example, and higher costs could increase taxpayer burden**
- **ISSUE 4: NewGen used obsolete Duke Energy rate data and assumptions in its rate analysis, virtually eliminating speculated savings**

## ISSUE 1: NewGen's own study makes no definitive findings and shows a city takeover cannot guarantee cost savings or lower rates to customers; NewGen acknowledges a takeover could cost upwards of \$1B

Although the NewGen study suggests rate reductions may be possible and makes recommendations based on a single "all-in" valuation number of \$572 million, NewGen acknowledges there is a great deal of uncertainty as to the actual total cost. The report's authors state explicitly on page 4-11, **"There can be no guarantee that Clearwater...will achieve cost savings."**

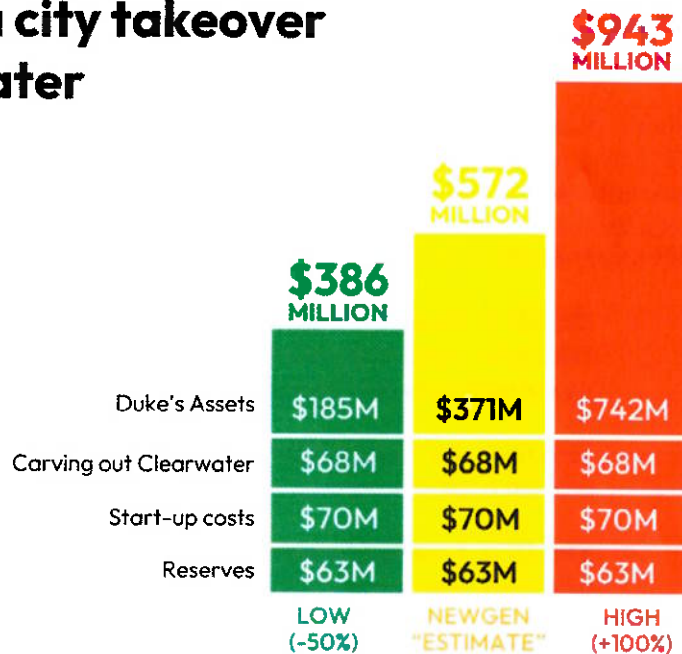
NewGen's "all-in" preliminary valuation (\$572 million) is based on a methodology (AACE Class 5) where the inputs may be off by up to -50% or +100% (Page 2-7). That means NewGen's own study acknowledges the costs of this takeover range from \$386 million to \$942 million, putting the figure they did choose for analysis on the low side of their overall range. (Page 2-7).

NewGen's study uses only \$572 million to conduct a projected rate analysis. Yet the study does not outline the impacts to rates if the actual valuation is much higher.

## NewGen's math for a city takeover of the grid in Clearwater

Cost estimates were developed using 2025 pricing estimates and were based on the Association of the Advancement of Cost Engineering's (AACE) Class 5 Estimate, defined as within the range of -50% to +100%, which is an appropriate range of cost estimating for the purposes of this Study. (Feasibility study p. 2-7)

**"There can be no guarantee that Clearwater... will achieve cost savings".**  
(Feasibility study p. 4-11)



## **ISSUE 2: An “overnight” transition to a city-owned utility cannot occur so costs will be higher**

Duke Energy’s property is not for sale. Any acquisition would have to utilize the long process of eminent domain. NewGen states directly in their full report that they are assuming an “overnight” conversion to a city-owned utility. In other words, NewGen uses today’s dollars to estimate the acquisition costs, even while they also acknowledge on page 4-1 that “it would likely be a long process that could take several years to complete”.

In addition, the purported savings that NewGen projects depend on multiple assumptions that are outside the City’s control and, we believe, are not accurately estimated in the study: wholesale power and transmission prices, fuel costs, litigation outcomes, interest rates, and the City’s ability to serve—and seize—outside-boundary “enclave” areas, including two Duke Energy substations located in those enclaves.

For example, the study assumes the City’s MEU would have about 20,000 more customers than Duke Energy currently has. It remains unclear how the City would acquire these customers, which at the very least would require substantial time related to annexation and regulatory approvals. If the City is unsuccessful at annexing those areas, that would further reduce the purported benefits reflected in the study.

## **ISSUE 3: NewGen’s estimated start-up costs are inconsistent with their own example, and higher costs could increase taxpayer burden**

NewGen’s study references the City of Boulder, which spent \$29 million of taxpayer money to engage in a similar effort from 2010 through 2020. Despite this, NewGen proposes the Clearwater MEU start-up cost would be \$11 million (including reserves), shown in Table 4-1. Higher acquisition and startup costs could eliminate any savings and increase the burden on taxpayers.

## **ISSUE 4: NewGen used obsolete Duke Energy rate data and assumptions in its rate analysis, virtually eliminating speculated savings**

Duke Energy’s 2026 rates on file with the Public Service Commission are **not the rates** used by NewGen to develop its purported \$17.70 per 1,000 kWh residential customer savings in 2026. This error means NewGen’s assumed Duke Energy rate is about 9% higher than Duke Energy’s bill for those customers. If Duke Energy’s 2026 rates were used, any speculated Clearwater MEU customer savings are essentially eliminated.

In addition to the difference in 2026 rate assumptions, as to projected future rates, there is a significant error in assumed rate growth in the NewGen study. The effective future rates in the NewGen study (see NewGen presentation slide 23) have the hypothetical Duke Energy rates growing faster than the equivalent rates for Clearwater MEU. That doesn’t make sense,





**Melissa Seixas**  
State President - Florida

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St. Petersburg, FL 33701

[Melissa.Seixas@duke-energy.com](mailto:Melissa.Seixas@duke-energy.com)

especially if Clearwater purchases both power and transmission service from Duke Energy. If the Duke Energy effective rates were to escalate at the same rate as Clearwater MEU's, there is little difference between Duke Energy and Clearwater projected future rates.

**SOLUTIONS:**

NewGen highlights some potential "off ramps," including working with Duke Energy on undergrounding as well vegetation management, distribution system reliability and service metrics, and customer programs regarding affordability and economic development.

All these items can be successfully addressed through franchise agreement negotiations. In fact, Duke Energy is already undergrounding one of the areas shown in the study on Myrtle Avenue between Court and Cleveland and is currently undergrounding lines in seven other areas in the City. Vegetation management was completed in the City earlier this year with enhanced notification procedures that successfully ensured our customers and the City are well informed about vegetation management activities in Clearwater and why.

We welcome meaningful discussions on these topics prior to the agreement's expiration in December and are open to considering a shorter franchise agreement term, such as a ten-year renewal. We remain committed to working together, as we have for decades, to ensure our efforts are unified and focused on the best interests of Clearwater citizens.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Seixas".

Melissa Seixas  
State President Florida  
Duke Energy