

MINUTES

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
SOUTH PASADENA, FLORIDA

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025
COMMISSION CHAMBERS 7:00 P.M.

MAYOR PENNY CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:01 P.M. THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY VICE MAYOR REID. ALL PARTICIPATED IN THE PLEDGE TO THE FLAG.

ROLL CALL: COMMISSIONERS GAIL NEIDINGER, MARK MCALEES, LYNDIA THOMPSON, VICE MAYOR THOMAS REID, AND MAYOR ARTHUR PENNY. ALSO PRESENT: CITY CLERK CARLEY LEWIS, CITY ATTORNEY KRISTEN GRAY, FINANCE DIRECTOR JAMES GRAHAM, PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR DAVID MIXSON, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR SHAWN SHIMKO, COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DIRECTOR TERESA SULLIVAN, AND DEPUTY CITY CLERK MARY JO BOWMAN.

REPORTS

Commissioner Neidinger reported on Finance Department activities including the FY 2026 tentative budget, the proposed millage rate, the FY 2024 audit, and reporting processes.

Commissioner McAlees reported on Community Improvement Department activities including business tax receipts, permitting activity, staff training, and storm repair status update letters.

Commissioner Thompson spoke regarding Public Safety Department activities including Fire Prevention Week and lithium battery safety tips.

Vice Mayor Reid spoke regarding Public Works Department activities including tidal flooding, lift station repairs, reclaimed water inspections, the self-serve sandbag station, and holiday decorations.

Mayor Penny expressed condolences to the Valenty family following the passing of Jimmy Valenty.

Mayor Penny reported on Administration Department activities including the annual budget process, the Finance Director hiring process, and upcoming City events.

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PEOPLE'S FORUM

Resident Michael Freeman, Grand Vista Way South, spoke regarding pump station alarms, heavy rain and local flooding.

Mayor Penny advised Mr. Freeman to speak with Public Works Director Shimko.

AGENDA COMMENT

NONE

DISCUSSION ITEMS

PUBLIC HEARING

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2025-10 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE FOR AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Attorney Gray read Resolution No. 2025-10 by title and approved it as to form and content.

Mayor Penny stated that the purpose of the public hearing is to receive input on the budget process from the public and the City Commission. He reported that this meeting will accomplish the following in accordance with State Statutes:

- a. Announce the proposed millage rate adopted by the City Commission on July 1, 2025.
- b. Receive comments and questions from the public on both the budget and the millage rate and answer the public's questions.
- c. Adopt a tentative millage rate.
- d. Adopt a tentative budget.

Finance Director Graham announced that the proposed tentative millage rate is 5.8709, which is a 10.08% increase over the rollback rate. He said that the current rollback rate is 5.3335 mills. He explained that the rollback rate is the true millage rate necessary to collect the same total revenue as collected in the previous year on

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the same properties. He further reported that taxable values had decreased by \$42.7 million.

Mayor Penny opened the public hearing at 7:16 p.m.

Resident Marj Lorand, Corey Way South, spoke in opposition of adopting a millage rate of 5.8709. She requested that the Commission keep the same millage rate.

Resident Anne Romano, Corey Way South, spoke in opposition of adopting a millage rate of 5.8709.

There being no further public comment, Mayor Penny closed the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

Mayor Penny spoke regarding the tentative millage rate. He stated that the millage rate creates a breakeven budget. He recommended that the Commission pass the tentative millage rate as presented and then speak with City staff over the next week. He said that the millage rate could be lowered at the September 15th Special Commission Meeting.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER MCALEES, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR REID, TO PASS RESOLUTION 2025-10.

Mayor Penny encouraged the Commission to evaluate millage rate options and the City's needs.

Commissioner Neidinger spoke regarding the City's storm expenses. She stated that the City has not received reimbursement for significant expenses.

Mayor Penny stated that residents previously encouraged the City to hire more staff and increase services. He said that staff has been hired and the Commission is trying to listen to what the community wanted.

VOTE:	COMMISSIONER NEIDINGER	AYE
	COMMISSIONER MCALEES	AYE
	COMMISSIONER THOMPSON	NAY
	VICE MAYOR REID	NAY
	MAYOR PENNY	AYE

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

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City Clerk Lewis requested a recess due to a legal process question. She explained that the proposed millage rate requires a super majority vote in order to pass at final adoption, which would be at least 4 out of 5 votes. She requested time to clarify if the tentative millage rate vote also needed to a super majority or if that requirement is only for final adoption.

The meeting recessed at 7:40 P.M. and reconvened at 7:54 P.M.

City Attorney Gray informed the Commission that a super majority vote would be required for the final adoption of a millage rate of 5.8709 but it can pass as the tentative millage rate with a simple majority.

Discussion ensued about the millage rate and legal advertisement.

Mayor Penny spoke regarding the final millage rate including the rollback rate, decrease in property values, taxes, FEMA, and City reserves.

2. ORDINANCE NO. 2025-03 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA, FLORIDA, ADOPTING FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 BUDGET; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE - SECOND READING.

City Attorney Gray read Ordinance No. 2025-03 by title and approved it as to form and content.

Mayor Penny opened the public hearing at 7:58 p.m.

Resident Susan Freeman, Grande Vista Way South, asked the Commission how a lower millage rate will affect the City's budget.

Mayor Penny replied that the City will have to use its reserves.

There being no further public comment, Mayor Penny closed the public hearing at 8:00 p.m.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER NEIDINGER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCALEES TO PASS ORDINANCE NO. 2025-03 ON SECOND READING.

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VOTE:	COMMISSIONER MCALEES	AYE
	COMMISSIONER THOMPSON	NAY
	VICE MAYOR REID	AYE
	COMMISSIONER NEIDINGER	AYE
	MAYOR PENNY	AYE

DISPOSITION: APPROVED

Mayor Penny stated that the final adoption of the millage rate will be made by resolution and the third and final reading of the budget ordinance will be heard at the second public hearing to be held on Monday, September 15, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. He noted that the millage rate set tonight cannot be increased at the final public hearing.

3. ORDINANCE NO. 2025-04 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA, FLORIDA, AMENDING APPENDIX CHAPTER A198 FEES OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATING TO RATES AND CHARGES FOR RECLAIMED WATER; TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM MONTHLY RECLAIMED WATER SERVICE CHARGE FOR SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS TO \$11.88 AND TO INCREASE COMMERCIAL AND MUNICIPAL USER SERVICE CHARGES TO \$339.31 PER PERVIOUS ACRE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE - SECOND AND FINAL READING.

City Attorney Gray read Ordinance No. 2025-04 by title and approved it as to form and content.

Mayor Penny opened the public hearing at 8:02 p.m. There being no public comment, Mayor Penny closed the public hearing at 8:02 p.m.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER THOMPSON, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER NEIDINGER TO PASS AND ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2025-04 ON SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Mayor Penny spoke regarding reclaimed water rate increase estimates per household.

VOTE:	COMMISSIONER THOMPSON	AYE
	VICE MAYOR REID	AYE
	COMMISSIONER NEIDINGER	AYE
	COMMISSIONER MCALEES	AYE
	MAYOR PENNY	AYE

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4. ORDINANCE NO. 2025-05 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA, FLORIDA, AMENDING APPENDIX CHAPTER A198 FEES OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES RELATING TO RATES AND CHARGES FOR SEWAGE USAGE; TO INCREASE THE BASE MINIMUM MONTHLY SEWER RATES AND SEWER FLOW CHARGE RATE BY 9.5%; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE - SECOND AND FINAL READING.

City Attorney Gray read Ordinance No. 2025-05 by title and approved it as to form and content.

Mayor Penny opened the public hearing at 8:04 p.m.

Resident Michael Freeman, Grand Vista Way South, asked if the rate increase is coming from St. Petersburg.

Mayor Penny replied that the increase is passed through from the City of St. Petersburg.

There being no further public comment, Mayor Penny closed the public hearing at 8:05 p.m.

MOTION WAS MADE BY VICE MAYOR REID, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER THOMPSON TO PASS AND ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2025-05 ON SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Mayor Penny spoke regarding sewer rate increases for the City of South Pasadena and neighboring municipalities.

VOTE:	VICE MAYOR REID	AYE
	COMMISSIONER NEIDINGER	AYE
	COMMISSIONER MCALEES	AYE
	COMMISSIONER THOMPSON	AYE
	MAYOR PENNY	AYE

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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NONE

CONSENT AGENDA

5. APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2025 ON FILE IN CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
AGENDA MEETING, AUGUST 19, 2025; ADMINISTRATIVE WORKSHOP, AUGUST 19, 2025; EXECUTIVE SESSION, AUGUST 19, 2025; REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING, AUGUST 26, 2025.

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MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER NEIDINGER, SECONDED BY
COMMISSIONER MCALEES, TO PASS THE ENTIRE CONSENT AGENDA.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION

NEW BUSINESS

6. MOTION - TO APPROVE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ALS FIRST
RESPONDER AGREEMENT AMENDMENT NO. 1 (2025).

MOTION WAS MADE BY VICE MAYOR REID, SECONDED BY
COMMISSIONER THOMPSON, TO APPROVE EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES ALS FIRST RESPONDER AGREEMENT AMENDMENT NO. 1
(2025).

VOTE:	COMMISSIONER NEIDINGER	AYE
	COMMISSIONER MCALEES	AYE
	COMMISSIONER THOMPSON	AYE
	VICE MAYOR REID	AYE
	MAYOR PENNY	AYE

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

7. MOTION - TO APPROVE LABOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF
SOUTH PASADENA AND ST. PETERSBURG ASSOCIATION OF
FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 747 FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2025
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2028.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER NEIDINGER, SECONDED BY
COMMISSIONER THOMPSON, TO APPROVE LABOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA AND ST. PETERSBURG ASSOCIATION
OF FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 747 FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2025
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2028.

VOTE:	COMMISSIONER MCALEES	AYE
	COMMISSIONER THOMPSON	AYE
	VICE MAYOR REID	AYE
	COMMISSIONER NEIDINGER	AYE
	MAYOR PENNY	AYE

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

8. MOTION - TO APPROVE EXTENSION OF CONTRACT FOR LEGAL
SERVICES WITH GRAYROBINSON, P.A. FOR SERVICES AS CITY

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ATTORNEY FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2025 THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 30, 2026.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER THOMPSON, SECONDED BY VICE
MAYOR REID, TO APPROVE EXTENSION OF CONTRACT FOR LEGAL
SERVICES WITH GRAYROBINSON, P.A. FOR SERVICES AS CITY
ATTORNEY FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2025 THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 30, 2026.

VOTE:	COMMISSIONER THOMPSON	AYE
	VICE MAYOR REID	AYE
	COMMISSIONER NEIDINGER	AYE
	COMMISSIONER MCALEES	AYE
	MAYOR PENNY	AYE

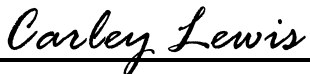
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at
8:11 p.m.



Arthur Penny, Mayor

ATTEST:



Carley Lewis, City Clerk
09-08.25r

**DIGITALLY SIGNED COPY.
TO VIEW ORIGINAL SIGNED MINUTES,
PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE.**