



## Local Government Update June 15- June 19, 2026

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The Volusia County Council met on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 4 PM at the Thomas C. Kelly Administration Center in DeLand. The Daytona Beach City Commission met on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 6 PM at City Hall. During these meetings a range of topics were discussed- this summary is intended to hit the highlights from the meetings. If you are interested in other issues that were discussed at these meetings, a link to the full recordings can be found here:

### **County Council:**

[https://www.youtube.com/live/NGV6lpL\\_fVs?si=2ifBDPfiCJUfZL1Y](https://www.youtube.com/live/NGV6lpL_fVs?si=2ifBDPfiCJUfZL1Y).

### **City Commission:**

<https://www.youtube.com/live/BWLmYtn6Sj4?si=i2u-lbeghm9qriXu>.

## **County Council (June 16, 2026 @ 4 PM)**

### Charter Review Commission

- County Council adopted a resolution to send all 5 Charter Review Commission amendments to the ballot
- The main points of contention from the public revolve around election of the County Chair and Volusia Forever
- Amendment 1 proposed changing the election of the County Chair from an election on the ballot to an internal election by the Commissioners, much like the leadership at the federal and State levels. The amendment also proposed having the Chair election occur yearly, rather than every 4 years.

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- The CRC argues that this allows for more Councilmembers to act as Chair during a given term without causing disruption in Council operations
- Members of the public argue that electing the County Chair by popular vote with a public election allows the County to be better represented.
- Amendment 5 proposed raising the voting threshold for removing conservation lands from Volusia Forever.
  - The public argued that this did not go far enough in protecting the conservation lands
  - The CRC argues that this strengthens protection while not placing burdensome or unreasonable restrictions on the County's ability to act.
- Both amendments will appear on the ballot on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### Five-Year Forecast

- County CFO Ryan Ossowski presented the County's 5-year forecast as the Council continues to approach budgetary hearings.
- These projections were calculated prior to the proposed property tax amendment, so should it pass in November, changes may have to be made.
- Next budgetary hearing is scheduled for July 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **Daytona Beach City Commission (June 17, 2026 @ 6 PM)**

### Midtown Master Plan Update

- Housing Daytona Beach (HDB) provided an update on their *Historic Midtown Transformation Plan*
- In partnership with the Housing Trust Group (HTG), intends to transform Caroline Village and Palmetto Park in Midtown.

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- Caroline Village will be turned into a sports and event complex, complete with public parks and scenic lake views
- Palmetto Park will be turned into a 250-unit mixed-income housing development to allow current residents to stay in the area. This plan will contain mostly affordable housing units
- This investment is expected to yield close to \$1 billion in 10-20 years after completion, according to HTG.

### National Folk Festival

- The Daytona Beach Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) made a presentation on their application for Daytona Beach to host the National Folk Festival
- The National Folk Festival is a community event based on the celebration of the traditional arts. It is a 3-day event that historically draws upwards of 150,000 people each year. It has an economic impact ranging from \$15-30 million every year.
- Currently, the Daytona Beach CVB is in the application stage of the process
  - July 1 – Letter of Intent to apply is due
  - August 3 - Request for Proposal deadline
  - November 2026 – Finalists announced
  - December 2026 – Site Visit
  - December 2026/January 2027 – Host city announced
- The Daytona Beach CVB noted that by August 3<sup>rd</sup>, they need to be able to show community support and a commitment of \$500,000 in funding.
- City of Daytona Beach has committed to offering a letter of support. Any funding from the City has not been discussed

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- Should Daytona Beach be selected, the National Folk Festival would take place on Beach Street and the Esplanade with potential to expand into other parts of the City in the future.
- The festival would be run by the national foundation for 3 years, and then a non-profit or the City itself would take it over and own it outright.

### Shores Apartment Development

- The City Commission **voted 7-0 in favor** of removing 12 historic trees from property slated for the Shores Apartment Development
- There was initial hesitation from the Commission, however, they all eventually decided the benefit of the development outweighed the cost of the tree removal.
- Some highlights of this new development include:
  - 80 units of high-quality mixed-income housing
    - 40 units are reserved for Permanent Supportive Housing
    - 40 units are reserved for 60% or below AMI
  - Average rent across all 80 units is \$725/month
  - Average rent across the PSH units is \$263/month

### Board of Adjustment Appointment

- **Brittany Yisrael** was appointed to the Board of Adjustments without objection.

### Property Tax Update

- The City received an update from staff on potential increases to the homestead exemption and the changes to how millage rates can be raised.
- Daytona Beach would lose approximately \$7-10 million in revenue in 2028; approximately \$10-15 million in 2029.

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