



City Hall Council Chambers
9101 Bonita Beach Road SE
Bonita Springs, Florida 34135

**City of Bonita Springs
City Council Regular Meeting**

Minutes

September 9, 2026

5:30 p.m.

1. **Call to Order** - Deputy Mayor Purdon, presiding in the physical absence of Mayor Gibson, called the meeting to order at 5:41 p.m.
2. **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** - Observed during the Budget Hearing.
3. **Roll Call**

The City Clerk called the roll:

*Present: 5 Council Member Bogacz, Council Member Carr, Deputy Mayor Purdon,
Council Member Corrie, Council Member Fullick.*

Remote: 2 Mayor Gibson (via Zoom), Council Member Fitzpatrick (via Zoom)

Absent: 0

*Council Member Fullick motioned to permit Mayor Gibson and Council Member Fitzpatrick to participate and vote remotely in the meeting; Seconded by Council Member Corrie. **The motion carried 5-0.***

4. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Jim Magnus - Spoke in support of agenda items 7B and 7C.

James Anderst - Spoke in support of agenda item, 7C, suggesting volunteers be utilized for the parking study.

Alyona Ushe - Spoke in support of agenda item 7B.

Kel Campbell - Spoke in support of agenda item 7B.

Raul Rubio - Spoke in support of agenda item 7B.

5. Consent Agenda Items:

*Council Member Carr motioned to approve the Consent Agenda items; Seconded by Council Member Bogacz. **The motion carried 7-0.***

- A. Approve Minutes from the City Council Regular Meeting held on August 19, 2026.
- B. Approve a Special Event Permit request submitted by Local Roots, LLC, to host a weekly outdoor flea market at the Promenade at Bonita Bay, every Saturday morning from October 3, 2026 through May 29, 2027, between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. (Green Sheet 26-09-144)
- C. Approve Amendment #1 to Construction, Engineering and Inspection (CEI) Services contract with Kisinger Campo + Associates Corporation removing and replacing sub-consultant for community outreach services. (Green Sheet 26-09-148)
- D. Approve a Resolution designating the City Council as the Site Controlling Agency for the FY2026 legislative appropriation funding for the City's Community Aquatic Facility Expansion Project. (Green Sheet 26-09-149)

- E. Approve purchase agreement to acquire a property for the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – COVID (HMGP-COVID) Neighborhood Acquisition/Demolition Project purchase agreement #2026-002 in the Quinn/Downs/Dean Neighborhood. (Green Sheet 26-09-150)

Council Member Corrie commented on Consent Item 5B, noting that the organizer of the event at Promenade at Bonita Bay arranged for security services through a private company, and asked whether a similar approach could be used by organizers of other events. City Manager Hunter stated that, under the City's Special Event Ordinance, required security or traffic control per the Sheriff's Office is provided by LCSO.

6. Public Hearings:

- A. (FIRST READING) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BONITA SPRINGS, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$35,000,000 TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION OF INACTIVE RAIL CORRIDOR PROPERTY AND THE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS THERETO FOR THE BONITA ESTERO RAIL TRAIL; PLEDGING THE PROCEEDS OF AD VALOREM TAXES LEVIED WITHOUT LIMIT ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY WITHIN THE CITY TO SECURE THE PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF, REDEMPTION PREMIUM, IF ANY, AND INTEREST ON SUCH BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE HOLDERS OF SUCH BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE INCURRENCE OF INTERIM INDEBTEDNESS, IF NECESSARY; AUTHORIZING THE REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENDITURES MADE BY THE CITY FROM PROCEEDS OF THE BONDS; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Green Sheet 26-09-154)

The Clerk read the title block into the record, after which City Attorney Rooney informed Council that the proposed ordinance is required under provisions of the City Charter. A separate draft bond resolution outlining the terms of the debt will appear on an upcoming Council agenda. The ordinance will advance to Second Reading.

7. Mayor and Council Member Items:

- A. **Approve a request from the Friends of the Bonita Estero Rail Trail to display the City's logo on their upcoming commemorative bike shirt, and authorize staff to facilitate the request accordingly.** (Corrie, Green Sheet 26-09-145)

*Council Member Corrie led the discussion, stating that Council authorization would be limited to this one-time use. Mayor Gibson motioned to approve; Seconded by Deputy Mayor Purdon. **The motion carried 7-0.***

- B. **Discussion regarding Council's potential support and approval for two preliminary steps related to the possibility of developing downtown Bonita Springs into a more recognizable arts and cultural destination.** (Corrie, Green Sheet 26-09-146)

*Council Member Corrie outlined the two steps he is proposing to begin the process to make downtown a more recognizable arts destination, emphasizing this is not a request for funding. Council Member Fullick pointed out that the Art in Public Places Board should be included in the proposed initiative. Council Member Bogacz asked whether the time required from staff is the best use of resources, given the current focus on the BERT project and the potential impacts of Amendment 3. Council Member Fitzpatrick emphasized the importance of focusing the initiative citywide rather than just downtown, and pointed out that the initiative should align with DPZ's design planning for the Liles Hotel and Riverside Park. Council Member Corrie stated, in light of the acquisition of the rail trail, he'd like to get input from downtown businesses as to the next steps for the Liles Hotel Plaza and artists cottages. City Manager Hunter stated that, should the businesses wish to independently discuss ideas and bring them forth through a council member, that would not require approval of Council, but should the request be for staff to participate in meetings and provide guidance, Council action would be required. Council Member Corrie motioned to approve staff attending meetings with downtown businesses; Seconded by Council Member Fullick. **The motioned carried 7-0.***

C. Discuss engaging a qualified parking consultant to conduct a Downtown Bonita Springs Parking Demand Study, and provide direction to staff accordingly. (Corrie, Green Sheet 26-09-152)

Council Member Corrie led the discussion, stating that a downtown parking demand study that evaluates current and future parking needs, including seasonal fluctuations, would provide Council with essential information for planning next steps. Council Member Fitzpatrick added that the study should also consider remote parking options for big events like Fourth of July. Council Member Carr and Council Member Bogacz pointed out that beach parking challenges should also be addressed and potential solutions identified.

*Assistant City Manager Feeney suggested soliciting consultant qualifications rather than proposals, and Council members concurred. Council Member Corrie motioned to direct staff to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a Downtown Bonita Springs Parking Demand Study; Seconded by Council Member Bogacz. **The motioned carried 7-0.***

D. Discussion regarding potential coordination with FDOT, Lee County, the Village of Estero, and appropriate emergency-management agencies regarding the potential effects of the multi-year I-75 widening project on Bonita Springs. (Corrie, Green Sheet 26-09-155)

*Council Member Corrie summarized the key reasons outlined in the green sheet for staff to coordinate with the named agencies and jurisdictions regarding potential impacts of the multi-year I-75 widening project. Mayor Gibson motioned to approve; Seconded by Council Member Corrie. **The motion carried 7-0.***

8. City Attorney Items:

A. Repayment of BG Mine Impact Fees. (Green Sheet 26-09-151)

*City Attorney Rooney introduced the item and recommended that Council authorize a refund of \$247,000 to Stock Development for road impact fees paid in error. Mayor Gibson motioned to approve; Seconded by Deputy Mayor Purdon. **The motion carried 7-0.***

9. City Manager Items:

A. Adopt the City of Bonita Springs Parks Master Plan with the inclusions of the BERT and Sun Trail projects into the final plan. (Green Sheet 26-09-147)

*Nicole Perino, Director of Parks and Recreation, stated that the final draft Parks Master Plan scheduled for adoption today incorporates both the BERT project and the Sun Trail project, consistent with the direction provided by City Council at the August 19th meeting. She added that a copy of the final plan, which exceeds 200 pages, is on file in the City Clerk's Office. Council Member Corrie motioned to adopt the Parks Master Plan; Seconded by Council Member Carr. **The motion carried 7-0.***

B. Presentation of Community Development activity and business-permit reports for August 2026. (Green Sheet 26-09-153)

John Dulmer, Director, Community Development Department, presented the August activity and business reports (on file in the Clerk's office).

10. Mayor and Council Member Reports

The Mayor and Council reflected on the 25th anniversary of the September 11 attacks - the lives lost and the families forever affected. The Bonita Springs Fire and Rescue District will hold a Patriots Day ceremony on Friday, Sept. 11, at 5:30 p.m., at Station One, 27490 Old 41 Road.

They also voiced sorrow over the passing of former Council Member Steven Slachta, recognizing his service on the City Council from 2010 – 2018 and his involvement on the Veterans Advisory Board. His professionalism, patriotism, and contributions to the community were warmly acknowledged, and condolences were extended to his family.

The Mayor and Council congratulated Shangri-La Springs on its 100th Anniversary, which was recognized by Council earlier in the day with a proclamation presentation at the historic site.

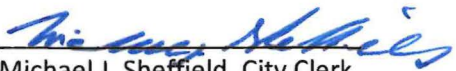
Mayor Gibson reported that he has been invited to the White House for a Mayor's Fly-In, to learn about President Trump's America First priorities, and how they can be advanced at the local level.

11. Public Comment

Ron George - Commented on the County's beach-improvement project, noting that while work has begun, project managers did not plan for its impact on the already limited beach parking.

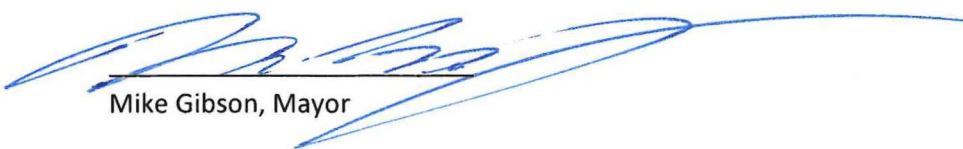
12. Adjournment: *There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.*

PREPARED AND ATTESTED BY:


Michael J. Sheffield, City Clerk

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL

Date: 9/23/26


Mike Gibson, Mayor