Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City Commission of the City of Auburndale held June 15, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Room of City Hall, after having been properly advertised, with the following members present: Mayor Alex Cam, Vice Mayor Jordan Helms, Commissioners: Travis Avery, Sean Levy, and Crystal Tijerina. Also, present were: City Manager Jeffrey Brown, City Attorney Frederick J. Murphy Jr., City Clerk Brandon Henry, and Police Captain Austin Leal.

Mayor Alex Cam declared a quorum present, and the Meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Jerry Smith, Berea Baptist Church, and a salute to the flag.

Motion by Vice Mayor Helms, seconded by Commissioner Levy, to approve Minutes of the City Commission Meeting of June 1, 2026. Upon vote, all ayes.

Deputy City Manager Amy Palmer presented Accountant Marilyn Colon-Arce with her longevity plaque for five years of service.

Police Captain Austin Leal presented Sergeant Adam Havranek with his longevity plaque for 10 years of service.

City Clerk Brandon Henry presented and recognized the City of Auburndale Citizens Academy Class of 2026.

Mayor Cam thanked staff and congratulated the program participants.

Mayor Cam asked if there was public comment on any item not on the agenda.

Chris Hall, 438 Somerset Drive, said given the atmosphere with all the certificates, he is going to change it a little bit from what he passed out to the Commission (handout attached), because he does not think it is appropriate given the celebration. He said he has a public safety matter that he would like to add to an upcoming Commission meeting agenda. He said it is time to enhance our public safety and prioritize instituting police dashboard cameras, police body cameras, police enhanced training, changes to police processes and procedures, as well as possible staffing changes to ensure public safety for Auburndale's citizens as well as those visiting Auburndale. Based on past recent Auburndale annual budgets - cameras and other related enhancements have been on the budget – they continue to show years in advance. And year after year they continue to get pushed out. They were originally supposed to be in 2026-2027, then they moved to 2028-2029. In the current budget, it appears as though it is going to be 2030-2031 or 2029-2030. We are not really given a reason for why such public safety measures are continuing to be postponed. He said given the recent events of which he planned on getting into but since we are celebrating the accomplishments of all the individuals – he is not going to, but the Commission has it for their reading. He said he would ask that the Commission add this to an upcoming agenda. City Manager Brown has his telephone number, as does City Clerk Brandon Henry. Brandon has been helpful. If the Commission has any questions, please let him know.

Mayor Cam presented a Proclamation recognizing Juneteenth. City Attorney Frederick J. Murphy Jr. read the proclamation. Audrey Glover accepted the proclamation.

1. APPROVE SECOND AMENDMENT TO POLK REGIONAL WATER COOPERATIVE COMBINED PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT

City Manager Brown said in 2016 the Polk Regional Water Cooperative (PRWC) considered over 200 nominated alternative water supply projects. Out of those many projects, the 2017 Phase 2 Implementation Agreement Engineers Report identified five candidate projects. One of the highest ranked candidate projects was a surface water project that captured flows from the North and South prongs of the Alafia River in Polk County. Initial analysis indicated that up to 15 million gallons per day (MGD) of long-term annual average surface water flow was available to the PRWC. This project continues to be listed as a future water supply source for the PRWC in both the Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) and Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD)

Regional Water Supply Plans. PRWC water supply demand projections indicate that between 14 and 27 MGD of additional alternative water supply, beyond conservation and the Southeast and West Polk Projects, and Peace River/Peace Creek Projects, will be needed by 2070, maybe as early as 2040. The Alafia River will potentially be a critical option to provide this additional supply.

Under Section 2.10 of the Interlocal Agreement that established the PRWC, the Alafia River Water Supply Project is considered a candidate water project because it is one of five short-listed projects that is deemed ready for assessment and evaluation for potential implementation. The PRWC would like to elevate the status of the Project to an Approved Water Project. In addition, the PRWC would like to add the project to the PRWC Combined Projects Implementation Agreement to reflect the current level of investigation that is on-going in evaluating the project as a future water supply source. Once the project is added to the Combined Projects Implementation Agreement it is considered an Approved Project that can be evaluated for further implementation based upon Board financial support. The second amendment to the Combined Projects Agreement is attached as Exhibit A. If approved by the PRWC Board of Directors, this amendment would need to be approved by each participant city/county commission.

Staff recommends approval of the designation of the Alafia River Water Supply Project as an Approved Project and approve the Second Amendment to the Combined Projects Implementation Agreement adding the Alafia River Water Supply Project.

Mayor Cam asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Avery, seconded by Commissioner Tijerina, to approve the Second Amendment to the Combined Projects Implementation Agreement adding the Alafia River Water Supply Project.

Vice Mayor Helms said he just wants to make sure he is understanding this correctly. By us approving to move this to an approved project, we are giving permission for the PRWC to number one have their board vote on it, and if they vote they will spend time investigating.

City Manager Brown said correct. It will allow them to move ahead in the engineering process, to confirming what they already think.

Vice Mayor Helms asked if this is not a commitment to increase our already steep financial?

City Attorney Murphy said he thinks it certainly opens the door for that, down the road. He would say as a matter of information, by its very nature the Alafia River project is likely a west side of the County kind of project. Some of the things that may be required to develop that as an alternative water supply are probably more focused on the west side of the County. While it may increase costs, he thinks it will increase costs to those members that subscribe to it. There may be some general costs that are shared by all members. This is the first step towards evaluating the efficacy, the potential yield, and the feasibility of this from a design standpoint. That is why he does not want the Commission to think there will not be any cost – there likely will. Because keep in mind, we are a member of the PRWC. So if the PRWC has costs, we are going to bear some of those as an individual member.

Vice Mayor Helms asked but this step is approving the potential evaluation costs?

City Attorney Murphy said yes.

Upon vote, all ayes.

2. CONSIDER RANKINGS OF DESIGN-BUILD FIRMS FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY

City Manager Brown said the City Commission has reserved funds in the City's Capital Improvements Program for improvements to the Public Works Facility located at 915 Charles Avenue for the past several years. The current facility was constructed in the 1970's and currently houses the Sanitation, Street and Fleet Maintenance Departments for the City. The proposed improvements include the construction of a new administrative building that would include administrative offices, breakrooms, and restrooms. The improvements would also include structural and aesthetic improvements to the existing metal buildings on site as the budget allows. The budget for the project is $1,880,000.

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was advertised on February 23, 2026 that the City would receive Statements of Qualifications from experienced design-build teams for professional design and construction services for the Public Works Building with a deadline of April 10, 2026. The City received four proposals from qualified firms in response to the RFQ. A Selection Committee made up of City Staff met to hear presentations from each firm on May 26, 2026 in the City Commission Room. Following the presentations, the results of the final rankings were announced and are as follows:

1. SpringerVoss Construction
2. SEMCO Construction
3. RC Stevens
4. Henkelman Construction

Approval of the rankings by the City Commission will authorize the City Manager to commence negotiations for design-build services with the top-ranked firm, SpringerVoss Construction. State Statue and the RFQ provide that negotiations would continue with the second-ranked firm, and then the third-ranked firm, if the City cannot negotiate a satisfactory contract with that firm being engaged. A Design-Build Contract will be presented to the City Commission at a later date after successful negotiations.

Staff recommends approval.

Mayor Cam asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

Motion by Vice Mayor Helms, seconded by Commissioner Levy, to approve the rankings of the design-build firm for the Public Works facility. Upon vote, all ayes.

3. PRESENTATION BY FREDERICK HEID – SPEED ZONES IN FRONT OF SCHOOLS

City Manager Brown said the City has received a request from Frederick Heid, Polk County School Superintendent, to appear before the Commission to provide a presentation regarding enforcement of speed zones in front of schools. A representative from Altumint will be in the audience to answer any questions.

Polk County Schools Superintendent Frederick Heid presented a discussion regarding school speed zones.

Commissioner Levy asked for clarification regarding the time frame of a traffic citation statistic.

Superintendent Heid provided clarification.

Commissioner Levy asked if there is any data on how many of those traffic citations are repeat offenders?

Superintendent Heid said not yet, but he can get that.

Commissioner Levy said he would be curious to know that data. Are there increasing levels of fines or suspensions for those repeat offenders.

Superintendent Heid said he is not aware of such, but he would have to verify. He is a little less concerned about repeat offenders, as much as he hates to say that. He said he really needs to send the file with the videos to the Commission – this is not just people casually passing a school bus. These are people pulling into the median, pulling off to the shoulder, to pass and circumvent a school bus that is dropping off children. They are passing buses in the middle of railroad tracks, when they stop and open their doors. That behavior is a very aggressive driver behavior. We are not seeing a change in the overall number of citations being issued. We do not collect revenue from this. We hope to change driver behavior.

Commissioner Avery thanked Superintendent Heid for his service. He asked for clarification regarding placement of speed cameras – are they having it in school zones? It is his understanding the school zones primarily have crossing guards as well?

Superintendent Heid said not all.

Commissioner Avery asked if Superintendent Heid can explain how it works?

Superintendent Heid said it is a staffing issue – supported by municipalities or the inability of such. There are some financial constraints with making sure that those are all staffed.

Commissioner Avery asked if these cameras help either replace or supplement that?

Superintendent Heid said he would make an argument that they supplement our staff who are standing out there, including crossing guards – but it replaces the need to have an officer out there. Because every time we have an issue and we reach out to municipalities – they will assign an officer in the morning or afternoon to regulate traffic. Problem is we are taking that officer off the road in an emergency and that is not usually beneficial. So we would argue that adding cameras enhances what school board staff are able to do, but diminishes the effort or responsibility of local law enforcement so they can do their public safety responsibilities first.

Commissioner Avery asked if the data shows that a lot of these incidents are happening in school zones or happening away from school zones?

Superintendent Heid said a lot of our grazing and contact events happen in the school zone – in fact, immediately in front of the school. He further detailed the circumstances.

Commissioner Tijerina asked if it matters whose jurisdiction a particular road falls under as it relates to which agency is present?

Superintendent Heid said this issue is eliminated if you install cameras because any appropriate charging agency would be involved, and those issues could be deferred to them – rather than having to call around and figure out jurisdiction.

Commissioner Tijerina asked are these infractions state statute, or county or city ordinance? Is there anything the City can do regarding implementing consequences?

Superintendent Heid said this presentation alone will stimulate a dialogue within the community and there is an educational opportunity there. He defers to the City's legal counsel regarding the other questions.

City Attorney Murphy said the City of Lake Alfred has instituted school speed zone camera program, which is what we are talking about here. The cameras on school buses are corollary to that, and certainly an integral part of any safety program. But what we are talking about here is installing cameras that will then detect speeding within established school zones. It is important where you place the cameras. . He cited the specific statutory chapter of which this program is located – we can get to the bottom of that and make sure questions are

answered. It is a program with the goal to change behavior. He is not necessarily promoting it. It is another tool in the box. There are a lot of legal ramifications – he outlined the process.

4. PRESENTATION OF EXPENDITURES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027 & FISCAL YEAR 2028 ANNUAL BUDGETS

City Manager Brown said the Expenditures Budget along with "Departmental Operating Expenses" and "Non-Departmental Expenses" are being presented for review.

"Departmental Operating Expenses" include line items found in every department and division such as electricity, telephone, general supplies, training and travel, vehicle maintenance and gas, oil, and diesel.

"Non-Departmental Expenses" include line items such as insurance, pension, debt service, reserve funding, and city contributions to other agencies.

The Commission will be presented all of the proposed Expenditures in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 and FY 2028 Budgets.

Presentation of the proposed Revenue Section is scheduled for July 6, 2026. The Payroll Section is scheduled for July 20, 2026. Delivery of the proposed two-year budget to the City Commission is scheduled for August 3, 2026. The City Commission will set the millage rate and set the date for the first public hearing on August 3 as well. Formal adoption of the FY 2026 Budget and conceptual approval of the FY 2027 Budget will come after the scheduled Public Hearings in September.

City Manager Brown presented all expenditures plus or minus $10,000 from last year's budget, not including those items considered payroll or capital outlay.

Mayor Cam asked for public comment.

Dennis Young, 2092 Summerlake Drive, said over the next several months we look at a lot of budgets. The Florida Legislature has passed a homestead exemption going from $50,000 to $150,000 in 2027 and then going to $250,000 in 2028. That is going to be a major impact to our budget in the City of Auburndale and Polk County. The question he has right now is if the millage rate stays the same, what revenue shortfall will the City experience if this is indeed passed by the residents and citizens of Florida in November. That is a key number to know in regards to how we format the rest of our budgets going forward. He does not know if the City has that number available, but he would like to know that number and what percentage of that revenue is now going to be defunct or not available to the City for our capital program and expenditures we are going through right now. He is hoping staff can do that. He has been experiencing budgets since he was working at Disney for 31 years, and probably 25 of those years were operational, capital and future project budgets. So he knows how they are impacted by revenue and also in regard to decisions that have to be made. Knowing what the revenue stream might be, maybe you do two budgets – one if the exemption does not pass, and one if it does pass. Then you will know the exact input and consequences to the necessary departments that are going to be affected by this shortage. If the millage stays the same, what is the shortfall that will be experienced by the City?

City Manager Brown said he will get to this question in the next agenda item.

Motion by Commissioner Tijerina, seconded by Vice Mayor Helms, to tentatively approve the Expenditures Section of the proposed FY 2027 and FY 2028 Budgets. Upon vote, all ayes.

5. DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

City Manager Brown said he asked City Attorney Murphy to lead a small discussion this evening, because Florida Statute dictates how local government elected officials and staff can communicate in the context of spending

public dollars with the electorate regarding proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution. The City Attorney will outline allowed and disallowed communications per Florida Statute.

City Manager Brown presented potential impacts to the City if the proposed constitutional amendment passes.

City Attorney Murphy presented processes regarding constitutional amendments. He generally outlined what he understood would likely be allowed and/or disallowed communications per Section 106.113 of the Florida Statutes but that there is not a lot of definitive guidance as far as case law and/or opinions for every fact scenario.

Commissioner Avery asked with all these guidelines and recommendations on these statutes, would it be fair to say we could do a workshop that would help show ramifications based on the budget and maybe create a unified, proactive approach with educating our citizens?

City Attorney Murphy said it is a tough question for him to give a simple answer. Very clearly, as elected officials, the Commission must have meetings in order to discuss any matters pertaining to City business. This is an important matter of City business. As long as you are up on the dais conducting yourselves as a Commission, he could articulate a reasonable position where you have complied with statutes. City Attorney Murphy further clarified the relationship with statute.

Commissioner Tijerina asked City Attorney Murphy should we decide to move forward with some workshops, which she would go on record saying she is highly in favor of, would he be able to break down the proposed legislation for the Commission? Or would we need to use outside counsel or experts to go into the nuance of the special session and legislation. Is that something he would be the expert on to explain that to the Commission, or would we benefit from having different legal expertise?

City Attorney Murphy answered he thinks he can handle the explanations to the extent that any are required of what the current ballot measure is and says. He further detailed a lawsuit that is challenging the title of the ballot measure and summarized previous discussion.

Mayor Cam expressed gratitude to the City Attorney and City Manager.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Minutes are true and correct.

Brandon Henry, City Clerk