

CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF WILDWOOD, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP
March 30, 2026 9:00 AM
CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBER

(meeting taped)

1. Call to Order

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Ed Wolf	Mayor	Present
Dave Fountaine	Commissioner	Present
Joe Elliott	Commissioner	Present
Marcos Flores	Mayor Pro Tem/Commissioner	Present
Julian Green	Commissioner	Present
Jason McHugh	City Manager	Present
Joshua Bills	City Attorney	Present
Jessica Barnes	City Clerk	Present
Randall Parmer	Police Chief	Present

Mayor Wolf called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and dispensed with the opening pledge and prayer to proceed directly to the presentations.

2. Item(s) for Discussion

A. Wildwood Police Department Personnel Request

Police Chief Parmer presented an overview of the police department's request for additional officers. He explained the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) recommended 2.1 officers per 1,000 residents and the City of Wildwood operated with 1.6 officers per 1,000 residents. He noted that to reach FDLE standards the police department would need to add 18 additional officers, though the current request was for eight additional officers. Parmer detailed significant growth in service demands and provided statistics outlining an increase in service calls from 2020 to 2025, daily property checks, and the improvement in response times. Chief Parmer explained that the proposed staffing plan included six swing shift officers, one detective, and one training and outreach officer. City Manager McHugh noted the request would be part of a mid-year budget amendment in April, emphasizing the challenges of covering the city's geographic area and the significant transient population of approximately 80,000 people who transit through Wildwood daily.

Commissioners expressed support for the personnel request. Commissioner Elliott noted the importance of proactive policing, adding that crime was lower as a result. Commissioner Green asked about officer residency requirements. Parmer replied that while officers were not required to live within city limits, both the number of officers residing in Wildwood and the number of applications from city residents had risen since he began as Chief.

B. Golf Cart Ordinance Update

Police Chief Parmer presented updates to the golf cart ordinance, emphasizing three main reasons for the update: safety, bringing the ordinance into conjunction with Florida state statutes, and education. He noted the challenge of transient populations who receive golf carts but are unfamiliar with local rules. The ordinance development involved extensive coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Sumter County, The Villages developer, and the homeowners' associations. Key provisions within the ordinance included age and licensing requirements, areas of operations, and speed limitations. City Manager McHugh demonstrated an interactive map being developed for the city website that would show permitted and prohibited roads with color coding. He stated the map was a work in progress and would be fully interactive for residents to utilize once complete.

Sergeant Layne presented a golf cart safety program that the Police Department intended to implement. He explained the department received golf cart safety questions daily, and the program offered presentations at recreation centers and other community locations. The program would cover the differences between golf carts and low-speed vehicles. He noted it also highlighted the safety requirements for golf cart operations. Layne described a voluntary registration program that would be implemented to help with stolen golf cart recovery. The program included a sticker placed by police department personnel and would maintain a database for law enforcement purposes.

Commissioner Elliott raised concerns about gaps in current statutes, noting that someone who loses their driver's license for DUI can still legally operate a golf cart, creating potential safety issues. He indicated plans to discuss this with state-level representatives.

Commissioner Fontaine suggested coordination with The Villages for lifestyle visitors, recommending educational materials or videos for those receiving temporary golf carts during visits.

C. Sunshine Law and Open Government Overview

City Attorney Bills presented an overview of Florida's Government in the Sunshine Law. He noted various scenarios where Sunshine Law violations could occur and explained communications restrictions and circumstances that could be considered to be in violation of the law. Bills provided practical guidance, noting that while commissioners could meet individually with staff, they could not use third parties to facilitate otherwise unlawful communication and reiterated that staff could not act as a conduit of information amongst board members.

D. Meeting Rules and Order Discussion

City Manager McHugh presented potential changes to the Commission Rules of Order and Procedure. He outlined several areas where feedback had been considered for potential modifications. He noted the modifications included workshop meeting request procedures, agenda amendment item locations, consolidation of contracts and agreements to consent-style voting, adjustment to public comment procedures and public comment time limit considerations. McHugh stated he was in favor of individual presentations for contracts and agreements as it provided an opportunity for department heads to interact with commission members and allowed the public to better understand city business.

Commissioners generally expressed satisfaction with current procedures. Commissioner Elliott supported maintaining individual discussion of major expenditures for transparency.

Commissioner Fontaine suggested distinguishing between routine maintenance items that could go to consent versus larger projects requiring discussion.

The discussion addressed concerns about workshop requests, with commissioners debating whether individual commissioners should be able to request workshops or if it should require commission consensus to avoid excessive use of staff time.

Mayor Wolf noted the efficiency of current meetings and highlighted how quickly the meetings are typically adjourned.

3. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m. Motion by Commissioner Green, seconded by Commissioner Flores, to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	Passed
MOVER:	Commissioner Green
SECONDER:	Mayor Pro Tem/Commissioner Flores
AYES:	Mayor Wolf, Commissioner Elliott, Mayor Pro Tem/Commissioner Flores, Commissioner Green, Commissioner Fountaine



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ATTEST: Jessica Barnes BY: Ed Wolf
Jessica Barnes, City Clerk Ed Wolf, Mayor

