



CNC Meeting Minutes August 3rd 2026

Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition (CNC)

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, August 3, 2026

Acting President: Patrick Rafferty

Secretary: Chelsea Gird

Treasurer: Cheryl Acton

Call to Order

Acting President Patrick Rafferty called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests. Board members were introduced.

Guest Speaker

Jennifer Poirrier, City Manager

Preliminary Annual Operating and Capital Improvement Budget – Fiscal Year 2026/2027

City Manager Jennifer Poirrier presented an overview of the City's proposed FY 2026/2027 budget.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- The City's Strategic Plan continues to serve as the guiding principle for developing the annual budget.
- The proposed budget is balanced while maintaining current City facilities, services, and employee pay structure.
- Continued emphasis is being placed on operational efficiency and responsible use of City resources.
- The City utilized the rollback millage rate during the budget development process.
- The current millage rate is **5.8850 mills**, and the proposed millage rate remains **5.8850 mills**, which is **0.13% higher than the rolled-back rate**.
- The rolled-back rate is **5.8773 mills**, which would generate the same property tax revenue as the previous year after accounting for new construction.
- A mill represents **\$1 of tax for every \$1,000 of taxable property value**.
- Ad valorem taxes provide approximately **46% of the City's General Fund revenue**.
- Public safety accounts for approximately **46% of General Fund expenditures**.
- The only project removed from the proposed budget was the **Eddie C. Moore/Seymour Project**.

Budget Schedule

The City Manager reviewed the upcoming budget timeline:

- Preliminary presentation and tentative millage rate – **July 16, 2026**
- Budget Special Work Session – **August 11, 2026**
- Public Hearing – **Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**
- Final Public Hearing – **Monday, September 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

The City Manager discussed the proposed constitutional amendment titled "**Save Our Homes from Excessive Property Taxes**."

She explained that, if approved by voters, the amendment would:

- Increase the homestead exemption from **\$50,000 to \$150,000** beginning January 1, 2027.
- Increase the exemption to **\$250,000** beginning January 1, 2028, with future inflation adjustments.
- Reduce the non-homestead assessment cap from **10% to 5%**.
- Require the Legislature to develop a process to eliminate property taxes on homestead property.

The City estimates that passage of the amendment would reduce General Fund revenues by approximately **\$12 million in the first year** and **\$8 million in the second year**, requiring future budget adjustments.

The City Manager also explained that the City may:

- Hold public budget workshops and meetings.
- Post factual budget information on the City's website.
- Respond to residents' questions with factual information.

The City may **not** use public funds to advocate for or against the proposed amendment.

Police Department Update

The Clearwater Police Department provided the following updates:

- Lt. J. Howard has been assigned as the new District 3 Lieutenant.
 - District 3 includes the Keene Road East area, Countryside Mall, and portions of the U.S. 19 corridor.
 - Officers are preparing for the start of the school year with additional staffing and training.
 - Residential burglaries are down **46%** compared to May of the previous year.
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Neighborhood Services Update

Neighborhood Services reported:

- The City Council will consider **The Landings** proposal during its August 6 meeting.
 - Utility construction continues along Drew Street, and motorists are encouraged to use caution in work zones.
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Membership Business

- As no meeting was held in July, there were no new meeting minutes to approve. The most recent approved minutes remain those from the June meeting.
 - The Treasurer's Financial Report was approved and has been posted to the CNC website.
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New Business

CNC Endorsement – Jared Leone

The Board reported that it had unanimously voted to endorse **Jared Leone** for Clearwater City Council.

During the discussion, **Glenna Wentworth** and **Karen Cunningham** (who was not a CNC member) expressed opposition to the Board making the endorsement without first bringing the matter before the membership. They stated they believed the endorsement should have been decided by the membership.

CNC Decision Not to Endorse Kevin "RT" Laughlin

The Board reported its decision not to endorse **Kevin "RT" Laughlin**, noting that he is not a member of the Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition.

Opposition to The Landings Proposal

The Board presented its recommendation to oppose **The Landings** development proposal.

Following discussion, the membership voted on the motion to oppose the proposal.

Vote:

- In Favor: **15**
- Opposed: **3**

Motion carried.

Level the Playing Field Committee

The Board announced the formation of the **Level the Playing Field Committee**.

Committee members include:

- Bill Johnson
 - Chris Mikeliek
 - Denis McDermott
 - Patrick Rafferty
 - David Lillis
 - Jared Leone
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Old Business

Committee updates were provided for:

- Code Compliance Committee
 - Dashboard Committee
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Adjournment

There being no further business, Acting President Patrick Rafferty adjourned the meeting at **8:40 p.m.**