



Meeting Minutes May 4th 2026

President: Jared Leone

Vice President: Patrick Raftery

Secretary: Chelsea Gird

Treasurer: Cheryl Acton

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Presentations

Clearwater History Presentation

Allison Dolan, President of the Clearwater Historical Society, presented a program on the history and development of Clearwater. Her presentation began with information about the local Tocobaga Indians and the arrival of Spanish explorers. She shared stories and humorous anecdotes about the early settlers and the growth of the area from the village of Clearwater Harbor to the incorporation of the City of Clearwater in 1915.

Ms. Dolan also highlighted the recently inaugurated historical house and Tea Room located at Lake Belleview Park. The Tea Room can accommodate approximately 50 guests and is available for rentals, including birthdays, weddings, community gatherings, and special events. The facility was noted as a valuable addition that supports local history, culture, and community engagement.

The Clearwater Historical Society and museum continue to be supported through memberships, donations, and community involvement. Residents were encouraged to visit the museum, learn more about Clearwater's history, and support the organization through membership and

participation. Additional information is available through the Clearwater Historical Society website.

Homeless Outreach Program

Officer Kathy Hamm presented information regarding the homeless outreach program conducted by the Clearwater Police Department. Officer Hamm explained that she is the only officer solely dedicated to the program in Clearwater. Drawing from her own experience with homelessness, she discussed the challenges faced by homeless individuals and her commitment to connecting residents with available resources. She noted that Clearwater offers one of the most extensive homeless outreach programs and support networks in Pinellas County.

E-Bike Law Presentation

Lt. Ziermann of the Clearwater Police Department presented information on the new Florida law that defines e-bikes as bicycles and establishes three classifications of e-bikes. He reviewed licensing, insurance, safety equipment, and applicable rules of the road. Lt. Ziermann emphasized the importance of courtesy and respect for others and stressed parents' responsibility to educate their children about safe operation. Handouts summarizing key provisions of the law were distributed.

Lt. Ziermann also emphasized the importance of locking vehicles at night due to an increase in thefts from unattended and unlocked vehicles. Residents were encouraged to remain vigilant, remove valuables from plain sight, and help reduce preventable crimes by securing their vehicles and property overnight.

Approval of Minutes

The Secretary's Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as posted.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Reports for CNC and CNCF were presented and accepted.

New Business

Council Candidates Forum

The CNC Council Candidates Forum was announced and scheduled for 6:00 PM on June 1 at Trinity Presbyterian Church, located at 2201 Rainbow Drive, Clearwater. Procedures, agenda information, and forum rules will be distributed to all members. Invitations to candidates will be issued following certification by the City Clerk on May 15.

Committee Reports

- **City Council Oversight:** Reports were issued.
- **Code Enforcement:** The next MCEB meeting is scheduled for May 27 at 1:30 PM.
- **Dashboard Committee:** Bill Johnson reported he will meet with city officials on May 28 to discuss recommended changes.
- **Transportation Committee:** Dennis McDermott reported on new Florida legislation, HB 1093, signed by Governor Ron DeSantis, authorizing the Florida Department of Transportation to fund a network of public vertiports supporting advanced air mobility operations. Handouts detailing the legislation and aircraft information were distributed.

Recognition

CNC attendees who participated in the Bloomberg/Harvard Ideation event were recognized for their participation.

Membership Awards

CNCF awarded CNC memberships to the following neighborhood organizations:

- Bellevue
- Marymont
- Downtown Gateway
- Milton Park–Magnolia Heights
- Clearwater Urban League Coalition

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the Council Candidates Forum on June 1.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.