MINUTES
BREVARD CITY COUNCIL
Specially-Called Budget Workshop
June 5, 2026

The Brevard City Council met for a Specially-called Budget Workshop on Friday, June 5, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, with Mayor Maureen Copelof presiding.

Present - Mayor Maureen Copelof, Mayor Pro Aaron Baker, and Council Members Gary Daniel, Pamela Holder, Lauren Wise and Dean Lytle

Staff Present –City Manager Wilson Hooper, City Clerk Denise Hodsdon, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director Dean Luebbe, Assistant City Manager David Todd, Assistant to the City Manager Shawnee Cummings, Communications Coordinator Becky McCann, Human Resources Director Kelley Craig, Police Chief Christy Wentzell, Fire Chief Chase Owen, Assistant Planning Director Aaron Bland, Public Works Director Wesley Shook, Water Treatment Plant ORC Dennis Richardson, and Wastewater Treatment Plant ORC Aaron Winans

Press – David Bradley, *Transylvania Times* and Jonathan Rich, *BrevardBeagle*

A. Welcome and Call to Order – Mayor Copelof called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed those present.

B. Certification of Quorum – City Clerk Denise Hodsdon certified a quorum present.

C. Approval of Agenda – Mr. Baker moved, seconded by Mr. Wise to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously. A copy of all workshop materials is on file in the Clerk's Office.

D. Budget Discussion – Mr. Hooper noted that there are a few outstanding questions regarding the budget for discussion today. He asked if Council was satisfied with the Utilities, Stormwater and all the smaller budget proposals in the Recommended Budget. There was consensus that Council was satisfied with all other budgets and that today's discussion would focus on the General Fund issues.

Mr. Hooper said he interprets those outstanding General Fund questions to fall into three discreet themes:

1. What to do about the municipal service tax (MSD) and the Heart of Brevard contract
2. Potential Sports Complex and recreation improvements
3. What to do with the leftover Norton Creek dollars that are in Fund 82 Rosenwald Revitalization Fund

D-1. Menu of Alternatives – Mr. Hooper reviewed the following table of Budget Alternatives that were submitted to him by Council. He asked Councilmembers to discuss which options are most favorable to them.

Budget Alternatives				
#	Proposed Change	Amt. added/ (Rev reduced)	Offsetting (Rev Reduction)/Addl. Rev., Savings, or Alternate Source	Amt.
1	Fully fund HoB w/o MSD tax increase	$15,500	Redirect from Fund 82 (Rosenwald) balance[1] *(alt. source)*	$15,500
2	Fully fund HoB w/o MSD tax increase	$15,500	Redirect from Fund 83 (Downtown Master Plan) *(alt. source)*	$15,500
3	HoB keeps fund traditionally transferred back to Fund 83[2]	$11,000	No MSD tax increase *(rev. reduction)*	($16,500)
4a	Fully fund HoB w/reduced MSD tax increase ($.0065 from $.02)	($11,000)	Alt 2 Commercial Cardboard fee Reduce MSD tax increase to $.0065 from $.02[2]	$56,340 ($11,000) **$45,340 net**
4b	Add fourth PW FTE	$67,500	Savings from proposal 4 Redirect from Fund 82 (Rosenwald) balance	$45,340 $22,160 **$67,500 net**
4c	Establish Parks Fund	$75,840	Redirect from Fund 82 (Rosenwald) balance *(alt. source)*	$75,840
5	Sports Complex Redesign funds	$57,000	Alt. 2 Commercial Cardboard fee *(addl. revenue)*	$57,000
6	Carolina Ave. traffic calming	$14,000	Redirect from Fund 82 (Rosenwald) balance *(alt. source)*	$14,000
7	Increase non-departmental contribution to Fund 78 (Multi-use path) from $47,500 to $82,750	$35,250	Redirect from Fund 82 (Rosenwald) balance *(alt. source)*	$35,250
8	Increase non-departmental contribution to Fund 83 (Downtown Master Plan) from $47,500 to $82,750	$35,250	Redirect from Fund 82 (Rosenwald) balance *(alt. source)*	$35,250

[1] The current balance is $98,971 but staff expect it to decrease somewhat as late invoices for Norton Creek phase 2 are paid. Staff expect the eventual available balance to be $90k-$94k. The balance was created by a $100,000 GF transfer in anticipation of Norton Creek overages. The project footprint was adjacent to Silversteen Park, so Fund 82 was used for project accounting. See Council-approved budget amendment at the following link: https://www.cityofbrevard.com/DocumentCenter/View/6305/Budget-Amendment-25-16

[2] Under this scenario HoB would be partially funded, receiving $11,000 of their $15,500 funding request

9	Rosenwald community-chosen infrastructure project	Net neutral	Reserve $98k within Fund 82 (Rosenwald)[3] *(alt source)*	Net neutral
10	$98k Silversteen Park shelter/ bathroom seed money	Net neutral	Reserve $98k within Fund 82 (Rosenwald)[4] *(alt source)*	Net neutral
11	Add Silversteen shelter/ bathroom funding to legislative request	$300,000	[None offered]	No budgetary impact
12	Maintain employee dependent coverage premium subsidy	($25,097)	Cut tipper carts *(savings)*	$35,000
13	Employee merit pool	$35,000	Cut tipper carts ($35,000) *(savings)*	$35,000
14	Reduce tax rate by .44¢[5]	($90,000)	Redirect from Fund 82 (Rosenwald) balance *(alt. source)*	$90,000

CAUTION: One-time resources being used for recurring expenses.

[3] If passed, this proposal would have no impact on the budget itself. The money would stay in Fund 82 until the community made its decision. Council guidance would be needed on how this "participatory budgeting" exercise would work.

[4] If passed, this proposal would have no impact on the budget itself. The money would stay in Fund 82 until Council directed its use for a bathroom/shelter related purpose.

Mr. Hooper also provided the following supplemental figures for Council's reference and consideration:

City of Brevard FY27 Supplemental Figures for Reference

(6/1/26 version)

Taxes

- $0.01 on the tax rate = $202,800

Fire (52.7% City and 47.3% County)

- If the County doesn't fund 47.3% of the request for three new full-time personnel:
  - City contribution stays at **$995,608**

- The County's contribution decreases from **$893,592** to **$758,002**.
- The funding model for FY27 would be **56.7% (City) and 43.3% (County).**
- The staffing model would be one new full-time engineer, and adequate money in the part-time line item to fund addl. PT staffing.

Heart of Brevard ($0.01 on the HOB tax rate = $8,150)

- FY27 Recommended Budget proposes: $0.02 increase in the HOB tax rate
- Revenue from the tax increase would offset the reduction of HOB's nonprofit funding, reduced from $31,000 to $15,500.
- To avoid a HOB tax increase, HOB offered the alternative of keeping the $11,000 contribution to the DTMP Committee sourced from the City's General Fund.

Employee Healthcare – Subsidy on Dependent Coverage

- **FY27**: 86% → 83% subsidy on dependent healthcare = **$25,097 increase from FY26**
- **FY28**: 83% → 80% subsidy on dependent healthcare = **$30,404 increase from FY27**
- **FY29**: 80% → 77% subsidy on dependent healthcare = **$33,119 increase from FY28**
- **FY30**: 77% → 75% subsidy on dependent healthcare = **$27,237 increase from FY29**

Employee Compensation

- 2.7% COLA increase = $184,680 (General Fund), $49,200 (W/S), $24,300 (Fire)
- Each 0.5% = $34,200

Commercial Sanitation Fees

- **Commercial Recycling Proposed Change (Mandatory Charge)**: $5.75/mo. → $13/mo.
  - Generates additional **$59,073/yr** in revenue and makes the City's service whole.
- **Commercial Cardboard Proposed Model (Mandatory Charge)**

Usage	No. of Customers	Old fee (monthly)	New Fee (monthly)	Add'l Revenue
Limited use	489	$10	$15	$29,340
Small User	24	$10	$50	$11,520
Med User	9	$10	$100	$9,720
Large User	12	$10	$150	$20,160

- Total Cardboard Revenue Increase using above Fee Structure: **$68,330/yr**
  - **Alt 1:** $18 limited use, $100 small, $150 med, $200 large = **$112,934 revenue increase**
  - **Alt 2:** $20 limited use, $100 small, $150 med, $200 large = **$124,670 revenue increase**
  - **Alt 3:** $20 limited use, $120 small, $250 med, $500 large = **$184,430 revenue increase**
- **Market rate** of cardboard pickup (based on estimates from GFL and Waste Mgmt.)

User Type	2 pickups per week	4 pickups per week
Small	**$150/mo.**	**$275/mo.**
Medium	**$213/mo.**	**$403/mo.**
Large	**$280/mo.**	**$540/mo.**

Community Centers

- Increase in CC reservation fees by $5 would increase revenue by about **$365** annually

Sports Complex Redesign Possibility

- To fund the Sports Complex redesign, Alt 2 for Cardboard will yield an additional approximately $57,000 while still making the service whole.

Life-to-date Norton Creek Project Expenses

- Phase 1 (Mills Ave. culvert to edge of park property) - $564,750
- Phase 2 (Edge of park property approx. 60 feet upstream) - $124,000
- Phase 3 (Tannery properties to Rosman Hwy) engineering - $75,000

Infrastructure Possibilities in Rosenwald

- Portions of Carver St. are scheduled to be repaved this summer
- If Powell Bill dollars can be stretched, Keith Ct. may fall in this year's project. If not, it's scheduled for repaving next year.
- The city's approved bike/ped plan identifies the following locations as in need of sidewalk[1]:

[1] Note that the bike/ped plan does not include cost estimates for these sections. All appear likely to have right-of-way issues and utility conflicts.

  - Rosenwald Ln.
  - Silversteen Dr. b/w McMinn and Caldwell
  - Carolina Ave.
  - Verdery St.
- Scheduled public works/maintenance activities that would likely be accelerated if new staff are approved include:
  - Edging of curbs and sidewalks through the neighborhood
  - Carver St. sidewalk repair
  - Repair of other broken sidewalk segments in other areas of neighborhood
  - Crosswalk/sightline/signage improvements at Carver/Oaklawn

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Council began discussion with the various options for MSD tax increase and Heart of Brevard contract (Budget Alternatives 1 through 4a), which also included discussion of the alternatives for commercial cardboard recycling.

There was consensus to adopt Alternative 2 for cardboard collection, as a starting point, with the caveat that Council would look at all budget alternatives holistically:

- **Alt 2:** $20 limited use, $100 small, $150 med, $200 large = **$124,670 revenue increase**

Discussion then moved to the Sports Complex redesign (Budget Alternative 5). There was discussion about the need for a Parks & Recreation Master Plan for long-term planning and budgeting purposes. However, there is an immediate safety issue at the Sports Complex that needs to be addressed now.

During additional discussion of the alternatives to fund Heart of Brevard and the effect on the Downtown Master Plan Fund, there was consensus to adopt Alternative 4a:

#	Proposed Change	Amt. added/ (Rev reduced)	Offsetting (Rev Reduction)/Addl. Rev., Savings, or Alternate Source	Amt.
4a	Fully fund HoB w/reduced MSD tax increase ($.0065 from $.02)	($11,000)	Alt 2 Commercial Cardboard fee Reduce MSD tax increase to $.0065 from $.02[2]	$56,340 ($11,000) **$45,340 net**

Mr. Hooper pointed out that with the adoption of Alternative 4a, we now need to find $11,000 in order to move forward with the Sports Complex redesign. Mr. Lytle noted that we already have a design for the Silversteen shelter, which includes bathrooms, and suggested a compromise of using $11,000 from the Rosenwald Fund for the Sports Complex redesign, with the balance of the Rosenwald Fund to remain for future infrastructure projects in Rosenwald. There was consensus to adopt this as Alternative 9a and to include Alternative 6, $14,000 for Carolina Ave. traffic calming to also come from the Rosenwald Fund:

#	Proposed Change	Amt. added/ (Rev reduced)	Offsetting (Rev Reduction)/Addl. Rev., Savings, or Alternate Source	Amt.
9a	Rosenwald community-chosen infrastructure project	($11,000)	Reserve $84-87k within Fund 82 (Rosenwald) *(alt source)*	$84,000 to $87,000
6	Carolina Ave. traffic calming	$14,000	Redirect from Fund 82 (Rosenwald) balance *(alt. source)*	$14,000

~~ At 10:29 a.m. Mayor Copelof called for a ten minute break.~~
The meeting was reconvened at 10:39 a.m.

Discussion moved to Alternatives 12 and 13 regarding tipper carts. Mr. Daniel noted that we didn't get the grant for the tipper carts and suggested that because the City has not given employees merit raises since before Covid, that the $35,000 for tipper carts could be earmarked for a merit pool for higher-performing employees. Mr. Lytle stressed that there would need to be a well-defined plan before implementation. Kelly Craig mentioned that one of the items that she had requested in this year's budget, but was not included was a performance evaluation module and recommended that that would help us roll that system out in an effective way. The cost of that module is approximately $6,000. Following discussion, there was consensus to not fund the tipper carts, but to fund the evaluation software and earmark the remainder of the $35,000 for seed money for a future merit compensation pool in FY28. Council directed Staff to bring proposals to the Finance, Human Resources and Citizen Appointment Committee for creation of a merit-based evaluation system, an increased scope pay study, and other matters as Staff might propose to fairly compensate employees.

D-2. Adds/Deletes – Shawnee Cummings recapped the approved changes:

- Adopt Alternate 2 for the cardboard fee structure;
- Adopt Alternate 4a to reduce the proposed $.02 tax increase for the MSD to $.0065, using the Alternate 2 cardboard fee, leaving a net of $45,000 which would be directed to the Sports Complex redesign;
- Adopt Alternate 9a to use $11,000 from the Rosenwald Fund for the Sports Complex redesign, and use the remainder of that Fund (approximately $84,000 to $87,000) for Rosenwald infrastructure projects, including Carolina Ave. traffic calming measures;
- Remove $35,000 for tipper carts and direct those funds towards a merit program.

D-3. Straw Votes were all in favor. Staff will incorporate the changes in the Recommended Budget and bring it to Council for approval at the June 15th meeting.

E. Adjourn – There being no further business, at 11:27 a.m. Ms. Holder moved, seconded by Mr. Lytle, to adjourn the workshop. The motion carried unanimously.

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Maureen Copelof
Mayor

Denise Hodsdon, CMC
City Clerk

Minutes Approved: September 8, 2026