



UMATILLA CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 17, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Council Chambers, 1 S. Central Avenue, Umatilla, Florida 32784

AGENDA

Please silence your electronic devices

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

AGENDA REVIEW

MINUTES REVIEW

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes
- February 3, 2026, Regular City Council Minutes

PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT

At this point in the meeting, the Umatilla City Council will hear questions, comments and concerns from the public.

Please write your name and address on the paper provided at the podium. Zoning or code enforcement matters which may be coming before the Council at a later date should not be discussed until such time as they come before the Council in a public hearing. Comments, questions, and concerns from the public regarding items listed on this agenda shall be received at the time the Council addresses such items during this meeting. Public comments are generally limited to three minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARING / ORDINANCES / RESOLUTIONS

NEW BUSINESS

2. SECO Energy Utility Easement — Airport Property
3. Tuition Reimbursement Policy

DISCUSSION

4. 410 North Orange Avenue

REPORTS

5. Staff Reports

ADJOURNMENT

Individuals with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk at least two (2) working days in advance of the meeting date and time at (352)669-3125. F.S. 286.0105 If a person decides to

appeal any decision or recommendation made by Council with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, he will need record of the proceedings, and that for such purposes, he may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Any invocation that may be offered before the official start of the Council meeting is and shall be the voluntary offering of a private citizen to and for the benefit of the Council pursuant to Resolution 2014-43. The views and beliefs expressed by the invocation speaker have not been previously reviewed or approved by the Council and do not necessarily represent their individual religious beliefs, nor are the views or beliefs expressed intended to suggest allegiance to or preference for any particular religion, denomination, faith, creed, or belief by the Council or the City. No person in attendance at this meeting is or shall be required to participate in any invocation and such decision whether or not to participate will have no impact on his or her right to actively participate in the public meeting.

The City of Umatilla is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



UMATILLA CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 3, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Council Chambers, 1 S. Central Avenue, Umatilla, Florida 32784

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Having been duly advertised as required by law, Mayor Creech called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Christopher Creech, Mayor
Zack Durbin, Vice Mayor
Bear Crockett, Council Member
Katherine Adams Council Member
Fred Fetterolf, Council Member

NOT PRESENT

Adam Bolton, Assistant City Manager
Vaughan Nilson, Public Works Director

ALSO PRESENT

Aaron Mercer, City Manager
Kevin Stone, City Attorney
Jessica Burnham, City Clerk
Regina Frazier, Finance Director
David Seeley, Chief of Police
Amy Stultz, Library Director
Misti Lambert, Programs and Compliance Manager

AGENDA REVIEW

Mr. Mercer stated that items 3 and 4 were withdrawn by the applicant.

MOTION BY VICE MAYOR DURBIN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE STATED CHANGES; SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER CROCKETT. MOTION PASSED BY A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

MINUTES REVIEW

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes
- January 20, 2026, Regular City Council Minutes

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS TO APPROVE JANUARY 20, 2026, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES; SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR DURBIN. MOTION PASSED BY A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

PRESENTATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Creech opened public comment

No one spoke.

Mayor Creech closed public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Declaration of Surplus Items — Police Department

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA; SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER FETTEROLF. MOTION PASSED BY A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

PUBLIC HEARING / ORDINANCES / RESOLUTIONS

Items 3-4 were pulled from the agenda

3. First Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-B, First Baptist Church of Umatilla Rezoning **(Continued to February 17th)**
4. First Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-B1, First Baptist Church of Umatilla Small Scale Comp Plan Amendment **(Continued to February 17th)**
5. Resolution No. 2026-02, State Revolving Fund Loan Program Application (SAHM)

City Attorney Stone read the Resolution by title.

A RESOLUTION OF CITY OF UMATILLA, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE STATE REVOLVING FUND LOAN PROGRAM; MAKING FINDINGS; AUTHORIZING THE LOAN APPLICATION; AUTHORIZING THE LOAN AGREEMENT; ESTABLISHING PLEDGED REVENUES; DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES; PROVIDING ASSURANCES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

Ms. Frazier explained that Florida Statutes authorize loans to local governments for wastewater treatment facility construction. Florida Administrative Code require a resolution authorizing the loan application, pledging

revenues, designating an authorized representative, assuring compliance with program requirements, and approving entry into a loan agreement.

She noted that Project No. WW35077 has been placed on the State Revolving Fund loan priority list as eligible for funding, and the City of Umatilla intends to enter into a loan agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to finance the wastewater treatment facility project.

Mayor Creech opened public comment.

No one spoke.

Mayor Creech closed public comment.

MOTION BY VICE MAYOR DURBIN TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 2026-02, STATE REVOLVING FUND LOAN PROGRAM APPLICATION; SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS. MOTION PASSED BY A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

6. Final Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-A, Council Salaries 2026

City Attorney Stone read the Ordinance by title.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF UMATILLA, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE II, SECTION 2-16 OF THE CITY OF UMATILLA CODE OF ORDINANCES, RELATING TO COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS; SETTING FORTH A REVISED SCHEDULE OF MONTHLY COMPENSATION FOR THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Creech opened public comment.

No one spoke.

Mayor Creech closed public comment.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER FETTEROLF TO APPROVE FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2026-A, COUNCIL SALARIES 2026; SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER CROCKETT. MOTION PASSED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE.

Council Member Fetterolf	YES
Council Member Crockett	YES
Council Member Adams	YES
Vice Mayor Durbin	YES
Mayor Creech	YES

NEW BUSINESS

7. Half Engineering Proposal Design Contract for WTP#2 Expansion Plan

Troy Mitchell of Halff Engineering provided an overview of the proposal submitted to the City of Umatilla for survey, final design, permitting, bidding, and construction management services for the WTP #2 Expansion project.

The scope includes replacing the existing well pump; constructing a new ground storage tank and a new high service pump building with three vertical turbine can pumps; adding a new chlorination system; completing electrical and control upgrades; installing new yard piping; and performing site work including drainage improvements. The project will also remove and/or modify the existing control valve between the two systems.

The proposal further covers required permitting, preparation of construction specifications and bid documents, assistance with bidding, and construction oversight.

Council discussed the estimated \$3.8 million cost for the expansion and expressed confidence that the funding would be sufficient to cover the project. Discussion also referenced the project timeline, including August 2029 in relation to ongoing planning efforts.

Council members addressed the Joint Planning Agreement with the County and emphasized the importance of placing their position on the record, particularly regarding the east side of town and the rural protection area. They reiterated that when the water facility was originally constructed, the intent was not to extend all utilities into that area.

During the discussion, it was inquired whether the planned improvements would help address concerns about the taste of the water.

MOTION BY VICE MAYOR DURBIN TO APPROVE HALFF ENGINEERING PROPOSAL DESIGN CONTRACT FOR WTP#2 EXPANSION PLAN; SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS. MOTION PASSED BY A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

8. Halff Engineering Proposal — Update Drinking Water Facility Plan

Mr. Mitchell provided background on Halff Engineering’s professional services proposal to develop a Drinking Water Facilities Plan for the expansion and improvements to WTP #2. The plan is required as part of the Supplemental Appropriation for Hurricanes Helene and Milton (SAHM) funding recently awarded to the City of Umatilla and is reimbursable under that grant.

He emphasized the importance of authorizing Halff to proceed immediately due to the March 12, 2026, deadline for submittal to the State. The Facilities Plan will include all elements necessary for SRF funding eligibility, as well as an Environmental Site Assessment. A required Business Plan will be prepared by the City’s Finance Department. Council discussion followed regarding the March 12th deadline and the need to ensure timely submission to the State.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS TO APPROVE HALFF ENGINEERING PROPOSAL UPDATE DRINKING WATER FACILITY PLAN; SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR DURBIN. MOTION PASSED BY A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

9. Library Advisory Board Appointments

Ms. Amy Stultz, Library Director, provided an overview of the agenda item regarding appointments to the Lake County Library Advisory Board. She explained that the Board makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) concerning the Lake County Library System, of which the Umatilla Public Library is a member. As a participating city, Umatilla holds one seat on the advisory board.

She noted that the current available positions include a primary voting member and an alternate member. Upon City Council approval, the appointments will be forwarded to the BOCC for final approval in time for the next regularly scheduled meeting on March 19, 2026.

Board members serve four-year terms, and the proposed term would run from March 2026 through February 28, 2030. Staff requested approval to move Robert Harvey Miller from alternate member to primary member and to appoint Robyn Lambert as the alternate member.

MOTION BY VICE MAYOR DURBIN TO APPOINT MR. ROBERT HARVEY MILLER AS PRIMARY MEMBER OF THE LAKE COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD; SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER CROCKETT. MOTION PASSED BY A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS TO APPOINT MS. ROBYN LAMBERT AS ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE LAKE COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD; SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR DURBIN. MOTION PASSED BY A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

REPORTS

10. Staff Reports

Mr. Mercer reported that an offer from the CRA had been presented to the property owner, Mr. Wilson. While it was not accepted, it was also not formally declined. He stated that Mr. Wilson has proposed constructing the parking lot using additional funding through the CRA grant process and was advised to prepare a plan and submit it for inclusion on a future CRA agenda.

Mr. Mercer also discussed ongoing conversations with the County regarding a Joint Planning Agreement (JPA) for rural areas. The intent is to establish an agreement addressing utilities and to put provisions in place that would limit annexation and density.

City Attorney Stone reported that he is continuing to monitor legislative activity and pending bills. He provided an update on several specific bills and discussed their potential impact on the City.

Council Member Fetterolf had nothing to report.

Council Member Crockett commented that the Black Bear Festival was a great event.

Mayor Creech commented on the Black Bear Festival and also mentioned speaking to the middle school students. He inquired about the recent water outage, and Mr. Mercer stated that he would provide a report on what happened.

Vice Mayor Durbin mentioned that the Black Bear Festival was great despite the weather and noted the upcoming Chamber event on February 12th at Lake View Terrace.

Council Member Adams reported that she spoke to the middle school students and commented that the Black Bear Festival was great.

Chief Seeley had nothing to report.

Ms. Frazier reported that the new software includes a notification system to alert residents about water outages.

Ms. Lambert had nothing to report.

Ms. Stultz had nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:56 p.m.

Christopher R Creech, Mayor

Jessica Burnham, CMC, FCRM
City Clerk



**CITY OF UMATILLA
AGENDA ITEM STAFF REPORT**

DATE: February 5, 2026

MEETING DATE: February 17, 2026

SUBJECT: SECO Energy Utility Easement — Airport Property

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

SECO Energy is requesting a 20-ft utility easement across City-owned property on the east side of the airport, north of Twin Ponds Road. The easement is needed so SECO can serve 3-Phase power to Kevin Kimball, property owner on Twin Ponds. The parcel in question is 7 +/- acres of vacant land that was purchased using FDOT/FAA funding as a land buffer for the airport.

Due to the easement's close proximity to the airport, SECO is required to install underground power across the easement.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approval to grant a 20-ft utility easement to SECO Energy

FISCAL IMPACTS:

None

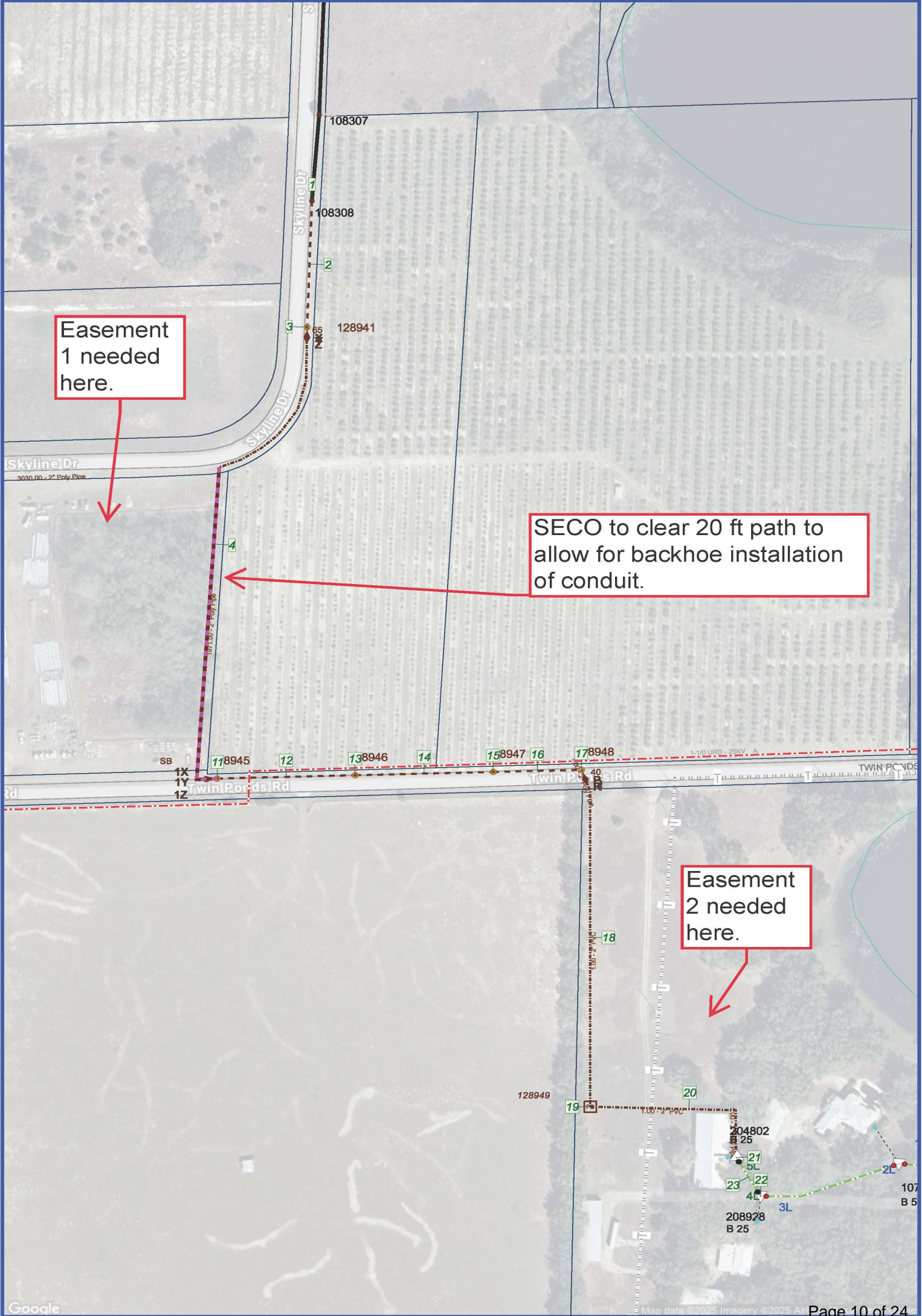
ATTACHMENTS:

1. 221170 Map Updated
 2. SECO Easement for Kimballv2
 3. Easement City of Umatilla Deliverable
-

Easement 1 needed here.

SECO to clear 20 ft path to allow for backhoe installation of conduit.

Easement 2 needed here.



PERPETUAL UTILITY EASEMENT

WO#: _____ Doc Stamps: 0.70

Prepared By: _____

SUMTER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
d/b/a SECO Energy
P.O. Box 301
Sumterville, Florida 33585-0301

Section _____ Township _____ Range _____

Parcel ID/Alternate Key Number: _____

(Whenever used herein, the terms "grantor" and "grantee" include all parties to this instrument and the heirs, legal representatives, assigns of individuals, and the successors and assigns of corporations.)

Space above this line reserved for Recording Office Use.

THE GRANTOR(S) _____

In consideration of the sum of \$10.00 or other good and valuable consideration, the sufficiency of which is acknowledged and received from the Grantee, SUMTER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., a Florida not for profit corporation, d/b/a SECO Energy, PO Box 301, Sumterville, FL 33585 a corporation existing under the laws of the State of Florida, its successors and assigns ("Grantee"), does hereby on _____ day of _____, 202____, grant and convey to the Grantee an easement, (i) to place, construct, operate, repair, maintain, upgrade, remove, inspect, relocate, and replace an overhead and/or underground electric transmission and/or overhead and/or underground distribution line and/or communications system and all associated appurtenances in connection with such overhead and/or underground facilities, and (ii) for ingress and egress to facilitate access for the purposes in clause (i) over and on or under the real property in _____ County, Florida, as described as:

See Exhibit "A", attached hereto and made a part hereof (the "Easement Area").

Grantee shall at all times have the following rights within the Easement Area: (i) the right to erect, install, improve, repair, rebuild, and/or remove said facilities, including the right to increase or decrease the number of wires, voltage, and/or supporting structures; (ii) the right to patrol and inspect its facilities, whether on foot, in vehicle(s), or by aerial device; and (iii) the right to keep the Easement Area clear of all structures, improvements, trees, plants, shrubs, crops, vegetation, and/or any other obstruction that, in Grantee's sole discretion, might reasonably endanger its facilities or appurtenances thereto, including, without limitation, the right to trim, cut, clear, and apply herbicides to any trees, branches, undergrowth and vegetation within the Easement Area. Grantor further agrees that Grantee shall have no obligation to repair or replace any landscaping or other vegetation located within the Easement Area that is disturbed, removed, or otherwise destroyed or impacted by Grantee's use of the Easement Area. Grantee shall further have the right to enter Grantor's Property to trim, cut, and clear, any trees, branches, undergrowth, and/or vegetation located outside of the Easement Area that in Grantee's sole discretion may endanger its facilities. The Grantee shall at all times retain ownership of its facilities installed within the Easement Area.

Grantor hereby agrees that no building, shed, tree, or other permanent structure shall be constructed, planted, or located on or within the Easement Area, nor shall ground elevation be temporarily or permanently altered by more than +/- one (1) foot without the prior written approval of the Grantee. Grantor shall be responsible for any damage to Grantee's facilities caused by or resulting from Grantor's failure to obtain such prior written approval. If a fence is now or in the future located within the Easement Area, Grantor agrees that Grantee may cut its own lock and/or gate into said fence and Grantor will hold Grantee harmless from any damage or other losses resulting from Grantee's use of the Easement Area.

Failure to utilize this easement within any particular time period shall not constitute an abandonment nor shall any particular configuration of facilities located within the easement constitute an estoppel to Grantee's future reconfiguration of facilities so long as the terms and limitations of this grant of easement are satisfied.

Grantor reserves the right to use said Easement Area for any other purpose which will not interfere with Grantee's rights established herein. In granting the above, it is understood that Grantee will make reasonable efforts to locate power line assemblies in a location which will cause the least interference in the use of the property, if in doing so it will not materially increase the cost of construction or maintenance.

Grantor hereby covenants that it is the owner of the fee simple title to the Property and the Easement Area and Grantor will defend the title thereto against all persons claiming through, by or under the Grantor. All covenants, terms, provisions, limitations, conditions, or otherwise granted herein shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective heirs, successors, or assigns. This easement is intended to run with the land and be binding upon any subsequent owner of the Easement Area and/or the Property.

PERPETUAL UTILITY EASEMENT

Grantor(s):

Name of Grantor

Signature

ATTEST:

Signature

Print name of Signer

Print name of Signer

Title of Signer

Title of Signer

STATE OF _____
COUNTY OF _____

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by means of physical presence or online notarization, this __ day of _____, 202__, by _____ as the _____ of _____, a _____, on behalf of the company. He/She is personally known to me or provided _____ as identification.

My Commission Expires: _____

My Commission Number is: _____

Notary Signature

Printed Name

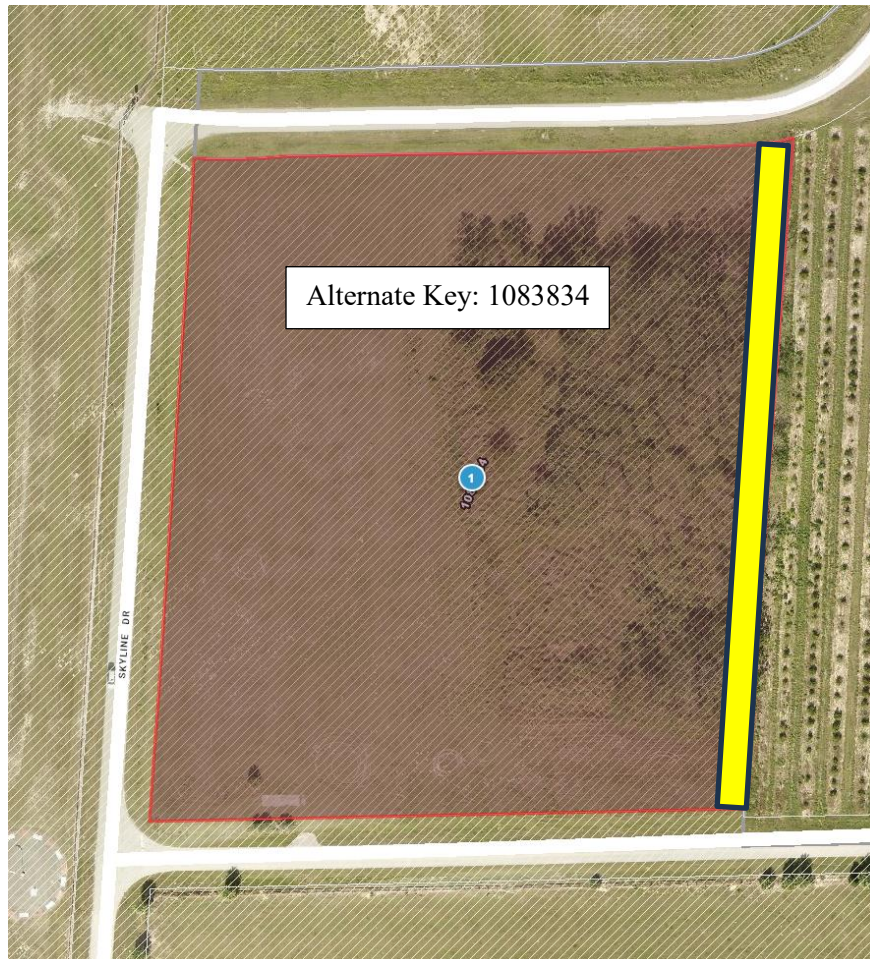
(SEAL)

EXHIBIT "A"
To that certain PERPETUAL UTILITY EASEMENT
Between
CITY OF UMATILLA, a Florida municipal corporation
GRANTOR
And
Sumter Electric Cooperative, Inc. GRANTEE

The East 20 feet of the following described parcel of land:

THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 18, TOWNSHIP 18 SOUTH, RANGE 27 EAST, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA. LESS RIGHT OF WAY FOR COUNTY ROADS. ALSO, LESS AND EXCEPT PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: THAT PART OF THE EAST 48.67 FEET OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 18, TOWNSHIP 18 SOUTH, RANGE 27 EAST IN LAKE COUNTY FLORIDA LYING NORTH OF CEMETARY ROAD (C.R. NO. 5-7676) AND LYING SOUTH OF SKYLINE DRIVE (C.R. 5-7773).

Lake county alternate key: 1083834





CITY OF UMATILLA
AGENDA ITEM STAFF REPORT

DATE: February 5, 2026

MEETING DATE: February 17, 2026

SUBJECT: Tuition Reimbursement Policy

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

The City has always encouraged professional development for employees through various training programs and certification incentives but does not currently have a tuition reimbursement program. This policy would allow employees to pursue higher education on their own time while being reimbursed for the associated expenses. The policy outlines the eligibility, covered expenses, and service commitment required to participate in the program. It also details the application, approval and reimbursement procedures. The policy caps the reimbursement at \$3,000 per employee per fiscal year as long as the funding is available.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approval of Tuition Reimbursement Policy

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Max \$3,000 per participating employee

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Tuition Reimbursement Policy
-



CITY OF UMATILLA

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to encourage continuous professional development, enhance employee skills, and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of City operations by providing tuition reimbursement for eligible employees who pursue approved educational coursework related to their current position or potential future roles within the City.

POLICY STATEMENT

The City supports employee development through reimbursement of tuition and certain related educational expenses for approved coursework that directly contributes to job performance, career advancement, or organizational needs, subject to budget availability and policy requirements.

LEGAL AUTHORITY AND COMPLIANCE

This policy is adopted pursuant to:

- Florida Statutes Chapters 112 (Public Officers and Employees and 166 (Municipalities)
- Applicable IRS regulations under 26 U.S.C. 127 (Educational Assistance Programs)
- Florida public records and ethics laws

Nothing in this policy creates a vested right to reimbursement, and all reimbursements are subject to annual budget approval.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for tuition reimbursement, an employee must:

- A. Be a regular full-time employee (or regular part-time, if approved by the governing body).
- B. Have completed at least six (6) months of continuous service prior to the start of the course.
- C. Be in good standing, with no active disciplinary actions at the time of application or reimbursement.

- D. Receive prior written approval from their Department Head and the Human Resources Department before course enrollment.

Elected officials, temporary, seasonal, intern, or contract employees are not eligible unless specifically authorized by the City Manager or City Council.

ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS AND PROGRAMS

- A. Courses must be offered by an accredited college, university, technical school, or recognized professional organization.
- B. Coursework must be:
 - Directly related to the employee's current position; or
 - Reasonably related to a foreseeable municipal career path or identified workforce need.
- C. Eligible programs may include:
 - Degree programs
 - Certificate programs
 - Professional licenses or certifications
 - Job-related continuing education
- D. Examples include:
 - Public administration
 - Finance, accounting, or auditing
 - Human resources
 - Engineering, planning, utilities, IT, or public safety

COVERED EXPENSES

Subject to approval and funding, the City may reimburse:

- Tuition
- Mandatory course fees

The following are not reimbursable:

- Application fees
- Registration or late fees
- Books or supplies
- Parking, travel, meals, or lodging
- Equipment (e.g., laptops, calculators)
- Courses paid for by another funding source

REIMBURSEMENT LIMITS

- A. Reimbursement shall not exceed \$3,000 per employee per fiscal year.
- B. Reimbursements up to the IRS annual limit (currently \$5,250) may be non-taxable; amounts exceeding this may be taxable income.
- C. Reimbursement is limited to actual expenses incurred, minus any grants, scholarships, or other financial assistance received.
- D. Reimbursement is subject to annual budget appropriations and may be reduced or suspended at any time.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Employees must successfully complete coursework with:
 - A grade of “C” or better for undergraduate courses;
 - A grade of “B” or better for graduate courses; or
 - A “Pass” for pass/fail courses.
- B. Proof of completion (official transcript or grade report) must be submitted prior to reimbursement.

APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS

- A. Employees must submit a Tuition Reimbursement Application prior to course enrollment. Retroactive approvals are not permitted.
- B. The application must include:
 - Course description
 - Cost breakdown
 - Explanation of job relevance
- C. Approval must be obtained from:
 - Immediate Supervisor
 - Department Head
 - Human Resources
 - Finance
 - City Manager

REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURE

- A. Reimbursement will be issued after course completion and submission of:
 - Proof of successful completion
 - Itemized receipts

- B. Reimbursement shall be processed through payroll and may be subject to applicable taxes under IRS regulations.

WORK SCHEDULE AND TIME COMMITMENT

- A. Coursework shall generally be completed outside of normal working hours.
- B. Use of work time or flexible scheduling requires prior supervisory approval and shall not disrupt departmental operations.

SERVICE COMMITMENT AND REPAYMENT

- A. Employees receiving reimbursement agree to remain employed with the City for one (1) year following the date of reimbursement.
- B. If an employee voluntarily resigns or is terminated for cause before fulfilling the service commitment, they must repay the reimbursement on a prorated basis.
- C. Repayment may be waived in cases of:
 - Layoff or position elimination
 - Disability
 - Retirement
 - Other circumstances approved by City Council

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The Human Resources Department shall administer this policy, maintain records, and ensure consistent application. The City reserves the right to interpret, modify, suspend, or terminate this policy at any time.

PUBLIC RECORDS

All records related to tuition reimbursement are subject to Florida Public Records Law (Chapter 119, F.S.), unless exempt.

NON-CONTRACTUAL NATURE

This policy does not constitute a contract of employment and does not alter the at-will status of employees, except as provided by law.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy shall become effective on February 17, 2026 and supersedes all prior tuition reimbursement policies.



**CITY OF UMATILLA
AGENDA ITEM STAFF REPORT**

DATE: February 12, 2026

MEETING DATE: February 17, 2026

SUBJECT: 410 North Orange Avenue

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

410 North Orange Avenue, owned by Patricia Thompson, has been the subject of code enforcement fines for several months.

- **Case 1:** \$11,438.94
- **Case 2:** Currently accruing at \$250/day; as of February 17, 2026: \$68,235.13
- **Code Enforcement hard cost breakdown:** \$6,754.07
- **Attorney fees:** \$2,250
- **Delinquent utility accounts:** \$13,512.38

Grand Total: \$102,190.52

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Discussion

FISCAL IMPACTS:

To Be Determined

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 410 N Orange Fines Due as 2-17-26
-

Case Number 16-00015 410 N. Orange Avenue

	Fine	# Units	Total
Daily Fines	\$25	437	10,925.00
Code Wages	\$25	10	250.00
Notices			18.94
Hearing fee	\$125	2	<u>250.00</u>
			11,438.94

Case Number 24-00004 410 N. Orange Avenue

Abatement			5,374.95
Daily Fines	\$250	248	62,000.00
Code Wages	\$45	12	540.00
Notices			20.18
Hearing fee	\$150	2	<u>300.00</u>
			68,235.13

Hard Cost Breakdown

Code Wages	\$25	10	250.00
Notices			18.94
Hearing fee	\$125	2	250.00
Abatement			5,374.95
Code Wages	\$45	12	540.00
Notices			20.18
Hearing fee	\$150	2	<u>300.00</u>
			6,754.07

Attorney Costs

Attorney Costs			2,250.00
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Utilities - All Delinquent Accounts Combined

Utilities			13,512.38
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Total Owed as of 2/17/2026

\$102,190.52



Umatilla Public Library FY 25-26

January 2026

Library Monthly Reports FY 25-26

	Q 1	Jan-26	FY 25-26
Visits (<i>door count halved</i>)	11,307	4,400	15,707
Checkouts	7,233	2,319	9,552
E-Books (digital)	1,718	576	2,294
Total Circulation	8,951	2,895	11,846
FL ILL Received	3	1	4
FL ILL Lent	12	5	17
New Patrons	93	47	140
Patron Computer Sessions	1,075	Not avail	Not Avail
Wi-Fi Clients Served	-	-	-
Adult Volunteer Hours	-	-	-
Attendance Family Programs	537	262	799
Attendance Adult Programs	260	157	417
Attendance Teen Programs	283	93	376
Attendance Juvenile Programs	829	424	1,253
Total # of Programs	147	62	209
Meeting room Rental	-	-	-
Cash to city (including cc)	\$1,698.98	\$365.93	\$2,064.91

Highlights

Local author, Paula Ciniero, gave a talk on her thrilling adventures as a tribal nurse in Alaska and Iditarod racer, which she wrote about in her memoir, "As the Fish Wheel Turns."

Umatilla Elementary's entire first-grade visited for a field trip with a tour, storytime highlighting the folktale *Anansi and the Tiger* and a visit to the caboose. Following the success of the event, the school has already secured a booking for next year's class.

The library and the Friends of the Library participated in the Black Bear Festival. The Friends gave away children's books and promoted their fund-raisers, including an adorable bear quilt made by the library's quilting class. The library performed two storytimes, displayed a book walk and served as the Welcome booth for the Black Bear Festival.

UMATILLA POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

January 27, 2026 through February 2, 2026

ARREST

01/29/2026	10:48 a.m.	Umatilla Juvenile	Possession of cannabis (more than 20 grams and possession of paraphernalia).
01/30/2026	11:08 a.m.	Johnson, Tyrone Tramell Umatilla	Officers served a warrant on Mr. Johnson for a domestic battery out of Lake County. He was transported to the Lake County Jail without incident.

CRIMINAL CITATIONS REQUIRING COURT APPEARANCE

01/30/2026	6:40 a.m.	Caceres Pizarro, Caleb Zephyrhills, FL	Unlawful speed.
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REPORTS FILED

01/30/2026	3:05 a.m.	Officers responded to the area of Tennessee Avenue to assist the Department of Children and Families with commencement of a case.	
01/30/2026	3:22 p.m.	Officers responded to 831 S. Central Avenue reference theft of a dog. The owner was able to determine who had the dog and made contact. The dog was returned.	

ARRESTS	0
DISPATCHED CALLS	130
TRAFFIC STOPS	26
TRAFFIC CITATIONS ISSUED	1

UMATILLA POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

February 3, 2026 through February 9, 2026

ARREST

02/05/2026	1:30 a.m.	Newcomb, Grace De Leon Springs	Possession paraphernalia; Possession of controlled substance Meth.
02/05/2026	2:09 p.m.	Madden, Spencer Leesburg	Possession of cannabis more than 20 grams.
02/07/2026	5:23 a.m.	Fuentes Orozco, Iker Eustis	No drivers license never had one.

CRIMINAL CITATIONS REQUIRING COURT APPEARANCE

02/06/2026	8:15 p.m.	Westphal, Jolynda Umatilla	Driving while license suspended/cancelled/revoked, 1 st conviction.
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REPORTS FILED

02/05/2026	6:44 p.m.	Officers stopped vehicle for traffic. Driver admitted to having a small amount of marijuana in the car. Officers took the marijuana and placed it into evidence for destruction.
02/07/2026	11:20 a.m.	Officers responded to a residence in the area of Devault Street reference a possible vandalism. It was determined no crime had been committed.
02/07/2026	7:51 a.m.	Officers were approached by someone finding a credit card in the area of Hunter Street. A search to locate individual was met with negative results. It has been entered into property for safekeeping.
02/08/2026	6:15 p.m.	Officers observed 2 juveniles throwing rocks at the Jerusalem Church windows and doors. Church representative and parents made an arrangement to fix the damages.

ARRESTS	4
DISPATCHED CALLS	188
TRAFFIC STOPS	56
TRAFFIC CITATIONS ISSUED	7