

City of Keystone Heights City Council

Keystone Heights City Council Special Meeting 9/18/25, 6:pm

555 S. LAWRENCE BLVD. KEYSTONE HEIGHTS, FL 32656

Date: Sep 18 2025 (6:00 pm)

Invocation

[1. Moment of Silence in Honor of Charlie Kirk](#)

Vice Mayor Elston Kussler openend the meeting at 6:15 pm

Vice Mayor Elston Kussler held a moment of silence in honor of Charlie Kirk who was assassinated on Sept. 10, 2025.

[2. Invocation-Garrison Knight](#)

Garrison Knight, (son of Councilman Ryan Knight) led the attendees in an invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

[3. Pledge of Allegiance-Dan Lewandowski, City Councilman](#)

Councilman Dan Lewandowski led the attendees in the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

[4. Roll Call-James Booth, Interim City Manager](#)

Interim City Manager James Booth called roll:

Vice Mayor Elston Kussler: present

Councilman Ryan Knight: present

Councilman Dan Lewandowski: present

Councilman Dave Welch: present

Mayor Nina Rodenroth: absent

Action Items

[5. Public Hearing-1st Reading of Millage Ordinance Fiscal](#)

📎 [Ordinance 609_FY25_26 Millage.docx](#)

Motion made to read millage ordinance by title by Councilman Dan Lewandowski.
 Second was made by Dave Welch.
 The ordinance was read by title by Interim City Manager James Booth.
 Public hearing opened by Vice Mayor.
 Public comments were opened, there were none.
 Vice Mayor Kussler closed the Public Hearing.
 Councilman Dan Lewandowski motioned for purpose of discussion, he moved to approve the ordinance of the 1st reading of the millage rate.
 Councilman Ryan Knight seconded for the purpose of discussion.
 After much discussion by the city council, there was a motion to amend with the new millage rate. There was no second, so the motion to amend failed.
 Vote by roll:
 Councilman Lewandowski-No
 Councilman Welch-yes
 Vice Mayor Kussler-yes
 Councilman Knight-no
 The motion fails.
 Councilman Lewandowski moved to adopt the ordinance for millage rate with a rate of 3.6422.
 Councilman Welch seconded the motion.
 Councilman Knight would like an advertisement to be placed in the newspaper so that the residents can understand.
 James Booth, City Manager agreed to look into media efforts, stated 3.6422 would be 18.88 % over the rolled back rate.
 Vice Mayor opened the Public Hearing on the amended millage rate.
 Public Comments: None
 Vice Mayor closed the Public Hearing.
 Vote by roll:
 Councilman Lewandowski-yes
 Councilman Welch-yes
 Vice Mayor Kussler-Yes
 Councilman Knight-yes
 4-0 Motion passes.

6. Public Hearing-1st Reading of Budget Ordinance

- 🔗 [Cemetery budget 25'-26'.pdf](#)
- 🔗 [CRA budget 25-26.pdf](#)
- 🔗 [Infrastructure budget 25-26.pdf](#)
- 🔗 [Ordinance 2025_610_FY25_26 Budget.docx](#)
- 🔗 [GF Budget 25-26.pdf](#)

Motion made by Councilman Dan Lewandowski to read by title.
 A motion was seconded.
 Rich Komando, City Attorney, read the ordinance by title.
 Interim City Manager explained the effect to the Budget Ordinance with the Millage Rate Change. The reserve account was decreased to offset the deficit in the budget.
 Open Public Hearing.
 No public comments.
 Public Hearing closed.
 Motion to approve as amended, as the reserves would cover the cost of the deficit in property taxes received.
 Councilman Ryan Knight made motion.
 Councilman Lewandowski seconded the motion.
 Vote: 4-0 all in favor.
 Motion passes.

7. Public Hearing Keystone Heights Airport Authority Budget FY 25-26

🔗 [Airport Budget 25-26-1.pdf](#)

Vice Mayor Kussler opened the public hearing.

General James Eifert gave a summary regarding the Keystone Heights Airport Authority Budget for FY 25-26. General James Eifert stated that it is a slim margin, the big issue affecting the airport is legal fees concerning The Firm.

Motion was made by Councilman Ryan Knight to approve.

Councilman Lewandowski approved.

Vote:4-0, all in favor, motion approved.

Adjournment:

Vice Mayor Kussler adjourned the meeting at 7:07 pm.