



May 19, 2026 - Regular Meeting

Subject

Updates to Agenda - May 18, 2026

Category

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Bobbi Roy, Agenda Division Supervisor, ext 6878

Action Requested

Updates incorporated appropriately

Enabling/Regulating Authority

N/A

Applicable Advisory Board

N/A

Background Discussion

Below are agenda updates (dated 5/18/26) for the meeting of May 19, 2026:

GENERIC PUBLIC COMMENTS

- This agenda item was updated with additional generic comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Financial Management

Item 11, Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-069, Claudia Campos, Interim Chief Financial Officer – Countywide

- This agenda item was updated with the revised Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-069.

Government Relations

Item 20, Execution of Updated Non-Profit Agreement with Manatee Educational Television Consortium (METV), Stephanie Garrison, Director of Government Relations

- This agenda item was updated with Letters of Support.

Public Safety

Item 26, Authorization to Issue Letter of Non-Opposition for the SUNSKY 10K Temporary Closure of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, Jodie Fiske, Public Safety Director - Countywide

- This agenda item was updated with a public comment.

Public Works

Item 27, Execution of the Mangrove Point Mitigation Bank Purchase Agreement with Mangrove Point Mitigation Point LLC, for .57 Dual Estuarine Forested UMAM Credits and .08 Dual Estuarine Herbaceous UMAM Credits for a total of .65 Credits from the Mangrove Point Mitigation Bank for the Fort Hamer Bridge Four-Lane Project located in the Manatee River Basin, Scott May, P.E., County Engineer – District 1

- This agenda item was deferred to June 2, 2026.

REGULAR

Government Relations

Item 33, Update on infrastructure phase of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Grant and Lasting Manatee Program, Ashley Schnitker, Grants Division Manager, and Odugo Ohizu, Communications Coordinator

- This agenda was updated with a PowerPoint Presentation.

Public Safety

Item 35, Approval to fund the Manatee County Task Force for a period of five years; and Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-000, Jodie Fiske, Public Safety Director

- This agenda item was deferred to June 16, 2026.

COMMISSIONER AGENDA ITEMS

Items for Discussion

Item 37, Old Memphis Cemetery Desecration and County Response – District 2

- This agenda item was updated with public comments and attachments.

Item 39, Old Memphis Cemetery – District 5

- This agenda item was updated with public comments.

Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Instructions to Board Records

N/A

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

N/A

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs

N/A

From: Lori Campora <campora.lori@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2026 3:58 PM

To: Tal Siddique <tal.siddique@mymanatee.org>; George Kruse

<george.kruse@mymanatee.org>; Amanda Ballard

<amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org>; Jason Bearden

<jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>; Mike Rahn <mike.rahn@mymanatee.org>

Subject: Bishop Animal Shelter

Commissioners,

The conditions at Bishop Animal Shelter have become unacceptable, and the residents of Manatee County are paying attention.

At only 88 degrees outside, temperatures inside the tent structures are already reaching dangerous levels. **The outside dog runs are being measured at 93 degrees, while the yards are hitting 107 degrees in direct sun - in May. Summer has not even begun.**

Dogs are being left outside in these conditions for extended periods of time. When they are brought inside, many are confined to tiny spaces that volunteers cannot even access. The existence of guillotine doors does not solve this problem when the heat itself makes the outdoor areas unsafe. **This is not a sustainable or humane system.**

To compensate, dividers will eventually have to be removed from the prefab units just to create larger air-conditioned spaces for the dogs. That means reduced shelter capacity, which will force the county to spend even more taxpayer money contracting dogs out to outside boarding facilities simply to maintain save rates and continue accepting abandoned animals.

Edward and Lillian Bishop, along with Mary E. Parker, who worked to carry out the Bishops' wishes after their passing, would be horrified to see what this property has become. This was never the vision they had for the animals or for this community. A property intended to protect and care for animals has instead become a symbol of overcrowding, heat exposure, and ongoing crisis management.

This crisis was predictable, and the county can no longer continue treating it as temporary.

Residents are demanding immediate action and a real long-term solution. We are asking the Commission to prioritize and budget for:

1. A permanent concrete facility that safely houses animals and allows staff, volunteers, and the public safe and functional access regardless of weather conditions.
2. Proper staffing, including experienced trainers and behavior staff capable of evaluating, training, and placing dogs appropriately.

3. Living wages for shelter employees to improve retention and ensure animals receive proper care.

The current conditions are dangerous for animals, exhausting for staff and volunteers, and **deeply upsetting** to the community watching this unfold. Delays and temporary fixes are no longer acceptable.

This issue needs to be placed on the agenda immediately, with a clear plan and timeline presented to the public.

The residents of this county are watching closely, and they will remember how this issue was handled when it comes time to decide who remains on the County Commission and who does not. **Voters will remember which commissioners acknowledged the severity of this crisis and fought for real solutions, and which commissioners ignored the warnings, delayed action, or accepted unacceptable conditions as “good enough.”** The treatment of these animals, the working conditions for staff and volunteers, and the stewardship of this historic property have become a defining issue for many in this community.

Sincerely,
Lori Campora
Resident of Manatee County for 42 years
and a registered voter

From: philadams@comcast.net <philadams@comcast.net>

Sent: Friday, May 15, 2026 10:20 AM

To: Amanda Ballard <amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org>; CarolAnn Felts <carolann.felts@mymanatee.org>; Robert McCann <drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org>; George Kruse <george.kruse@mymanatee.org>; Jason Bearden <jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>; Mike Rahn <mike.rahn@mymanatee.org>; Tal Siddique <tal@mymanatee.org>

Subject: Recent notice regarding Water & Sewer Rate Adjustments

Have I read your financial statements correctly? Does Water & Sewer fund have roughly \$500 million in unrestricted cash & cash equivalents & an additional approximately \$200 million in restricted cash & cash equivalents?

If I have read your financials incorrectly, tell me what the actual Water & Sewer fund cash & cash equivalent balances are.

If I have read the financials correctly, what is the justification for the Water & Sewer adjustment.

Thank you in advance for responding.

Phil Adams

From: Rachel Ciufu <cciufu@hotmail.com>

Sent: Friday, May 15, 2026 10:03 AM

To: George Kruse <george.kruse@mymanatee.org>; Amanda Ballard

<amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org>; Jason Bearden

<jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>; Mike Rahn <mike.rahn@mymanatee.org>

Subject: Re: Request for Permanent Concrete Structure and Improved Resources for Manatee County Animal Services

I recently moved to this state under the impression that Florida prides itself on robust animal welfare and rights advocacy. Instead, what I have witnessed at this county-run facility is inhumane. The extreme heat conditions that these animals are being subjected to inside the newly expanded facilities lack the bare minimum protections required to keep them safe. Forcing dogs to endure suffocating Florida temperatures with an explicit lack of structural shade and proper climate mitigation is not acceptable shelter management—it is a form of institutional animal cruelty. According to Manatee County's own official stance, animal cruelty constitutes any act or omission where unnecessary or unjustifiable suffering is permitted to continue when there is a reasonable remedy available. The local community, dedicated volunteers, and professional trainers have repeatedly raised alarms regarding lack of shade, exposure to extreme outdoor elements, and faulty facility planning. Leaving animals to bake in inadequate structures while commissioners debate administrative logistics is a severe breach of public trust. A \$12 million taxpayer-funded expansion should guarantee a state-of-the-art facility, not an environment where animals face heat exhaustion. While I am aware the Board recently voted to bring the University of Florida Shelter Medicine Program back for an on-site review, immediate interim measures must be taken today to cool these kennels before animals die from heatstroke. Please be advised that I am not content to let this sit in committee meetings. If immediate corrective action is not taken to implement climate control and shade structures at the Bishop Animal Shelter, I will be escalating this matter directly to Governor Ron DeSantis, regional and national news media outlets, and statewide animal advocacy watchdogs. These animals have no voice, but the residents of Manatee County do. We expect transparency, accountability, and immediate relief for these animals. I demand to know what immediate actions your office is taking this week to address the heat crisis at the shelter.

From: Rachel Ciufu <cciufu@hotmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2026 6:24 PM

To: tal.siddique@mymanatee.org <tal.siddique@mymanatee.org>;

amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org <amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org>;

jason.bearden@mymanatee.org <jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>;

mike.rahn@mymanatee.org <mike.rahn@mymanatee.org>

Subject: Re: Request for Permanent Concrete Structure and Improved Resources for Manatee County Animal Services

From: Rachel Ciufu <cciufu@hotmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 7:08 AM

To: tal.siddique@mymanatee.org <george.kruse@mymanatee.org>;
amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org <amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org>;
jason.bearden@mymanatee.org <jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>;
mike.rahn@mymanatee.org <mike.rahn@mymanatee.org>

Subject: Request for Permanent Concrete Structure and Improved Resources for Manatee County Animal Services

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express serious concern regarding the design and functionality of the new animal shelter facility in Manatee County. The current setup, which relies heavily on tents, is simply not appropriate for Florida's extreme weather conditions. Heat, humidity, heavy rain, hurricanes, and storms create unsafe and highly stressful conditions for both the dogs and the people caring for them. Quite frankly, this type of setup becomes a danger to animal welfare and public safety.

Research consistently shows that approximately 30–50% of dogs are surrendered or returned to shelters due to behavioral issues. Stable environments are critical for reducing stress, properly evaluating dogs, and helping them succeed in adoptive homes. The current layout of the facility will likely increase the number of dogs being returned after adoption because stressed, overstimulated animals are far more likely to display behavioral problems.

Additionally, when stray dogs are euthanized after entering the shelter system, those outcomes negatively impact shelter statistics. However, when adopted dogs are returned and owners are encouraged to sign euthanasia requests, those dogs are not reflected in the shelter's save rate. This creates a misleading picture of long-term placement success. The focus should not simply be on moving dogs out quickly, but on creating lasting, successful placements that prevent dogs from cycling back through the system.

Manatee County must invest in a permanent concrete addition to the adoption center that provides safe, climate-controlled housing and allows staff, volunteers, and the public reliable access regardless of inclement weather. A properly designed facility would help stabilize dogs, improve behavioral outcomes, increase adoption success, and reduce unnecessary euthanasia.

I respectfully urge the County to:

1. Build a permanent concrete addition to the adoption center that can safely house dogs and provide secure access during all weather conditions.
2. Properly staff the facility with qualified dog trainers and behavior professionals capable of evaluating, training, rehabilitating, and appropriately placing dogs with prospective families.
3. Provide staff with living wages to improve retention, morale, and overall quality of animal care.

4. Increase owner education and improve the matching process between dogs and adopters to support long-term successful placements.

Our community deserves an animal services facility that prioritizes humane treatment, public transparency, safety, and long-term adoption success. The current tent-based structure is not sustainable for Florida and does not adequately support the needs of these animals or the people working to save them.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to take immediate action to improve conditions for the animals and the community members who care deeply about their welfare.

Sincerely,
Rachel Ciufo

CC: Governor DeSantos

From: Misty Evans <evans0143@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2026 4:05 PM
To: George Kruse <george.kruse@mymanatee.org>
Cc: Robert McCann <drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org>; Amanda Ballard <amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org>; Mike Rahn <mike.rahn@mymanatee.org>; Jason Bearden <jason.bearden@mymanatee.org>; Charlie Bishop <Charlie.bishop@mymanatee.org>; Tal Siddique <tal.siddique@mymanatee.org>
Subject: MCAW

This Bishop Shelter is UNEXCEPTABLE on every level.

It's morally wrong

Neglect and cruelty is what's happening at this point with all the issues being brought up and not a blink of an eye by any except for Dr. McCann to try yo make this right.

The community has all eyes on you.

News media.

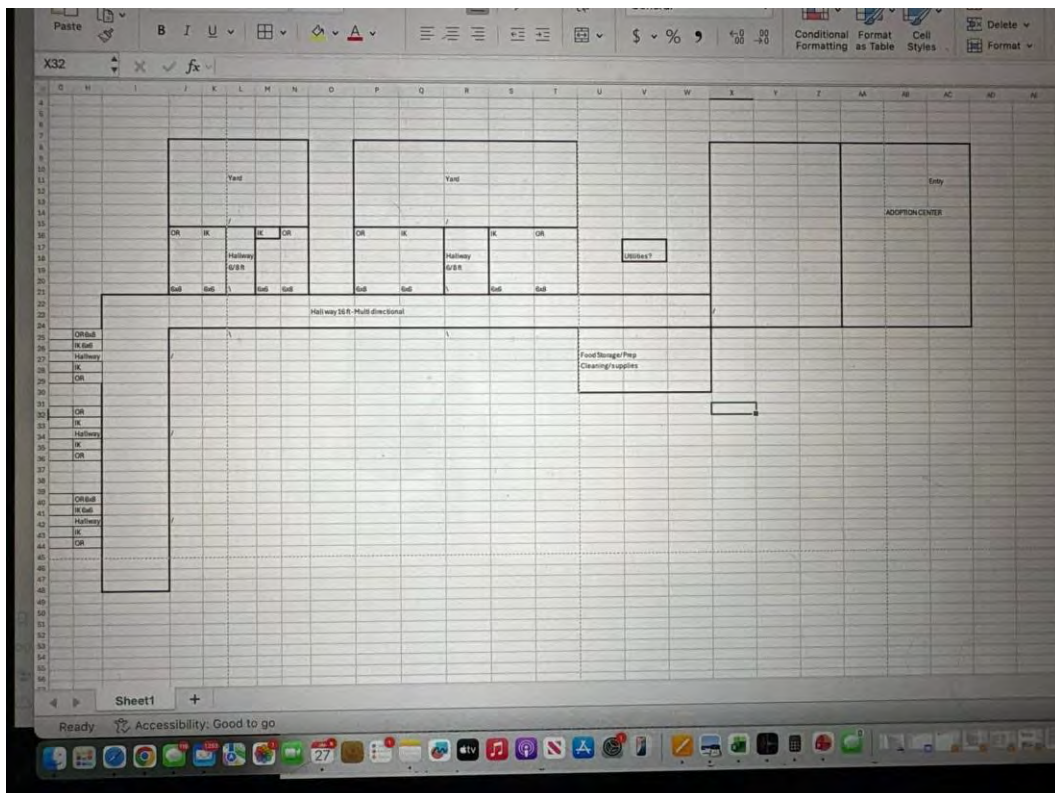
Actions speak louder than words. DO WHATS RIGHT AND WHAT WAS PROMISED.

I approve of:

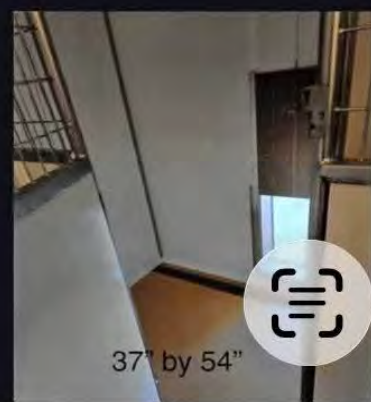
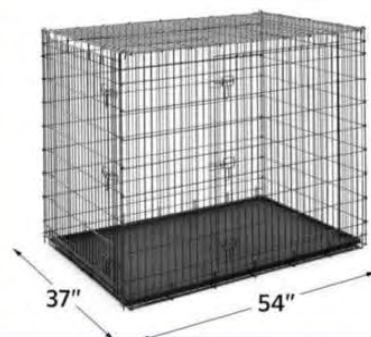
- 1.) A concrete addition to the adoption center that can house the dogs and give staff, volunteers, and the community safe, efficient access to them regardless of inclement weather
- 2.) Properly staff the facility with dog trainers capable of evaluating, training, and placing dogs appropriately,
- 3.) pay staff living wages
- 4.) also building a shelter out East, fantastic idea and our community needs it
- 5.) reinstate the ban selling puppies

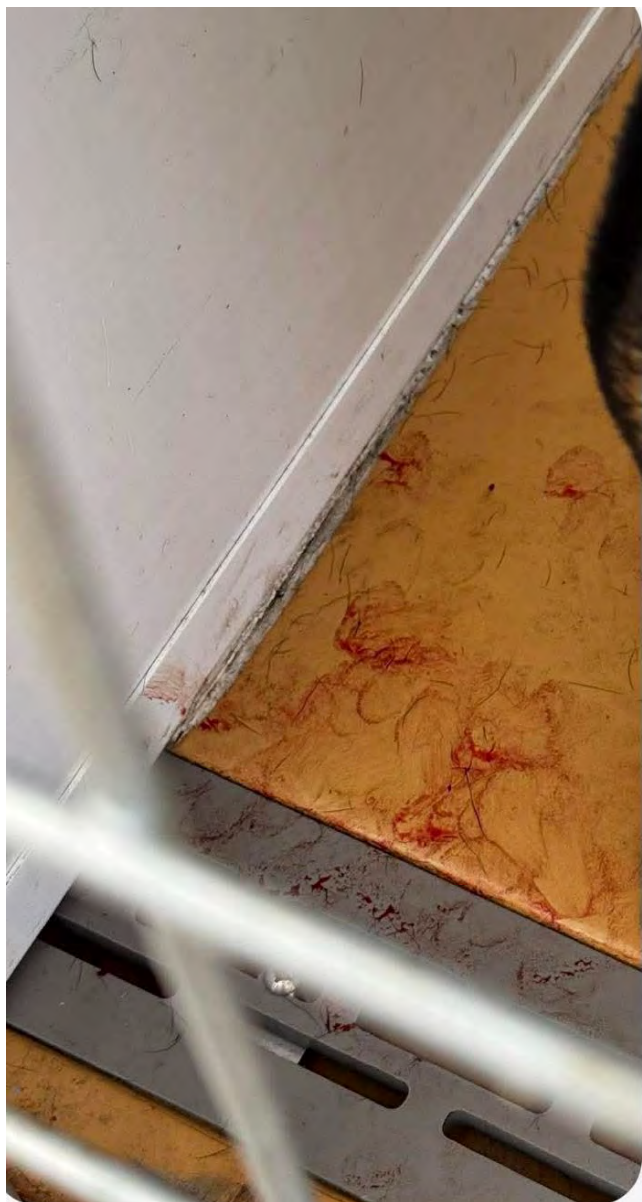
<https://www.youobserver.com/news/2026/may/13/tired-spending-money-animal-shelters/>

Misty Evans
Manatee County Resident



**MANATEE Board of
County Commissioners
ADD AN
ADDITION TO
THE BISHOP
ADOPTION
CENTER**







Public Comment

Submitted On: May 17, 2026, 12:16AM EDT

Manatee County Government

Full Name	First Name: Glen Last Name: Gibellina
Email	glenfede@yahoo.com
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	May 19, 2026
Topic/Agenda Item	Future Agenda
Comment	To: The Manatee County Board of County Commissioners Cc: Bradenton City Council Officials Subject: STRENUOUS OPPOSITION to the Proposed Lease of the Manatee County Administration Building to the City of Bradenton Dear Commissioners, I am writing to register my absolute and unyielding opposition to the proposed agreement allowing the City of Bradenton to lease 1 To 2 floors of space within the Manatee County Administration Building located at 1112 Manatee Avenue West. Under no circumstances should the Board of County Commissioners approve this lease. Blurring the physical and operational lines between two distinct government entities creates a profound conflict of interest, represents a textbook case of poor planning by city officials, and unfairly places an administrative and financial burden on the taxpayers of Manatee County. The public expects clean lines of governance, fiscal responsibility, and accountability. This proposal fails on all three fronts for the following critical reasons: 1. An Unacceptable Conflict of Interest Housing a municipal city government inside the central command center of a county government undermines the core principle of independent jurisdictions. Jurisdictional Blurring: The City of Bradenton and Manatee County are entirely separate legal and political subdivisions. Co-locating their top administrative functions creates an unhealthy proximity that threatens impartial decision-making on shared regional issues, such as zoning, transit, utility agreements, and infrastructure funding. Erosion of Public Trust: To the public, this arrangement looks like an inside deal. The physical consolidation of city and county power centers reduces transparency and makes objective oversight significantly more difficult. 2. Grossly Poor Planning by Bradenton City Officials The justification that this is an "unforeseen emergency" or a "necessary temporary shuffle" is completely meritless. Ample Time Squandered: City officials have known for over two years that their 4-acre waterfront property was under contract for a \$14.1 million redevelopment project. Two years is an extraordinary amount of time to procure, lease, or build an independent operational headquarters. Failure of Leadership: Failing to secure a viable, independent location after twenty-four months of advance notice is an egregious failure of municipal project management. Manatee County should not bail out the city administration for its inability to execute a basic relocation strategy. 3. An Unjust Burden on Manatee County Taxpayers The Manatee County Administration Building is an asset funded by, and dedicated to, the residents of the

entire county.

Displacement of County Needs: Taxpayers just financed a massive, \$34+ million expansion to the new East Campus in Lakewood Ranch to alleviate space constraints and optimize county operations. The space opening up downtown should be used to improve county services, expand efficiency, or lower internal operational overhead—not to serve as a cut-rate safety net for a neighboring city government.

Hidden Subsidies: Even if the city claims the lease will be at "favorable rates," county taxpayers will ultimately absorb the real costs. Increased traffic, security strains, parking shortages in the downtown core, wear-and-tear on public facilities, and the administrative friction of managing a multi-jurisdictional building will fall squarely on county resources.

Conclusion

The City of Bradenton is walking away with a \$14.1 million windfall from the sale of their prime riverfront real estate. They have the capital and they had the time to find a market-rate, independent commercial space to conduct their business.

Manatee County is not a real estate safety net for municipal poor planning. I strongly urge the Board of County Commissioners to protect the integrity of our county institutions, respect the distinct boundaries of our local governments, and vote NO on any lease agreement with the City of Bradenton.



Public Comment

Submitted On: May 18, 2026, 11:46AM EDT

Manatee County Government

Full Name	First Name: Lance Last Name: Lee
Email	petra@rtgfl.org
Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)	May 19, 2026
Topic/Agenda Item	Rebuilding Together Greater Florida Disaster Recovery, Home Repair & Community Support Resources
Comment	Rebuilding Together Greater Florida would like to briefly speak about ongoing hurricane recovery efforts in Manatee County, homeowner support resources that are currently available, and the importance of preparedness as Florida enters a new hurricane season. Our organization is continuing to provide critical home repairs and disaster recovery support for vulnerable homeowners across Southwest Florida, and we want residents to know that we are here to help serve the community and connect families with available recovery resources.