

https://www.keysnews.com/news/government/key-colony-tackles-budget-emergency-protocols/article_0bcea8a6-a37d-49ca-a300-c21914ab663c.html

FEATURED

Key Colony tackles budget, emergency protocols

JILL ZIMA BORSKI Special to The Citizen

Sep 30, 2025

In a wide-ranging meeting, the Key Colony Beach City Commission tackled its budget, new buildings, emergency protocols and water quality. It established its yearly budget and shared that the invitation to bid on building City Hall has been placed on DemandStar and awaits responses by Oct. 14.

The commission adopted its final millage rate for fiscal year 2025-2026, which begins Oct. 1. The commission approved a levy of ad valorem taxes at 2.82 mills (\$282 per \$100,000 of taxable property value), which represents an 8.92% increase over this year's tax rate.

The general fund budget is just over \$7.5 million, including almost \$1.94 million in reserves. The total budget is more than \$21.6 million when including road, infrastructure, impact, building and enterprise funds.



In the city manager report at the Sept. 18 meeting, John Bartus said he is reviewing a draft copy of the city's watershed management plan and expects grants will help fund related projects. After attending the



county's annual regional climate summit, Bartus is interested in pursuing grant funds from the Environmental Protection Agency to remove harmful chemicals such as phosphorus from city canals.

Bartus also proposed emergency management protocols after meeting with William and Hans Wagner of Early Alert. They bill on an as-needed basis, and Bartus is to bring back more information on a proposal in October. He said the city also must prepare a "frequently asked questions" page on its website related to emergency preparation, response and relief.

Next, Bartus suggested contracting with lobbyists Ron Book and Kate DeLoach for representation in Tallahassee on various issues and funding opportunities.

The commission then discussed the recreation committee's role and desire to have its recommendations on various matters. The commission agreed the committee has the right to make recommendations on contractors but reiterated the city manager and commission are the decision-makers.

The commissioners then heard that a \$179,000 grant from the Monroe County Tourist Development Council is to fund the installation of shade sails at the park and playground. The city also is to provide shade over the city's pickleball courts.

The city's seasonal welcome back party is set for Nov. 20 at Marble Hall.

jzimatekeys@aol.com