

# Item Cover Page

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA ITEM REPORT

**DATE:** March 25, 2026

**SUBMITTED BY:** Rob Perry, City Administration

**ITEM TYPE:** Resolution

**AGENDA SECTION:** NEW BUSINESS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS, CITY ATTORNEY AND COUNCIL

**SUBJECT:** RESOLUTION 26-30  
A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRADENTON, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FIVE-YEAR WASTEWATER UTILITY FISCAL INITIATIVE PLAN IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$159,600,000 FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026-2027 THROUGH 2029-2030; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**SUGGESTED ACTION:** Approval

**Is this item Quasi-Judicial?**

No

**Does this item require a public hearing?**

No

**EXPLANATION:**

The City of Bradenton's Wastewater Utility consists of approximately 270 miles of pipe (65 miles of clay/cast iron), 4200 manholes, 64 lift stations, and a 9-MGD Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WWRF), all of which require significant modifications to meet the demands of reliability, resiliency, and storm recovery. Bradenton's wastewater infrastructure limitations and wet weather conditions have led to a 2018 Federal Consent Decree (OGC No. 18-1466, amended in 2019, 2020, and 2025), a Florida Department of Environmental Project (FDEP) Consent Order, and challenges in meeting regulatory requirements for its wastewater system.

Bradenton launched "Face It, Fix It" in 2021, a long-term strategy to update the

system by fixing leaks, updating equipment, and adding WWRF treatment capacity to eliminate bypasses, decrease sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs), and meet with NPDES effluent limits. A large number of these negative environmental incidents, occurrences, and conditions are attributable in the past were due to severe storms and weather conditions that have highlighted the wastewater collection and treatment system vulnerability. The City's strategy will need significant capital expenditure to fix system weaknesses, resolve the Consent Decree and Consent Order, and improve water quality, health, and safety. The overall expected capital investment for meeting the City's wastewater needs over the next five years is \$159,600,000, which comprises of nine WWRF projects and three collection system improvements.

This Wastewater Utility Fiscal Initiative Plan (FIP) evaluates the City's significant capital projects and proposes funding strategies from 2026 to 2030. The financial approach examines the City's present customer rates and debt structure in conjunction with the CIP drivers to ensure regulatory compliance, long-term fiscal viability, reliability, and resiliency. The Plan evaluates funding agencies, programs, and threshold criteria to identify funding options that can best support capital upgrades. The funding scenario analysis shows that the CIP burden on ratepayers could be reduced by up to 80%, depending on the success of selected applications.

The City worked closely with Woodard & Curran representatives to create a comprehensive framework that aligns the capital improvement projects with the community's needs and financial capabilities. This collaborative effort aims to enhance transparency and foster public trust while ensuring that the projects are both sustainable and beneficial for all stakeholders involved.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Funding necessary to execute the City's 5-year FIP strategy is fluid and dynamic. The City has and will continue to seek and obtain external (Federal, State, Local government finance assistance) and internal (utility rate based) funding sources.

**ATTORNEY REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION:**

Attorney Rudacille reviewed and edited the resolution.

**SUGGESTED MOTION:**

Motion to approve Resolution 26-30.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Resolution 26-30](#)