

City of Pompano Beach

Detailed Minutes - Final

City Commission

Rex Hardin, Mayor

Alison Fournier, Vice Mayor

Audrey Fesik, Commissioner

Beverly Perkins, Commissioner

Rhonda Sigerson-Eaton, Commissioner

Darlene Smith, Commissioner

Gregory P. Harrison, City Manager

Mark Berman, City Attorney

Kervin Alfred, City Clerk

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

9:00 AM

Emma Lou Olson Civic Center

City Commission Workshop

CALL TO ORDER

The Honorable Rex Hardin, Mayor called the City Commission workshop to order at 9:07 AM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Audrey Fesik
Commissioner Rhonda Sigerson-Eaton
Commissioner Darlene Smith
Vice Mayor Alison Fournier
Mayor Rex Hardin

Absent: Commissioner Beverly Perkins

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Fournier, seconded by Commissioner Sigerson-Eaton, that the Agenda be APPROVED. The motion carried by a unanimous voice vote.

A. REGULAR AGENDA

1. [25-585](#) Discussion on Air Park aviation activities and safety concerns.
(Fiscal Impact: N/A)

(Staff Contact: Steve Rocco/Rob McCaughan)

Mayor Hardin explained that the workshop was requested by Comr. Fesik, and the purpose was to discuss airport noise and safety concerns. He then introduced Mr. Steve Rocco, Airport Manager, to give a brief presentation.

Mr. Rocco informed that the City is considered the airport sponsor; however, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is the sole regulatory authority over the airpark, which means the City has no authority to impose fines, restrict aircraft, or deny access to anyone. Mr. Rocco introduced Mr. Jimmy Mygatt, a representative from the FAA who works in the Flight Standards District Offices (FSDO), which Mr. Rocco clarified is the branch responsible for aircraft safety. Mr. Rocco then explained that the Airports Division and District Offices (ADO) is responsible for airport compliance, to include lighting and signage.

Mr. Mygatt gave a brief overview of what his team does for the FAA, to include trainings and seminars to educate the public about aircraft safety. He said that he is there to answer any questions anyone has regarding air traffic safety.

Mayor Hardin then opened the floor to public input.

Clinton Mueller, 1080 NE 28th St, Pompano Beach, FL, showed appreciation to the FAA representative, staff, and the Commission for being there and taking the public's concerns seriously. Mr. Mueller expressed the community's desire to have a noise study and an environmental study completed, as one has not been done in a while. Mr. Mueller then explained that the biggest issue the public has is safety and inquired about the use of runway 10, as he believes the planes are not achieving the proper altitude before they reach the residential area. He emphasized the need to utilize the other runways when the winds allow for it. Mr. Mueller expressed a desire to have a program where violators of the voluntary noise abatement procedure could donate to a fund to support scholarships within the community. He referenced the lawsuit against the City by AOPA. Mr. Rocco gave the history of the lawsuit and why the City was unsuccessful in imposing fines in the past. Mr. Mueller expressed concern over the City's website having conflicting information listed.

Vice Mayor Fournier stated the Voluntary Noise Abatement Procedure should be reviewed again for possible improvements and more effort made to disseminate the information. She inquired about the use of runway 10 instead of runway 15 when there are calm winds and wanted to know how the Air Traffic Control determines which runway to use. Mr. Rocco responded that the ATCT uses the FAA guidelines of which runway to use. He explained that he does ask the controllers to use other runways when permissible but cannot dictate to them which to use. Vice Mayor Fournier asked for better signage and information regarding the Voluntary Noise Abatement Procedure to be passed along to flight students to ensure they are more aware of it. She expressed appreciation for Mr. Mygatt's handout that showed Pompano Beach Airpark as being safe when compared to neighboring airports such as North Perry.

Mayor Hardin asked Mr. Mygatt if he was aware of any rate of climb study or recommendation that was being done at Lantana Airport. Mr. Mygatt responded that he was not aware of this. Mayor Hardin inquired if a study showed that the longer runway would be the safer runway would the FAA prefer that the ATCT utilize that longer runway, to which Mr. Mygatt said they likely would.

Comr. Fesik spoke on conversations she had with experienced pilots and the valuable insight they gave. She gave an updated Noise Abatement Procedure that she created for Mr. Rocco to review.

Wendy Weisfeld, 2711 NE 3rd St., Pompano Beach, FL, wanted to speak on the use of runway 15 vs. runway 10. She informed that she lives under the flight path of runway 15 and has records to show that even

though 15 is longer, planes are still operating over her home at low altitudes. Continuing, she expressed frustration with not being able to regulate and fine aircraft operators who violate the guidelines and shared that she has sent many aircraft to the FSDO office for potential violation.

Keriann Worley, 990 NE 27th Ave., Pompano Beach, FL, shared that she met with Mr. Rocco and appreciated the conversation. Ms. Worley stated that as a private pilot she has noticed the large sign at the end of the runway at FXE but has not noticed it at Pompano. Mr. Rocco said that it is the same color as the informational signage, so he can discuss with the FAA about changing the color of the sign so it doesn't blend with other informational signage. Ms. Worley suggested doing another noise contour study just to see if there was more change than estimated on the last study done.

Casey Ahlbum, 10375 NW 39th Manor, Coral Springs, FL, informed that he is a board member of the Pompano Beach Flying Club and shared the perspective of the club regarding safe flying and reasonable guidelines. Mr. Ahlbum expressed an opportunity to work with Sheltair, an FBO at the airpark, and ensure they are communicating to all their tenants on how to be a good neighbor.

Mayor Hardin emphasized the impactfulness of Mr. Ahlbum's statements as a member of the flying public.

Marilyn DeMartini, 1110 NE 27th Ave., Pompano Beach, FL, stressed that her coalition is not against the airpark and is not trying to shut it down, but they do not want it to become a detriment to the community. Ms. DeMartini highlighted that the community just wants to be heard and wishes to work with everyone in a cooperative manner. She explained the way the FAA measures noise and how it is self-serving, while the community is experiencing an increase in noise. Lastly, she inquired about the business licenses of flight schools and the insurance policies of the operators.

Mayor Hardin asked Mr. Rocco about the insurance requirements and why there are more flight schools, to which Mr. Rocco answered that he does not know the insurance requirements of the aircraft operators. In regard to the flight schools, Mr. Rocco explained that each of the fixed base operators on the field has to adhere to the FBO Minimum Standards, which consists of several categories, and as long as the business that is subleasing from the FBO is listed in the minimum standards, they are allowed on the airfield. Mayor Hardin asked for more clarification on the insurance requirements. Mr. Rocco informed that the FBOs submit insurance to the City, but the businesses that sublease would provide their insurance to the FBOs. Mayor Hardin inquired what would happen if the City deleted flight schools from the minimum standards. Mr. Rocco stated that the City can attempt, but he predicts that flight schools will go to the FAA and say they are being discriminated against and restricted access, which would result in another Part 16 complaint against the City.

Comr. Fesik asked if there was anything that could be put into the lease agreement that would be more restrictive. Mr. Rocco said that would be something that would need to be answered by the City Attorney's office. James Saunders, Assistant City Attorney, explained that the leases need to be compliant with the FAA standards and must be reasonable and nondiscriminatory, but that they would be willing to look at whatever the Commission comes up with and see if it would work.

Vice Mayor Fournier stated that it is a slippery slope trying to restrict a business and that might not be the way to go. She circled back to insurance and wanted to know if there is a general guideline surrounding aircraft insurance policies. Vice Mayor Fournier then spoke about the Airpark Advisory Board and suggested

potentially adding a seat to provide community representation on the board. She then inquired of Mr. Rocco if the City has the authority to place guidelines on touch-and-go activity verses full-stop landings, to which Mr. Rocco stated that in the recommended guidelines it is recommended to do full-stop landings.

Mayor Hardin asked Mr. Mygatt if the FAA has allowed restrictions on touch-and-go operations. Mr. Mygatt referenced the 2012 letter from the acting manager of the ADO, which mentioned restricting touch-and-go operations and that the airport must be made available without unjust discrimination. Mayor Hardin questioned if unjust discrimination would be limiting touch-and-gos, to which Mr. Mygatt stated that the ADO would better be able to respond.

Comr. Smith asked Mr. Ahlbum and Ms. Worley if insurance is required to have a private license, to which they both responded no.

Don McNeil, 2720 NE 6th St., Pompano Beach, FL, stated that he is the Chairman of the Airpark Advisory Board and gave an overview of his experience with pilot insurance and aircraft insurance, which he attributed to having car insurance. Mr. McNeil expressed that he believes that the flight schools could be better neighbors by not allowing late-night touch-and-go traffic.

Clinton Mueller, 1080 NE 28th St, Pompano Beach, FL, mentioned an individual at FXE whose job is to be the middleman between the community noise complaints, the tenants on their airfield, and the FAA. Mr. Mueller agreed with the suggestion to improve signage at the airport and on the airfield. Continuing, he asked Mr. Mygatt to help facilitate communication with the ADO and ATC. He then handed out some of his recommendations to Mr. Rocco and Mr. Mygatt, and said he will email it to the commissioners. Lastly, Mr. Mueller expressed interest in opening the airpark to the community for an event. Mr. Rocco stated in the past there have been aviation day events at the airpark, to include aviation education events. Mr. Mygatt stated he can assist with that, as his job includes aviation days and community outreach.

Martin Cooper, 1031 NE 28th Ave., Pompano Beach, FL, informed that he is the newest member of the Airpark Advisory Board and volunteered to do any outreach needed to help with noise abatement education. Mr. Cooper gave insight as a pilot into his experience with flight training and possible reasoning for ATC using runway 10. Continuing, Mr. Cooper stated that having fire rescue located right next to the airport is a huge draw to why flight training is popular in Pompano Beach.

Mayor Hardin asked if the tower location would change anything regarding which runway is used. Mr. Rocco explained that the tower siting study was just completed, and the new tower will be located right next to the current tower; however, it will be taller, but he doesn't believe the tower location has any influence on which runway ATC chooses to use.

Doug Lugthart, 720 NE 31st St., Pompano Beach, FL, explained that he is an aircraft owner and stated that student pilots are often struggling financially while they train, and touch-and-go operations are cheaper for them to be able to perform. He believes that many of the suggestions made are oversimplifications, and student pilots need to be taken into consideration too.

Dave Batzer, 1110 NE 27th Ave., Pompano Beach, FL, questioned why the aviation industry is not regulated

like all other industries. He referenced city noise ordinances that the aviation industry does not need to follow. Mr. Batzer suggested non-aviation-related people be added to the advisory board.

Dorine Wollangk, 954 NE 26th Ave., Pompano Beach, FL, expressed that the majority of the complaints are about the flight schools, which is a safety issue due to inexperienced pilots. Ms. Wollangk spoke about the accident that happened on Harbor Drive and its impact on her. She emphasized the right to have peaceful use of your property and the physical toll it can take when you do not get that.

Clinton Mueller, 1080 NE 28th St, Pompano Beach, FL, asked Mr. Rocco to speak with ATC to ensure they start using other runways when able. Mr. Mueller expressed concern over pilots telling him that in the event of an emergency, there is nowhere safe to land.

Don McNeil, 2720 NE 6th St., Pompano Beach, FL, wanted to clarify that the Airpark Advisory Board is made up of residents, not all aviation industry representatives.

Mayor Hardin closed public input and opened the floor for commission discussion.

Comr. Sigerson-Eaton expressed that she felt encouraged by the meeting and understands the community's frustration. She stated that it is a complicated issue but again reiterated that she felt encouraged by what was spoken about today.

Comr. Fesik thanked everyone for attending and working together and hopes to keep the conversation going.

Vice Mayor Fournier agreed that it was a great meeting and acknowledged how much knowledge and experience was in the room. She reiterated items that require a follow up, and hoped this meeting brought the tension down.

Mayor Hardin thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.

B. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 AM.

Rex Hardin, Mayor

Kervin Alfred, City Clerk