



Lake Park Town Commission, Florida

Commission Budget Workshop Minutes

Commission Chamber, Town Hall, 535 Park Avenue, Lake Park, FL 33403
Wednesday August 10, 2026 5:00 P.M.

Roger Michaud	—	Mayor
Michael Hensley	—	Vice Mayor
John Linden	—	Commissioner
Michael O'Rourke	—	Commissioner
Judith Thomas	—	Commissioner
Richard J. Reade	—	Town Manager
Thomas J. Baird	—	Town Attorney
Vivian Mendez, MMC	—	Town Clerk

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE AND BE ADVISED, that if any interested person desires to appeal any decision of the Town Commission, with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, such interested person will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations in order to participate in the meeting should contract the Town Clerk's office by calling 881-3311 at least 48 hours in advance to request accommodations.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

5:10 P.M.

PRESENT

Mayor Roger Michaud

Vice Mayor Michael Hensley

Commissioner Judith Thomas arrived at 5:36pm

Commissioner John Linden

Commissioner Michael O'Rourke

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Michaud led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION/REPORT:

1. FY 2027 Budget Workshop #1 - Proposed General Fund, Enterprise Funds (Stormwater & Sanitation) & Other Funds (Streets & Roads)

Town Manager Richard Reade explained the budget and where the budget can be found on the Town's website. He thanked Finance Director Barbara Gould for all her work on the budget. He thanked staff for their participation in the budget. Finance Director Gould presented the General Fund to the Commission (Exhibit A). Commissioner Linden asked about a previous discussion regarding a reduction in taxes once Nautilus came online and that we need to follow up on that promise that was made to the residents. Mayor Michaud and Commissioner O'Rourke stated that they both remember that discussion. Mayor Michaud stated that the proposed property tax changes need to be considered with all of that. Town Manager Reade explained that if the proposed property tax changes are approved, it would affect next year's budget. Commissioner Linden stated that he would like to see what a tax reduction would look like. Town Manager Reade stated that they will provide the Commission with a breakdown of the taxes at different rates so they can see. Commissioner O'Rourke stated that the Town seems focused on expenditures and has given up on potential revenue by new projects. Commissioner Thomas stated she did not receive the budget documentation early enough to review and stated she feels disappointed and wants to excuse herself from any discussion since she was not able to review the information prior to the meeting. The Commission agreed to hold future budget meetings at 6:00 P.M. instead of 5:00 P.M. Commissioner O'Rourke stated that it would not be appropriate for the Commission to receive an increase in pay at this time. Commissioner O'Rourke excused himself from the meeting at 5:50pm.

Commissioner Thomas expressed concern with the Town Clerk's association memberships being reduced and feels this may have a negative impact on the department. Town Clerk Mendez explained that the changes would have a negligible impact.

Commissioner Thomas asked how many departments have been integrated with the Tyler system. Town Manager Reade explained that several modules they had anticipated using, they decided to not move forward with and Community Development is anticipated to be completed with their Tyler transition in October. Chief Information Technology Office Paul McGuinness added that the Finance Department is almost fully integrated.

Commissioner Linden questioned two vacant positions within the Finance department. Finance Director Gould explained that they are actively looking to fill those positions. Town Manager Reade stressed the importance of filling the procurement specialist position.

Commissioner Linden asked why the Town has to pay a garbage fee. Public Works Director Jaime Morales explained that the enterprise has to charge any and all entities for services provided.

Commissioner Thomas asked how Public Works personnel are paid for special events. Finance Director Gould explained that they are paid as over-time and it comes out of the Special Events budget.

Town Manager Reade spoke about vehicle purchases moving forward and would like to phase out the leasing of vehicles and pre-fund vehicle purchases over a span of a few years.

Town Manager Reade spoke about reductions that could be made with the Special Events department. He stated that they added downtown events that are partially funded in the CRA and partially in Special Events. Commissioner Thomas asked what the sponsored event expenses are. Special Events Director Riunite Franks explained that the sponsored events are the Arbor Day Ceremony, Memorial Day Ceremony, Florida City Government Week, Movie Nights, Jetset Youth Summer Soccer and Haitian Flag Day. She stated that the only one proposed to be eliminated is the Lake Park Elementary Caroling Light Towers for \$1000. Commissioner Thomas asked what the Senior Bus event is. Special Events Director Franks stated it was a casino bus trip for seniors. Town Manager Reade stated that funding for all major holiday events are still in the budget. Commissioner Thomas asked about the Santa's Magical Sleigh Ride. Finance Director Gould advised that this had been eliminated in the past. Commissioner Linden asked about the purchasing of banners for Town events. He stated that given the cost, we should see if they can be refurbished as opposed to purchasing new. Town Manager Reade suggested using digital signs to promote events in the future. Commissioner Linden asked about a previous discussion within the master plan for a stage area at Kelsey Park. Special Events Director Franks stated that the stage is still on the list within the master plan. Commissioner Linden would like to bring the Veteran's Day Parade back at some point.

Finance Director Gould stated that the health insurance figures include a 15% increase. Town Manager Reade stated that the costs for health insurance are not known yet as they are still being researched and negotiated. Finance Director Gould stated that they normally keep \$100,000 in the contingency fund for hurricane costs. She added that the 10% reduction in the budget will result in \$213,367 that would be added to the contingency fund. Finance Director Gould also explained that \$451,731 is in the reserve account with no intent to use in the immediate year and they would like to add funds to this each year.

Commissioner Thomas asked about the \$4.2 million for the DEO storm water mitigation. Finance Director Gould explained that this is what remains of the \$11 million grant, plus additional funds that were received.

Commissioner Thomas stated for the record that 10th Street and Silver Beach Road are an issue because they are in such bad shape. Town Manager Reade spoke about solutions they are working on.

Commissioner Thomas asked if the Oval-about project is in the budget. Finance Director Gould stated that it is within the CRA budget. Commissioner Thomas asked for clarification on the funding for 10th Street. Public Works Director Morales stated that 10th Street green infrastructure has \$4.25 million in grant monies which does not include CRA funds.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

This time is provided for addressing items that do not appear on the Agenda. Please complete a comment card and provide it to the Town Clerk so speakers may be announced. Please remember comments are limited to a TOTAL of three minutes.

NONE

TOWN ATTORNEY, TOWN MANAGER, COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

-Town Manager Reade thanked Finance Director Gould for all of her hard work on the budget and staff for the cuts that were implemented.

-Mayor Michaud stated that the next budget workshop will be on August 19th and a third budget workshop will be held on August 26th if needed. There will also be a community forum on the budget on Saturday August 22nd at 10am.

-Vice-Mayor Hensley thanked everyone.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn made by Vice Mayor Hensley. Seconded by Commissioner Thomas.

Voting Aye: All.

Meeting adjourned 8:40 p.m.

FUTURE MEETING DATE: Next Scheduled Commission Budget Workshop will be held on August 19, 2026.

Mayor Roger D. Michaud

Town Seal

Town Clerk, Vivian Mendez, MMC

Deputy Town Clerk, Laura Weidgans

Approved on this _____ of _____, 2026