



Lake Park Town Commission, Florida

Final Public Budget Hearing Minutes

Commission Chamber, Town Hall, 535 Park Avenue, Lake Park, FL 33403

September 18, 2025 6:30 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

6:38 P.M.

PRESENT

Mayor Roger Michaud

Vice Mayor Michael Hensley arrived at 7:30 P.M.

Commissioner Judith Thomas

Commissioner John Linden

Commissioner Michael O'Rourke

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Michaud

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.

-Pablo Perhacs suggested changing the budget process by conducting monthly dialog workshops with the community.

NEW BUSINESS - OPEN PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Resolution 70-09-25 - Establish FY 2025-2026 Millage Rates - Operating (SECOND AND FINAL READING).

Town Manager Reade explained the final millage rate (see Exhibit A).

Motion to approve Resolution 70-09-25 made by Commissioner Linden, Seconded by Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner O'Rourke asked that the millage rate be dropped to 5.0999 mills. The Commission discussed what it would mean to the budget and the residents by dropping the millage rate. Finance Director Gould stated that the millage rate was dropped two-years ago. The Commission discussed the future projects that may assist in building the next fiscal year budget. Commissioner O'Rourke stated for the record that the budget process was a policy process. It tells the residents what was important for the Town Manager and staff to accomplish in the fiscal year. In this budget, it includes \$400,000 for legal fees. He felt it demonstrated to developers that the Town was preparing for projects to not move forward. He was concerned with the projected revenues. Town Manager Reade explained that he would be working on an internal policy of how much they want in the reserve and where to place the funds generated by future revenues. The Commission discussed the benefits of the forthcoming projects and its effect on future budgets.

Voting Yea: Mayor Michaud, Commissioner Thomas, Commissioner Linden,
Commissioner O'Rourke

Absent: Vice Mayor Hensley

2. Resolution 71-09-25 - FY 2026 Budget – All Funds - Town of Lake Park (SECOND AND FINAL READING).

Finance Director Barbara Gould explained the budget. Commissioner O'Rourke apologized for being accosted at time. He did not agree with the proposed budget cuts. The Commission discussed each section of the presentation (see Exhibit B) and decided which items to keep in the budget and which items to remove. Commissioner O'Rourke asked about the pump-out system at the Marina. Marina Director Jason Tenney explained that the pump-out system has not worked in months and the Town has applied for a grant to cover the repair. If the Town pays the cost outright, it would be \$28,000. Commissioner O'Rourke suggested using some of the legal funds budget and move to the Marina. Town Manager Reade explained that the Marina was an Enterprise Fund and funds have been transferred to cover other expenses at the Marina. Marina Director Tenney explained that they do not advocate for boaters to discharge on the Marina property. Commissioner Thomas clarified for the record that the items being cut from the budget had been identified and discussed throughout this evening. The Commission discussed each section that appeared as a split vote and decided keep in the budget.

Public Comment:

- Lesley Berry explained the Haitian Flag Day budget breakdown (see Exhibit C).

Motion to approve Resolution 71-09-25 made by Vice Mayor Hensley; Seconded by Commissioner Thomas.

Voting Aye: All

The Commission thanked Finance Director Gould, Town Manager Reade and staff for getting the budget completed and approved. Town Manager Reade thanked the Commission and staff for their patience during this process.

TOWN ATTORNEY, TOWN MANAGER, COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Linden asked when the next budget process would begin. Town Manager Reade explained they would begin discussing the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) in January/February 2026. He clarified that the budget workshops were the time to discuss in-depth what the Commission envisioned in the budget.

REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

NONE

ADJOURNMENT:

8:15 P.M.

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner O'Rourke, Seconded by Commissioner Linden.
Voting Yea: Mayor Michaud, Vice Mayor Hensley, Commissioner Thomas, Commissioner Linden, Commissioner O'Rourke

FUTURE MEETING DATE: Next Scheduled Regular Commission Meeting will be held on October 8, 2025.

Mayor Roger D. Michaud

Town Seal

Town Clerk, Vivian Mendez, MMC

Deputy Town Clerk, Laura Weidgans

Approved on this _____ of _____, 2025