



Lake Park Town Commission, Florida

First Public Budget Hearing Minutes

Commission Chamber, Town Hall, 535 Park Avenue, Lake Park, FL 33403
September 08, 2025 Immediately Following the Special Called
Community Redevelopment Agency Meeting

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

6:30 P.M.

PRESENT

Mayor Roger Michaud

Vice Mayor Michael Hensley

Commissioner Judith Thomas

Commissioner John Linden

ABSENT

Commissioner Michael O'Rourke

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Conducted at the CRA Meeting

SPECIAL PRESENTATION/REPORT:

NONE

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.

- Michael Steinhauer provided his comments via exhibit A.
- Pablo Perhacs provided his comments via exhibit B.

NEW BUSINESS: OPEN PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Resolution 63-09-25 - Establish Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Millage Rates - Operating (FIRST READING).

Finance Director Barbara Gould presented the millage rate as 5.1 mills. The Commission discussed reducing the millage rate to 5.0 mills. Finance Director Gould distributed the attached (Exhibit C) showing what the reduction would reflect. Commissioner Linden felt the Town was broke and should not lower the millage rate.

Public Comment:

- Pablo Perhacs agreed with the millage rate and suggested getting the \$750,000 back from Forest Development for the expense of additional law enforcement services, even though they have not occupied the building.

Motion to approve Resolution 63-09-25; Seconded by Commissioner Linden.

Voting Aye: All

2. Resolution 64-09-25 – Fiscal Year 2026 Budget – All Funds - Town of Lake Park.

Finance Director Gould presented the budget and explained changes made to clarify the detail (Exhibit D). Town Manager Reade explained all the positions that would not be filled during this fiscal year and the current spending freeze. Commissioner Linden suggested additional reductions in each department budget. Commissioner Thomas suggested filling the Assistant Finance Director and Procurement Specialist and freezing

the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). She asked Public Works Director Jaime Morales how many positions were open in Public Works. Public Works Director Morales stated that there were two Stormwater positions, one in Streets & Roads, one Sanitation position, which are Enterprise Fund positions and would not impact the General Fund. There was one position in the Facility Maintenance, which would impact the General Fund. Town Manager Reade recapped the positions that would not be filled, assisting in the cost of the reducing the budget. Commissioner Thomas suggested reviewing the COLA versus merit increases and eliminating one of the two. Town Manager Reade stated that removing the COLA would produce \$32,000 for the .5% increase or \$96,000 for the year. He discussed the changes he would be making to the Employee Evaluation Form. Vice Mayor Hensley expressed concern with the next budget and suggested that everyone proceed carefully to prevent major reduction in the 2026/2027 budget. He stated for the record that if the Town were not better off this year than next year, then he would be in favor of no salary increases. Mayor Michaud does not want to put fear in employees that drastic changes are expected. He felt that the budget should not be based on upcoming projects because there was too many unknown factors to take into consideration. He felt the manager and staff would pull together to get through this budget cycle. Town Manager Reade would work with staff to cut smaller items from the budget right away and there was very little of the operating budget to reduce. He would work with staff during the upcoming year to make additional reductions to the budget. The Commission came to consensus to conduct a salary survey in-house and save the \$10,000 allocated in the budget for a survey. Commissioner Linden suggested removing events that do not offer much to our residents and save the Town funds. Town Manager Reade asked direction from the Commission because the programs that are in the proposed budget were the programs that the Commission wanted included in the budget.

Public Comment:

- Michael Steinhauer expressed confusion about the September 18, 2025 Final Public Budget Hearing if the Commission was making changes to the budget during this meeting. He struggled with the conversation taking place on the Dias this evening regarding the Town being broke. He agreed with taxpayer savings.

Motion to approve Resolution 64-09-25 made by Commissioner Thomas, Seconded by Vice Mayor Hensley.

Vice Mayor Hensley asked Commissioner Linden what he does not support in the proposed budget. Commissioner Linden stated that some of the department budgets have unnecessary expenses that could be reduced. He stated that if the budget were presented the same on September 18, 2025 he would vote against it. He suggested that the departments make more cuts. Vice Mayor Hensley suggested that the Commission give direction to the manager on what to remove or reduce from the budget, so staff could work on reducing the budget and not guessing on the reductions. Commissioner Thomas stated for the record that she agrees with freezing positions that are currently in the budget; continue to fund the Sanitation and Stormwater Enterprise Funds; and wanted the COLA to remain in the budget. Town Manager Reade pointed out that the Collective Bargaining Agreement includes a merit increase. He suggested doing the same for all employees. Mayor Michaud stated for the record that he agreed with freezing positions, agreed with making adjustments during the year. He was in agreement with some of Commissioner Thomas' suggestions.

Voting Yea: Mayor Michaud, Vice Mayor Hensley, Commissioner Thomas

Voting Nay: Commissioner Linden

Close Public Hearing.

TOWN ATTORNEY, TOWN MANAGER, COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Town Attorney Baird asked if the Commission was still in favor of filing a Complaint against 1100 2nd Court. The Commission agreed. Attorney Baird announced that he would not be in attendance at the September 17th Commission meeting because he would be attending a conference. He asked that the Commission change his contract fees to a lump sum for the administrative cost and separate litigation or special projects on an hourly basis. He requested approval to work with the Finance Director on the Enterprise Funds because he felt that they have not billed efficiently into the Enterprise Funds. He felt they were lumped together with the General Funds.

Town Manager had no comments.

Commissioner Linden said that the Dolly Parton Book Event was well attended.

Commissioner Thomas had no comments.

Vice Mayor Hensley had no comments.

Mayor Michaud had no comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

9:10 P.M.

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Thomas; Seconded by Commissioner Linden.

Voting Aye: All

FUTURE MEETING DATE: Next Scheduled Regular Commission Meeting will be held on September 17, 2025.

Mayor Roger D. Michaud

Town Seal

Town Clerk, Vivian Mendez, MMC

Deputy Town Clerk, Laura Weidgans

Approved on this _____ of _____, 2025