

meeting Date 10/7/20

Cards must be submitted before the item is discussed!!

*****Three (3) minute limitation on all comments**

Name: Mary Taylor
Address: 200 Park

If you are interested in receiving Town information through Email, please provide your E-mail address: _____

I would like to make comments on the following Agenda Item:

I would like to make comments on the following Non-Agenda Item(s):

audits

Instructions: Please complete this card, including your name and address; once the card has been completed, give it to the Town Clerk. The Mayor will call your name when it is time for you to speak. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per individual.

Exhibit A

October 7, 2026

Mary Taylor, 209 Park Avenue

Good Evening,

Thank you to everyone involved in the completion of the Town budget process. Good Work!

The Town of Lake Park has and is still experiencing tumultuous times, because of drastic changes to it's landscape and growing resident mistrust and dissatisfaction with what they see and hear that affects their lives. The situations are very complicated, involving developers, lawsuits, public accusations, etc. Now is the time to take a breath and analyze the past and how and why the town deviated it's course without resident s' support.

In my opinion, in order to successfully move forward a Town wide forensic audit is necessary, *beginning with the Public Works Department*. In 2023, the Commission voted to increase NON-AD VALOREM taxes with the assurance that residents' hard earned money would solve the problems plaguing the PW dept.... from 2022, NAV, \$604. to 2026, NAV, \$1,184, NAV taxes almost doubled....and without visibly, improving essential services. During this period the Town also had about four different Finance Directors. A woman, Lourdes, two guys named Jeff, and maybe one I forgot. Now with Barbara Gould, and Richard Reade, the town is in good hands, if we can keep them! Residents and the current administration deserve to know how plans were made and where money has been spent in order base future plans on solid facts. A forensic audit will be money well spent.

As a past commissioner many of my questions went unanswered but now as a resident I am hopeful that a forensic audit will not only answer questions and improve future planning, but leave the door open to a more transparent system of local government.

Meeting Date 10/7/26

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***Three (3) minute limitation on all comments

Name:

Michael Syinhaus

Address:

435 Greenbrier Dr

If you are interested in receiving Town information through Email, please provide your E-mail address: _____

I would like to make comments on the following Agenda Item:

I would like to make comments on the following Non-Agenda Item(s):

Use of Public Comment Periods.

Instructions: Please complete this card, including your name and address; once the card has been completed, give it to the Town Clerk. The Mayor will call your name when it is time for you to speak. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per individual.

Exhibit B

Testimony Before Lake Park, FL Town Commission 10/07/2026

Public Comment - Respecting the Purpose of Public Comment

Michael Steinhauer, 435 Greenbriar Dr. pipestone1992@gmail.com 608-332-5547

Private Resident / Lake Park Society for the Advancement of Civic Engagement

Good evening.

What is the purpose and intent of our public comment rights?

On Sept 16 a *Commissioner* used the three minutes allotted to the public, to celebrate her son's return home from military service. A public comment card was completed on his behalf, yet he offered maybe 10 words. The Commissioner then used the entire allotted time to express her pride for him. Breaking with the rules of public comment, almost all but one engaged in dialog with the son. It was the second time during that same meeting that you engaged in dialog. At long last are we now anticipating dialog from the dais? Is this a new policy?

To be clear, we should recognize those who serve our country, and I respect the pride a parent feels in a child's accomplishments. The issue is not the sentiment. It's the setting.

Public comment is an opportunity for *residents* to address elected officials about all matters of municipal concern. It is a very limited but valuable opportunity to be heard and that time is ours.

It *may be* opportune under Commissioner Comments to share personal family events, albeit again that would have nothing to do with the business of government. Stick to the reason why we are here.

If a Commissioner can use public comment for a personal family tribute, what prevents the next speaker from using that moment to talk about baseball, TV shows, or colorful socks? It wastes our time.

Most speakers prepare carefully researched remarks, and struggle to fit their concerns into three minutes. They deserve to know that the same standards of relevance and purpose apply to everyone.

Your conduct communicates how seriously you regard the residents engagement. You fail when no dialog is allowed but you easily tolerate personal expressions.

I respectfully ask this Commission to clarify the policy of public comment, and establish written, expectations for its use. Once before you allowed a Commissioner to use the podium for his own rant. It was inappropriate then and it is now. It's not a personal speaking platform.

The presiding officer must control these moments. Failure is poor meeting management.

Our residents' time is valuable. Establish a formal resolution or ordinance regarding the rules of the public comment period as were proposed previously. Agendize this topic! Thank you.

Meeting Date 10/7/54

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***Three (3) minute limitation on all comments

Name: Michael Sternhauer
Address: 435 Greenbriar

If you are interested in receiving Town information through Email, please provide your E-mail address: _____

I would like to make comments on the following Agenda Item: #16
Reconsideration of Sept 2

I would like to make comments on the following Non-Agenda Item(s):

Instructions: Please complete this card, including your name and address; once the card has been completed, give it to the Town Clerk. The Mayor will call your name when it is time for you to speak. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per individual.

Item
#16

Exhibit D

Testimony Before Lake Park, FL Town Commission 10/07/2026

Public Comment on the Erroneous Amendment of a Previous Commission Meeting Minutes

Michael Steinhauer, 435 Greenbriar Dr. pipestone1992@gmail.com 608-332-5547

Private Resident / Lake Park Society for the Advancement of Civic Engagement

Good evening.

What we witnessed on Sept 16, was deeply troubling because the action taken was so glaringly in error.

A resident submitted written testimony for a public meeting but was unable to attend and read it aloud. The testimony was acknowledged to be a public record. Yet we witnessed an extraordinary effort to remove any reference to that testimony from the official minutes because it had not been read live.

Must a resident now be physically present or to inconvenience another to speak into a microphone for their effort to participate in local government? Is this now a qualifying event to merit acknowledgment in the meeting minutes?

The minutes of a public meeting should accurately reflect what occurred, including the appropriate documentation of public participation live **or** in writing. Your vote to amend was an attempt to erase acknowledgment that a resident submitted comments. It was an impassioned and biased demand to rewrite the record.

But what made that now infamous proceeding particularly disturbing was that the argument to amend the minutes was directed at the **wrong meeting date!** And, consequently, the Commission proceeded to amend minutes that were already correct as written. I'd spent a little more time on meeting preparation.

Think about that for a moment. A demand to correct meeting minutes resulted in the alteration of the wrong public record. You were fooled. It was sloppy! And if this slop occurs on something this simple, I fear your capacity for deliberations on development and budget decisions.

This is not a trivial clerical matter. I know the Clerk takes great care in minutes prep and the accuracy of the information presented to Commissioners. Your unwillingness to pause and verify the facts before acting impetuously was shameful.

Meeting minutes are not personal documents to be revised according to individual preferences. They are an essential historical record. Their accuracy matters and so does the process used to approve them.

Establish clear, consistent published standards for adjudicating written public comments so residents understand how their submissions will be handled.

Mistakes can happen. What matters is whether we recognize them, correct them transparently, apologize to those affected, and learn from them.

Resist blatant erroneous decision making before confirming the facts.

Thank you.