



Lake Park Town Commission, Florida

First Public Hearing on the Budget Minutes

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

Tuesday September 08, 2026 6:30pm

Roger Michaud	—	Mayor
Michael Hensley	—	Vice Mayor
John Linden	—	Commissioner
Michael O'Rourke	—	Commissioner
Judith Thomas	—	Commissioner
Richard J. Reade	—	Town Manager
Brett Lashley	—	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

6:37 P.M.

PRESENT

Mayor Roger Michaud

Vice Mayor Michael Hensley

Commissioner John Linden

Commissioner Michael O'Rourke

ABSENT

Commissioner Judith Thomas

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Michaud led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion to approve the agenda made by Commissioner Linden, Seconded by Commissioner O'Rourke.

Voting Yea: Mayor Michaud, Vice Mayor Hensley, Commissioner Linden, Commissioner O'Rourke.

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.

-Mayor Michaud stated for the record that the Town was in receipt of written comments from Michael Steinhauer that were submitted electronically and will be made a part of the minutes as Exhibit A.

-Mary Beth Taylor provided her written comments via Exhibit B.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution 76-09-26 - Establish Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Millage Rates - Operating (FIRST READING)

Finance Director Barbara Gould presented to the Commission (Exhibit C).

Mayor Michaud asked if the Human Resources (HR) Department was added back into the budget. Finance Director Gould stated that the HR Department never left the budget. Town Manager Reade explained the roll back rate and the millage rate of 5.0.

Motion to approve Resolution 76-09-26 made by Commissioner O'Rourke, Seconded by Commissioner Linden.

Vice Mayor Hensley clarified the millage rate being cut from 5.1 mils to 5.0 mils and expressed concern with possible necessary cuts in the future. Mayor Michaud also spoke about the necessity of being able to maintain essential services. Town Manager Reade thanked the Commission for the cuts they made to their own pay and that those cuts could potentially allow some events throughout the year to continue. Vice Mayor Hensley stated that depending on what happens, they may need to make some tough decisions next year. Commissioner Linden asked what the potential losses would be for the first year due to

Amendment 3. Town Manager Reade explained that it is estimated that the loss for the first year could be \$1.1 or \$1.2 million and the second year could be \$1.6 or \$1.7 million. He added that there may not be enough big development coming to the Town that would offset those losses. Commissioner Linden clarified that the cost of living and merit increases that some staff had voluntarily given up, they were able to keep, and it was only the Commission increases that were sacrificed. Commissioner Linden stated that he believes Amendment 3 will pass one way or another and believes that Lake Park is not in such a bad position and stated that next year we need to look at everything sooner and take a harder look. Commissioner Linden asked if a survey was ever sent to the residents to see what they want in regards to events and services. Commissioner O'Rourke stated that he does not believe there is such a rosy outlook. He stated that we have just been lucky not to have had a catastrophic weather event and does not believe that the reserves are adequate, that we have a limited economic base to the Town with no new residential projects coming after Avalon Bay. Mayor Michaud agreed that they need an early capture next year in order to make necessary adjustments. Town Manager Reade spoke about the need to rely on grants more in the future.

Voting Yea: Mayor Michaud, Vice Mayor Hensley, Commissioner Linden, Commissioner O'Rourke.

2. Resolution 77-09-26 – Fiscal Year 2027 Budget – All Funds - Town of Lake Park

Town Manager Reade presented the item (Exhibit D).

Motion to approve Resolution 77-09-26 made by Commissioner O'Rourke, Seconded by Commissioner Linden.

Voting Yea: Mayor Michaud, Vice Mayor Hensley, Commissioner Linden, Commissioner O'Rourke.

TOWN ATTORNEY, TOWN MANAGER, COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

-Town Attorney Lashley had no comments. Mayor Michaud stated for the record that it was good to see Town Attorney Lashley again.

-Town Manager Reade had no comments.

-Commissioner O'Rourke asked about a road project on Northern Drive by 10th Avenue and when it will be completed. Town Manager Reade stated he will get an exact date for them and for the public.

-Vice Mayor Hensley also requested the Town address a pothole on 10th Avenue that is getting bigger.

-Commissioner Linden requested a future agenda item for term limits for Commissioners and Mayor.

-Commissioner O'Rourke stated that he would like to talk about changing our election process to give residents a valid way to vote. It was agreed that because these two items are not budget related, they will request them again at the Regular Commission Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Voting Aye: All.

Meeting adjourned 7:32 P.M.

FUTURE MEETING DATE: Next Scheduled Budget Meeting will be held on September 16, 2026.

Mayor Roger D. Michaud

Town Seal

Town Clerk, Vivian Mendez, MMC

Deputy Town Clerk, Laura Weidgans

Approved on this _____ of _____, 2026