



Lake Park Town Commission, Florida

Commission Budget Workshop

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

Wednesday August 26, 2026 6:00 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

6:11 P.M.

PRESENT

Mayor Roger Michaud

Vice Mayor Michael Hensley

Commissioner John Linden

Commissioner Michael O'Rourke arrived at 6:16 P.M.

ABSENT

Commissioner Judith Thomas

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Michaud led the pledge.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion to approve the agenda made by Vice Mayor Hensley, Seconded by Commissioner Linden.

Voting Yea: Mayor Michaud, Vice Mayor Hensley, Commissioner Linden.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

1. FY 2027 Budget Workshop #3 - Proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) & Discussion.
Finance Director Barbara Gould presented the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) (Exhibit A). Mayor Michaud stated for the record that Commission O'Rourke arrived at 6:16pm. Commissioner Linden asked if there are working foreman in each department of Public Works. Public Works Director Morales stated that each department has an active foreman except commercial sanitation which the position is currently vacant. Commissioner Linden spoke about the possibility of eliminating some foreman positions and utilizing Tech II's in their place to help save the Town some money. It was explained by Mayor Michaud that the Stormwater Tech II position is not a supervisory position and so a foreman is still necessary.

Commissioner Linden asked about the five-year storm water rate study, and it being mandated by State Statute to be done every five-year and asked when was the last time it was done. Public Works Director Morales stated it was done in 2022-2023. Commissioner Linden asked if the rate study could be deferred a little longer. Public Works Director Morales stated that the study would need to be done in 2027 in order to be effective for 2028 which is when it would be due. Mayor Michaud clarified that the terms of the last rate study do not require waiting through the entire five years. He stated that if the Commission desired, it could re-address the rate year by year. Town Manager Reade stated that he believes the study would need to be completed and the rate reported

to the Property Appraiser by July 2027, therefore if that is the case, they would not be able to delay the study. Commissioner Linden stated that the money that residents are paying for storm water on their tax bill is substantial and wants to know what they get for their money. Public Works Director Morales stated there is no existing storm water infrastructure and the benefit to the residents would be mitigation of flooding within areas of the Town. Commission Linden asked why the disposal fees were higher than in previous years. Public Works Director Morales stated that those are the disposal fees paid to the County that is estimated per month. Commissioner Linden asked about a few vehicle leases and when they expire. Public Works Director Morales stated that the fleet will expire in 2029-2030. Commissioner Linden requested to have the dump truck and the backhoe removed from the budget for another year or two. Public Works Director Morales stated that the longer it is pushed out, the higher the risk that something will happen that the Town is unprepared for. Commissioner Linden stated that he is opposed to the purchase of these two vehicles. Commissioner O'Rourke stated that the backhoe and the dump truck are essential, but the street sweeper is not. Town Manager Reade suggested that they could hold off on purchasing the dump truck and backhoe for now and if they found it necessary later, they could adjust the budget. Mayor Michaud stated for the records that the cost of the vehicles could potentially be higher by that point.

Commissioner O'Rourke suggested partnering with neighboring municipalities to share equipment. Town Manager Reade stated that they would look into that possibility. Public Works Director Morales stated that there were previous discussions with the Village of North Palm Beach regarding the merging of their Public Works Department with ours. The Commission stated they would like to explore that idea. Public Works Director Morales stated that he would research. The Commission agreed to remove the two vehicles from the budget, place the funds into reserve and have staff research the options that were discussed and if they still decide to move forward with the purchase later in the year, staff can bring forward a budget adjustment for it.

Vice Mayor Hensley asked what the professional services are within the Sanitation Fund and why they are so much higher than last year. Finance Director Gould explained that the increase is for the rate study. Commissioner Linden asked about the savings of \$250,000 for a grapple truck. Public Works Director Morales explained that this is money

that is being set aside each year so that after a few years, they will have enough to purchase the vehicle outright as opposed to financing.

Commissioner Linden asked about \$13,000 for weekly vehicle washing. Public Works Director Morales explained that the Town does not have the proper equipment in place to be able to wash its own vehicles.

Commissioner Linden asked about emergency sanitation collection support for \$28,500. Public Works Director stated this is a placeholder in case they have to utilize a third party for sanitation.

Commissioner O'Rourke asked about the need for two grapple trucks. Public Works Director Morales explain that the Town currently has two operational grapple trucks, and both are well past their life expectancy.

In regards to the CRA budget, Town Manager Reade asked the Commission for direction regarding the LED signs. He suggested initiating the process sooner than later. Vice Mayor Hensley stated he would like to start moving forward and likes the idea of doing a public presentation during a CRA meeting. Mayor Michaud agreed with this. Commissioner O'Rourke stated he is not in support of the signs at this time because it is a bad use of the Town's funds. Town Manager Reade explained how the oval about will be partially funded through mobility fees. The Commission discussed the CRA and the need to bring business in for the business owners. CRA Administrator Leanna Collazo and Town Manager Reade spoke about a business inventive presentation that will be coming before the Commission soon.

Town Manager Reade stated they will be bringing the signs back before the Commission at the end of September or early October and they will present the Commission with different types of signs to choose from.

Commissioner Linden asked about the \$188,000 for landscaping the CRA parking lot and Centennial Memorial Park and asked why we were not doing this in-house. Town Manager Reade stated that the contracts had already been approved, but the CRA Administrator and Public Works Director will be reviewing costs for future endeavors.

Commissioner Linden asked about the holiday Christmas tree of \$30,000 and the holiday lights of \$136,000. CRA Administrator Collazo explained that this is the last year for the

contract for the holiday lights. Town Manager Reade stated that they will be looking at those costs for next year.

Commissioner Linden asked about \$500,000 for roadway improvements in the CRA fund. Town Manager Reade stated that these funds are for street paving. Commissioner Linden asked about the \$250,000 cost for stamped concrete design and construction. Town Manager Reade stated that the number is only an estimate and they are waiting on the engineer's estimate.

Commissioner Linden asked if a contract with the Police Athletic League is in the works. Town Manager Reade stated that they are very close to bringing that contract before the Commission. Commissioner Linden asked about the \$500,000 for the down payment for a new CRA building. Town Manager Reade explained that those funds would come directly from the proceeds from the sale of the 800 Park Avenue building.

Commissioner O'Rourke asked about the \$650,000 for the design and construction of Bert Bostrom master plan phase 2. He is in favor of moving forward with construction of fields so there can be youth programs in Town and that the design concepts could maybe be pushed down the road.

Finance Director Gould requested that the Commission provide her with any changes to the budget prior to the first public budget meeting. Mayor Michaud stated that they were interested in possibly the service sharing with other cities which would contribute to cost. Commissioner Linden stated he would like to start a discussion on the ad valorem rate and would like to lower it to 5.0 and feels that there will be little to no impact. Town Manager Reade explained that a reduction of .1 to the millage rate would represent approximately \$170,000.00 that would come out of the contingency fund or reserves. Commissioner Linden reminded the dais that they had promised the residents they would reduce the ad valorem once Nautilus went up. Finance Director Gould stated that the General Fund reserves currently has approximately \$3 million and that they would like to see that continue to grow. Mayor Michaud requested that the Commission have some time to think about the question of lowering the millage rate and provide an answer by the First Public Budget Meeting. They agreed to discuss it during the Regular Commission meeting on September 2nd. Town Manager Reade stated that they could try to further identify cuts that they can make within the departments.

The Commission discussed potential impacts from Amendment 3 if it's approved in November.

TOWN ATTORNEY, TOWN MANAGER, COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

-Town Manager Reade spoke about a conflict with a commission meeting in October that may need to be cancelled or rescheduled.

-Commissioner O'Rourke asked about the Business Development Board because there is significant movement of business from New York right now and suggested the Town might want to come up with an incentive program for these businesses to come to Lake Park.

REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

The dais requested to have a discussion on the possible reduction of the millage rate during the next meeting on September 2nd.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner O'Rourke. Seconded by Vice Mayor Hensley.

Voting Aye: All.

Meeting adjourned 8:55pm

FUTURE MEETING DATE: The next scheduled Regular Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday September 2, 2026.

Mayor Roger D. Michaud

Town Seal

Town Clerk, Vivian Mendez, MMC

Deputy Town Clerk, Laura Weidgans

Approved on this _____ of _____, 2026