



Lake Park Town Commission, Florida

Final Public Hearing on the Budget Minutes

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

Wednesday September 16, 2026

6:30 pm

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

6:42 P.M.

PRESENT

Mayor Roger Michaud

Vice Mayor Michael Hensley

Commissioner Judith Thomas

Commissioner John Linden

Commissioner Michael O'Rourke

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

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

NONE

CONSENT AGENDA:

All matters listed under this item are considered routine and action will be taken by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Commissioner or person so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the general order of business and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda. Any person wishing to speak on an agenda item is asked to complete a public comment card located on either side of the Chambers and given to the Town Clerk. Cards must be submitted before the item is discussed. NONE

PUBLIC HEARING(S) - ORDINANCE ON FIRST READING: NONE

PUBLIC HEARING(S) - ORDINANCE ON SECOND READING: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution 90-09-26 - Establish FY 2026-2027 Millage Rates - Operating (SECOND AND FINAL READING)

Town Manager Richard Reade presented the millage rate of 5.0 mills.

Motion to approve Resolution 90-09-26 made by Commissioner O'Rourke, Seconded by Commissioner Linden.

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

2. Resolution 91-09-26 - Adopting a Final Budget for the Fiscal Year 2026/2027

Town Manager Reade presented the budget. Mayor Michaud requested that the budget reflect that merit increases are up to three percent if warranted and are not automatic. Commissioner Thomas asked if any employees had received their evaluations for 2026 because she is aware of employees who had not received theirs. Finance Director Gould stated that employees would receive evaluations during their anniversary month. Commissioner Thomas stated for the record that not everyone here has gotten their evaluation. She stated that merit increases are based on merit. Vice Mayor Hensley stated that merit increases are budgeted at the max for budgeting purposes, but not everyone gets the max. Finance Director Gould added that if an employee's evaluation was in June, they would only get the increase starting in June, but it is budgeted for the entire year. Mayor Michaud agreed that the language in the budget should say "up to" three percent and also that we need to ensure that everyone is being evaluated. Finance Director Gould stated that Human Resources would have been in charge of that but that she will follow up with on it. Town Manager Reade clarified that Department Heads are responsible for doing their employees evaluations and that he is responsible for doing the Department Head evaluations which he is behind on. Mayor Michaud indicated that those needed to be completed with the new fiscal year about to begin. Commissioner Thomas stated that it is the function of the Human Resources Department to monitor the evaluation process. Motion to approve Resolution 91-09-26 made by Vice Mayor Hensley, Seconded by Commissioner Linden.

Commissioner O'Rourke stated he will not be supporting the CRA budget because it doesn't account for the oval-about project. Town Manager Reade stated that they are funding the oval-about in this budget. Commissioner O'Rourke clarified that they are funding the plans and design only. Mayor Michaud stated for the record that they are budgeted for moving forward with the project.

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

Voting Nay: Commissioner O'Rourke.

TOWN ATTORNEY, TOWN MANAGER, COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

- Town Attorney Baird stated that he appreciates that the Town has budget funds that will allow them to continue to defend themselves in the litigation that has been filed.
- Vice Mayor Hensley stated that he appreciates the work and effort involved with the budget.
- Mayor Michaud also thanked staff for their hard work on the budget.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

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

Meeting adjourned 7:00 p.m.

FUTURE MEETING DATE: Next Scheduled Regular Commission Meeting will be held directly after this meeting.

Mayor Roger D. Michaud

Town Seal

Town Clerk, Vivian Mendez, MMC

Deputy Town Clerk, Laura Weidgans

Approved on this _____ of _____, 2026