

CITY OF WESTLAKE



MINUTES

City Council Budget Workshop

Tuesday, August 06, 2024, at 5:00 PM

The Lodge at Westlake Adventure Park
5490 Kingfisher Blvd.
Westlake, Florida 33470

CITY COUNCIL:

JohnPaul O'Connor, Mayor
Greg Langowski, Vice Mayor
Gary Werner, Council Member – Seat 1
Julian Martinez, Council Member – Seat 2
Charlotte Leonard, Council Member – Seat 3

CITY STAFF:

Ken Cassel, City Manager
Zoie P. Burgess, CMC, City Clerk
Donald J. Doody, Esq., City Attorney
Nilsa Zacarias, AICP, Planning and Zoning Director
Suzanne Dombrowski, P.E., ENV SP, City Engineer

A budget workshop of the City Council of the City of Westlake was held on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at 5:00 PM., at The Lodge at Westlake Adventure Park, 5490 Kingfisher Blvd. Members of the public also attended the meeting through electronic means and accessed as follows:

1. Webex meeting from a computer, tablet or smartphone at the following link:
<https://cityofwestlake.my.webex.com/>

Meeting ID: 2631 009 1649

Password: hello

2. Participants also dialed in using phone with the following number:

United States Toll: +1-650-479-3208

Meeting ID: 2631 009 1649

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor O'Connor called the City of Westlake budget workshop of Tuesday, August 6, 2024, to order at 5:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present and constituting a quorum:

Councilman Julian Martinez
Councilwoman Charlotte Leonard
Vice Mayor Greg Langowski
Mayor JohnPaul O'Connor

Also present:

Kenneth Cassel, City Manager
Donald J. Doody, Esq., City Attorney
Zoie Burgess, City Clerk

Absent:

Councilman Gary Werner

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor O'Connor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

- A. FY 25 Budget

Mayor O'Connor introduced the Workshop Agenda and then called for Mr. Cassel to discuss the budget.

The City Manager discussed how they arrived at the number for the budget. Mr. Cassel proceeds with giving a 101 on municipal budgeting. He then provided a brief budget overview discussing revenue and expenses.

Mr. Cassel stated the budget presented is the same budget based upon the 4.95 millage rate that was advertised with some corrections made at the last meeting.

Mayor O'Connor and Council discussed the Gas Franchise Fee, Operating Expenses, Council Expenses, the Clerk's Department, Website Support, Contracts with the City Clerk, Dues, and Licenses.

Accountant Steven Fowler provided information about the fiscal year 's budget.

The Council discussed the increase in legal services due to the addition of a Special Magistrate; community services as it relates to street lighting. The Council further discussed cleaning services, which led to the consensus to remove a day of cleaning for City Hall offices.

Further Council discussion about the HAPPY Program and the use of funds for the marketing of the Program.

Mr. Cassel explained in detail about investments, bank accounts, and the maximizing of revenue.

Lengthy Council discussion on revenue, interest on cash, interest income and the reserve account.

Mr. Cassel discussed that allowing 1 million in reserves verses 1.3 million, it will change the millage rate 4.95 to 4.70. Continued conversation gives clarity that the reserve amount will be \$1,064,000.00 assisting in the millage rate of 4.7. Mr. Cassel explained the estimated tax reduction for residents.

Mr. Cassel continued to explain the direction on debt for loss in solid waste collection.

The Council continued discussions about the remaining of the budget.

Mayor O'Connor called for any further discussion comments from Council.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

- A. Councilwoman Charlotte Leonard – No comment.
- B. Councilman Julian Martinez – No comment.
- C. Councilman Gary Werner (absent)
- D. Vice Mayor Greg Langowski – No comment.
- E. Mayor JohnPaul O'Connor – No comment.

CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS

No additional comments.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

No additional comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

This section of the agenda allows for comments from the public to speak. Each speaker will be given a total of three (3) minutes to comment. A public comment card should be completed and returned to the City Clerk. When you are called to speak, please go to the podium, and prior to addressing Council, state your name and address for the record. All public comments will be noted and may receive a response if necessary. Any follow-up will be handled by staff later.

Public Comment – Chad Isaacson – 15398 Goldfinch Circle – Mr. Isaacson asked about the tax rates for businesses and if it has dropped to draw businesses in. He also asked what the tax rate is, the City Manager's fee, what the City covers in services, and the purpose of lobbyist.

Public Comment – Jacqueline Campbell – 15938 Key Biscayne Lane– Ms. Campbell asked about the assessment fee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor O'Connor adjourned the meeting at 6:22 PM.

Zoie P. Burgess, City Clerk

JohnPaul O'Connor, Mayor