

CITY OF WESTLAKE



MINUTES

City Council Final Budget Hearing

Monday, September 14, 2026 at 6:00 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
Erik Gleason, Council Member – Seat 2
Charlotte Leonard, Council Member – Seat 3

CITY STAFF:

Howard W. Brown, Jr., ICMA-CM, City Manager
Zoie Burgess, CMC, City Clerk
Donald J. Doody, City Attorney
Osniel Leon, AICP, Planning and Zoning
Suzanne Dombrowski, P.E., ENV SP, Engineering

A City Council Final Budget Hearing of the City of Westlake was held on Tuesday, September 14, 2026, at 6:00 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: 2868 856 1059

Password: hello

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

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

Meeting ID: 2868 856 1059

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor O'Connor called the City of Westlake Final Budget Hearing meeting of Monday, September 14, 2026, to order at 6:00PM.

ROLL CALL

Present and constituting a quorum:

Councilman Gary Werner
Councilman Erik Gleason
Councilwoman Charlotte Leonard
Vice Mayor Greg Langowski
Mayor JohnPaul O'Connor

Also present:

Howard W. Brown, Jr., City Manager
Zoie Burgess, CMC, City Clerk
Sean M. Swartz, City Attorney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor O'Connor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR MODIFICATIONS, AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor O'Connor called for any additions, deletions, or modifications to the agenda.

Motion by Vice Mayor Langowski to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Councilman Werner.

ROLL CALL

Councilman Werner	YES
Councilman Gleason	YES
Councilwoman Leonard	YES
Vice Mayor Langowski	YES
Mayor O'Connor	YES

With all in favor, motion carried without dissent (5-0).

FINAL BUDGET HEARING

A. RESOLUTION 2026-27 – Adoption of Final Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2027

Submitted By: Finance

RESOLUTION 2026-27

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF WESTLAKE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A FINAL MILLAGE RATE OF _____ FOR THE CITY'S GENERAL OPERATING FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2026 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor O'Connor introduced the item.

Mr. Brown noted that the FY2026–27 budget process included three public workshops on June 30, July 14, and August 4, 2026, as well as public hearings on September 8 and September 14.

Mr. Bloom provided a summary overview of the budget and millage rate. Mr. Bloom noted that the tentative millage rate had been set at 4.59 mills at the first public hearing, and he emphasized that the final rate could not exceed that figure, though it could be set lower.

Mayor O'Connor opened council discussion.

Council discussion.

Mayor O'Connor opened for public hearing.

Public Comment – Mr. Bobby Farber – 4829 Saint Armands Way – Mr. Farber addressed the Council. Mr. Farber stated he had been reviewing the budget and recalled that at the prior meeting, a comparison between the 4.60 and 4.59 millage rates had been presented. He asked whether the numerical difference between those two rates and even a potential rate of 4.8 was still available for the Council's consideration, referencing a prior discussion.

Public Comment – Ms. Alfie Aiken – 5416 Liberty Lane – Ms. Aiken urged the Council to balance continued investment in Westlake with the needs of residents on fixed incomes. Citing an increase in her assessed value and overall tax burden, she argued that city growth was already generating substantial new revenue and suggested a lower millage rate could ease the impact on current residents without undermining planned projects. Ms. Aiken expressed support for growth and key initiatives but encouraged the Council to manage that growth carefully and consider available budget reduction options.

Mayor O'Connor opened council discussion.

Council discussion.

Motion by Councilman Werner to approve a final millage rate of 4.59 mills as previously recommended, seconded by Councilman Gleason.

ROLL CALL

Councilman Gleason	YES
Councilwoman Leonard	YES
Vice Mayor Langowski	YES
Mayor O'Connor	YES
Councilman Werner	YES

With all in favor, motion carried without dissent (5-0).

Mr. Swartz read Resolution 2026-27 by title into the record.

Mayor O'Connor stated that in accordance with Section 200.065, Florida Statutes, the City of Westlake's taxing authority rollback rate is 4.2866 mills, that the proposed final millage rate is 4.59 mills, and that this represents a 7.08 percent increase over the rollback rate.

Motion by Councilman Werner to adopt Resolution 2026-27, a Resolution of the City Council for the City of Westlake, Florida, adopting a final millage rate for the City's General Operating Fund for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027, seconded by Councilman Gleason.

ROLL CALL

Councilwoman Leonard	YES
Vice Mayor Langowski	YES
Mayor O'Connor	YES
Councilman Werner	YES
Councilman Gleason	YES

With all in favor, motion carried without dissent (5-0).

B. RESOLUTION 2026-28 - Adoption of Final Budget for Fiscal Year 2027

Submitted By: Finance

RESOLUTION 2026-28

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WESTLAKE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING A FINAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2026 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2027; DETERMINING AND FIXING THE AMOUNTS NECESSARY TO CARRY ON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY FOR THE ENSUING YEAR; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor O'Connor introduced the item.

Mr. Swartz read Resolution 2026-28 by title into the record.

Mr. Bloom confirmed that there were no changes in the budget compared to the version presented at the prior hearing, and that all relevant details had already been covered during the millage rate discussion.

Mayor O'Connor opened for public hearing.

Mayor O'Connor opened council discussion.

Motion by Councilman Werner to approve Resolution 2026-28 a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Westlake, Florida, adopting a final budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027, as presented by staff, seconded by Councilman Gleason.

ROLL CALL

Vice Mayor Langowski	YES
Mayor O'Connor	YES
Councilman Werner	YES
Councilman Gleason	YES
Councilwoman Leonard	YES

With all in favor, motion carried without dissent (5-0).

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

A. Councilwoman Charlotte Leonard – no comments.

B. Councilman Erik Gleason – no comments.

C. Councilman Gary Werner – no comments.

D. Vice Mayor Greg Langowski – no comments.

E. Mayor JohnPaul O'Connor offered brief remarks, noting that while this was a different type of meeting with a larger than typical audience, he wished to recognize a resident Mr. Farber for his efforts in organizing the City's 9/11 memorial event.

Mayor O'Connor also noted that the following morning a 5K race was held, which he personally participated in for the first time.

REPORT - CITY ATTORNEY

No comments.

REPORT - CITY MANAGER

No comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND REQUESTS

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 – Mr. Bobby Farber – 4829 Saint Armands Way – Mr. Farber said he understood the millage decision in light of Amendment 3 and that, if the amendment does not pass, he expects next year's budget process to be improved and plans to stay engaged.

Public Comment – Ms. Alfie Aiken – 5416 Liberty Lane – Ms. Aiken commented on public engagement, noting that few residents were present and that the short time between budget hearings left little opportunity for staff follow-up or informed public participation. Ms. Aiken asked the City to improve the process by providing answers between meetings to encourage broader civic involvement.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor O'Connor adjourned the meeting at 6:27 PM.

Zoie P. Burgess, CMC, City Clerk

JohnPaul O'Connor, Mayor