

CITY OF WESTLAKE



MINUTES

City Council Budget Workshop

Tuesday, August 01, 2023, at 4:30 PM

Westlake Council Chambers
4005 Seminole Pratt Whitney Road
Westlake, Florida 33470

CITY COUNCIL:

JohnPaul O'Connor, Mayor
Greg Langowski, Vice Mayor
Pilar Valle Ron, 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 1, 2023, at 4:30 PM., at the Westlake Community Center, 4005 Seminole Pratt Whitney Road. Members of the public also participated in 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 803 7831

Password: hello

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

United States Toll: +1-408-418-9388

Meeting ID: 2631 803 7831

As a preliminary matter, Ms. Burgess noted that council members are present physically constituting a quorum.

Ms. Burgess provided further instruction regarding public comments, noting that comments will be acknowledged by the mayor and accepted at the appropriate times as indicated in the agenda and those who wish to speak may use the "virtual" hand raise feature.

Ms. Burgess provided the disclaimer that the meeting is being recorded by both voice and video, reminding the audience microphones are live. Ms. Burgess further explained that microphones will be muted; audience members can unmute themselves and anyone that has called in should mute their device.

Ms. Burgess noted that anyone causing a disruption or being inappropriate will be removed from the meeting. Ms. Burgess reminded Council Members physically present to utilize microphones.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor O'Connor called the City of Westlake City Council Budget Workshop meeting of Tuesday, August 1, 2023, to order at 4:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present and constituting a quorum:

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

Also present:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor O'Connor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

A. Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Annual Budget

Mayor O'Connor called for Mr. Cassel to discuss the budget.

Mr. Cassel stated the budget presented is the same budget issued at the last council meeting to set the millage rate.

Mr. Cassel noted that the total funding and a summary of all of the general funds is about a 12% increase, as well as the expenditures are approximately a 12% increase. Mr. Cassel continued, noting an overall budget of 9 million, which includes the planning and zoning and building departments and a General Fund Budget of 5.5 million.

Mr. Cassel explained that tax received for current year received about 3.1 million and future projections based on county estimates are about 4.8 million, a 54% increase of taxable value increase. If everything is in it will be based on expenses and revenues of \$570,000 in the fund balance.

Mr. Cassel explained that a new line item will be added to the budget for the expenses of hosting meetings in the Lodge.

Mr. Cassel explained that the Communications Tax listed is only an estimate as the numbers have not come back from the state. He also noted that the Franchise Fee included is based upon previous methodology and that line item could also increase.

Mr. Cassel, Council and Legal discussed the fuel tax and what is legally allowed for revenue.

Further Council discussion on impact fees, additional staff, and other administrative services.

Council discussion on solid waste services. Mr. Cassel explained that the city will be going out to bid next year for services.

Lengthy Council discussion regarding city events and the impact on the budget, sponsorships and where it is identified within the budget.

Council discussion regarding grants, the possibility of hiring a grant writer, or use of services from the League of Cities

Council discussion on American Rescue Plan Act funds (ARPA) funds and appropriations from the State.

Final budget discussion.

Council inquired on park and next potential workshop meeting to further discuss. Council consensus to hold a workshop meeting September 12, 2023, prior to the scheduled meeting.

Further budget discussions and the effect of the millage rate and the need to lower. (Various overlaps of discussion).

Mayor called for additional budget discussion, there being none, the next item followed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor O'Connor called for public comments.

Ms. Burgess noted a comment card was received prior to the meeting.

Jackie Campbell – 15938 Key Biscayne Lane – Ms. Campbell stated she noticed the budget did not mention anything for a future park, but her concerns were addressed earlier in the council discussion.

Ms. Burgess gave the virtual audience a moment to comment.

There being no further comments, the next item followed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor O'Connor adjourned the meeting at 5:37 PM.

Zoie P. Burgess, CMC City Clerk

JohnPaul O'Connor, Mayor