

CITY OF WESTLAKE



MINUTES

City Council Special Meeting

Tuesday, March 03, 2026 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
Erik Gleason, Council Member – Seat 2
Charlotte Leonard, Council Member – Seat 3

CITY STAFF:

Zoie P. Burgess, CMC, Acting City Manager
Odet Izquierdo, Acting City Clerk
Donald J. Doody, Esq., City Attorney
Osniel Leon, AICP, Planning and Zoning
Suzanne Dombrowski, P.E., ENV SP, Engineering

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor O'Connor called the City of Westlake Special Meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, to order at 5:00 PM

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:

Zoie P. Burgess, CMC, Acting City Manager
Odette Izquierdo, Acting City Clerk
Donald J. Doody, Esq., 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.

Mayor O'Connor called for a motion to approve the agenda as is.

Motion by Councilman Gleason, to approve the agenda as is, seconded by Councilman Werner.

UPON 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).

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.

CONSENT AGENDA

This section of the agenda consists of routine or administrative items that require final approval by the City Council and may be approved in its entirety by a single motion. There will be no discussion of these items unless a Council Member requests such, in which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered on a future agenda.

A. Consideration and Selection of Finalist for the Position of City Manager

Mayor O'Connor explained that the Council had conducted a special public meeting the previous week to identify the top two finalists for the City Manager position. He noted that all council members had the pleasure of interviewing the candidates in person and emphasized that both candidates represented top tier talent. The purpose of this meeting was to allow the candidates to introduce themselves to the public and for the Council to engage in discussion.

Mr. Camel introduced himself as the current City Manager of South Bay, serving for 13 years. Mr. Camel highlighted his experience bringing in over in appropriations for South Bay and building relationships from Tallahassee to Washington DC.

Mr. Camel outlined his vision for Westlake, emphasizing fiscal responsibility and avoiding deep debt while acknowledging some debt would be necessary due to current cost of living. He stressed the importance of preparing for potential property tax impacts and his ability to leverage relationships for funding opportunities. Mr. Camel mentioned his background as a land use planner and his familiarity with Westlake's development process.

After Mr. Camel's presentation the council engaged in questions and discussions.

Mayor O'Connor introduced Mr. Howard Brown to please give his presentation.

Mr. Brown introduced himself as the founder and CEO of a consulting group that has managed across multiple states including Florida, Georgia, California, and Oklahoma. Mr. Brown emphasized his national experience as both permanent and interim city manager, most recently serving as the manager of the Village of Indiantown in Martin County.

Mr. Brown detailed his experience in Indiantown, which had no staff when he arrived and operated entirely on contracts, similar to Westlake's structure. Mr. Brown successfully negotiated contracts for various services including fire rescue and law enforcement, achieving significant cost savings.

Mr. Brown mentioned successful economic development projects, he emphasized his national connections with developers and retailers.

After Mr. Brown's presentation the council engaged in questions and discussions.

Mayor O'Connor opened for public comments.

Public Comment – Mr. Bobby Farber – 4829 Saint Armands Way – Mr. Farber inquired about community engagement, asking specifically about RFP processes, working with other jurisdictions, and experience with improvement districts. Mr. Brown explained his extensive experience with regional planning councils and various government agencies, his approach to community engagement through small group meetings and social media and suggested attending HOA meetings given Westlake's unique structure.

Public Comment – Alicia Torres – 5447 Whippoorwill Circle – Ms. Torres asked about Mr. Brown's consulting business and potential conflicts if hired. Mr. Brown clarified that his goal was to work exclusively for Westlake and that ICMA ethics requirements would prohibit maintaining outside consulting work as a full-time city manager.

City Council discussed whether to make a decision immediately or defer to their next regular meeting. After brief discussion about timing and the agenda process, the Council determined to table the matter for the Regular Meeting.

Councilman Werner moved to table the discussion and consideration of the city manager position during this special meeting and hold it over to the next regular meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Leonard.

UPON 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).

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

No council members provided comments.

REPORT - CITY ATTORNEY

No report was provided.

REPORT - CITY MANAGER

No report was provided.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor O'Connor adjourned the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Odet Izquierdo, Acting City Clerk

JohnPaul O'Connor, Mayor