

# CITY OF WESTLAKE



## MINUTES

### **City Council Budget Workshop**

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 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  
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, PE, ENV SP, City Engineer

A Budget Workshop of the City Council of the City of Westlake was held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 6:00 PM., at The Lodge at Westlake Adventure Park, 5490 Kingfisher Blvd. Members of the public also live streamed the meeting through electronic means and accessed as follows:

1. Webex Meeting: <https://cityofwestlake.my.webex.com/>

Meeting ID: 2633 293 8242

Password: hello

2. By Phone:

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

Meeting ID: 2633 293 8242

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor O'Connor called the Budget Workshop of the City Council of the City of Westlake of Tuesday, May 21, 2024, to order at 6:03 PM.

### **ROLL CALL**

Present and constituting a quorum:

Councilwoman Charlotte Leonard

Councilman Julian Martinez

Councilman Gary Werner

Mayor JohnPaul O'Connor

Also present:

Kenneth Cassel, City Manager

Sean M. Swartz Esq., City Attorney

Zoie Burgess, City Clerk

Osniel Leon, Assistant City Planner

Vice Mayor Greg Langowski was not physically present but participated virtually.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor O'Connor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **WORKSHOP AGENDA**

- A. Presentation of Proposed Budget and Discussion and Input from the Council

**Presented By:** Kenneth Cassel, City Manager

Mr. Cassel introduced the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget, noting it is very preliminary based upon assumed values and revenues with a millage rate consistent with the current rate of 5.0 mills.

Mr. Cassel also noted that the budget has been adjusted with various items being modified or being removed from the Enterprise Fund to the General Fund.

Mr. Cassel identified the budget calendar as included in the budget document. He further explained that at the Second Public Hearing, where the final millage rate is set there must be a full quorum present.

Mr. Cassel continued in the budget overview, highlighting the enclosed budget summary with a total funding and expenditures of approximately \$10,300,000, noting that the expenditures reflect the revenue to ensure a balanced budget. Mr. Cassel noted that this is based on current information, but final numbers should be in for tax revenue June 1.

Council discussion regarding expected tax revenue.

Mr. Cassel continued, identifying the estimated personnel, operating and capital expenditures, as well as what is estimated for contingency and reserves. He explained that he will be asking Council to assign reserves for capital improvements, such as for the park.

Council discussion regarding reserves and contingency.

Further Council discussion regarding additional revenue as it relates to taxes and the need to collect gas taxes.

Mr. Cassel explained the gas tax and the efforts that are being made and continue to be made.

Council discussion on the components on the line item for Municipal Revenue Sharing and a request to clarify this line item.

Council consensus to discuss budget, page by page and line by line.

Additional discussion on revenue detail, as it relates to Licenses, permits and franchise fees.

Council discussion regarding the City Council's budget various requests to be added, including a 20% increase of travel., LED Stop Signs and a City of Westlake App.

Continued Council discussion regarding the general fund as it relates to departments, community services and events.

Council continued discussion regarding Special Revenue Fund.

Council identified the Second and Final Budget Hearing date to be set for September 11, 2024

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public Comment - Mary Ellen Manning – 15780 Cresswind Place – Ms. Manning asked what company Steven Fowler works for, the location of reserves monies, HAPPY monies and other monies used by the City. Ms. Manning suggested when dealing with large amounts of money staff should look into accounts that have better returns and are not risky to make the money work for the city such as bonds and lending the money out.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor O'Connor adjourned the meeting at 8:01 PM.