

CITY OF WESTLAKE



MINUTES

City Council Budget Workshop

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 6:00 PM

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

Live Broadcasting:

<https://cityofwestlake.my.webex.com>

Meeting ID: 2862 754 8423| Password: hello

or

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

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, City Manager

Zoie P. Burgess, CMC, 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 Workshop on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, to order at 6:00 PM

ROLL CALL

Present and constituting a quorum:

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

Also Present:

Howard W. Brown, Jr, City Manager
Zoie P. Burgess, CMC, City Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor O'Connor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

A. Presentation and Discussion Regarding the Citibot AI Resident Communication Platform

Submitted By: Mayor O'Connor / City Manager

Mayor O'Connor introduced Citibot as a discussion item for potential budget planning. After learning about Citibot at a conference, he shared how it helps integrate an AI-powered assistant into the city's website to provide instant responses to residents questions, freeing up the minimal staff.

The platform also offers a chat interface and a phone service, effectively handling misrouted calls. Mayor O'Connor emphasized its multilingual and ADA compliance features as proactive legal safeguards.

Mayor O'Connor clarified he wasn't specifically advocating for Citibot but called for allocating a budget line item for such technology.

Council discussion.

B. City of Westlake Proposed Budget FY 2027

Submitted by: Finance

Mayor O'Connor introduced the item.

Mr. Bloom led the discussion, highlighting key inclusions like FY 2025 figures and a new events section. He emphasized reviewing the budget line by line.

Council discussion.

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 – no comments

CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS

No comments.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Howard W. Brown, Jr., was not present at the meeting. No comments were offered.

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 – Jeff Weinraub – 4398 Brookgreen Sq – Mr. Weinraub addressed the Council with a question regarding whether any forecast existed for HOA fee increases. Mayor O'Connor clarified that HOA assessments are not a city function and are managed separately by the community association, noting that the city's goal is to be fiscally conservative so as not to exert additional pressure on residents.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor O'Connor adjourned the meeting at 7:10 PM.

Zoie P. Burgess, CMC, City Clerk

JohnPaul O'Connor, Mayor