



120 North Essa Street, Lake Park, Georgia 31636  
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City of Lake Park  
Called Council Meeting Minutes  
June 25, 2025  
1:30 pm

**Members present** were Mayor Jena Sandlin, Council Member Michelle Lane, Council Member Busby Courson, Council Member Oscar Griffith, and Council Member Carl Spano

**Staff Present:** City Clerk Lisa Johnson

Mayor Jena Sandlin called the meeting to order.

Mayor Jena Sandlin led the invocation.

Mayor Jena Sandlin led the pledge.

**STATEMENT:**

Mayor Jena Sandlin stated that before the meeting began she would like to read a quote from the GMA Convention she thought was interesting: "Conflicts will always be a part of our lives. As Leaders of the City of Lake Park, it is our job to work together to find a solution and to work passionately to create a positive outcome. Thank you."

Mayor Jena Sandlin stated this called meeting is to discuss the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Event, to be held on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and was at the request of Council Member Oscar Griffith, Council Member Busby Courson, and Council Member Michelle Lane.

Council Member Courson stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss whether to set off fireworks from Mr. Council's property or not, as it is City use of private property. Mayor Sandlin stated that there is an alternative location at the end of Park Street, which has been used in the past, but is smaller. Council Member Lane asked if the City would need to cut the grass at Mr. Council's property, as she had driven by a few days earlier and it appeared to have been cut. City Clerk Lisa Johnson explained that the owners do maintain the property, and the City would mow again before the event only if needed to minimize the potential for a fire hazard. Council briefly discussed the suggestion in the email which requested the meeting that the fireworks be cancelled and the money used for sidewalks; it was clarified that the suggestion was made in jest. Mayor Sandlin recalled the meeting to order and the discussion returned to the appropriate location for launching fireworks. Mayor Sandlin informed Council that it was her understanding that Mr. Council had agreed to the use of his property, and City Clerk Lisa Johnson confirmed.

Council Member Carl Spano asked to clarify if the City had a written agreement with permission from Mr. Council to use his property for this event, so the City was protected if something happened, and City Clerk Lisa Johnson confirmed that there was. Council Member Oscar Griffith asked for clarification on who would be responsible if there was damage to the property. Council Member Carl Spano stated the City would, if it happened during the event.

On questions from assembled citizens, discussion then turned to the advantage of using Mr. Council's property, as it is a more centralized position for viewing the fireworks show, and parking, which is available at the churches, City Hall, the school and Mayor Sandlin's property nearby. Parking near the railroad is not permitted. In response to a question from Arthur Keckley (315 4-H Club Rd), the City Clerk stated that the question of longer-term use of private property by the City would be on the Tuesday, July 1 agenda.

Mayor Sandlin called the meeting back to order and asked for a motion to vote to have launch from Mr. Council's or the strip on Park Street.

Council Member Busby Courson made a motion to use Park Street for the fireworks launch. Council Member Carl Spano seconded the motion. Mayor Jena Sandlin asked for any more discussion on where the fireworks will be set off. Council Member Michelle Lane asked if Fire Chief Matt Ryan should check the Park Street property for size and safety. Mayor Sandlin agreed that it needed to be looked at for space, safety, and to see if it needed to be trimmed; City Clerk Lisa Johnson noted that Maintenance would need to have time to schedule any necessary trimming and cleanup. Mrs. Johnson also stated she would recommend the Council have an alternative plan in the case the Park Street location falls through.

Mayor Sandlin called for the Council's thoughts. Council Member Carl Spano stated there was a motion and a second on the floor. Mayor Sandlin stated there needed to be a motion for the revised motion. Council Member Oscar Griffith objected, citing inconsistency with Robert's Rules of Order, as there was a Motion, Second, and discussion was needed. Mayor Jena Sandlin asked if there was any more discussion. There being none, Mayor Sandlin called for a vote. The motion passed 3 to 1, with Council Member Lane opposed.

Mayor Jena Sandlin called for discussion on an alternative plan, in case the Park Street location wouldn't work. Council Member Carl Spano stated he thought that, in any case, the Fire Chief should have the last say, and should make the ultimate decision on the safety and suitability of the location, regardless of the owner of the property. Council Member Michelle Lane made a motion that the City launch from Mr. Council's property as in years past if the Park Street location is unsuitable. Council Member Carl Spano Seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Council Member Michelle Lane made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Carl Spano seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

The next regular meeting will be on July 1, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

  
Jena Sandlin, Mayor

7-1-25  
Date

  
Lisa Johnson, City Clerk

July 1, 2025  
Date

Seal