



120 North Essa Street, Lake Park, Georgia 31636  
City Hall 229-559-7470  
Fax 229-559-7499

City of Lake Park  
Regular Council Meeting Minutes  
September 2, 2025  
6:00 pm

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

**Staff Present:** City Clerk Lisa Johnson, Sergeant Matt Colson, Police Officer Art Verdell

**Others Present:** City Attorney Drew Parrish-Bennett

Mayor Jena Sandlin called the meeting to order.

Mayor Jena Sandlin led the invocation.

Mayor Jena Sandlin led the pledge.

Oath of Office: Zachary Fletcher sworn in with the Oath of Office.

Mayor Sandlin stated that Council has a request for subdivision on the Agenda and introduced Ms. Alexandra Arzayus with the Southeast Georgia Regional Commission. Ms. Arzayus and Mr. Steve Magee as a representative of the church, presented a proposal for the rezoning of three lots located at 610, 614, & 618 Sheavette Rd, consisting of .96 acres, to be separated from the Church of Christ property for single-family residential lots. The presentation is a request for a vote on this action. This request is compliant with the zoning of the surrounding areas and meets all R-10 zoning requirements.

Mayor Sandlin opened the forum for questions from the community.

Citizen Melissa Cason (809 Sand Crane Circle) – requested verification of the changes requested and if the requested changes were intended for duplex facilities.

Alexandra Arzayus responded with the definition of the difference between R10 and R15 zoning designations and confirmed that both zones are defined as single-family residential.

Citizen Jim Kannberry (617 Sheavette Rd) – requested information on why the rezoning is necessary. Mr. Kannberry also requested any action that could be taken to preserve the beautiful oak trees.

City Clerk Lisa Johnson responded that the rezoning was required due to variances in response to right-of-way requirements to prevent split zoning of the parcel.

Mayor Sandlin requested additional council discussion.

Council Member Busby Courson is concerned about how this may affect drainage.

Drainage is usually addressed at the engineering phase, not during zoning.

Citizen Weston Luke (201 4-H club Rd) – stated that water does pond up at Broadway and Sheavette Road.

Council Member Michelle Lane made a motion to rezone from R-15 to R-10 on Sheavette Road lots. Council Member Zachary Fletcher seconded the motion. Council Member Michelle Lane and Council Member Zachary Fletcher voted in favor, Council Member Busby Courson and Council Member Oscar opposed. Mayor Jena Sandlin opposed. Motion did not carry.

Alexandra Arzayus has confirmed with the denial, the request could not be reintroduced for one year.

Alexandra Arzayus stated that the Lowndes County Comprehensive plan meeting will commence soon and they are currently looking for stakeholders to participate in the process.

**Minutes:** Mayor Sandlin called for the review and approval of the Minutes. Council Member Busby Courson made a motion to approve the Minutes of the July 1, 2025 Regular Meeting, July 31, 2025 Called Meeting, August 13, 2025 Called Meeting, and the August 27, 2025 Called Meeting. Council Member Michelle Lane seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

#### **CITIZENS' CONCERNS:**

- Brian Knigge (805 Lane Drive) – Asking for assistance as the landlord does not upkeep the property. Lodged a complaint regarding vicious dogs. Mayor Jena Sandlin advised contacting the landlord regarding property management. Mayor Jena Sandlin also advised contacting the Police Department pertaining to vicious dogs issues. The Police Department would contact animal control as necessary. Mayor Jena Sandlin would request an evaluation of the issue against the current nuisance ordinances.
- Scott Orenstein (3885 Old US Hwy 41 N) – Congratulated the City of Lake Park on the approval of the GEFA (Georgia Environmental Finance Authority) loan for water and sewer infrastructure. As a County Commissioner from Lowndes County, they have a draft ordinance in the works to address the current animal control that is getting out of hand. This ordinance would address a potential ban on retail sales of pets, specifically cats and dogs. As a contractor for the Rodeo restaurant, they are having issues with the water pressure. Requesting assistance in addressing the water pressure issue.
- Jim Kannberry (617 Sheavette Road) states there is a need for speed bumps or speed deterrents on Sheavette Road and Long Pond. Due to the large fast-moving trucks through the area where children play.
- Melissa Cason (809 Sand Crane Circle) - reiterated speeding concerns in the area. There are concerns regarding safety with buildings seriously damaged during Hurricane Helene and not yet repaired.
- Sandy Cole (805 Lane Drive) – Neighbor has three vicious dogs that almost attacked her dog a couple of months ago. A child was bitten recently. The neighborhood has dog feces everywhere. Mayor Jena Sandlin advised calling the Police Department regarding vicious dogs.

- Patricia Brown (809 Main Street) – reiterate dog complaints. The dogs are leaving their property and roaming the neighborhood without a leash. Ms. Brown states the property owner is a slum lord and the property has garbage everywhere. Requested that the City of Lake Park send a letter.

#### **REPORTS OF OFFICERS/DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

##### **Fire Department:** Fire Chief Matt Ryan

- Not present at the meeting

##### **Police Department:** Interim Chief Matt Colson

- Presented the activity reports for July and August

##### **Maintenance/Public Works Department:** City Clerk Lisa Johnson

- Presented the activity report.
- Council Member Oscar Griffith made a motion to purchase a finishing mower, not to exceed \$3,000.00, and to replace the blown engine for \$3,543.14 out of SPLOST 8. Council Member Michelle Lane seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

##### **Administration:** City Clerk Lisa Johnson

- Presented the Administration report.
- Council Member Oscar Griffith requested to table Hurricane Helene damage repair discussions until the next meeting. Council Member Busby Courson seconded the request. The topic was tabled until the October meeting.

##### **Financial Reports:** City Clerk Lisa Johnson

- Presented the Financial report and asked if there were any questions.
- Council Member Michelle Lane made a motion to approve the unaudited Financial Report dated July 30, 2025. Council Member Busby Courson seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-1, with Council Member Oscar Griffith opposed.

##### **Unfinished Business**

- Council Member Oscar Griffith made a motion to approve Jose Gomez for concrete, not to exceed \$12,000.00 if dirt needs to be brought in. Council Member Busby Courson seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.
- A need exists for fencing at the Water Tower due to an incident with a naked bather.

##### **New Business**

- Council tabled the discussion and appointment of the Budget Officer until the next meeting.
- Council Member Oscar Griffith made a motion to find a time clock, not to exceed \$500.00. Council Member Busby Courson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0. Council Member Griffith stated that he would research this.
- Council Member Michelle Lane made a motion to approve Carter & Sloope for Administrative and Grants Related Services and for Engineering. Council Member Oscar Griffith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Mayor Sandlin called for a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss Real Estate and Personnel. Council Member Michelle Lane made a motion to go into Executive Session. Council Member Busby Courson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0. Council entered Executive Session at 7:36 pm.

Council Member Michelle Lane made a motion to reenter regular session. Council Member Busby Courson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0. Council reconvened Regular Session at 8:33 pm.

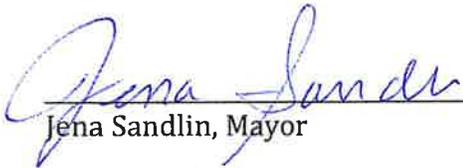
Council Member Michelle Lane made a motion to approve Executive Session Minutes for July 1, July 31, August 13, and August 27, 2025. Council Member Busby Courson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

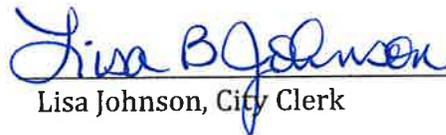
Council Member Oscar Griffith made a motion to hire Jeff Patterson & Troche Roberts for the Maintenance positions and to promote Simon Davis to Interim Maintenance Supervisor with a 90-day probation period for all. Council Member Zachary Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

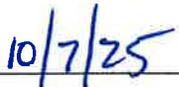
Council Member Michelle Lane made a motion to hire Matthew Campisi as Police Chief and promote Officer Colson to Captain. Council Member Busby Courson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

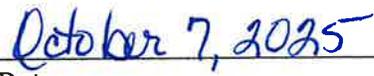
Council Member Oscar Griffith made a motion to approve the City Clerk to hire Laura Levesque and Amber Taylor for the Administrative staff as proposed. Council Member Michelle Lane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0, and the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting will be on October 7, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

  
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Jena Sandlin, Mayor

  
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Lisa Johnson, City Clerk

  
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Date

  
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Date

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