



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  
April 7, 2026  
6:00 pm

**Members present** were Mayor Jena Sandlin, Council Member Busby Courson, Council Member Zach Fletcher, Council Member Arthur Keckley, and Council Member Blake McMillan

**Staff Present:** City Clerk Lisa Johnson, Deputy Clerk Laura Levesque, Police Chief Artavious Verdell, Officer Cory Luke, Officer Kevin Trolinger, Officer Garrett Beckenbaugh, and Interim Maintenance Supervisor Jeff Patterson.

Mayor Jena Sandlin called the meeting to order.

Mayor Jena Sandlin gave the invocation.

Mayor Jena Sandlin led the pledge.

Mayor Jena Sandlin requested a review of the meeting minutes for the February 19, 2026, Public Hearing Minutes, February 23, 2026, Work Session, and March 3, 2026, Regular Meeting. Council Member Zach Fletcher moved to accept the minutes of February 19, 2026 Public Hearing, February 23, 2026 Work Session, and the March 3, 2026 Regular Meeting. Council Member Arthur Keckley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

Mayor Jena Sandlin opened the forum for questions from the community.

**CITIZENS' CONCERNS:**

- Eli Johnson (111 South Gordon Street) – wanted to express concern for the maintenance of the equipment assigned to the Volunteer Fire Department, should the City Council elect to discontinue the administration of the Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Johnson also volunteered to maintain the equipment so it would be available to firefighters should the need arise.
- Linda Hogan (905 Teresa Drive) – wanted to express concern about the trees planted as part of the Lake Park Beautification project. The trees appeared to be suffering from water

deficiency. Interim Maintenance Supervisor Jeff Patterson assured Ms. Hogan that the Public Works department has been watering the trees.

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS/DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

**Fire Department:** Unrepresented

**Police Department:** Chief Art Verdell

- Presented the activity report for March.
- Chief Verdell introduced and thanked the officers who were keeping the City of Lake Park Safe: Officer Cory Luke, Officer Kevin Trolinger, and Officer Garrett Beckenbaugh.

**Maintenance/Public Works Department:** Public Works Technician Jeff Patterson

- Presented the activity report for March.
- Discussed the citizen concern over the speed hump currently located on Broadway.
- Updated the City Council on the receipt of bids for the cleanup at Broadway Street for the additional drainage. Council Member Zach Fletcher moved to approve Cranford Branch Land Clearing to execute the project with a budget of \$30,000 to alleviate the drainage and remove all debris from the site, to be paid for with LMIG funds if possible, and if not, then Public Works. Council Member Arthur Keckley seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.
- Presented quotes received for the purchase of a vehicle, as approved by the Capital Project Budget. Council Member Zach Fletcher moved to approve the purchase from Cass Burch for \$48,467.00 from the Capital Project Budget. Council Member Blake McMillan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.
- Presented quotes received for the purchase of a dump body trailer, as approved by the Capital Project Budget. Council Member Blake McMillan requested additional specifications on the models being offered. The item was tabled until this information could be provided.
- Reported that the playground equipment has been received, and work is in progress.

**Administration:** City Clerk Lisa Johnson

- Presented the Administration report.
  - There are remaining committee vacancies. The Citizens' Advisory Committee (1) and the Board of Zoning and Appeals (2).
  - Reported that letters have been sent for the annexation of an island at 304 and 402 Long Pond Rd, and the case is set to be heard by the GLPC on April 30 and will be on the Council Meeting Agenda on May 5.
  - Reported that the GEFA Water Improvement Project is in the Design Phase.
  - Reported that the City's application for Drainage Funding had brought back a proposal from GEFA offering a \$1.7 million dollar loan with 50% forgiveness and 0% interest for 20 years.
  - Reported that the FY25 Audit is underway

- Reported that a letter has been sent to the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners requesting discussions for contracting with the County for Fire Protection Services
- Reminded Council and residents that the SGRC will facilitate a public meeting to discuss the Comprehensive Plan update and hear from residents.

**Financial Reports:** City Clerk Lisa Johnson

- Presented the Financial Report for February

Council Member Zach Fletcher moved to accept the Financial Report for February. Council Member Arthur Keckley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

**Unfinished Business**

- City Clerk Lisa Johnson introduced and provided the first reading of the proposed Cemetery Ordinance pertaining to the Old Lake Park Cemetery acquisition.
- City Clerk Lisa Johnson updated the City Council regarding the progress of the discussion with Lowndes County for Fire Protection Services. The Lowndes County Board of Commissioners has not yet responded to the City's letter of request.

**New Business**

- Amendment to Ordinance 101-Flood Damage Prevention. Council Member Black McMillan moved that, based upon the request by Georgia DNR, the ordinance and the requested update be referred to the City Attorney for processing. Council Member Zach Fletcher seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.
- Presentation of the cost estimate to relocate the server room and the evidentiary holding room. Council Member Arthur Keckley moved to approve the project to relocate the rooms through existing vendors with a budget of \$7,850 through the Capital Project Budget for Updates to City Hall. Council Member Zach Fletcher seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.
- Presentation of the cost estimate for the door access upgrade. The decision was tabled to be addressed with the presentation about the cost of the door replacement.
- Presentation of the cost estimate for the security/camera installation for the City Hall Complex. Council Member Blake McMillan requested a change to the bid to include a 16-channel camera in place of the 8-channel camera. Council Member Zach Fletcher moved to approve the bid with an allowance for a 16-channel camera with a budget of \$6,250 through the Capital Project Budget for Updates to City Hall.

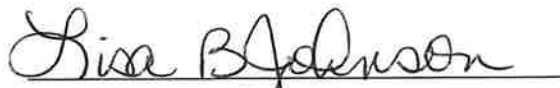
Council Member Arthur Keckley made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Minutes of the previous Executive Session and Personnel. Council Member Zach Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0. Council entered Executive Session at 7:19 pm.


Council Member Zach Fletcher made a motion to re-enter regular session. Council Member Arthur Keckley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0. Council reconvened Regular Session at 7:34 pm.

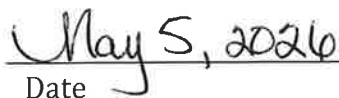
Council Member Zach Fletcher moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Busby Courson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:41.

The next regular meeting will be held on May 5, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

  
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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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