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City of Lake Park
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
August 4, 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, Volunteer Fire Chief Robert Tebedo, Volunteer Assistant Fire Chief Casey Russell, Volunteer Fire Member Stacy Zimmerman, Volunteer Fire Member Austin Alfaro, and Interim Maintenance Supervisor Jeff Patterson.

Others Present: City Attorney Drew Parrish-Bennett

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 July 7, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes. Council Member Busby Courson moved to accept the minutes of the July 7, 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. No citizen's concerns were raised.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS/DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Fire Department: Chief Robert Tebedo

- Presented the activity report for July.
- Is evaluating the feasibility of additional Chainsaw gas cannisters on the trucks.

Police Department: Chief Art Verdell

- Presented the activity report for July

- Chief Verdell stated there were currently issues with parking at the school due to the open house night. They are watching the situation carefully.

Maintenance/Public Works Department: Interim Maintenance Supervisor Jeff Patterson

- Presented the activity report for July.
- Received a citizen complaint about the dead tree located on South Broadway. Upon investigation, the tree is on the right-of-way. Four quotes have been received to rectify the situation. Council Member Zach Fletcher made a motion to accept the bid from Waychoff's Stump Grinding, LLC for \$2,000 for tree removal, stump grinding, and debris clean up. Council Member Blake McMillan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.
- Discussion about the handling of debris from the city cleanup. The City Council requested Public Works research into the options for debris removal and the associated costing.
- The open positions in Public Works are having a negative effect on the ability to keep up with the amount of work to be accomplished. Interim Supervisor Jeff Patterson encouraged the City Council to fill the vacancies.

Administration: City Clerk Lisa Johnson

- Presented the Administration report for July.
 - There are remaining committee vacancies. The Citizens' Advisory Committee (1) and the Board of Zoning and Appeals (2).
 - Award for the Hurricane Relief Drainage Project announcement has been moved to November.
 - Administration expects to present a proposed amendment to the water ordinance at the next meeting.
 - Mr. Bill Powell has completed the water rate study and will present the findings during the September council meeting.
 - Utility billing software and the new payment portal are in the works, and these systems are working on being implemented with the least disruption and confusion to the utility customers as possible. Existing software will remain in effect until the transition has been completed.

Financial Reports: City Clerk Lisa Johnson

- Presented the Financial Report for July.

Council Member Zach Fletcher made a motion to accept and approve the Financial Reports. Council Member Arthur Keckley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

New Business

- City Council discussed the date for the Christmas celebration event. Council agreed that the event will be scheduled for December 5, 2026. The Department of Transportation permit will be requested from 4:30 to 6:00.

- Subdivision request has been submitted for the amenities building for the Pointer's Ridge Subdivision. Council Member Zach Fletcher made a motion to approve the request for subdivision of the parcel for the amenities building. Council Member Arthur Keckley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.
- 2026 Digest Documents were presented. After discussion amongst the City Council, it was noted that while the Council is in support of the Millage Rollback Rate for this cycle, the City cannot continue to function at its current capacity without raising the millage to account for the increase in costs of running the City. Council Member Busby Courson made a motion to accept the rollback rate. Council Member Blake McMillan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.
- Council Member Zach Fletcher made a motion to amend the purchasing policy to adjust the Department Head approval rate from \$100.00 to \$200.00 within the approved budget. This will allow the city to continue handling business without delay. Council Member Busby Courson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

Council Member Zach Fletcher made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Minutes of the previous Executive Session, potential litigation and Personnel. Council Member Busby Courson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0. Council entered Executive Session at 7:02 pm.

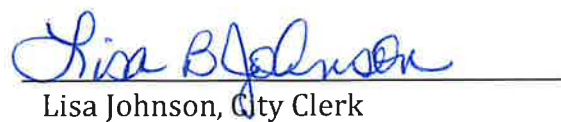
Council Member Zach Fletcher made a motion to re-enter the regular session. Council Member Busby Courson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0. Council reconvened Regular Session at 8:09 pm.

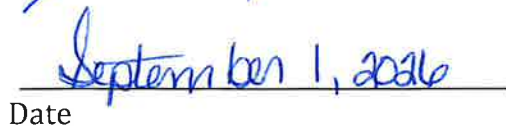
Council Member Busby Courson moved to initiate a Citizen of the Year Award. Council Member Zach Fletcher seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0

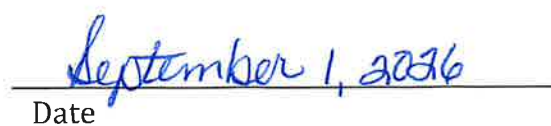
Council Member Busby Courson moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Zach Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:14.

The next regular meeting will be held on September 1, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.


Jena Sandlin, Mayor


Lisa Johnson, City Clerk


Date


Date

Seal