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City of Lake Park
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2026
6:00 pm

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

Staff Present: City Clerk Lisa Johnson, Deputy Clerk Laura Levesque, Police Chief Artavious Verdell, Municipal Court Clerk Heidi Gardner, Volunteer Fire Chief Robert Tebedo, 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 May 5, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes. Council Member Busby Courson moved to accept the minutes of the May 5, 2026, Regular Meeting. Council Member Arthur Keckley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

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

CITIZENS' CONCERNS:

- Oscar Griffith (824 Sand Crane Circle) – came to introduce the Lakes of Love Food Truck Friday event. The events would be scheduled for the 2nd Friday of the month for July, August, September, and October. Mr. Griffith requested the council purchase a roadside “Food Truck” sign, estimated around \$52.00. Blake McMillan made a motion to purchase the sign. Council Member Arthur Keckley seconded the vote. Motion carried unanimously, 3-0. Mr. Griffith reiterated that the next meeting of the organization was scheduled for July 13, 2026, and invited the public to participate.

- Mary Beth Brownley as representative of the Longest Table initiative with an invitation to participate scheduled for November 15, 2026. The Longest Table Event is about bringing the community together for a food event, and it is at no cost to the community. Ms. Brownley is available for additional questions should any arise.

Mayor Sandlin called on James from the Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC) for the final presentation of the Annexation and Zoning Ordinances in reference to Parcels 0221C 002 & 003.

Unfinished Business

(ANNEXATION AND ZONING):

- Unfinished Business
 - Zoning Action: Zoning Action: Second Reading of Ordinance Establishing the Initial Zoning Classification (R-15) for Property Proposed for Annexation into the City of Lake Park (Case LP-2026-01)
 - Council Discussion on considerations of findings and Planning Commission Recommendation
 - Annexation Ordinance: Consideration of Ordinance Annexing Property into the City of Lake Park
 - Council discussion
 - Council Member Blake McMillan made a motion to adopt the annexation ordinance number 129 to annex the property into corporate limits of the City of Lake Park. Council Member Arthur Keckley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.
 - Zoning Ordinance – Second Reading and Adoption: Consideration of the Ordinance Establishing Zoning Classification of R-15 (Single-Family Residential) for Annexed Property Case (LP-2026-01)
 - Council discussion
 - Council Member Blake McMillan made a motion to adopt the zoning classification ordinance number 130 to zone the annexed property as R-15. Council Member Arthur Keckley second the motion. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS/DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Fire Department: Chief Robert Tebedo

- Presented the activity report for May and June
- Requested status of turn out gear. Was assured item was budgeted in the Capital Project Budget. Fire Department was advised to submit the Purchase Order for approval through normal channels.

Police Department: Chief Art Verdell

- Presented the activity report for May and June
- Council requested information on the installation of the cage in the new vehicle. Chief Verdell advised it was not yet available on the market, but the department will advise council when it is available.

Maintenance/Public Works Department: Public Works Technician Jeff Patterson

- Presented the activity report for May and June.
- Discussed the status of the current Chevrolet. The transmission needs to be replaced; an estimate has been presented. Upon discussion by the council, they would like to receive more quotes for the replacement with a new transmission. Council Member Blake McMillan made a motion to approve a budget of \$6600 to replace the transmission when the appropriate estimates have been received. Council Member Arthur Keckley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.
- Distributed the report received from the Department of Natural Resources from the study of the fish population of Tom's Pond.
- Technician Jeff Patterson invited a citizen (Mr. Doc Wade) to speak about a nuisance issue located at 106 Pine Circle. The process for nuisance reporting and remediation was discussed, and the council will proceed with the process for this property.

Administration: City Clerk Lisa Johnson

- Presented the Administration report for May and June.
 - There are remaining committee vacancies. The Citizens' Advisory Committee (1) and the Board of Zoning and Appeals (2).
 - The FY25 Audit has been completed.
 - Local Emergency Operations Plan was submitted during the Council Retreat. A resolution for adoption is included later in the agenda.
 - The Comprehensive Plan has been submitted to council. A request for transmission approval is included later in the agenda.
 - There is the potential for a GEFA grant to allow for a stormwater survey and a planner to work with the City of Lake Park to determine needs and potential mitigation plans.

Financial Reports: City Clerk Lisa Johnson

- Presented the Financial Report for April and May
- Budget planning has already commenced and meetings with department heads and council will be scheduled independently.

Council Member Arthur Keckley moved to accept the Financial Report for April and May. Council Member Blake McMillan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 3-0.

New Business

Council Member Blake McMillan made a motion to adopt the Local Emergency Operation Plan Resolution (Number 2026-07-01). Council Member Busby Courson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Council Member Arthur Keckley made a motion to approve submission and transmission of the Comprehensive Plan. Council Member Blake McMillan second the motion. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Council Member Blake McMillan made a motion to confirm Ms. Heidi Gardner as the Municipal Clerk of Court for the City of Lake Park. Council Member Arthur Keckley second the motion. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Council Member Arthur Keckley made a motion to accept Robert Tebedo as the Volunteer Fire Department Chief. Council Member Busby Courson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

Council Member Arthur Keckley made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Minutes of the previous Executive Session, potential litigation and Personnel. Council Member Blake McMillan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0. Council entered Executive Session at 7:00 pm.

Council Member Arthur Keckley made a motion to re-enter regular session. Council Member Blake McMillan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0. Council reconvened Regular Session at 7:52 pm.

Council Member Blake McMillan motioned to approve the executive session minutes. Council Member Arthur Keckley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 3-0

Council Member Arthur Keckley moved to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Blake McMillan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:54.

The next regular meeting will be held on August 4, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.


Jena Sandlin, Mayor

8-4-26
Date


Lisa Johnson, City Clerk

August 4, 2026
Date

Seal