



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
May 5, 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 Member Stacy Zimmerman, 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 April 7, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes. Council Member Busby Courson moved to accept the minutes of the April 7, 2026, Regular Meeting. Council Member Zach Fletcher seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

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

CITIZENS' CONCERNS:

- Julie Wilbers (360 Back Forty Drive) – wanted to commend the Public Works/Maintenance Department, as she has noticed an improvement in the maintenance of the city. Ms. Wilbers invited the public and the City Council to the program on Memorial Day at the Veterans' Memorial at Tom's Pond on May 25th at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Wilbers also requested to revisit the request for the city to run electricity to the Veterans' Memorial Park.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS/DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Fire Department: Stacy Zimmerman

- Presented the activity report for April
- Stated Engine 1 required some maintenance. Will send the information to Administration for follow-up

Police Department: Chief Art Verdell

- Presented the activity report for April.

Maintenance/Public Works Department: Public Works Technician Jeff Patterson

- Presented the activity report for April.
- Discussed the needed signage for Tom's Pond Park. Council Member Arthur Keckley made a motion to purchase the signage for Tom's Pond for \$357.18. Council Member Busby Courson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

Administration: City Clerk Lisa Johnson

- Presented the Administration report for April.
 - There are remaining committee vacancies. The Citizens' Advisory Committee (1) and the Board of Zoning and Appeals (2).
 - Reported that the GEFA Water Improvement Project is in the Design Phase.
 - 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
 - Discussed the summary of quotes received for new Municipal Utility Billing Software. Council Member Zach Fletcher made a motion to accept the bid for Redline Data Systems. Council Member Arthur Fletcher seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

Financial Reports: City Clerk Lisa Johnson

- Presented the Financial Report for March

Council Member Zach Fletcher moved to accept the Financial Report for March. Council Member Blake McMillan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

Unfinished Business

- City Clerk Lisa Johnson provided the second reading of the proposed Cemetery Ordinance pertaining to the Old Lake Park Cemetery acquisition. Council Member Zach Fletcher made a motion to approve and pass the ordinance as read. Council Member Arthur Keckley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.
- Council Member Zach Fletcher made a motion to accept the bid from Ace Cargo for the Public Works Dump Trailer for \$10,000. Council Member Blake McMillan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

New Business

- The Mayor opened the public hearing for the Annexation of partial parcels 0221C 002 and 0221C 003.
 - SGRC Planner Alex Arzayus presented the case for the annexation.
 - The Mayor opened for public comments.
 - The Mayor closed the public hearing with no comments from the public.
- The first public reading of the ordinance to zone the partial parcels 0021C 002, and 0221 C 003.
 - City Council discussed considerations of findings and Planning Commission Recommendation
 - First reading vote: "Approval on this first reading is contingent upon adoption and effectiveness of the annexation ordinance."
- Consideration of Ordinance Annexing Property into the City of Lake Park
 - City Council discussion
 - First reading of ordinance for the Annexation of partial parcels 0221C 0002 and 0221C 003.
- Resolution for formal adoption of Kinetic ABS GA LLC's application. Council Member Zach Fletcher motioned to approve the resolution. Council Member Busby Courson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.
- City Council received an update on the planning of the July 4th event.
- City Council received information on an alternative to fireworks for July 4th, in response to the recent wildfires and the current burn ban. There is a limited availability for a laser light show, but the vendor only has a couple of openings left for that day. Council Member Zach Fletcher motioned to contract for the laser light show with the Laser Light Company for the Small package at \$16,000, not inclusive of generators. Council Member Arthur Keckley seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.
- Notification of the Announcement of the LRA allotment and discussion of potential projects where the funding could be utilized were discussed.
- Notification that the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has issued a Level 1 Drought Response for our area. This requires the publication of the conservatorship of the natural resources and the dissemination of information for our area.

Council Member Zach Fletcher made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Minutes of the previous Executive Session and Personnel. Council Member Arthur Keckley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0. Council entered Executive Session at 7:39 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 8:19 pm.

Council Member Blake McMillan motioned to approve the executive session minutes. 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 8:23.

The next regular meeting will be held on June 02, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.


Jena Sandlin, Mayor

7-7-2026
Date


Lisa Johnson, City Clerk

July 7, 2026
Date

Seal