LAKELAND CITY COMMISSION

Regular Session
April 7, 2025

The Lakeland City Commission met in Regular Session in the City Commission Chambers. Mayor Bill Mutz and Commissioners Chad McLeod, Bill Read, Stephanie Madden, Mike Musick, and Guy LaLonde were present. Commissioner Sara Roberts McCarley was absent.

CALL TO ORDER - 9:00 A.M.

PRESENTATIONS

- Keeping the City's Water Running - Joe Costine, Water Utilities Assistant Director

- Beautification Awards (Bill Koen)
  - Residential: Wayne McCauley - 2213 Cambridge Ave.
  - Commercial: R F Lusa & Son Sheet Metal Inc. - 1724 Fairbanks Street

PROCLAMATIONS

- Child Abuse Prevention Month
- Community Development Week
- Deaf History Month
- Donate Life Month
- Fair Housing Month
- Medical Laboratory Professionals Week
- Water Conservation Month

REQUESTS TO APPEAR FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Mason Gravley, Impact Campaign Manager, with the Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation gave a presentation. His handouts are on file in the Agenda Packet.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered routine by the City Commission and will be enacted by one motion following an opportunity for public comment. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a City Commissioner or Citizen so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered in its normal sequence. For items listed with an asterisk (*) under the Community Redevelopment Agency portion of the agenda, the City Commission shall be deemed to be acting in its capacity as the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Lakeland when approving the consent agenda.

Motion: Commissioner Mike Musick moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Stephanie Madden seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS AND RELATED ITEMS – None

EQUALIZATION HEARINGS

Recess/Convene: The Commission recessed the Regular Session and convened as the Equalization Board.

Palmer Davis explained that the City Charter requires that prior to recording a lien against private property, the City Commission convene as the Equalization Board and grant those property owners the opportunity to object to the recording of the lien or ask any questions they might have. If someone present received a notice to appear before the City Commission regarding a lot cleaning/clearing or demolition assessment, this is the time to address the Commission.

Lots Cleaning and Clearing

Motion: Commissioner Mike Musick moved to approve the assessments. Commissioner Stephanie Madden seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn/Reconvene: The Equalization Board adjourned and the City Commission reconvened the Regular Session.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinances (Second Reading) – NONE

Resolutions

Resolution 5980; Proposed 25-019; Lots Cleaning and Clearing

A RESOLUTION RELATING TO ASSESSMENTS; DETERMINING THE NECESSITY FOR HAVING CLEANED AND CLEARED CERTAIN PROPERTIES WITHIN THE CITY OF LAKELAND; PROVIDING FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF LIENS AGAINST SUCH PROPERTY FOR EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE CLEANING AND CLEARING THEREOF; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the title.

Motion: Commissioner Chad McLeod moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Stephanie Madden seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Upon roll call vote Commissioners Guy LaLonde, Mike Musick, Stephanie Madden, Bill Read, Chad McLeod, and Mayor Bill Mutz voted aye. Ayes – six. Nays – zero. The motion carried 6-0.

Resolution 5981; Proposed 25-020; Intent to Vacate Public Right-of-Way Located at 1002 Josephine Street

A RESOLUTION RELATING TO PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY; MAKING FINDINGS; DECLARING THE CITY COMMISSION'S INTENTION TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE VACATING PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY LOCATED AT 1002 JOSEPHINE STREET, SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATION OF A PUBLIC UTILITY EASEMENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the title.

Motion: Commissioner Stephanie Madden moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Mike Musick seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Upon roll call vote Commissioners Chad McLeod, Bill Read, Stephanie Madden, Mike Musick, Guy LaLonde, and Mayor Bill Mutz voted aye. Ayes – Six. Nays – zero. The motion carried 6-0.

Resolution 5982; Proposed 25-021; Expressing Support for the Fairbanks Street Sidewalk, Lake Parker Park - Tenoroc Connector Trail and West Lake Hunter Trail Segment 4 Funding Requests

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKELAND, FLORIDA EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE FAIRBANKS STREET SIDEWALK PROJECT, LAKE PARKER PARK-TENOROC CONNECTOR TRAIL PROJECT AND WEST LAKE HUNTER TRAIL SEGMENT 4 PROJECT FUNDING REQUESTS; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT FUNDING REQUESTS TO THE POLK TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR VARIOUS STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, INCLUDING THE POLK TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

ORGANIZATION'S ANNUAL PROJECT SOLICITATION CYCLE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the title.

Motion: Commissioner Stephanie Madden moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Chad McLeod seconded.

Urban Planning & Transportation Manager Chuck Barmby presented. This is an annual application cycle to the Transportation Planning Organization (TPO). These will become part of the 5-year work program in 2026.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Upon roll call vote Commissioners Guy LaLonde, Mike Musick, Stephanie Madden, Bill Read, Chad McLeod, and Mayor Bill Mutz voted aye. Ayes – six. Nays – zero. The motion carried 6-0.

Resolution 5983; Proposed 25-022; Amended Grant Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation to Extend the End Date for the Security Enhancements & Upgrades Project at Lakeland Linder International Airport

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKELAND, FLORIDA RELATING TO THE SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS AND UPGRADES PROJECT AT LAKELAND LINDER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT; AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE MULTI-YEAR GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION IN ORDER TO EXTEND THE END DATE OF THE AGREEMENT FOR SAID PROJECT; ADOPTING FINDINGS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the title.

Motion: Commissioner Chad McLeod moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Stephanie Madden seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Upon roll call vote Commissioners Chad McLeod, Bill Read, Stephanie Madden, Mike Musick, Guy LaLonde, and Mayor Bill Mutz voted aye. Ayes – six. Nays – zero. The motion carried 6-0.

Resolution 5984; Proposed 25-023; Amended Grant Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation to add State and Local Funding for the Rinsing and Flushing of Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting Vehicle at Lakeland Linder International Airport

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKELAND, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AMENDMENT TO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ADD ADDITIONAL STATE AND LOCAL FUNDING FOR THE RINSING AND FLUSHING OF AQUEOUS FILM FORMING FOAM FROM AN AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIRE FIGHTING VEHICLE AT LAKELAND LINDER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT; ADOPTING FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR AN APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the title.

Motion: Commissioner Mike Musick moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Bill Read seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Upon roll call vote Commissioners Chad McLeod, Bill Read, Stephanie Madden, Mike Musick, Guy LaLonde, and Mayor Bill Mutz voted aye. Ayes – six. Nays – zero. The motion carried 6-0.

Resolution 5985; Proposed 25-024; Amended Grant Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation to Add State and Local Funding for the Taxiway A Shoulders & Holding Bay Project at Lakeland Linder International Airport

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKELAND, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AMENDMENT TO A MULTI-YEAR GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ADD ADDITIONAL STATE AND LOCAL FUNDING FOR THE TAXIWAY A SHOULDERS & HOLDING BAY PROJECT AT LAKELAND LINDER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT; ADOPTING FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR AN APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the title.

Motion: Commissioner Chad McLeod moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Bill Read seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Upon roll call vote Commissioners Guy LaLonde, Mike Musick, Stephanie Madden, Bill Read, Chad McLeod, and Mayor Bill Mutz voted aye. Ayes-six. Nays-zero. The motion carried 6-0.

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY – None

CITY MANAGER

Purchase Order to R2 Unified Technologies for Renewal of Enterprise Virtualization Software

The City of Lakeland received a proposal from R2 Unified Technologies for the renewal of the City's Enterprise Virtualization Software (VMware). VMware is a virtualization platform that supports the entire enterprise and is a critical part of the City's Information Technology (IT) Infrastructure. Virtualization enables a virtual machine to be run on a physical computer and allows the use of more applications in a more efficient manner maximizing the City's hardware investments. The City's IT Infrastructure is dependent on the virtualization platform and cannot operate without the technology in place.

The total estimated cost of the initial year of the contract is $181,920. The total estimated cost for Fiscal Year 2026 through Fiscal Year 2029 for software licensing will be locked in at $181,920 annually. The total contract cost is $909,600.

The City's Purchasing Division has approved R2 Unified Technologies pursuant to NASPO ValuePoint Data NVP #AR2472 Participating Addendum for FL #43230000-16-ACS contract, as a piggyback. Funding is provided in the Fiscal Year 2025 Department of IT (DoIT) operational budget.

Staff recommended the City Commission authorize the issuance of a Purchase Order to R2 Unified Technologies in the amount of $181,920 for the renewal of Enterprise Virtualization Software and authorize the appropriate City officials to execute the appropriate documents.

Shawn Sherrouse presented this item.

Motion: Commissioner Mike Musick moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Stephanie Madden seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried 6-0.

Task Authorization with Tetra Tech, Inc. for Global Stability Analysis at Se7en Wetlands

Staff is seeking approval of a Task Authorization with Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tetra Tech) for professional services to assist the Water Utilities Department with the completion of a global stability analysis at Se7en Wetlands.

The City's artificial wetlands consist of approximately 1,600 acres of which 1,200 acres are wet, and the wetted acreage is divided into a series of seven cells devoted for the use of polishing of the effluent sent from the Glendale and Northside Wastewater Treatment Plants. Polished effluent from the wetlands is either sent to TECO's Polk Power Station for future reuse or discharged to waters of the state. The wetland is comprised of a series of earthen berms that hold water within the system. Weak areas within the system need to be identified and mitigated to prevent any failure mechanisms of the berms which would cause downstream flooding of the area.

In accordance with the Task Authorization, Tetra Tech will conduct a global stability analysis of the dam at Se7en Wetlands. This analysis will include field explorations, piezometer installations, laboratory testing, and analysis to determine potential hazards associated with the berms at the wetland. The analysis will include recommendations for corrective measures and preventative maintenance based on the findings.

All services pursuant to this Task Authorization will be performed in accordance with terms and conditions contained in the City's Continuing Contract and Agreement for Professional Environmental Engineering Services dated November 1, 2024, and Tetra Tech's proposal dated March 4, 2025. The total cost for this work is $410,188 and is included in the Water Utilities Department's Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

Staff recommended the City Commission approve this Task Authorization with Tetra Tech in the amount of $410,188 to complete a Global Stability Analysis at Se7en Wetlands and authorize the appropriate City officials to execute all corresponding documents related to the Task Authorization.

Shawn Sherrouse presented this item.

Motion: Commissioner Bill Read moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Stephanie Madden seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried 6-0.

Purchase Order to R. Cline, Inc. for Cell 4 Drainage Upgrades at Se7en Wetlands

This proposal is with R. Cline, Inc. for Cell 4 Drainage Upgrades at Se7en Wetlands. The drainage system at Cell 4 is used to collect water seeping through the earthen berm. It is diverted to toe seepage pump station before returning to Cell 4. The existing drainage system consists of pipes that were installed in the early 1980's and are past their useful life. Degradation of these pipes is evident due to an increase in wet and or green areas of the berm. The Cell 4 Drainage Upgrade will replace the damaged existing pipes to ensure proper berm seepage control in the wetland system.

The City's Purchasing Division has approved R. Cline, Inc. through the continuing contract for Annual Wetlands Maintenance Services. The proposal to perform this work is $149,600 and is included in Water Utilities Fiscal Year 2025 budget.

Staff recommended the City Commission approve and authorize a Purchase Order with R. Cline, Inc. for the Cell 4 Drainage Upgrades at Se7en Wetlands project in the amount of $149,600.

Shawn Sherrouse presented this item.

Motion: Commissioner Chad McLeod moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Mike Musick seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for questions from the Commission and the audience. There were no questions.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

Change Order with American Compliance Technologies, Inc. (ACT) for Phase Two Remedial Actions at Gateway Boulevard and Whitten Road and Appropriation for Wastewater Replacement & Renewal Fund

This proposal from ACT, was for continued removal, disposal, and replacement of contaminated soils due to a sanitary force main break that was discovered Spring 2024. This change order will also include tree removal and temporary road construction to access remote areas of the work site. Soil sampling outside of the initial soil removal zone performed by the City's environmental consultant, Tetra Tech Inc., has indicated the need to expand the soil removal area per Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) requirements. The scope of work within this change order is as follows:

- Construction of approximately 1,225 lineal feet of truck travel road
- Construction of temporary shallow water crossing
- Deployment of approximately 17,000 square feet of portable mud mats
- Clearing of additional excavation area (approximately 7 acres) of standing trees
- Excavation and disposal of 10,000 cubic yards of impacted soils
- Placement of clean soil backfill
- Removal of mud mats, water crossing, and construction road material

ACT's proposal was solicited utilizing an existing Consultant's Competitive Negotiation Act (CCNA) Continuing Contract for Professional Environmental Risk Engineering Services (RFQ1210A). ACT will perform the scope of work under the proposal for a total cost of $2,651,515.60. This work was anticipated and partially budgeted. However, it is imperative this work commences before the heavy rainy season begins and to meet the October 31, 2025, deadline imposed by FDEP Rule 62-780.790. Therefore, staff recommended that the City Commission authorize an appropriation and increase the estimated revenues of $500,000 in the Wastewater Replacement & Renewal Fund from the Unappropriated Surplus of the Wastewater Utilities Fund.

Staff recommended that the City Commission approve and authorize the appropriate City officials to execute a change order with American Compliance Technologies, Inc. for the above-described Phase Two Remedial Actions of the FDEP Interim Source Removal Plan at Gateway Boulevard and Whitten Road in the amount not-to-exceed $2,651,516.60

Shawn Sherrouse presented this item.

Motion: Commissioner Bill Read moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Chad McLeod seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments from the audience. The Commission discussed:

- Proof of compliance. FDEP will inspect as the work progresses.
- Wastewater Collections has reviewed the maps and identified areas that would not be readily noticeable if there was a leak. They have planned walks for those areas.
- Remediation may be conducted in lieu of fines at a 1.5% ratio. FDEP must approve the eligible projects.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried 6-0.

Verbal Report Reports

City Manager Shawn Sherrouse recognized staff for their hard work on Spring Training. Last game had record attendance. He also recognized the Airport's hard work on Sun 'n Fun.

Shawn Sherrouse introduced new Assistant City Manager Ashley Stathatos. She has over 25 years of local government experience.

CITY ATTORNEY

Ordinances (First Reading)

Proposed 25-006; Vacation of Public Right-of-Way Located at 1002 Josephine Street

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY; MAKING FINDINGS; VACATING PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1002 JOSEPHINE

STREET, SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATION OF A PUBLIC UTILITY EASEMENT; AUTHORIZING THE RECORDING OF A CERTIFIED COPY OF THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The foregoing is the title of an ordinance read for the first time by short title only. The Commission will hold the second reading and public hearing on April 21, 2025.

Proposed 25-007; Approving a Conditional Use to Allow a Medical Office on Property Located at 110 E. Pine Street

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ZONING; MAKING FINDINGS; APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE TO ALLOW A MEDICAL OFFICE ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 110 E. PINE STREET; FINDING CONFORMITY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The foregoing is the title of an ordinance read for the first time by short title only. The Commission will hold the second reading and public hearing on April 21, 2025.

Proposed 25-008; Approving a Conditional Use to Allow for the Development of an Early Childhood Education Center on Property Located at 2128 S. Crystal Lake Drive

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ZONING; MAKING FINDINGS; APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE TO ALLOW FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTER ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2128 S. CRYSTAL LAKE DRIVE; REPEALING ORDINANCE 4981; FINDING CONFORMITY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The foregoing is the title of an ordinance read for the first time by short title only. The Commission will hold the second reading and public hearing on April 21, 2025.

Miscellaneous

*Use Agreement with Ashley Gibson Barnett Museum of Art at Florida Southern College, Inc. for the Annual Mayfaire by-the-Lake Event

This proposed Use Agreement with the Ashley Gibson Barnett Museum of Art at Florida Southern College, Inc. (Museum) for the Mayfaire by-the-Lake annual event scheduled for May 9, 2025 through May 11, 2025.

The Agreement allows the Museum to have exclusive use and control of the public property located around Lake Morton, including all rights-of-ways, the lakeshore, sidewalks and other public property, from 9:00 a.m. on Friday, May 9, 2025 through 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 11, 2025. As consideration for the use of the property, the Museum will reimburse the City for the support services provided.

The Museum will be required to maintain general liability insurance, naming the City as an additional insured, and indemnify the City from all claims that may arise. The Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Director or his designee will serve as the City's authorized representative under the Agreement and is authorized to enter the premises during the event to perform inspections as deemed necessary. Other provisions of the Agreement require the Museum to maintain the premises during the term of the Agreement in good order and to repair any damage that occurs.

Staff recommended that the City Commission approve the Use Agreement with the Ashley Gibson Barnett Museum of Art at Florida Southern College, Inc. and authorize the appropriate City officials to execute the Agreement.

Action: The Commission approved this item as part of the Consent Agenda.

Software Agreement with EPR Systems USA, Inc. for a Fire Records Management System

This proposed Software Agreement with EPR Systems USA, Inc. (EPR) was for the purchase of software necessary to maintain the City's existing fire records management system. Pursuant to Florida Statute § 633.115, the City's Fire Department maintains a data base of all emergency incidents within a fire records management system. These required records are exported monthly to the State of Florida prior to routing to the U.S. Fire Administration. Externally, this data is utilized to identify and track trends in fire safety on a national level. The records management system also provides data utilized to gauge the City's Fire Department against NFPA 1710 Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, which is a measure by which all fire departments in the United States are compared.

Internally, the City can capture Performance Excellence measures and utilize data to validate required maintenance of the City's Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification Rating, which enables Lakeland's citizens to take advantage of reduced insurance rates based upon the effectiveness of the City's emergency services. Lakeland Fire Department's Prevention Division is also governed by Florida Statute Chapter 633 to perform commercial fire inspections that are imperative to reducing the risk of fire within the community.

In 2018, the City purchased its existing fire records management system, from EPR and entered a five (5) year agreement containing two (2) additional one (1) year renewal options. The existing agreement, which provides a stable environment for capturing and reporting required measures, expires on September 30, 2025, and does not contain any additional renewal options. Accordingly, the Lakeland Fire Department has requested to enter into a new Agreement with EPR to maintain operational efficiencies. The City's Purchasing Department has approved the purchase of software for the fire records management system from EPR pursuant to a piggyback contract with Hillsborough County RFP-24-24596.

The initial term of this Agreement, effective October 1, 2025, subject to City Commission approval, will be for a period of five years, for a total cost of $191,590. The total firm price includes the software subscription, hosting fees, and software interfaces for the five (5) year period. The cost for the initial term is included in the Public Safety IT proposed FY26 budget. All terms and conditions for this purchase will be governed by the Agreement and EPR's Scope of Services. The Agreement also contains one (1) additional twelve (12) month renewal subject to mutual written agreement of the parties, which will be subject to budget approval by the City Commission should the parties exercise the renewal option.

Staff recommended that the City Commission approve this Software Agreement with EPR for the purchase of a Fire Records Management System and authorize the appropriate City officials to execute all corresponding documents related to the purchase.

Deputy City Attorney Ramona Sirianni presented this item.

Motion: Commissioner Mike Musick moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Chad McLeod seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

The Commission discussed the new system's Bluetooth cardiac monitors, which can send information ahead to the hospital.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried 6-0.

Agreement for Engineering Design Services with Wright-Pierce, Inc. for the Southwest Wastewater Expansion Project

The City has experienced significant growth in the Southwest service area which has exceeded original design conditions for existing infrastructure, thereby necessitating upgrades to portions of its wastewater system. Based on preliminary analysis, Water Utilities needs to install approximately 1.5 miles of 20-inch sewer force main on the south side of Lakeland Linder International Airport along Pipkin Road. This project will also include design and construction of a third pump and upsizing of the existing two pumps, generator and other equipment at the English Oaks lift station.

City staff issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in accordance with the Consultant's Competitive Negotiation Act to select an engineering firm for the design of this work. On January 6, 2025, the City Commission approved a shortlist and authorized the Water Utilities Department to proceed with negotiating a contract with Wright-Pierce Inc., which was selected as the highest ranked engineering firm.

This project will be divided into 3 phases: Phase 1 (Preliminary Design), Phase 2 (Final Engineering Design), and Phase 3 (Construction). Phase 1 will be limited to the evaluation of possible routes for the sewer force main, determination of required pumping capacities, and identification of necessary upgrades to the existing English Oaks Lift Station.

The Agreement with Wright-Pierce is for Phase 1 only. Future phases will be presented to the City Commission for consideration and approval. Phase 1 will start immediately and is expected to take approximately 7 months at a lump sum cost of $144,424. An additional contingency amount of $20,000 is included in the Phase 1 budget for any necessary additions to the scope of work. Funds for this project are included in the Fiscal Year 2025 Water Utilities budget.

Staff recommended that the City Commission approve the Agreement with Wright-Pierce, Inc. for Phase 1 of the Southwest Sewer Upgrades Project and authorize the appropriate City officials to execute the Agreement.

Palmer Davis presented this item.

Motion: Commissioner Stephanie Madden moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Mike Musick seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

Commissioner Stephanie Madden noted that it is important to recognize what the Water team is up against to provide important water and wastewater services to the City.

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried 6-0.

*First Amendment to Interlocal Agreement with Polk County for Additional Se7en Wetlands Park Access

This was an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement with Polk County relating to Se7en Wetlands access and maintenance. In anticipation of completing Phase III of the Se7en Wetlands Trails project, the amendment modifies the agreement to include Mulberry Park as an additional access point for the public and incorporates associated maintenance responsibilities.

The City Commission previously approved the original Interlocal Agreement with the County on March 20, 2017. The current agreement includes public access to Se7en Wetlands via two Polk County parks - Loyce Harpe Park and Lakeland Highlands Scrub. The completion of Phase III will create another access point to the wetlands via Polk County's Mulberry Park, which will be added to the scope of the agreement. The amendment also provides corresponding updates to the City's rights and responsibilities under the agreement, including the installation and maintenance of (1) the necessary electrical lines and related infrastructure within Mulberry Park to service the City's gate/security system, and (2) a multi-use trail leading to the entrance to Se7en Wetlands Park.

Staff recommended that the City Commission approve the First Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement with Polk County for Se7en Wetlands Park and authorize the appropriate City officials to execute all necessary documents.

Action: The Commission approved this item as part of the Consent Agenda.

Operating Agreement with Lyft, Inc.

This was a proposed Operating Agreement with Lyft, Inc. (Lyft) for the operation of a transportation network service at Lakeland Linder International Airport (Airport). In response to increasing demand for rideshare services, the Airport has negotiated an agreement with Lyft to allow its drivers to provide pre-arranged transportation services at the Airport, while ensuring its operations comply with all applicable City regulations and maintain the integrity of Airport ground transportation services.

The Operating Agreement is non-exclusive, which enables the City to contract with other rideshare and/or transportation providers for similar services. The Operating Agreement, subject to City Commission approval, is for an initial term of one (1) year, effective April 7, 2025. Either party may terminate the Agreement for any reason upon thirty (30) days written notice. The Agreement also contains four (4) additional one (1) year automatic renewal provisions, unless either party sends written notice of its intent to terminate the Agreement at least thirty (30) days prior to the end of the then current term.

Pursuant to the Operating Agreement, Lyft is required to implement a Geofence, which is a virtual perimeter around the Airport, to manage its operations and notify affiliated drivers of Airport-specific procedures. All drivers for Lyft are required to undergo criminal background checks every three (3) years, maintain proper insurance and provide digital records verifying their credentials, including their identity, vehicle details and waybill information. Lyft is also required to indemnify and hold harmless the City from any liabilities and damages caused by its negligence, recklessness or intentionally wrongful conduct.

Lyft will pay the City a monthly "Per Trip Fee" of $4.00 when a driver picks up a passenger at the Airport. The Per Trip Fee is payable to the City within thirty (30) days after the close of each calendar month. Lyft is also responsible for submitting an operations report documenting the number of recorded trips for each month. The City has the right to audit Lyft's records to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions set forth in the Operating Agreement.

Staff recommended that the City Commission approve the Operating Agreement with Lyft and authorize the appropriate City officials to finalize and execute all corresponding documents consistent with the above-specified terms.

Ramona Sirianni presented this item.

Motion: Commissioner Stephanie Madden moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Bill Read seconded.

Mayor Bill Mutz asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments from the audience. The Commission discussed:

- Receiving an update halfway through the agreement
- Number of anticipated trips: 10 passengers per month
- Signage at the Airport concerning the rideshare program

Action: Mayor Bill Mutz called for the vote and the motion carried 6-0.

FINANCE DIRECTOR

*Acceptance of Annual Audit and Annual Comprehensive Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2024

The Audit Committee, comprised of the Mayor Pro-Tem, Internal Auditor, and Finance Director, met with the City's external audit firm, Forvis Mazars, on March 19, 2025, as a part of the required auditor communications process with City management.

During this meeting, Jeff Wolf, a partner with Forvis Mazars, provided the committee with his firm's responsibilities, discussed the City's accounting policies, and noted that there were no difficulties in the audit, no unusual accounting conventions, no disagreements with management, no audit adjustments and no findings or issues. This resulted in a clean or Unmodified Opinion from Forvis Mazars.

Staff recommended that the City Commission accept the Annual Audit report and Annual Comprehensive Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2024 from Forvis Mazars.

Action: The Commission approved this item as part of the Consent Agenda.

Verbal Report – Bond Hearing

Palmer Davis announced that the bond hearing, which was noticed for today, would occur on April 21, 2025.

UTILITY

Ordinances

Proposed 25-009; Amending Ordinance 6061; Establishing an Initial Set Up Administrative Fee for the "Pay As You Go" Program

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE ELECTRIC UTILITY PROVIDING RATES FOR MISCELLANEOUS FEES AND CHARGES; AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 6061 RELATING TO MISCELLANEOUS FEES AND CHARGES; ESTABLISHING AN INITIAL SET UP ADMINISTRATIVE FEE FOR THE "PAY AS YOU GO" PROGRAM; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; MAKING FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The foregoing is the title of an ordinance read for the first time by short title only. The Commission will hold the second reading and public hearing on April 21, 2025.

Resolutions – None

Miscellaneous – None

AUDIENCE

Multiuse Athletic Fields

The following people came forward to speak about their needs for multiuse athletic fields.

Marcos Fernandez of 1961 serves on the Board for The Tropics. They did not want to use fields spaced around the city. They wanted to have all their fields all in one location.

Chris Hansen with the Lakeland Gators youth football organization. The organization has been around since 1965. They have been at McGee Park since 2012 when they opened. They do not have and do not ask for an all-in-one facility. He did not feel they should be pushed out to grow another program.

Gerrod Slator said Lakeland is the second largest growing city in the country. This issue affects the children more than the adults. Three groups are sharing one location while one organization has a monopoly on all the other fields. He felt the old system needed to be revamped. He did not think the westside fields were a good environment.

Joni Kelly is a pastor at Discovery Church. His sons played football with the Lakeland Gators.

Rachel McCall of No Limits has full-time football and soccer youth programs. There is a need for youth sports. They are currently alternating fields. They make sure they clean up as they leave.

Mary Elly said her child plays for the Florida Tropics. One park is shared by several events. The north Lakeland fields and Lake Parker fields are not shared. It was difficult to move between fields.

Rachel Bowman is a long time Lakelander. She did not think the westside fields were safe to leave their children.

Owen Conlin is the General Manager of Swan City. They have 1,400 kids ages 3 through19.

President of Board for Swan City, Alicia James, said what is best for all the kids is what they are concerned about. They were all about working together. There are only 2 lighted fields at Lake Parker. They use every bit of that space and appreciate all the space.

Giradeau Gantt a coach from Lakeland Gators. A lot of the kids in their program look to their coaches as a mentor. Why does it matter what field you play on if it is really about inclusion.

Joriane Horning had kids in the Florida Tropics. She would like them to be able to grow the program. It is difficult to have children in different locations. The kids need to see the adults work together.

Kaley Hunter has a child at Swan City and a child at Tropics. It is important to be able to choose the club they want to play at. There is no reason that there cannot be fields for every club.

Lucas Teixeira is the director for The Tropics. There are a lot of great programs but only one program has a home, Swan City. They need additional fields to grow.

Mayor Bill Mutz offered a summary statement. The Commission appreciated the input. They will not decide here today. We are all partners. The Commission works hard to honor everyone. The City is not showing favoritism to one group over another. The City has an incredible staff who work towards solutions. In the meantime, we must teach our kids how to share and how to work together. He encouraged everyone to be open to all the needs that must be considered. The Commission works hard to honor everyone. He asked for space for the City to find a solution.

Bob Donahay said we have great passionate people here who love Lakeland and have a need for their leagues to grow. We do have an inventory problem and are continuing to work with all the leagues. McGee Park was founded for the dedicated use of the public at large. All donations they accept are without strings so that all parks are available to the public.

MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COMMISSION

Mayor Bill Mutz encouraged everyone to watch the Florida Gators win the basketball National Championship.

Commissioner Stephanie Madden offered comments to the soccer kids and parents. She thanked everyone for coming and for sharing without attacking the other leagues. We will not have an answer today but we would not have had this discussion if they had not brought it forward. She was hearing that the City needed more fields. She was grateful to those who came today and participated in this local government civic engagement. She asked if her colleagues had something to say to the soccer folks.

Commissioner Mike Musick appreciated everyone coming and conducting themselves so well. All we can control is the budget. It sounds like we have so many kids, someone is going to have to move. He wanted to make sure they put their effort where it was needed. Even before this we knew we were short on fields.

Mayor Bill Mutz explained the Commission's job is to decide if we want more fields included in the budget. Sometimes you cannot grow until there are more spaces available. Our staff can figure out how to maximize our resources in the best fashion.

Commissioner Chad McLeod said to the groups here today, we hear you. Give us time to work on this. We appreciate you attending and participating today. All of you are serving the community. He thanked the kids for attending this morning.

Commissioner Guy LaLonde thanked everyone for attending today, especially the youth. It is important for the youth to learn how to become actively involved and how to express their concerns and write their own letters. Give us some time to work on the problem. We have a great Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department. He is sure they can figure out a way forward.

Commissioner Bill Read: We hear you and we hope to help you out.

CALL FOR ADJOURNMENT – 12:18 p.m.

Kelly S. Koos, City Clerk

CITY OF LAKELAND FLORIDA
INCORPORATED JAN. 1 1885