LAKELAND CITY COMMISSION

Regular Session
July 6, 2026

The Lakeland City Commission met in Regular Session in the City Commission Chambers. Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley and Commissioners Chad McLeod, Terry Coney, Stephanie Madden, Ashley Troutman, and Guy LaLonde were present. Commissioner Mike Musick was absent. City Manager Shawn Sherrouse, City Attorney Palmer Davis, Finance Director Mike Brossart, and City Clerk Kelly Koos were present.

CALL TO ORDER - 9:00 A.M.

PRESENTATIONS

Information Technology Support for Public Safety (Oscar Torres, Information Technology Director)

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.

Action: Commissioner Ashley Troutman moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Terry Coney seconded and the motion carried 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (with any amendments)

*City Commission Minutes June 12-15, 2026
*Utility Committee Minutes June 12, 2026

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

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.

Lot Cleaning and Clearing

Motion: Commissioner Guy LaLonde moved to approve the assessments. Commissioner Stephanie Madden seconded.

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

The Commission discussed the how the cost is determined and why some properties had a nuisance abatement fee. The charge is higher if the lots must be picked up before they can be mowed. Repeating offenders are considered nuisance.

Action: Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley called for the vote and the motion carried 6-0.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinances (First Reading)

Proposed 26-018; Establishing a Temporary Moratorium on the Acceptance, Processing, Review and Approval of Applications for Development Permits, Development Orders and Other Approvals Related to Data Centers and Large Load Customers

> AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKELAND, FLORIDA RELATED TO DATA CENTERS AND LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS; ESTABLISHING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE ACCEPTANCE, PROCESSING, REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT PERMITS, DEVELOPMENT ORDERS AND OTHER APPROVALS RELATED TO DATA CENTERS AND LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS; DIRECTING THE REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF LAKELAND LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND OTHER REGULATIONS RELATING TO DATA CENTERS AND LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS; ESTABLISHING THE DURATION OF THE MORATORIUM;

MAKING FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the title and explained that the moratorium is a belt and suspenders approach. The City's Land Development Code (LDC) does not permit data centers currently. This was originally scheduled for July 6 and 20. The Ledger did not run the ad. He recommended they still take public comment today but again on July 20 and August 3. The Commission would act on August 3, 2026. This is a 12-month moratorium for the Commission to determine how they will handle data centers and large load customers. The ordinance carves out computer rooms required for regular business such as existing businesses. It will be decided by whether it serves offsite users or serves the business where it is located. The city has not provided permits for a data center or large load customers. LE and Water would not provide service for this use while the moratorium is in place.

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley explained the formal hearing will be July 20 and August 3. She explained the need for a speaker card and the 5-minute time limit. She called for Commission comments first.

Commissioner Chad McLeod thanked the Mayor for explaining the process. He thanked the City Attorney for carving out existing businesses. He asked the Planning staff for their thoughts on how this would be different from our normal planning process.

Urban Planning & Transportation Manager Chuck Barmby explained that the moratorium gave staff time to figure out what the City would be dealing with for a large-scale data center.

Palmer Davis explained that the moratorium also addresses large load customers which could be a customer in the industry. The City does not have any large load customers currently.

Commissioner Ashley Troutman asked if we don't have a code for data centers right now, how did staff reconcile the data centers on Providence Rd. 7-10 years ago.

Chuck Barmby explained that a lot of them were installed in spec warehouses. They were uses that were not consuming a lot of electricity and water. They were more in keeping with a typical industrial customer. If something is not listed in the LDC, it is presumed to not be allowed. The few data centers we have demand very little water or electricity so they are not a concern for the public. A large-scale data center is very different.

Commissioner Terry Coney asked staff to give a summary of how we got to this point. When the LkldNOW article came out, what was going on in the office?

Chuck Barmby explained that the City has a Development Review Team (DRT). They review concept plans to get an idea of what the development would need and what the permitting requirements would be. A Concept Plan was submitted for a 60-acre site, a portion of which would require an annexation. The concept review was just to allow staff to understand the developer's request.

Community & Economic Development Director Brian Rewis explained their current electric load is less than 1% and the water usage is like single family residents. The DRT process is to inform staff and the developer as to the requirements prior to spending money on engineered site plans.

Commissioner Ashley Troutman asked how much land is required for a large-scale data center.

Brian Rewis explained that staff has not done that research. One of the frustrations is the word data center is used for a closet with two servers and for a multi-acre facility. Hopefully the moratorium will allow time to develop definitions.

Commissioner Guy LaLonde thanked Brian Rewis for the update. What will happen during the moratorium?

Palmer Davis explained that staff will research, there will be workshops with the Commission and ultimately there will be a public hearing on an ordinance to amend the LDC.

Commissioner Stephanie Madden stated LE's largest customer is 18 megawatts. A data center would be 50 megawatts or more. Fort Meade's proposed data center was 1 gigawatt. That is larger than any of our production capacity. She requested representation from Lakeland Electric (LE), Polk Regional Water Cooperative (PRWC), Water Utilities, and Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) as this decision is made. She hoped those experts would be present at our next two meetings as we move through this process.

Palmer Davis explained Water Utilities and Lakeland Electric would not offer service to these developments during the moratorium.

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley appreciated the Commission's questions. This is a complex issue. We have a lot of public input. We are excited to hear from them. The largest users Lakeland has right now is 18 megawatts. There is no definition for a hyperscale data center. The project in Fort Meade is 1 gigawatt. That is much larger than the project requested for Lakeland. That much electricity is not available. This dialogue is critically important. She reminded the audience about the 5-minute time limit and the speaker card. This was not a time for debate. It was a time for the public to share their comments with the Commission.

Sam Romain, chairman of the Polk County GOP, stated that we the people do not want AI surveillance. He spoke against a data center. Who pays for the electricity? How are they going to provide their own electricity? What happens to water? They require a lot of water. We are already running dry. What about the neighbors living nearby and all the noise? This moratorium is homework before the test. Do not skip the homework. Ft. Meade skipped the homework and now their commissioners are facing a recall and a lawsuit. He encouraged no tax breaks. These are the wealthiest companies in human history. No secrecy. No hiding who is making the development request. Serious companies plan on 10 to 20-year timelines. Doing our homework will not scare them off. Clear rules will not scare them off. Protect the rate payers, the taxpayers, the water and our neighborhoods.

Spike Poma spoke against data centers. She discouraged Non-Disclosure Agreements. She called for more transparency. She thanked the Commission for having the public hearing. She urged the Commission to lean into this ordinance.

Jacqueline Bowman spoke against the data center. She warned the Commission about people establishing data centers in private residents.

Oscar Gines of Sunset Lakes thought the City should reject all large-scale data centers. The current developer is not a local resident and the only person who would benefit from the data center. It does not stimulate jobs. The water and energy usage needs more research. Data centers create dramatic noise pollution in the communities where they are built. It is too late for those communities but it is not too late for us. AI does not shorten the workday. It intensifies their workload. One man will absorb the profit while we absorb the impact. No must be no.

Robert Anzalone spoke against data centers. This moratorium protects the community and gives the city time to prepare. Other communities across the region are hitting the pause button. He urged the commission to pass the ordinance and visit other data centers and surrounding neighborhoods.

Mike Schmidt was here for the commission and would participate in discussion if desired. He encouraged the City to hire an independent consultant and process engineering firm who understands the process engineering of a data center. The Commission needs to be advised by a professional. They should review and confirm the engineering data provided in the proposal. That will give the Commission the proper data to approve or deny the development. You will then have both sides of the story. Their attorney will tell you their clients version of the truth. Demand the raw data before you decide. Allow your consultant to review the raw data before deciding.

Olivia Bienaime spoke about the moratorium. She objected earlier because the Commission was going to pass a moratorium that the public has not had the opportunity to review. The bits and pieces she saw was not a moratorium. She did not want to see exceptions in a moratorium. She felt there was already a pre-organized effort to put a data center in place. She addressed a State bill. It does not limit the number of data centers that can be built in Lakeland or Polk County.

Sarah Calamunci of Florida Citizens Alliance spoke against data centers. This issue is emotionally charged. Decisions should not be emotionally charged. Florida is not the right location for data centers. Florida is the lightning capital of the country. A lightning strike could cause wide scale outages. The humidity here is too high. We do not have the natural resources to support these facilities. We have burn bans and water restrictions. We should not add another enormous demand to an already strained resource. These centers are as loud as jets flying over. They produce that noise 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Put Lakeland first.

An anonymous speaker spoke against the data center.

Ashton Sharrett spoke against a data center. The public wanted a moratorium.

Tyler Lommiller of Tampa, FL was the developer for Project Swan. He wanted to share his vision of the project with the commissioners. The project is not an AI data center. It is a cloud data storage edge facility. It takes a while for data centers to be built out. They will not use any water for cooling. There is a wastewater treatment plant next door and would be willing to work with them to use wastewater for cooling. They would fund the joint agreement. They just started this process and they want to be partners with the City.

Jennifer Hardeman spoke against data centers

Kristie Poma spoke against the data center because of her health condition.

Brittney Singletary spoke against the data center. The City's infrastructure is already failing. This will increase stormwater failures. Developers should not hide behind LLCs. They should not be able to split their developments to add more data centers.

Jaxon Samples spoke against the data center. He asked for a ban on data centers. These data centers are not just for data. They are for surveillance He did not trust the Commission. He did not see the need to upscale police equipment. They want to enforce and watch over us.

Magdalene Dupree spoke against the data center. She believed the owner of the center would not be the tenant. They would look for a tenant. It is a speculative industry. She urged the commission to not provide tax incentives. They have a lot to gain by coming here. They come to small cities to sell capacity to local customers. How many businesses have high data storage needs. Who is going to fill this speculative capacity?

Patricia Crane spoke against the data center because of the environment. She read that data centers can only use fresh water for cooling, not treated water.

Ted Leffler of north Lakeland spoke against the data center. The Public Service Commission (PSC) required proof of need for generation over 75 megawatts. A 50-megawatt limit means a building could slide in at 49 megawatts and do multiple buildings or include solar to get their 150-megawatt center. The limit is a tough thing to judge. Remember utilities must meet their load requirement plus 15% for reserves. He encouraged the Commission to review LE's 10-year site plan.

Deva Simmons spoke against the data center.

Donna Schichtil of Westwood Circle spoke against the data center. Florida is facing a drought.

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley closed public comment.

Palmer Davis reminded everyone there were two more public hearings July 20, 2026 and August 3, 2026.

Resolutions

Resolution 6069; Proposed 26-033; 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 Guy LaLonde seconded.

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Upon roll call vote Commissioners Chad McLeod, Stephanie Madden, Ashley Troutman, Guy LaLonde and Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley voted aye. Ayes-five. Nays-zero. The motion carried 5-0. Commissioner Terry Coney was absent at this time.

Resolution 6070; Proposed 26-034; Authorizing the Transfer of Certain City-Owned Properties to the Lakeland Community Redevelopment Agency

> A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKELAND, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES TO THE LAKELAND COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY; MAKING FINDINGS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the title and explained these were properties the City owned that were adjacent to CRA owned properties. The idea was to combine them to sell for residential infill development. They are not part of the land bank program. The City usually acquires property for unpaid taxes.

Motion: Commissioner Guy LaLonde moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Chad McLeod seconded.

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Upon roll call vote Commissioners Guy LaLonde, Ashley Troutman, Stephanie Madden, Terry Coney, Chad McLeod, and Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley voted aye. Ayes-six. Nays-zero. The motion carried 6-0.

Resolution 6071; Proposed 26-035; Approving a Revolving Loan in a Principal Amount Not Exceeding $35,000,000 to Finance Costs of the Western Trunk Sewer Line Project

> A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAKELAND, FLORIDA APPROVING A REVOLVING LOAN IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OUTSTANDING AT ANY ONE TIME NOT EXCEEDING $35,000,000 AND PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF ITS SUBORDINATE REVOLVING REVENUE NOTE, SERIES 2026 TO EVIDENCE SUCH LOAN TO FINANCE THE COSTS OF THE 2026 PROJECT AND PAY COSTS OF ISSUANCE; APPROVING THE FORM OF A SUBORDINATE REVOLVING CREDIT AGREEMENT AND A SUBORDINATE REVOLVING REVENUE NOTE, SERIES 2026 TO BE ISSUED THEREUNDER; AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF THE SALE OF SAID NOTE ON A NEGOTIATED BASIS TO TRUIST COMMERCIAL EQUITY, INC.; PROVIDING OTHER DETAILS WITH RESPECT THERETO; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the title.

Motion: Commissioner Ashley Troutman moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Terry Coney seconded.

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

Commissioner Stephanie Madden asked the Finance Director to give an idea about funding for this project.

Mike Brossart explained the hope was to pay as you go as the water utility has done for many years. The utility needed a larger amount up front thus the need for the short-term funding. The rate would be approximately 3.38 %.

Palmer Davis explained there is a certificate the Commission will need to sign to certify they complied with sunshine and there was no conflict of interest.

Action: Upon roll call vote Commissioners Chad McLeod, Terry Coney, Stephanie Madden, Ashley Troutman, Guy LaLonde and Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley voted aye. Ayes-six. Nays-zero. The motion carried 6-0.

Miscellaneous

Proposed Five Year Consolidated Plan & One Year Action Plan with Projected Use of Funds for the 52nd Year of CDBG and the 32nd Year of HOME

These are the recommendations for the City's Five-Year Consolidated Plan and One-Year Action plan with Projected Use of Funds for the 52nd Year of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and 32nd Year of Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) programs. The program year will begin October 1, 2026 and end September 30, 2027.

The recommendations continue to emphasize benefits to low- and moderate-income residents of the City, with funding directed to housing rehabilitation, home purchase assistance, new construction through the HOME Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO) program, code enforcement, and public services ranging from summer recreation to services for the elderly.

For program year 2026-2027, HUD has issued awards to the City of Lakeland of $846,774 for the CDBG program and $399,503 for the HOME program.

Public meetings on the Plan were held on May 18 and June 18. Public hearings will also be held on July 6 and August 3, 2026. The public review and comment period runs from July 6 to August 4, 2026. The One Year Action Plan & Projected Use of Funds are due to be filed in the Jacksonville offices of HUD on or before August 15, 2026.

Mike Smith Housing Program Manager presented this item. A copy of his presentation is on file in the agenda packet. This is the first of two public hearings.

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley congratulated Mr. Smith on his work and leveraging the right kind of partners.

Mr. Smith explained the City leaves the plan open so we can adapt to the changes as they occur.

Commissioner Terry Coney asked for an explanation of the My Home Repair Program.

Mike Smith explained the program is open to low-income households. There is no age restriction. People can apply through the online application portal. The City is continually doing rehab projects. We prioritize some emergencies. We have a list that never ending of applicants awaiting funding.

Commissioner Terry Coney asked about the work with Habitat for Humanity.

Mike Smith has been in contact with them and working on a few projects. He does try to work with nonprofits supporting housing in Lakeland.

Commissioner Ashley Troutman had a series of questions.

1. Why does Lakeland defer to the state for aid housing funds? The City has not had any projects that would utilize that funding. We deferred funding back to the State to make sure it gets used.
2. Does the City coordinate with homeless agencies? The City coordinates with homeless agencies and those who work with people in danger of homelessness.
3. How well does the City coordinate with the neighborhood association coalition? Housing works with them and sometimes speaks at their meetings.
4. What are the tangible things Housing has done to expand economic opportunity? Housing provides down payment assistance, which provides homeowner opportunities. Financial education for clients is included with the down payment assistance. Housing would like to provide additional financial education to help folks generate wealth in their homes.

Commissioner Stephanie Madden asked about the dates for the new affordable units. Have additional units been built beyond the 500?

Mike Smith explained the numbers covered the last 6-7 years. The 500 units includes those under construction or about to begin construction. He is currently meeting with developers of affordable multi-family. There are folks still interested in building in Lakeland.

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley asked for public comments. There were none.

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Recess/Convene: The Commission recessed the Regular Session and convened at the Community Redevelopment Agency.

Resolutions

Resolution CRA2026-001; Proposed CRA26-001; Authorizing the Transfer of Certain CRA-Owned Properties to the City of Lakeland

> A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKELAND, FLORIDA, ACTING IN ITS CAPACITY AS THE LAKELAND COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY, AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF CRA-

OWNED PROPERTIES TO THE CITY OF LAKELAND; MAKING FINDINGS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Palmer Davis read the title. This would deed CRA property to the City . These properties have utility conflicts.

Motion: Commissioner Ashley Troutman moved to approve the resolution. Commissioner Chad McLeod seconded.

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Upon roll call vote Commissioners Chad McLeod, Terry Coney, Stephanie Madden, Ashley Troutman, Guy LaLonde and Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley voted aye. Ayes-six. Nays-zero. The motion carried 6-0.

Miscellaneous

Purchase Agreement for 841 W. Lemon Street

This was a Purchase Agreement between the Lakeland Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and Bay Area Lending Services LLC for the purchase of one parcel located at 841 W. Lemon Street between Lake Beulah Drive and W. Main Street located within the Downtown CRA district.

Through this acquisition, the CRA would add a strategically located Downtown West parcel containing a historic 1913 structure within the area of the former Moorehead community. The acquisition would support future infill redevelopment and planned public improvements near Lake Beulah, while advancing broader redevelopment objectives for Downtown West.

Under the Agreement, the CRA would purchase the parcel for $198,000, with a $5,000 deposit and a 120-day due diligence period. During that period, the CRA may terminate the Agreement in its sole discretion and receive a full refund of its deposit. If the CRA does not terminate, closing will occur within 30 days after the due diligence period expires. The CRA Advisory Board unanimously recommended approval of the proposed purchase at its June 4, 2026.

Staff recommended that the City Commission, acting as the Lakeland Community Redevelopment Agency, approve the purchase of the subject property and authorize the appropriate CRA officials to execute all documents necessary to finalize the transaction.

Assistant City Attorney Alex Landback presented this item.

Motion: Commissioner Terry Coney moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Stephanie Madden seconded.

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley asked for comments from the CRA and the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

Commissioner Guy LaLonde asked about the significance of the purchase.

CRA Manager Valerie Vaught explained this was at the end of Lemon St and Lake Buelah. This is one of the last remaining structures of the Moorehead Community. This would be a strategic redevelopment opportunity for the Moorehead Community. They need to do their due diligence first. The CRA needed to first secure structural integrity before making further plans for the building.

Commissioner Ashley Troutman asked if the CRA considered tagging the homes that were moved out of Moorehead into northwest Lakeland.

Ms. Vaught responded there was exciting news coming soon concerning the midtown historical survey.

~~**Action: Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley called for the vote and the motion carried 6-0.**~~

Action: Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley called for the vote and the motion carried 5-1 with Commissioner Ashley Troutman voting nay.

Purchase Agreement for 927 N. Tennessee Avenue

This was a Purchase Agreement between the Lakeland Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and Pro-Buy GSN LLC for the purchase of one parcel located at 927 N. Tennessee Avenue between Plum Street and Memorial Boulevard located within the Midtown CRA district.

The property is located within the Mass Market area and is being acquired as part of the CRA's broader redevelopment efforts. Purchasing this property will allow the CRA to evaluate the site in connection with future redevelopment planning, address blighted or underutilized conditions, and support future infill development, private investment, and neighborhood business activity.

Under the Agreement, the CRA would purchase the parcel for $186,300, which is consistent with an opinion of value prepared for the CRA as part of a larger accumulation of parcels for redevelopment. The Agreement requires a $5,000 deposit and provides for a 90-day due diligence period. During that period, the CRA may terminate the Agreement in its sole discretion and receive a full refund of its deposit. If the CRA does not terminate, closing will occur sixty days after the due diligence period expires, subject to the Agreement's time-computation provisions. The CRA Advisory Board unanimously recommended approval of the proposed purchase.

Staff recommended that the City Commission, acting as the Lakeland Community Redevelopment Agency, approve the purchase of the subject property and authorize the appropriate CRA officials to execute all documents necessary to finalize the transaction.

Alex Landback presented this item.

Motion: Commissioner Guy LaLonde moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Terry Coney seconded.

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

The Commission discussed other properties in the area the CRA would like to acquire. Ms. Vaught is working on additional negotiations.

Action: Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley called for the vote and the motion carried 6-0.

CITY MANAGER

Letter of Support for US 92 (Memorial Boulevard) Project Development and Environmental Study from Walker Avenue to SR 33 (Lakeland Hills Boulevard)

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) conducted the Lakeland Area Alternatives Analysis (LAAA) to evaluate travel demand, identify roadway operational/safety, bicycle/pedestrian and transit project concepts in an area bound by US 92 (Memorial Boulevard) on the south, State Road 33 (Lakeland Hills Boulevard) on the east, Interstate 4 on the north and State Road 539 (Kathleen Road) on the west.

Throughout the course of the LAAA study, City staff was informed that a full reconstruction of US 92 (Memorial Boulevard) was needed between Wabash Avenue and Gary Road to address the failure of the concrete driving surface. In anticipation of this significant State investment, the City Commission adopted Resolution No. 5495 in October 2018 outlining the City's priorities for each of the corridors studied in the LAAA, including for the Memorial Boulevard project. At the time the resolution was adopted, the priorities identified included lane elimination between Walker Avenue and US 98 (Florida Avenue); intersection improvements at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, Florida Avenue and Lakeland Hills Boulevard; and a bicycle/pedestrian overpass over Kathleen Road/CSX Railroad. These improvements are included in a comprehensive Corridor Action Plan with strategies to address substantial safety, bicycle/pedestrian and operational deficiencies identified through stakeholder engagement and a roadway safety audit through which participants walked the entire corridor to view existing conditions in person.

In response to Resolution No. 5495, FDOT programmed funding for a Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study on Memorial Boulevard between Walker

Avenue and Lakeland Hills Boulevard to (1) evaluate the areawide impacts of eliminating the existing auxiliary lanes to take the roadway from a six-lane cross section to a four-lane cross-section; (2) provide an opportunity for the installation of multi-use trails; and (3) enhance medians and other treatments that are supported by the Lakeland Comprehensive Plan, Lakeland Community Redevelopment Agency's US 92 Economic Development Strategy and TPO's Envision 2050 long-range transportation plan and Vision Zero initiatives. The PD&E study is currently underway with public meetings being scheduled for late-summer or early-fall 2026.

In support of these efforts, FDOT has requested a letter from the City re-affirming Resolution No. 5495 and supporting consideration of a four-lane cross-section on Memorial Boulevard between Walker Avenue and Florida Avenue during the PD&E public outreach process. The City Commission will be asked to consider a separate future Resolution prior to the PD&E Study's completion, with final recommendations, considering the entire technical analysis and public input that is forthcoming.

Staff requested that the City Commission consider a letter to FDOT regarding the repurpose of lanes between Walker Avenue and Florida Avenue, intersection improvements at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, Florida Avenue and Lakeland Hills Boulevard, and a bicycle/pedestrian overpass over Kathleen Road/CSX Railroad.

Staff recommended the City Commission authorize the Mayor to send a letter to FDOT on the City Commission's behalf.

Shawn Sherrouse presented this item to the Commission.

Motion: Commissioner Ashley Troutman moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Terry Coney seconded.

Chuck Barmby gave a presentation on this project. A copy of his presentation is on file in the agenda packet. The intent of the letter would be to reaffirm the resolution passed in support of the project.

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

The Commission discussed:

- The two different projects in the area.
- This request is tied to the construction of Memorial Blvd. which is within Midtown.
- The letter reaffirms FDOT that this remains a priority for the City of Lakeland.
- The reduction of lanes. FDOT has found that the corridor does not necessarily comply with ADA. There is a better way to accommodate all users of the roadway.
- The MLK intersection. FDOT is delaying their public hearings to consider other options and intersections.

Action: Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

RFP No. 2026-RFP-057 Shortlist for Recruitment Services

On June 1, 2026, the Purchasing Division issued Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 2026-RFP057 to establish a pre-qualified pool of executive search firms to conduct nationwide recruitments for critical leadership positions throughout the organization. These recruitments will support both general fund and enterprise fund departments.

The City sought firms with demonstrated experience recruiting senior leaders for both traditional municipal government functions and specialized enterprise operations, including electric and water utilities, airport operations, and event venue management. Firms were permitted to submit proposals for traditional local government recruitments, specialized enterprise operations, or both.

Selected firms will provide comprehensive recruitment services, including position assessment, candidate outreach and recruitment, applicant screening, interview support, compensation benchmarking, background investigations, reference checks, and onboarding assistance.

Twenty firms responded to the RFP. A selection committee evaluated each proposal based on the following criteria:

- Qualifications, experience, and areas of recruitment expertise
- Project team
- Search methodology
- Timeline
- Fee proposal
- References

After independently reviewing and scoring each firm's qualifications, the selection committee short-listed the following firms for inclusion in the City's pre-qualified recruitment pool, listed in ranked order:

	Company Name	**Location**
1.	Strategic Government Resources, Inc.	Keller, TX
2.	Sumter Local Government Consulting	Alpharetta, GA
3.	Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc.	Maitland, FL
4.	Energists Holdings, LLC	Houston, TX
5.	Alliance Resource Consulting, LLC	La Palma, CA
6.	Motus Recruiting and Staffing	Tigard, OR
7.	Ready Set Exec, Inc.	Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
8.	Apptad, Inc.	Alpharetta, GA

Selection into the pool of firms does not guarantee award of work or payments to any single firm. Contracts will be entered into on an as-needed basis and funded by the requesting department's operating budget at the time a recruitment is authorized. Staff recommended the City Commission approve the shortlist and ranking of firms, and authorize the appropriate City officials to negotiate, execute and administer contracts and related documents with the selected firms as needed.

Shawn Sherrouse presented this item to the Commission. This would establish a pre-qualified pool of search firms that would help fill vacancies when needed. The selection committee shortlisted the firms. Any agreement that would be above the City Manager's spending authority would come back for Commission approval.

Motion: Commissioner Chad McLeod moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Terry Coney seconded.

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley called for the vote and the motion carried 6-0.

CITY ATTORNEY

Ordinances (First Reading)

Proposed 26-019; Change in Zoning from LD (Limited Development) to RA-1 (Single-Family Residential) on Approximately 16.93 Acres Located at 1212 Hallam Drive

> AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ZONING; MAKING FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN ZONING FROM LD (LIMITED DEVELOPMENT) TO RA-1 (SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) ON APPROXIMATELY 16.93 ACRES LOCATED AT 1212 HALLAM DRIVE; PROVIDING CONDITIONS; FINDING CONFORMITY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Chuck Barmby gave a presentation, a copy of which is on file in the agenda packet. The green space near the cul-de-sac was maintenance access to the stormwater retention pond. The stormwater facility will be reviewed during the construction and subdivision plat approval. The developer could have built up to 90 homes under the existing land use.

Commissioner Chad McLeod left the meeting at 12:19 p.m.

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 July 20, 2026.

Proposed 26-020; Change in Zoning from LD (Limited Development) to I-2 (Medium Industrial) and a Change from Suburban Neighborhood (SNH) to Suburban Special Purpose (SSP) Context District, on Approximately 3.87 Acres Located at 559 Laura Road

> AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ZONING; MAKING FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR A CHANGE IN ZONING FROM LD (LIMITED DEVELOPMENT) TO I-2 (MEDIUM INDUSTRIAL) ON APPROXIMATELY 3.87 ACRES LOCATED AT 559 LAURA ROAD; CHANGING THE CONTEXT DISTRICT FOR THE PROPERTY TO SUBURBAN SPECIAL PURPOSE (SSP); PROVIDING CONDITIONS; FINDING CONFORMITY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Chuck Barmby gave a presentation, a copy of which is on file in the agenda packet.

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 July 20, 2026.

Miscellaneous

***Waiver of 5:01 p.m. Hearing Requirement**

Pursuant to Florida Statutes, one of the two upcoming public hearings on the data center/large load customer moratorium ordinance will need to be held after 5:00 p.m. unless such requirement is waived by a majority plus one vote of the Commission. It is recommended that the City Commission exercise this statutory waiver option and hold both public hearings on the proposed ordinance at the City Commission's regularly scheduled meeting time.

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

Supplemental Agreement #2 for Professional Services with Patel, Greene & Associates, LLC for the Design Phase of the State Road 37 (South Florida Avenue) Project from Ariana Street to Lime Street

This was Supplemental Agreement #2 for Professional Services with Patel, Greene & Associates, LLC (PGA) for the Design Phase of the State Road 37 (South Florida Avenue) Project from Ariana Street to Lime Street. The City Commission approved a professional services agreement with PGA for the design phase of the State Road 37 project in February 2025. The project will remove the existing traffic separators on the roadway and establish a three-lane typical section with 11-foot travel lanes, type F curb and gutter, and widened sidewalks along each side of the roadway. The project also includes replacement of existing traffic signals, drainage infrastructure improvements, ADA upgrades, corridor lighting, and streetscape enhancements within the Dixieland corridor.

The original scope of services included design work to replace portions of the City's potable water infrastructure within the project limits. Supplemental Agreement #2 will expand this scope during the utility coordination process to include replacement of additional sections of water main, service laterals and sanitary sewer infrastructure. The original scope also included design hours to introduce hardscape, decorative lighting, and basic landscaping features into the project. The Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) has engaged numerous business owners, residents, and stakeholders of the Dixieland neighborhood and has discovered a strong desire to establish a distinct streetscaping palette within the community. As a result, the CRA has requested inclusion of two different tree species, placed at alternating intervals throughout the project. To properly cultivate and maintain the landscaping, the City's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department has requested the addition of irrigation systems. The CRA has also requested decorative lighting fixtures and architectural paver features that would be unique to the Dixieland district.

PGA has provided a proposal to incorporate the additional utility work and new streetscaping features into the project's construction documents. The cost to include the additional water and wastewater utility work is $83,890.71 and is funded within Water Utilities' current fiscal year budget. The additional design cost for the streetscape enhancements is $169,064.54 and is included within the CRA's current fiscal year budget. The total cost of Supplemental Agreement No. 2 is $252,955.25. Approval of Supplemental Agreement No. 2 will result in an increase in the total cost of PGA's professional services from $1,899,969.63 to $2,152,924.88.

Staff recommended that the City Commission approve Supplemental Agreement #2 for Professional Services with Patel, Greene & Associates, LLC and authorize the appropriate City officials to execute the Supplemental Agreement on behalf of the City.

Palmer Davis presented this item to the Commission.

Motion: Commissioner Terry Coney moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Stephanie Madden seconded.

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley asked for comments from the Commission and the audience.

The Commission discussed funding. The City will fund the pavers, decorative lighting and street trees. FDOT will fund road infrastructure. The entire road is being reconstructed, including water utilities infrastructure, and stormwater drainage.

Beverly Copeland expressed concern about pavers moving around and becoming uneven and about the bottle brush trees, which she thought were messy.

The City will provide irrigation for the trees. The City will put concrete under the pavers to eliminate pop ups.

Action: Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley called for the vote and the motion carried 5-0.

Utility Easement to Tampa Electric Company for Se7en Wetlands Welcome and Education Center

This proposed utility easement with Tampa Electric Company ("TECO") was for the extension of electric service to the Se7en Wetlands Welcome and Education Center. The City is proceeding with construction and TECO requires a utility easement within the Wetlands property for the installation of underground primary electric facilities serving the new Education Center.

The easement area will be fifteen feet wide, lying seven and one-half feet on each side of the centerline of the facilities as installed or constructed by TECO. The easement includes standard utility provisions as to vegetation trimming or removal, restrictions on improvements within the easement area, underground facility damage prevention requirements, and relocation of facilities at the City's expense if relocation is requested by the City.

Staff recommended that the City Commission approve the utility easement with TECO and authorize the appropriate City officials to execute all corresponding documents.

Alex Landback presented this item to the Commission.

Motion: Commissioner Ashley Troutman moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Terry Coney seconded.

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

The Commission discussed:

- Funding - moving forward without the requested State funding. The State funding was for interior educational materials only. No additional personnel were requested. All construction funding was in place. No General Fund or property tax money will be used for that facility.
- Power lines – The power line installation will not affect the berm.

Action: Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley called for the vote and the motion carried 5-0.

Agreement with Strickland Construction, Inc. for Construction Services for Concessions Building Renovation at Peterson Park

This Agreement with Strickland Construction, Inc. (Strickland) was for renovation of the concessions building at Peterson Park, located at 3700 Cleveland Heights Blvd., Lakeland, FL 33803.

The project includes renovation of the men's and women's restrooms, concession kitchen, and storage area, as well as construction of a family toilet room and storage closet, including wall and ceiling paint, floor tile, toilet accessories, toilet partitions, exhaust fans, kitchen exhaust hood, plumbing, and light fixtures. Peterson Park and the concession building opened to the public in 1985, and the concession building has not been renovated since that time. Construction will begin within fifteen days of approval of the Agreement and issuance of the Notice to Procced, and final completion will occur no later than three months from the date of commencement of construction.

The City's Purchasing Division issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the project in March 2026 and received proposals from five firms, listed below in the order in which they were ranked by the Selection Committee based on their experience, pricing proposal and proposed project schedule:

1. Strickland Construction, Inc., Lakeland, FL……………….. $381,771.00
2. Axecel Construction, Tampa, FL………………………….…$317,599.34
3. NuJak Companies, Inc. Lakeland, FL………………………$528,337.56
4. Dones Construction, LLC, Apollo Beach, FL………………$440,270.03
5. SEMCO Construction, Inc., Bartow, FL…………………….$498,950.00

Strickland was ranked highest by the selection committee based on the evaluation criteria and after local preference was applied. Strickland's pricing proposal of $381,771.00 includes all labor, material, equipment, temporary protection, supervision, and administration necessary to complete the work in accordance with the project specifications and requirements. City staff requests a contingency amount of three percent ($11,500.00) for any unforeseen conditions, for a total project amount of $393,271.00. This project is funded by the Capital Improvement Program/Public Improvement Fund ADA funding and the FY 2027 Public Improvement Fund with Parks & Recreation District 1 impact fees.

Staff recommended that the City Commission award of RFP No. 2026-RFP-029 to Strickland Construction, Inc. for the Peterson Park concession building remodel and authorize the appropriate City officials to execute the construction agreement in the amount of $393,271.00.

Assistant City Attorney Katie Prenoveau presented this item to the Commission.

Motion: Commissioner Stephanie Madden moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Terry Coney seconded.

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley called for the vote and the motion carried 5-0.

FINANCE DIRECTOR – None

UTILITY

Ordinances (First Reading)

Proposed 26-021; Establishing Lakeland Electric Rate Classifications, Rates and Fees; Miscellaneous Revisions; Repealing Ordinances 6061 and 6089

> AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE ELECTRIC UTILITY; PROVIDING FOR AVAILABILITY OF SERVICE AND CONDITIONS THEREOF; ESTABLISHING RATE CLASSIFICATIONS; ESTABLISHING RATES FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE BY THE CITY OF LAKELAND; ESTABLISHING A SURCHARGE FOR CUSTOMERS RECEIVING SERVICE OUTSIDE THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF LAKELAND; REMOVING AN OBSOLETE RATE CLASSIFICATION FOR FIRM STANDBY AND SUPPLEMENTAL ELECTRIC SERVICE; ESTABLISHING GENERAL PROVISIONS; ESTABLISHING A METHODOLOGY TO IMPOSE A FUEL CHARGE; PROVIDING RATES AND GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR PRIVATE AREA LIGHTING; PROVIDING FOR AN NVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE COST CHARGE; PROVIDING GENERAL PROVISIONS OF MEDICALLY ESSENTIAL SERVICE FOR RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS; ESTABLISHING A DEMAND CHARGE FOR CUSTOMERS WITH SOLAR SYSTEMS AFTER JANUARY 1, 2026; PROVIDING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RIDER FOR QUALIFIED CUSTOMERS; REMOVING THE EXPIRED RATE FOR SMART GRID IMPLEMENTATION; PROVIDING RATES FOR MISCELLANEOUS FEES AND CHARGES; ESTABLISHING A RATE INCREASE SUFFICIENT TO SUSTAIN A FINANCIALLY SELF-SUPPORTING ELECTRIC UTILITY; REPEALING ORDINANCE 6061 AND 6089; PROVIDINGDEFINITIONS; 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 July 20, 2026.

Resolutions – None

Miscellaneous

Agreements for Breaker Maintenance & Refurbishment Services with Circuit Breaker Sales, LLC and Integrated Power Services, LLC

These Agreements with Circuit Breaker Sales, LLC and Integrated Power Services, LLC are for breaker maintenance, inspection, testing, refurbishment, repair and associated services for low and medium voltage breakers supporting Lakeland Electric’s operations. These services are necessary to maintain breaker reliability, reduce the risk of equipment failure, support safe plant operation, and minimize outage duration during planned and emergency maintenance activities.

Accordingly, the City's Purchasing Department issued Request for Proposal No. 2026-RFP-010 (RFP), seeking qualified contractors to provide breaker maintenance and refurbishment services. The following 5 contractors listed below submitted proposals in response to the City's RFP.

Vendor	**Location**
Circuit Breaker Sales, LLC	Lakeland, FL
Electrical Engineering Enterprises	Tampa, FL
Integrated Power Services, LLC	Lakeland, FL
RESA Services, LLC	Orlando, FL
Rexel	Tampa, FL

Following evaluation of proposals by the Selection Committee comprised of City staff, both Circuit Breaker Sales LLC and Integrated Power Services, LLC were determined to be the most responsive responsible contractors capable of providing the required services in accordance with the City's specifications and best met the operational needs of Lakeland Electric. Since breaker refurbishment and maintenance services are outage-critical and require timely turnaround to support plant reliability, operational continuity, and outage schedules, Lakeland Electric staff is seeking to enter into Agreements with 2 contractors, which will enable Lakeland Electric to distribute breaker work accordingly to reduce turnaround time, minimize schedule risk, and provide operational flexibility to assign specific breaker types or work scopes based on vendor expertise, availability, and performance. Maintaining multiple approved contractors will also provide continuity of service in the event of scheduling conflicts, resource limitations, or performance concerns, while supporting competitive pricing and responsiveness.

Pursuant to the Agreements, both contractors will provide services in accordance with the City's RFP and their respective proposals that include breaker inspection, diagnostics, maintenance, refurbishment, testing, repair, replacement parts, and associated technical support services required to maintain critical electrical infrastructure throughout Lakeland Electric's facilities. The Agreements with Circuit Breaker Sales, LLC and Integrated Power Services, LLC will be utilized on an as needed basis for planned outages, emergency repairs, and ongoing system maintenance activities.

Subject to City Commission approval, the initial term of the Agreement shall be for a one-year period, with four additional one-year renewal options, subject to mutual written agreement of the parties. The Agreement shall provide for expenditures on an as-needed basis in an annual not-to-exceed amount of $200,000.00. Funding for the initial 1 year term is included in Lakeland Electric's FY26 budget. Funding for the remaining 4 renewal options, if exercised, shall not exceed $800,000.00, subject to annual budget approval by the City Commission in subsequent budget years.

It is recommended that the City Commission approve Agreements with Circuit Breaker Sales, LLC and Integrated Power Services, LLC for breaker maintenance and refurbishment services on an as-needed basis and authorize the appropriate City staff to issue purchase orders for service and execute all corresponding documents related to the Agreements.

Deputy City Attorney Ramona Sirianni presented this item to the Commission.

Motion: Commissioner Stephanie Madden moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Ashley Troutman seconded.

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley asked for comments from the Commission and the audience. There were no comments.

Action: Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley called for the vote and the motion carried 5-0.

Voting Delegate for the 2026 Florida League of Cities Conference

The Florida League of Cities (FLC) Annual Conference will be held at the Diplomat Beach Resort in Hollywood, Florida, from August 13-15, 2026. This conference will provide valuable educational opportunities to help Florida's municipal officials serve their citizenry more effectively.

The FLC ask that each member municipality sending delegates to the Annual Conference designate one elected official to serve as its Voting Delegate and cast the municipality's votes at the Annual Business Meeting which will be held on Saturday, August 15, 2026. The Voting Delegate designated by each municipality will vote on all official business matters brought before the League membership and requiring a vote during the Business Meeting. Matters such as the election of League leadership, adoption of resolutions and any other official business matters affecting the League may be voted on during the Business Meeting.

In accordance with the League's by-laws, the number of votes allocated to each municipality is determined based upon population. The League will use the latest Florida Estimates of Population as published by the University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research.

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley presented this item to the Commission.

Action: Commissioner Stephanie Madden moved to appoint Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley as the voting delegate. Commissioner Ashley Troutman seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

AUDIENCE

Harlem Turner spoke about his dissatisfaction with the Lakeland Housing Authority.

Olivia Bienaime asked for a complete moratorium to be submitted publicly in a place where the public can see it. People here are talking about infrastructure and flock cameras. The City has officials in the system that are using City tools for personal vendettas. There are things going on within the systems that is criminal activity. If we have a larger infrastructure there will be tremendous criminal activity that will go unnoticed.

Deva Simmons, candidate for Congress District 18, asked if the Commission has considered having 1 of the 2 meetings in the evening so the public can participate.

Michael Joseph spoke about St. Luke's. The Commission needs to do a better job. He complained about the elevators at St. Luke's not working properly. Something needs to be done.

Palmer Davis explained to the audience where they could find the ordinance for the moratorium.

MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COMMISSION

Commissioner Terry Coney:

- Spoke with Academy Prep Students on June 19th and discussed the history of the Juneteenth holiday.
- Attended the Jazz Hamilton Concert. Great concert.
- Attended Air Force Band Concert. The theme was A More Perfect Union.
- Data Centers – Cities across the country are grappling with data centers. Each one is working to best serve the citizens.

Commissioner Stephanie Madden:

- Suggested the City provide instructions on how to find videos or agenda items on the website. Maybe post the instructions on social media.
- APPA (American Public Power Association): It was valuable to hear at the APPA Conference how utilities are grappling with demands for large supplies of power. The will attend the FMEA (Florida Municipal Electric Association) conference next week. She was grateful for the effort LE makes to send folks to those conferences.
- Budget Workshops - These will be important ahead of the vote on the property tax referendum. It is important to help the public understand we cannot comingle funds. It would not be wise for any of us to say we are not willing to put up a for sale sign in some of our Parks & Recreation facilities.
- Anna Rodriguez of 601 Laurel Lane has been working with Tess Schwartz in Traffic. The City is counting speeders on Laurel Lane. She has an elderly blind neighbor and there are many children living on the street. They have submitted a petition and would like to be made a cul-de-sac instead of a through street.

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley:

- Thanked Commissioner Stephanie Madden for raising the property tax issue. It was disappointing news to hear we did not get 3 of the 4 appropriations the City of Lakeland requested.
- Thanked Commissioner Stephanie Madden for her idea of the navigation instructions for the public. There are social media sites that say they are City of Lakeland but they are not the official City of Lakeland sites. They are satirical sites. That is frustrating. We are all inundated with information and our social media feeds magnify our interests which creates an echo chamber.

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley left the meeting at 1:24 p.m.

Commissioner Ashley Troutman:

- Asked to correct his vote on the purchase of 841 W Lemon St. He wanted the record to show his vote was nay. The final vote was 5-1.
- Support Staff - corruption does exist in suits and ties, however, City staff is faithful and does a good job of communicating with the public. He thanked City staff for their work and communication to the public. City staff is responsive.
- Data Center - He wanted to bring some calm to what the community is facing. Developers do need large swaths of land to develop a hyperscale data center. They need to meet specific requirements. Developers understand the limitations of the Lakeland Florida environment. City staff are faithful stewards of the resources we have in Lakeland. City staff and elected leaders do not have private access to resources. We are on the same team. We are working diligently on the process. Your City is working diligently to protect water and electric resources and the water permit.

Mayor Pro Tem Guy LaLonde:

- Congratulated Commissioner Stephanie Madden for receiving the 2026 Policy Maker Award.
- Data Center - We will build off the moratorium ordinance and do what needs to be done to protect resources.
- APPA - They spent every day of the APPA conference in classes.
- Budget - the property tax reduction would be 23% of the General Fund revenue. The City has the potential of losing services.

CALL FOR ADJOURNMENT – 1:35 p.m.

Kelly S. Koos,
City Clerk

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