

LAKELAND CITY COMMISSION**Agenda Study Session
October 2, 2026**

The Lakeland City Commission met for the Agenda Study Session in the City Commission Conference Room. Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley and Commissioners Ashley Troutman, Guy LaLonde, Stephanie Madden, Chad McLeod, Mike Musick, and Terry Coney were present. City Attorney Palmer Davis, City Manager Shawn Sherrouse, Assistant Finance Director Deidra Joseph, and City Clerk Kelly Koos were present.

CALL TO ORDER - 8:30 a.m.

City Attorney retirement – The Mayor announced they were going to have a search committee to work alongside a search firm. Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley will chair and Commissioners Chad McLeod and Mike Musick will serve on that committee.

Palmer Davis explained the contract requires a 60-day notice. He was willing to stay beyond 60 days. He would stay through the end of the year and Deputy City Attorney Ramona Sirianni was willing to serve as interim on January 1, 2027. No one objected to the plan.

PRESENTATIONS**EQUALIZATION HEARINGS****PUBLIC HEARINGS****Ordinances (Second Reading)****Proposed 26-032; Amending Article III of Chapter 98 of the Lakeland City Code (Red Light Infractions) to Authorize the Additional Placement of Traffic Infraction Detection Systems (1st Reading. 09/21/26)**

Assistant City Attorney Katie Prenoveau presented this ordinance. This came for a location change of a Red Light Camera (RLC). All camera locations are included in the ordinance just to keep things clean. Traffic Operations Manager Theresa (Tess) Schwartz and Assistant Chief of Police Hans Lehman will give a presentation on Monday as required by law.

Resolutions**Proposed 26-050; Lots Cleaning and Clearing****Proposed 26-051; Appointing Hearing Officers for the Purpose of Hearing Contested Red Light, School Zone and Code Enforcement Violations**

This resolution simply ratifies the appointment of the hearing officers for Code Enforcement and RLC Hearings. The City is adding Attorney Joe Mawhinney and his law firm, Reed Mawhinney & Link, who has experience serving as a magistrate. The City is setting things up to move to a special magistrate rather than a code enforcement board. The City Attorney will bring an ordinance for first reading soon. Special Magistrate is the way cities are moving. It provides more consistency on cases. It is a legal process so an attorney is very helpful. Peterson & Myers are paid for their service. We will pay Joe Mawhinney's firm. Gray Robinson will prepare to phase out. Procurement of legal services are exempt from the regular procurement process. They are at the City Attorney's purview.

CITY MANAGER

Purchase Order with Oracle America, Inc. for Renewal of Meter Solution Cloud Services

Annual Contract Renewals for Public Works Operations and Corresponding Purchase Orders

Annual Purchase Order with Cedar Trails Landfill for Biosolids Disposal

Verbal Report:

Shawn Sherrouse announced that he had emailed his accomplishments to the Commission early this morning as part of his review process.

CITY ATTORNEY

Miscellaneous

Billboard Modification and Removal Agreement with The Lamar Company, LLC

Palmer Davis presented. The City's Land Development Code (LDC) did not permit digital billboards but Florida statute allowed it through written agreement.

Agreement with Killebrew, Inc. for Construction of Southeast Quadrant Watermain Extension Project at Lakeland Linder International Airport

Deputy City Attorney Ramona Sirianni presented. Airport Director Adam Lunn explained costs would be prorated for existing and incoming development.

Master Services and Purchasing Agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for Body Worn Cameras, Tasers, In-Car Camera Systems, AI Era Plan, Axon Air and Other Technology Services

Assistant City Attorney Katie Prenoveau presented.

Commissioner Terry Coney attended a meeting Wednesday. Chief of Police Sammy Taylor presented on body cameras for the Lakeland Police Department. It was a good presentation. Commissioner Coney asked who has access to the Flock camera data. Chief Taylor explained that there was limited access to the data in Lakeland.

Commissioner Guy LaLonde asked who will review the AI generated data for accuracy and where it will be stored. Chief Taylor explained the data will be secured to Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) standards. There will be access for detectives for case work. AI will also assist with report writing. This should save time and help to get reports completed more quickly.

Commissioner Chad McLeod asked if this new agreement was comparable to the previous agreement. Chief Taylor explained the cost has doubled because it is adding features we do not have right now. Report writing is new and translation built into the body cameras, also the refresh on tasers. More than half will be funded by grants. That was factored into the FY27 budget. If funds were not available, Lakeland can walk away.

MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COMMISSION

Commissioner Terry Coney expressed concern about the Lakeland Housing Authority (LHA). The Commission has talked about what we can and cannot do. He was wondering should we respond to them in writing and give them directions as to the proper place to file their complaint? As former president of The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) he used to direct folks with concerns to the proper authorities to file their complaints.

Palmer Davis explained there are certainly agencies that are in charge to conduct investigations into those types of complaints. The Commission on Ethics would investigate nepotism complaints. A complaint to the proper authority and the failure of the board to respond to a finding would give the Commission a reason to act.

Commissioner Mike Musick liked the idea of giving directions to the concerned citizen.

Commissioner Guy LaLonde explained that the citizens who complained to the Commission were concerned that the LHA Director immediately worked to discredit the complainer. He was concerned that the existing board members were not aware of the difference between serving on a public board or a nonprofit board. The citizens are coming to us because they did not get a response from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Commissioner Ashley Troutman was supportive of the idea of sending the letter directing citizens where to file their complaint. He felt the citizens knew what the proper action was that they should follow.

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley supported the letter. She felt the complaints would continue until the turn of events.

Commissioner Chad McLeod shared Commissioner Terry Coney's approach to this issue. The letter strengthens the direction. He did not think they met the threshold to remove a board member. A new board may decide to keep the executive director.

Commissioner Guy LaLonde thought the City may get more kick back if we provided a letter. People who are complaining have already reached out to other agencies.

Commissioner Mike Musick attended the last LHA meeting and no citizens got up and complained. In the end, we are always going to be short on available affordable housing units. If people feel they have been mistreated, they are going to come and talk to us. They can talk to us about anything they want. If we replace the executive director, we are still not going to have enough affordable housing units. He thought that it was right to continue to discuss this matter because it is a problem in our City. He wanted a Fact Sheet that we provide to folks who come with concerns about LHA.

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley said citizens are coming to us because they are being told we are the boots on the ground. HUD is so large they have difficulty navigating on how to file their complaint. With rights comes responsibility. You can complain but you also have a responsibility to do your homework. It is a two-way street. We need to make sure we are providing the right information to the right people. We could change everyone on the board and not get a different executive director. There are legal pathways that are beyond the City Commission.

Commissioner Terry Coney stated that the Commission takes public comments at the end. We tell them we will not respond and we are just here to listen. Producing a Fact Sheet on this process shows that we are listening. If they provide their contact information, we can follow up with them. If they do not, we will not follow up.

Commissioner Stephanie Madden stated there was nothing the Commission can do without a dereliction of duty. The Commission can make changes for the next board vacancy if necessary. The Commission can make sure new appointments are aware that serving on LHA is a heavier lift than it may appear.

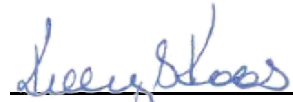
Commissioner Chad McLeod reminded the Commission that the City Manager review forms are due back October 9th. There will be no City Attorney review given due to Palmer Davis's retirement. The review will be at the end of October or early November.

Commissioner Stephanie Madden announced that next Thursday, the Youth Council will be meeting at 4 p.m. They will sit in on the Leadership Lakeland Panel to observe.

Commissioner Mike Musick liked the fact that Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley points out that the Commission has spent time discussing the matter so citizens are aware the Commission is not just rubber stamping their approval.

Mayor Sara Roberts McCarley talked about the changes to boards and committees. The Clerk's Office is working to make important changes. A citizen takes on a lot when they decide to run for office. A citizen takes on a lot when they serve on a municipal board too. It is important to make sure the public understand that the Commission holds serious discussions on topics before granting their approval.

The Commission adjourned at 9:47 a.m.



Kelly S. Koos, MMC
City Clerk

