



120 North Essa Street, Lake Park, Georgia 31636
City Hall 229-559-7470
Fax 229-559-7499

City of Lake Park Regular Meeting
March 8, 2022
6:00 PM

Agenda

Welcome, Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes – February 8th Regular Meeting, and February 17th Work Session

Financials – February

Citizens' Concerns

Department Reports
Fire
Maintenance
Police

Police Department Cost

Police Department Fuel Cost - 2021 & 2022

Update on Broadway – Elevation Report

Cemetery Update

Digital City Hall Sign

July 4th Celebration

Audio and Video Recording Quote

Bereavement Time and Holiday Schedule

Phase II Water Project Grant

Committee Seat Vacancies

*Thomas Hager stated he would continue on the committee

Board of Zoning Appeals (4 year term)

Vacant - term ends January 2024 (formally Issac Averett)

MPO Representative: Vacant (no term limit) appointed September 2, 2014
Mary Jane York - fill seat of Mayor Sandlin

Citizens' Concerns

Executive/Admin Reports

Tuesday March 15th Lake Park Municipal Court @ 6:00 PM
Friday March 25th Safety Meeting @ noon
Monday March 28th Work Session @ 6:00 PM

*Individuals with disabilities who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting or the facilities are required to contact the ADA Coordinator at 229-559-7470 promptly to allow the city to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.



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City of Lake Park Regular Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2022
6:00 PM

Mayor Pro Tem Oscar Griffith called the meeting to order and lead off with an invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were as follows; Mayor Pro Tem Oscar Griffith, Council Members Ronald Carter, Michelle Lane, and June Yeomans, and Clerk Fowler. Also present were Fire and Maintenance Supervisor David Brown, and Police Chief David Kinsey.

Mayor Pro Tem Griffith addressed the audience and gave some background information on him. He also voiced his concern about some issues he has seen from his position. Those issues included previous Council's actions regarding a new subdivision, and the cemetery project, court procedures and charges, time sheets, closing of railroad crossings, employee leave sheets, Clerk Fowler's offer for another position and request for more money and a contract, the Council's pay, and a generated position.

Pro Tem Griffith called for review of the minutes of February 8th Regular Meeting, and February 17th Work Session. Member Yeomans made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Member Carter second, all in favor motion passed.

Mayor Pro Tem Oscar Griffith called for review of the February financials. Member Yeomans questioned when the amendments would be completed; Clerk Fowler stated when the auditor is finished with audit. Member Yeomans made a motion to accept the financials, Member Carter second, all in favor motion passed.

Citizens' Concerns – Mayor Pro Tem asked for anyone speaking to limit themselves to 3 min per person.

Dustin Sandlin and Linda Hogan came forward to give an update on the July 4th Celebration, and submitted a proposal for new welcome to Lake Park signs, planting trees and straw in the medians on Marion Ave., new street banners, and a new commercial Christmas tree. (Non-citizen but work in the city limits)

Carl Taylor, 353 Back Forty, Lake Park, came forward to express his support for the police department. He submitted copies of operating budget comparisons for local police departments. Taylor also responded to statements made regarding the cemetery.

Tom Barr, 395 Back Forty, Lake Park, came forward to show his support for the police department as well as submitted a list of businesses that also submit the Lake Park police department. Barr also responded to statements made regarding the cemetery.

Coy Adams, 901 Heron Lane, came forward to voice his support for the police department. He stated that he had lived all over and he had never heard of a community disbanding a police department. He went on to state that if someone wasn't doing their job to fire them and hire someone who will do the job.

Julie Wilbers, 360 Back Forty, Lake Park, came forward to show her support for the police department. She went on to state that she was the person responsible for the support the police pamphlet and that she verified information contained in it though records that she received with open records requests. Wilbers went on to state that the pamphlet was for informational purposes for the citizens of the community.

Carl Lockhart, 703 Sandy Bottom, Lake Park, came forward to voice his support for the local police department. He further stated he sees them in the community and is glad that they are so visible in Lake Park.

Carlos Roundtree, 212 Main Street, Lake Park, came forward to show support for the police department. He further stated that he remembers growing up here and knows that the city is safer with the police presence.

Melissa Cason, 809 Sand Crane, Lake Park, came forward to voice her support for the Lake Park Police Department. She stated she was glad that they chose a community with such a good police department and have had nothing but pleasant experiences with the officers.

Tina Sirmans, 650 Broadway, Lake Park, came forward to show support for the Lake Park Police Department, she stated she was very much in favor of the police.

Brent Hudgins, 604 Broadway, Lake Park, came forward to voice his support of the Lake Park Police Department.

Jeannie, Spray Properties, came forward to commend the Lake Park Police Department. She stated that they had been working hard to clean up the apartments and with the help of the Lake Park Police they have been able to get some criminal trespassers removed and unwanted tenants evicted. (Non-citizen, but city business manager/owner)

Pat Brown, 809 Main Street, Lake Park, came forward to say she wanted to see everyone get along and quit picking sides. She stated she supports the police department but also believes that it could be downsized.

Daphne, Clip or Cuts, came forward to give her support for the Lake Park Police Department. (Non-citizen but a city business owner)

June Yeomans, 900 Broadway Street, read a prepared speech. (See attached)

Pro Tem Oscar Griffith called for review of the department reports;

Fire Chief and Maintenance Supervisor David Brown came forward to give the fire and maintenance reports. (See attached) He asked for Council to consider the purchase of new fire hose nozzles. Member Carter made a motion to approve the purchase of the nozzles, Member Lane second, all in favor motion passed. Brown presented Council with a quote for a new back pack blower and pole saw and asked for them to consider the purchase. Council requested 3 quotes to review. Brown asked for Council to consider the purchase of tires, Member Carter made the motion to approve, Member Yeomans second, all in favor motion passed. Brown advised Council that the tree at the Civic Center would probably need to come down to prevent damage if or when it falls. Council requested 2 additional quotes to review. Brown then stated that the Cemetery fence was going well and is about a quarter completed. Griffith asked for Brown to meet him at the Cemetery the next day at 9:00 AM.

Police Chief David Kinsey came forward to give the police department report. (See attached) He began by thanking everyone that came to show and give support for the police. Kinsey added to his report that they are working on plans to help counter the raise in fuel costs and still provide police visibility within the city.

Police Department Cost – skipped

Mayor Pro Tem Oscar Griffith called for review of the police department fuel cost for 2021 & 2022, Griffith stated that this had already been discussed.

Pro Tem Oscar Griffith called for review of the skipped item of police department cost. Member Yeomans advised that it had already been covered

Broadway Elevation Report was tabled by Mayor Pro Tem Oscar Griffith.

Mayor Pro Tem Oscar Griffith called for Cemetery update. Pro Tem Griffith stated that he had met with Mr. Shelton and Mrs. Williams husband, and had the cemetery situation taken care of.

Pro Tem Oscar Griffith called for review of the digital city hall sign. Clerk Fowler stated that no further quotes have been submitted. No action taken.

Mayor Pro Tem Oscar Griffith called for review of the July 4th Celebration. Member Lane gave an update on what has been confirmed and completed and more plans that are currently underway.

Pro Tem Oscar Griffith called for review of the audio and video recording quote. Clerk Fowler stated that she had received one quote late Friday and was waiting on 2 more. The quote was not included in their packets because the packets had already been prepared and released. When asked the cost, Fowler stated that the quote was for around \$22,000 from BIS Digital. Pro Tem Griffith stated that the current system was not working properly and a new one was needed. Member Lane made the motion to accept the bid and to be paid from SPLOST VIII, Member Yeomans second, all in favor motion passed.

Mayor Pro Tem Oscar Griffith called for review of the bereavement time and holiday schedule. Member Lane made a motion to restore the bereavement leave with 3 days paid time off retro back to January 1, 2022. After discussion, Member Lane amended her motion to include the holiday schedule to be restored with the additional Juneteenth holiday to be a floating holiday, and to indicate that the bereavement leave was for immediate family members (spouse, child, mother, father, brother, sister), Member Yeomans second, all in favor motion passed.

Pro Tem Oscar Griffith called for review of the Phase II water Project grant. Carl Taylor was called upon to give an update on the status of the award.

Mayor Pro Tem Oscar Griffith called for review of the committee seat vacancies. Clerk Fowler stated that Thomas Hager stated he would continue on the Ethics Committee. She also named off several other citizens that were contacted and agreed to serve on a committee. No action taken.

Citizens' Concerns

Carl Spano, 805 Sand Crane, Lake Park, came forward to ask Council to consider beginning a live feed of the Council Meetings.

Busby Courson, 1004 Cotton Ave, Lake Park, came forward to ask about qualifying.

Mayor Pro Tem Oscar Griffith called for Executive/Admin Reports. None given at this time.

Member Yeomans made a motion to adjourn, Member Lane second, all in favor motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

Read & approved Abatha Fowler Date 4-5-22

March 1, 2022

gfr First of all I would like to clarify an answer that City Council gave at the last Council Meeting. When asked if we had plans to disband the police department, Council and the Mayor said No. **THAT IS TRUE!** However, that was because we had just begun talking to the Lowndes County Sheriff Ashley Paulk to find out what our cost saving options might be regarding law enforcement coverage for our community. The day before the Council Meeting (February 7th, 2022) Sheriff Paulk hand delivered a proposed agreement to Tabatha Fowler, City Clerk, for our review. According to the City Clerk an item must be placed on the agenda at least one week prior to the Council Meeting. Being that we had just received the proposed agreement the Council Members had not had an opportunity to review or discuss the details of the proposal. Also, we requested that Clerk Fowler not divulge this information prior to the Council having an opportunity to review and discuss it prior to it being placed on the agenda for a future work session and/or Council Meeting. We were caught off-guard when questioned about something that was to have been confidential until we had had the opportunity to put it on the agenda.

One of the reasons we were looking for law enforcement coverage options was because the City is currently paying over \$300,000.00 per year according to the budget dated January 31st for our police coverage. This includes \$3000.00 that we currently pay the County for coverage from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m. each day.

Another reason was that I personally know of many complaints against the LPPD, not just for trivial traffic stops, but also for citizens being treated with disrespect. Also another factor, being charged exorbitant amounts for fines when they go to court when a warning from the officer would have sufficed. The word is out that Lake Park is known as a speed trap and many people avoid Lake Park for that reason. I received word from one business owner in Lake Park that his clients were considering changing to another firm for that reason.

It has been commented that many people would like to stay out of Lake Park. We don't want to hear that. We want people to move to Lake Park and to see Lake Park go back to the small town that it used to be. When I moved here over 20 years ago, we had more city services, parades, fire

works and a sense of a close knit community. All property owners in Lake Park pay both City and County property taxes,

I would like to see Lake Park with a park for our citizens, a walking track, a place for the children to play. We should have picnic shelters for birthday parties, etc., sidewalks and golf cart paths. I believe that we should showcase our City with appropriate holiday decorations and celebrations throughout the year letting all of Lowndes County and our visitors know that we care about our community. These are the things that would help to justify the tax burden placed on our citizens and are some of the reasons that I decided to run for City Council, not to put money in my pocket as we have been accused of on social media. We certainly don't do it for personal gain.

June Yeoman
Council Member

**Personnel Observed Holidays Amended - Approved ~~March~~, 2022,
Regular Council Meeting**

Policy shall be amended to observe the following holidays:

New Year's Day

Martin Luther King Day

President's Day

Memorial Day

Juneteenth *

Independence Day

Labor Day

Columbus Day

Veteran's Day

Thanksgiving Day

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

*Juneteenth will be a Floating Holiday that may be taken at any time during the year, pending supervisor approval.

When a holiday falls on a Saturday, the preceding Friday shall be declared a holiday for city employees. When a holiday falls on a Sunday, the following Monday shall be declared a holiday for city employees.

A non-exempt shift employee who is required to work on an official city holiday will be paid an addition pay at a rate of 8.0 hours.

**Personnel Leave Amended - Approved March 8, 2022
Regular Council Meeting**

1. Vacation time will be effective January 1, each year, for all new hires.
2. Sick time will accrue at 8 hours per month (96 hours) annually.
3. Bereavement will be paid time off up to 3 days, not required to be taken consecutively. Additional days needed may be taken by use of vacation time or sick time, pending supervisor approval.

These notated amendments will be retroactive back to January 1, 2022.

Council Fire Report for February

Fire Calls 3 so far

1 accident

1 Assist EMS

1 Assist elderly and gain entry into home

Station Needs

None

Truck needs

Still no quotes on replacing the rear end on Tanker 2, We had mentioned several times to previous council that we wish the city would consider replacing this truck with something newer due to fact this truck is 34 years old. SPLOST funds could be used for this purpose.

Equipment needs

We would like to replace 4 aging fire nozzles at a cost of 660.00 each

Grants

Wrote a grant for 55000.00 for radios, and the Denis Leary Foundation grant that equipment has been ordered

Lake Park City Council Monthly Maintenance Report for

February

Service calls

We continue to repair broken water lines going to the Lane drive apartments, although contractor is installing the new main water lines, it is on us to repair any service lines they break. We have no drawings or blueprints on any buried water lines between Tom's Pond Road and Wisenbaker road

Maintenance needs – Tires for the Dodge maintenance truck have been installed, Backhoe tires haven't yet, we do not have a trailer that will haul it to tire shop and nobody we have called has one either (Mike Killeen). I don't want put additional wear and tear on it by driving it that far when Billy comes back, we will see if we can take them off and take them to tire shop.

Tire shop wants 146.30 per hour to come out and change them on site with estimated time of 4 hours to do both rear tires.

Work accomplished – We continue to work with the contractor doing our best to locate any unknown water lines on Main Street

Cemetery update – Fence Contractor is working on installing new fence on the front and down the Home Depot side

Service /work order request – Ben Futch verbally requested to Jeff that the city clean the ditch at the end of Essa Street, it needs cleaning out but he needs to contact city hall and make a formal request so work order can be processed.

Lake Park Police

Lake Park Police February 2022 Report

151 Calls for Service

Funeral Escort: 5

Domestic Violence: 5 (2 arrest)

Accidents: 3

Medical: 5

Burglary Alarms: 5

Direct Traffic: 2

Harrassment:1

Shoplifting: 2

Suspicious Persons: 2

Suspicious Vehicles: 3

Trespassing: 1 (1 Arrest)

Wanted Persons: 3

Working Open Cases (3)

Arrest from Traffic (4)

From time to time I have new directives for the officers; I have included this in the report. The new one is related to the unexpected increase in fuel cost and how we will manage it.

We have two vehicles outfitted with the new camera system, the other two should be completed by next council meeting.

78 Traffic Contacts /46 Citations