



REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

May 20, 2025

6:00PM

City of Lake Butler

200 SW 1st Street

Lake Butler, Florida 32054

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to order – Roll Call, Opening Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Hendrix called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Roll Call:

City Commission – Commissioner Sirmones, Vice-Mayor Huggins, Commissioner Redman, Mayor Hendrix

City Staff – City Manager Hayes, City Attorney Maines, Finance Director Mecusker, Administrative Assistant Page

Absent – Commissioner Stephenson

Opening Prayer was led by Commissioner Redman.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Hendrix.

a. Admin Content

If a person decides to appeal a decision made with respect to any matter at this meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made.

2. Approval of The Agenda Format.

a. Motion to approve the agenda format.

Motion to approve the agenda format with the exclusion of Agenda Item #5 was made by Commissioner Redman. Motion seconded by Vice-Mayor Huggins. Motion passed 4-0.

Agenda Item #5 has a strikethrough reflected on the minutes.

3. Public Comments

Pursuant to Florida Statutes, members of the public shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a proposition before the City Commission. Upon recognition by the mayor, any person may address the City Commission on any subject either included on the agenda or any other subject.

- Three (3) minutes per speaker;
- Comments will not be accepted after the meeting begins;
- State your name and address into the record before addressing the City Mayor & Commissioners;
- Address your questions to the City Mayor, not city staff;
- Refrain from demands for an immediate response from City Mayor or Commissioners; and
- No boisterous behavior, personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks.

#1 – Eugene Dukes – 7472 SW 99th Road Lake Butler, FL 32054

Mr. Dukes referenced his involvement with the School and stated his retirement is June 12th, 2025. He explained that he is on the Executive Board for Florida Commerce and Crown Florida and explained the funding that is now being allotted to Union County and are hoping to open an office in each county they serve, including Union County which would be open 5 days a week, Monday through Friday. The idea would be that the office would have staff there 5 days a week, and anyone can come by and ask questions about VA benefits, homeless assistance, and a one-stop shop and would provide this service to the community. Stated 16-year-olds – 24-year-olds can be paid to go to school by this program, and it would be a full-service organization and would be working with SREC for transportation assistance. Mr. Dukes explained that they are looking for a place to have the office and stated he had spoken previously with Mr. Mecusker and that they looked at the possibility of using the Depot building, and said it would be an amazing location and is just here tonight to inform them they are looking and asked the Board to consider this opportunity and would like to be put on a future agenda for further discussion.

The Board thanked him for his presentation.

Commissioner Redman asked Mr. Dukes for the timeframe, and Mr. Dukes stated it would be soon, and the time would start on July 1st and would have a grand opening by the first of August.

Commissioner Stephenson joined the meeting via phone call at the conclusion of Mr. Eugene Dukes' public comments.

#2 – Bo Bayer – 255 NW 2nd Street Lake Butler, FL 32054

Mr. Bayer stated that the City is looking cleaner. Referenced a horrible smell around the gas station in front of City Hall, and stated the building behind the Sunrise store needs attention and that it is a haven for unwanted people and vagrants. Mr. Bayer stated that commercial properties need to be held to a higher standard. Commissioner Stephenson stated he has spoken with the property owner on multiple occasions about this issue. Mrs. Hayes stated that she will speak to Code Enforcement tomorrow to address this issue further.

#3- Elizabeth Jefferson – 1005 SE 5th Avenue Lake Butler, FL 32054

Stated she came to the Board last year about her sewer backup issue and it has not been resolved. Ms. Jefferson was told that during hurricane season, she has to wait between 48-72 hours to flush her commode. Ms. Jefferson stated it is depressing, and said that she has had back surgery and was out of her office for 2 months, came back to flush her commode and it will not flush and said the pump is not working. Ms. Jefferson stated that problem was happening before she left and is still happening. Ms. Jefferson is very upset that she continues to have this problem.

Mayor Hendrix stated that the City had researched her issue and asked for Mr. Maines to assist in the explanation of the situation from a legal standpoint. Mayor Hendrix stated that once the pump was put on her private property using citizen dollars, there is nothing that we can do, except remove it. Ms. Jefferson replied "well then it will back up even more, it has already backed up twice" Mayor Hendrix responded, "I understand that, but the City should never have put the pump there in the first place". Ms. Jefferson stated that when the pump was put in, the City told her that if there are backup issues, the City would make sure it would not back up into her house but stated it has happened two more times since then.

Mayor Hendrix stated that the problem is that the people who put the pump on her property put it there illegally and should not have used city funds to put a pump on private property and stated that Mr. Mecusker was City Manager during that time.

Mr. Mecusker explained that when he was City Manager, Mike Banks and Hardy Clyatt put in the pump during a hurricane, and said he told Mike and Hardy that once the pump is replaced, that the City would not be responsible and to relay that information to the homeowner and if there are any future issues with that pump, then the City would not be responsible.

Vice-Mayor Huggins asked if they had replaced the pump or installed a pump, and Mr. Mecusker responded saying it was replaced, and Mayor Hendrix stated they did both, and neither should have been done.

Ms. Jefferson stated she never requested a pump but only reported sewer backup and that she had feces run into her yard last year cause of the situation and that someone from the City was sent out to put lyme on the feces in the yard.

Ms. Jefferson said that when the pump was put in originally, she was told the City would be responsible for the pump.

Ms. Jefferson expressed that she is very upset and frustrated, and stated this is not fair.

Commissioner Sirmones asked what can be done to solve the problem. City Attorney Maines stated that he will speak with City Manager Hayes, and possibly involve Acting Public Works Director Furman and that someone would be in touch.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

- a. Meeting Minutes from April 15, 2025
- b. Code Enforcement Report April 2025.
- c. April 2025 WEX Invoice, activity report, and vehicle logs
- d. Animal Control Logs for April 2025.
- e. Board of Adjustment Public Hearing Minutes from April 15, 2025
- f. 1st CDBG Public Hearing Minutes from April 2, 2025
- g. 2nd CDBG Public Hearing Minutes from May 8, 2025
- h. Special City Commission Meeting Minutes from May 8, 2025
- i. Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Workshop #1 Minutes from May 8, 2025

Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Commissioner Redman. Motion seconded by Vice-Mayor Huggins. Unanimous approval. Motion passed 5-0.

~~5. Paving of SE 7th Street and SW 1st Drive — Jason Dodds, Public Works Director, Bradford County Public Works Department~~

6. Introduction to the Board by Mr. Brian Kramer, State Attorney, Eighth Judicial Court

Mr. Brian Kramer introduced himself and his Executive Director, Rebecca Shinholser and distributed his business card to everyone on the board. Mr. Kramer explained what he does and the counties he serves in and urged the Board that if they had any questions to please reach out.

The Board thanked him for coming to the meeting and introducing himself.

7. Board Discussion and Appointment of City representative for North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Board

Mayor Hendrix stated that Commissioner Stephenson has resigned as the city representative for the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Board, and that the City needs to appoint a new person and if that nobody would like to do, she will volunteer to be the representative.

Motion to appoint Mayor Hendrix as the City representative for North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Board was made by Commissioner Sirmones. Motion seconded by Commissioner Redman. Unanimous approval. Motion passed 5-0.

8. Citizens Advisory Task Force Board Member Resignation

Mayor Hendrix explained that Ms. Bridgett Sullivan has resigned from the Citizens Advisory Task Force, and confirmed with City Manager Hayes that it is not urgent to find a replacement but that one would be recommended soon, and that the Board has to accept the resignation of Ms. Bridgett Sullivan from the Citizens Advisory Task Force.

Motion to accept the resignation of Citizens Advisory Task Force (CATF) Board Member Bridgett Sullivan was made by Vice-Mayor Huggins. Motion seconded by Commissioner Redman. Unanimous approval. Motion passed 5-0.

9. Board Review and Approval of Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Traffic Signal Maintenance and Compensation Amendment (TSMCA) for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Mayor Hendrix explained that this agreement is for the maintenance of traffic signals within the city limits and stated the amount to be received is more than budgeted at \$15,657.

Motion to approve the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Traffic Signal Maintenance and Compensation Amendment (TSMCA) for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 was made by Commissioner Redman. Motion seconded by Vice-Mayor Huggins. Unanimous approval. Motion passed 5-0.

10. Board Review and Approval of Modification Number 2 to Subgrant Agreement between the Florida Department of Commerce and the City of Lake Butler, Florida

Mayor Hendrix explained the purpose of this modification which was to extend the expiration date of the grant.

Motion to approve Modification Number 2 to Subgrant Agreement between the Florida Department of Commerce and City of Lake Butler was made by Commissioner Redman. Motion seconded by Vice-Mayor Huggins. Unanimous approval. Motion passed 5-0.

11. Board Review and Approval of Lease Agreement between Robert Driggers Jr. and City of Lake Butler for mowing and use of field located west of the Boat Ramp at Lakeside Park (open field N of NW 3rd Street and W of boat ramp and parking lot)

Mayor Hendrix explained the purpose of this lease agreement which is for the mowing and use of the Driggers property located next to the Boat Ramp.

Motion to approve the Lease Agreement between Robert Driggers, Jr. and City of Lake

Butler for mowing and use of field located west of the Boat Ramp at Lakeside Park (open field N of NW 3rd Street and W of boat ramp and parking lot) for period of May 20, 2025 through April 30, 2026 was made by Vice-Mayor Huggins. Motion seconded by Commissioner Redman. Unanimous approval. Motion passed 5-0.

12. Board Review and Approval of Maintenance Agreement between Florida Department of Transportation and City of Lake Butler (Greenscape)

Mayor Hendrix explained that this agreement is another agreement with FDOT, but is for the maintenance and mowing of the state roads within the City limits and noted that the current contract amount is \$42,000 per year but the new contract would be \$45,000 which is an additional \$3,000 that would be in the City's budget.

Motion to approve the Maintenance Agreement between Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and City of Lake Butler (Greenscape) for 3 consecutive years with the commencement date of July 1, 2025 was made by Commissioner Redman. Motion seconded by Vice-Mayor Huggins. Unanimous approval. Motion passed 5-0.

13. Board Approval of Resolution 2025-05 for Residential & Commercial Solid Waste Rate Increase effective June 1, 2025

Mayor Hendrix explained that this Resolution is for the increase of solid waste rates that was approved at the April meeting but that the City has to have a Resolution for the increase.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025-05 for Residential & Commercial Solid Waste Rate Increase effective June 1, 2025 to be read by title only. Title only read by Mr. Maines. Motion seconded by Commissioner Redman. Unanimous approval. Motion passed 5-0.

14. City Manager's Report – Kimberly Hayes, City Manager

City Manager Kimberly Hayes provided her report to the Board on the following items:

1. Update on Florida Boating Improvement Grant
2. Update on Bids for Advertisement for sale of commercial property located at 9422 SW SR 121

Mrs. Hayes needs direction from the Board on how to proceed, if the Board wants to list it with a realtor. Commissioner Stephenson suggested Mayor Hendrix select a committee to list the property with a realtor. City Attorney Maines suggested that the Board does not need to give listing authority tonight but did agree that the Board establish a committee for the listing of the realtors. Mrs. Hayes asked if the committee needs to be commissioners, and Mr. Maines advised no, it should consist of the Manager, possibly the Mayor, and any other City staff she wants to include and then we will go from there and that this is the first step.

3. Update on Fletcher Myers Park Dedication Planning & Preparation

Commissioner Stephenson asked Mrs. Hayes about the Splash Park. Mrs. Hayes explained that the original engineer came out to look at the splash park to see if they can fix it and refuses to even touch it stating that it has been tampered with and completely altered and they will not even return our calls now. Mr. Maines asked who the company was. Jason Furman stated it was COMPAC filtration. Mayor Hendrix stated that the original system was 3-phase and was changed to 1-phase, and that is why

the pumps keep burning up. Mrs. Hayes said that everyone's hands have been in it and that is why nobody wants to work on it, and stated that Jason would give more of an update on this.

Commissioner Stephenson suggested getting an electrician to come out and have them look at it. Mrs. Hayes explained that she is working on that and that Jason will be giving more information on the Splash Park.

Vice-Mayor Huggins asked at the next meeting, if the estimated amount that the City has spent on the splash park can be provided to the Board, and questions if it is worth continuing to pour money into it, or if we need to step back.

Vice-Mayor Huggins asked if the money to finish the dedication for Fletcher Myers Park would come from Parks & Recreation Maintenance and Mrs. Hayes confirmed yes.

15. Report from Public Works Department – Jason Furman, Acting Public Works Director

Acting Public Works Director Jason Furman provided his report to the Board addressing the following items:

1. Sidewalk Repairs
2. Mosquito Spraying
3. Burning of Hurricane debris
4. Fletcher Myers Park Playground Equipment Maintenance
5. Westside Park Playground Equipment Maintenance from Vandalism incident
6. Elementary School Sewer Backup Issue
7. 3rd Street & 3rd Avenue Sewer Backup Issue
8. Synagro Biosolid Removal from WWTP
9. Zenner Training for May 19 – 22
10. April DEP Report submission

16. Reports from Finance Department – Dave Mecusker

Finance Director Dave Mecusker provides his monthly financial reports to the Board.

Motion to approve the Financial Report for period October 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025 was made by Vice-Mayor Huggins. Motion seconded by Commissioner Redman. Unanimous approval. Motion passed 5-0.

17. Report of City Attorney – John E. Maines IV

City Attorney Maines had nothing to report.

18. Comments or Remarks by Commission

- Commissioner Sirmones – Asked who the contact is for DOC. Referenced the skilled inmates that may be able to help the City with projects.
- Vice Mayor Huggins – Asked about the development at Circle K, and asked if we knew what it was. Asked about the number of citations Captain Williams he has issued and said we pay for a service and wanted to know how many were warnings, and how many warnings will be given before we act on it.

Also thanked City Manager Hayes and Administrative Assistant Page for putting the agenda packets together and for handing them out and making sure the Board gets them in plenty of time.

- Commissioner Redman – Nothing to report.
- Commissioner Stephenson – Asked Mr. Maines about the property on 121 and asked about the pricing of the property, and stated he wants to attempt to avoid paying excessive realtor fees.
- Mayor Hendrix – Happy Memorial Day, thank you to staff.

19. Meeting Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Redman. Motion seconded by Vice-Mayor Huggins. Unanimous approval. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.