



CITY COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING
TENTATIVE FY 2025-2026 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET
AND TENTATIVE FY 2025-2026 MILLAGE RATE (TRIM)
MINUTES

September 4, 2025
5:30PM
City Hall Lake Butler
200 SW 1st Street
Lake Butler, Florida 32054

CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE &
EXACT COPY OF ORIGINAL



MINUTES – CITY COMMISSION BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

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

Mayor Hendrix called the public hearing to order at 5:15pm.

Roll Call:

City Commission – Commissioner Sirmones, Vice-Mayor Huggins (Microsoft Teams), Commissioner Redman, Commissioner Stephenson, Mayor Hendrix

City Staff – Administrative Assistant Page, Finance Director Mecusker

Absent – City Manager Hayes & City Attorney Maines

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 was made by Commissioner Stephenson. Motion seconded by Commissioner Redman. Unanimous approval. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Public Hearing for TRIM –Tentative Millage Rate– Fiscal Year 2025-2026

a. Motion to open the public hearing for the tentative Millage Rate for FY 2025-2026.

Motion to open the public hearing for the tentative Millage Rate for FY 2025-2026 was made by Commissioner Redman. Motion seconded by Commissioner Sirmones. Unanimous approval. Motion passed 5-0.

b. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

c. Motion to close the public hearing for the tentative Millage Rate for FY 2025-2026.

Motion to close the public hearing for the tentative Millage Rate for FY 2025-2026 was made by Commissioner Sirmones. Motion seconded by Commissioner Redman. Unanimous approval. Motion passed 5-0.

4. Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Annual Operating Budget

- a. Motion to open the public hearing for the tentative Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Annual Operating Budget.

Motion to open the public hearing for the Tentative Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Annual Operating Budget was made by Commissioner Sirmones. Motion seconded by Commissioner Redman. Unanimous approval. Motion passed 5-0.

- b. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

- c. Motion to close the public hearing for the tentative Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Annual Operating Budget.

Motion to close the public hearing for the Tentative Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Annual Operating Budget was made by Commissioner Sirmones. Motion seconded by Commissioner Redman. Unanimous approval. Motion passed 5-0.

5. Approval of First Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-04 for FY 25-26 Annual Operating Budget for City of Lake Butler

Mayor Hendrix referred to Mr. Mecusker to explain the changes in the adjusted budget.

Finance Director Mecusker explained that due to the monies received from the water main break at 121 and 231, they were received in the current year, and were removed from the next year's budget, and explained that because of this money received, the \$37,000 wastewater CD loan is not needed as previously discussed, and was also taken out of the next year's budget, and that receiving the money is a very good thing that happened, and that the revised budget reflects those changes.

Finance Director Mecusker informed the Board that the tractor that was purchased by previous administration and the loan at DLP Bank was also paid off from the additional revenue being collected from RMC.

Commissioner Stephenson asked about the expense line item regarding sludge removal of \$125,000, stating that it did not go out for bid. Finance Director Mecusker explained the formal bid process regarding this project, and the processes that took place with Jason, Mrs. Hayes and the company that is hauling the sludge, and that prior administration was not hauling the sludge off properly, and that it is being cleaned up, stating that request for additional vendors was attempted, and that the current vendor is the least expensive company with other companies and that it turned out to be a emergency sole source expense.

Commissioner Stephenson stated that next year, this should go out for bid to see if any other vendors want to put in for this service.

Commissioner Stephenson asked about the expense line item for \$317,000 for reserve for future expansion of WWTP and clarified on the purpose of the account. Mayor Hendrix & Finance Director Mecusker explained the purpose of this expense item, and that it is for multiple different things, and that this money can be moved, and states concern with it being able to be moved and thinks it should be restricted by the Board. Mayor Hendrix & Finance Director Mecusker explained how money can be moved within a fund, but not from fund to fund, and that it has to stay in the same bucket.

Motion to approve the First Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-04 for FY 25-26 Annual Operating Budget for City of Lake Butler was made by Vice-Mayor Huggins. Motion seconded by Commissioner Sirmones. Unanimous approval. Motion passed 5-0.

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the public hearing was made by Commissioner Sirmones. Motion seconded by Commissioner Redman. Unanimous approval. Motion passed 5-0.

Public hearing adjourned at 6:01pm.