



City of Lake Charles

326 Pujo Street
P.O. Box 1178
Lake Charles, LA
70602-1178

Meeting Minutes City Council

*Tommy M. Bilbo, Jr., Donald W. Fondel, Ronnie Harvey, Jr.,
Matthew Vezinot, Stuart Weatherford, Matt Young
Council President: Craig Marks*

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

5:30 PM

Council Chambers at City Hall

AGENDA FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF OCTOBER 28, 2025 TO BE TAKEN UP IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESOLUTION NO. 150-97, RULES FOR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA

CALL TO ORDER - President Craig Marks, presiding

INVOCATION - Matthew Vezinot

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Craig Marks

DEFER/DELETE

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Stuart Weatherford, Matt Young, President or Presiding Officer Craig Marks, Ronnie Harvey Jr., Donald W. Fondel, Tommy M. Bilbo Jr., and Matthew Vezinot

Absent: 0

Also present were Mayor Marshall J. Simien, Jr., Russell J. Stutes, Jr., City Attorney, John Cardone, City Administrator and Renee' P. DeVille, Clerk of the Council.

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION MAY BE ADOPTED BY CONSENT

1. 434-25

A resolution selecting the former Capital One Tower site for the Indoor Sports Facility, such selection conditioned upon applicable State and Federal funding partners' approval of the site.

Those speaking in favor of the Capital One location were as follows: Jacob Rafferty, 1718 W. Common Street, Lake Charles, LA was in favor although he did not wish to speak. Jim Rock, 3939 Buccaneer Lane, Lake Charles, LA on behalf of Community Foundation and Lake Area Industry Alliance spoke in favor. Jay Ecker, 700 Royal Street, Lake Charles, LA was in favor although he did not wish to speak. Eric Zartler, 1205 N. Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles, LA was in favor although he did not wish to speak unless requested to provide information. Dave Evans, 719 and 949 Ryan Street, Lake Charles, LA, owner of Luna's and Augustine's was in favor. Those speaking in favor of the North Lake Charles location were as follows: Miles Brown, 1020 4th Avenue, Lake Charles, LA would like to see the city exhaust all avenues in North Lake Charles first before changing the location. Shawntel Willis, 2720 Alice Street, Lake Charles, LA stated she would like to see the site stay in North Lake Charles. Jacob Rafferty, 1718 W. Common Street, Lake Charles, LA requested to speak and stated he was in favor of the Capital One site but also in favor of North Lake Charles getting something in the

community. Willie King, 1611 Gerstner Memorial, Lake Charles, LA stated he was part of Project Build A Future and was in favor of the North Lake Charles location. Wanda King, 2118 Knapp Street, stated she was in favor of the North Lake Charles location. Gene Thibodeaux, 3910 Marie Court, on behalf of RENEW Lake Charles, spoke regarding the opportunity zone at the Capital One site and that the sports complex in Bryan, Texas had expenditures that exceeded the revenues. He stated he was opposed to the site because they were still looking at the site for a 200 room hotel and would like to take advantage of the opportunity zone. Mr. Bilbo and Mr. Young expressed concerns about losing the project altogether if it were not acted on. Mr. Marks stated that he had a 10 acre site in his district that he had submitted to the council and administration for consideration. Mayor Simien addressed the council and stated that this project should also be utilized as a resiliency hub during a disaster. He further stated that the appraised value of the Fitzenreiter property was \$830,000.00. He further explained the three objectives for obtaining the funds, 1) had to benefit low to moderate income persons, 2) prevent or eliminate slums or blight and 3) had to meet other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and other financial resources are not available to meet such needs. After discussion from each of the council members, Mr. Young called for the question which was seconded by Mr. Bilbo. The council voted as follows:

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

For: 4 - Weatherford, Young, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 3 - Marks, Harvey Jr., and Fondel

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 207-25

THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCE WAS FOR INTRODUCTION BY CONSENT AND READ INTO THE RECORD THE DAY FOLLOWING THIS MEETING AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL

2. 437-25

An ordinance authorizing the settlement of a claim against the City of Lake Charles in the suit styled "Lesvia Funez Mendez v. American Alternative Insurance Corporation, the City of Lake Charles, and Houston Lane Boyt", Docket No. 2023-1780, Division G, on the docket of the 14th Judicial District Court, Parish of Calcasieu, State of Louisiana.

Introduced as read into the record on the consent agenda by Renee P. DeVille, Clerk of the Council.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Council, President Marks adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m. The next regular scheduled council meeting will be held on November 5, 2025.

I, RENEE' P. DEVILLE, do hereby certify that I am the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Council of the City of Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana.

I further certify that the above and foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of the Minutes of a special meeting of the City Council of said City, held on the 28th day of October, 2025.

*WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my official signature and impressed hereon the official seal of said City, this 29th day of October, 2025.
s/Renee P. DeVille, Clerk of the Council.*

I, RENEE' P. DEVILLE, do hereby certify that I am the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Council of the City of Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana.

I further certify that the above and foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of the Ordinances adopted at a meeting of the City Council of said city held on the 28th day of October, 2025.

*WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my official signature and impressed upon the official seal of said City, this 29th day of October, 2025.
s/Renee' P. DeVille, Clerk of the Council.*

The City of Lake Charles fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Americans with Disabilities Act, and related statutes, executive orders, and regulations in all programs and activities. The City operates without regard to race, color, or national origin. Any person who believes him/herself or any specific class of persons, to be subjected to discrimination prohibited by Title VI and/or Americans with Disabilities Act may by him/herself or by representative file a written complaint with the City of Lake Charles. The City's Title VI Coordinator/ADA Coordinator may be reached by phone at (337) 491-1440, the Mayor's Action Line at (337) 491-1346, or contact the appropriate Department Head.