



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*

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

5:30 PM

Council Chambers at City Hall

AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 4, 2026 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 Marks, presiding

INVOCATION - President Marks

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Councilman Harvey

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 monthly financial reports for January, 2026 were provided to the City Council members by the Department of Finance. The reports include the Budget to Actual Revenues and the Budget to Actual Expenditures.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made that this item be approve the minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

APPOINTMENTS

- 1. 433-25** An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible bid and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for Project No. LR002 - Sallier

Street Reconstruction, contingent upon receipt of Facility Planning & Control Authorization to Advertise, and amend the budget as necessary.

Councilman Young was appointed as chairman.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 2. 802-24** An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 1814 Easton Street, Willie Lafleur and Josephine Lafleur, owners.

Robert Hester, Building Inspector, gave a report as to the condition of the structure and Russell J. Stutes, Jr., City Attorney stated this was a rehearing from November 5, 2025 and presented photographs and documentation showing proof of service which were made part of the record. Peggy LaFleur, 156 Lee Street, Lake Charles, requested additional time due to needing to partition the property and a death in her family. Councilman Fondel recommended deferral for 90 days which was approved by the following vote.

- 3. 239-25** An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 1610 Graham Street, Allen J. Mitchell, owner.

Robert Hester, Building Inspector, gave a report as to the condition of the structure and Russell J. Stutes, Jr., City Attorney stated that this was a rehearing from January 7, 2026, and presented photographs and documentation showing proof of service which were made part of the record. Anthony J. Mitchell, II, 1630 Woodland Drive, Lake Charles, stated that this property belonged to his grandfather and passed on to his deceased father. He requested deferral because the person purchasing the property has agreed to demolish the structure. President Marks recommended deferral for 60 days (April 1, 2026) which was approved by the following vote.

- 4. 16-26** Public hearing and consideration of the Lake Charles Planning & Zoning Commission's decision to deny a request for a Variance in order to construct a new restaurant with a 10' landscape buffer along both street frontages vs. required 15', within a Business Zoning District, at the northwest corner of West Prien Lake Road at Contraband Parkway.

Doug Burguières, Director of Planning and Development, stated that the item was being presented as a new case which effectively vacated the Commission's 2-2 tie vote. Michael Hankins, 419 Alamo Street, Lake Charles, stated that the proposed restaurant tenant would require all of the parking available and he does not believe, after speaking with Department of Transportation and Development, that any more expansion is planned for the area on Prien Lake Road. Mr. Burguières stated Mr. Hankins' statements were factual that the extra 5' required was in anticipation of future expansion and there was no planned expansion by DOTD since that had already been done. Councilman Weatherford stated that when Contraband Parkway was initially completed, the State actually intended to prohibit a left-hand turn from the intersection near the Paradise Building and the hotel. He noted that the intent was always to prohibit the left-hand turn and that it was unlikely the State would pursue expansion in that area in the near future. Councilman Marks stated he previously agreed with Councilman Weatherford about overturning the Board's

decisions, but since this was a tie vote that the Council was not overturning anything, it was just that a decision couldn't be made by the Board so he was in favor of passing it. Councilman Weatherford noted that the staff findings were not against the project as well. Councilman Harvey clarifying that Councilman Weatherford was in favor of the decision in his district prior to his vote. The vote was as follows

A motion was made that this item be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 21-26

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL ACTION

- 5. 427-25** An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible bid and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement to purchase two (2) new Side-Loader Refuse Trucks, for use by the Public Works Department, Solid Waste Garbage Division.

A motion was made by Councilman Fondel to accept the recommended bid from Martin Truck in the amount of \$688,526.00. The motion was adopted by the following vote

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 20464

- 6. 508-25** An ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 18189 creating Enterprise Boulevard Economic Development District of the City of Lake Charles, State of Louisiana; amending the boundaries thereof from which the incremental increase in existing sales taxes of the City will be used to finance economic development projects in accordance with and as authorized by Part II of Chapter 27 of Title 33 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended; and providing for other matters in connection with the foregoing.

Russell J. Stutes, City Attorney, noted that this was also now a meeting of the Council and the Enterprise Boulevard Economic Development District Board of which the seven members of the Council are the Board and it was properly noticed on the meeting agenda. Councilman Bilbo that he was unable to attend all of the meetings and would like to take the document home and read it before voting on something, so he requested deferral for 2 weeks. Councilman Young seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote

A motion was made by Councilman Bilbo Jr., seconded by Councilman Young, that this item be Deferred. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

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

Absent: 0

- 7. 524-25** An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with ADG Engineering.

Councilman Fondel stated that it had not been discussed and his thought was that they were just extending the contracts from last year but the ordinance stated different. It allows for new projects as well. Councilman Fondel made a motion to defer Items 7 - 26 for two weeks. Councilman Fondel made a motion to defer for two weeks which was seconded by Councilman Marks. The vote carried by the following:

A motion was made by Councilman Fondel, seconded by Councilman Marks, that this item be Deferred. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

- 8. 525-25** An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Alliance Transportation Group, Inc.

A motion was made by Councilman Fondel and seconded by Councilman Marks, that this item be Deferred. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

- 9. 526-25** An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Angelle & Donahue Oil & Gas Properties, Inc.

A motion was made by Councilman Fondel and seconded by Councilman Marks, that this item be Deferred. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

- 10. 527-25**

An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Atakapa Services, LLC.

A motion was made by Councilman Fondel and seconded by Councilman Marks, that this item be Deferred. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

- 11. 528-25** An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Brossett Architect.

A motion was made by Councilman Fondel and seconded by Councilman Marks, that this item be Deferred. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

- 12. 529-25** An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with CARBO Landscape Architecture.

A motion was made by Councilman Fondel, seconded by Councilman Marks, that this item be Deferred. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

- 13. 530-25** An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Cohesion Architecture, LLC.

A motion was made by Councilman Fondel, seconded by Councilman Marks, that this item be Deferred. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

- 14. 531-25** An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Cope Associates, LLC.

A motion was made by Councilman Fondel, seconded by Councilman Marks, that this item be Deferred. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

- 15. 532-25** An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with CSRS, Inc.

A motion was made by Councilman Fondel, seconded by Councilman Marks, that this item be Deferred. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

- 16. 533-25** An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with D.W. Jessen & Associates, LLC.

A motion was made by Councilman Fondel, seconded by Councilman Marks, that this item be Deferred. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

- 17. 534-25** An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Fugro Consultants, Inc.

A motion was made by Councilman Fondel, seconded by Councilman Marks, that this item be Deferred. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

- 18. 535-25** An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, LLC.

A motion was made by Councilman Fondel, seconded by Councilman Marks, that this item be Deferred. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

- 19. 536-25** An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Randy M. Goodloe Architect.

A motion was made by Councilman Fondel, seconded by Councilman Marks, that this item be Deferred. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

- 20. 537-25** An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Grace Hebert Curtis Architects.

A motion was made by Councilman Fondel, seconded by Councilman Marks, that this item be Deferred. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

- 21. 538-25** An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Hunt, Guillot & Associates.

A motion was made by Councilman Fondel, seconded by Councilman Marks, that this item be Deferred. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

- 22. 539-25** An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Kudla Architecture.

A motion was made by Councilman Fondel, seconded by Councilman Marks, that this item be Deferred. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

23. 540-25 An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Meyer & Associates, Inc.

A motion was made by Councilman Fondel, seconded by Councilman Marks, that this item be Deferred. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

24. 541-25 An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Moss Reed Architects, LLC.

A motion was made by Councilman Fondel, seconded by Councilman Marks, that this item be Deferred. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

25. 542-25 An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Peridian Engineering Services, LLC.

A motion was made by Councilman Fondel, seconded by Councilman Marks, that this item be Deferred. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

26. 543-25 An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Southland Environmental, LLC.

A motion was made by Councilman Fondel, seconded by Councilman Marks, that this item be Deferred. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

- 27. 10-26** An ordinance enlarging the boundaries of the City of Lake Charles, Louisiana, by annexing property generally described as 1600 Siebarth Drive, containing 4.08 acres, more or less, defining with certainty and precision the territory to be included in the corporate limits of the City of Lake Charles, Louisiana, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

A motion was made that this item be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 20465

- 28. 11-26** An ordinance assigning Zoning Classification of Business to property generally described as 1600 Siebarth Drive, containing 4.08 acres, more or less, defining with certainty and precision the territory to be included in the corporate limits of the City of Lake Charles, Louisiana, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

A motion was made that this item be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 20466

- 29. 12-26** An ordinance assigning Councilmanic District "B" to 1600 Siebarth Drive, containing 4.08 acres, more or less, defining with certainty and precision the territory to be included in the corporate limits of the City of Lake Charles, Louisiana, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

A motion was made that this item be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 20467

- 30. 27-26** Introduction and final action of an ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles, Louisiana, to incur debt and to borrow from the Louisiana Local Government Environmental Facilities and Community Development Authority an amount not to exceed One Hundred Forty-Five Million Dollars (\$145,000,000), for a term not exceeding Thirty years, at a rate not to exceed Six percent per annum, for the purpose of financing public improvements within the City of Lake Charles; approving the form and authorizing the execution of one or more loan agreements and other certificates, documents and instruments; and providing for other matters in connection with the foregoing.

President Marks explained that this was solely for housekeeping purposes and to introduce a motion and a second on the ordinance.

A motion was made by Young, seconded by Bilbo Jr., that this item be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 20468

- 30a. 8-26** An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to purchase three (3) new thirty-five foot (35') Clean Diesel, Low Floor, ADA Certified Buses for the use by the City of Lake Charles Transit Division, utilizing the additional purchase option provided by Ordinance #19529, approved and adopted by the City Council on April 5, 2023.

A motion was made that this item be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

Enactment No: 20469

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS MAY BE ADOPTED BY CONSENT

- 31. 3-26** A resolution approving the form of and authorizing the execution and delivery of an amendment to that certain Cooperative Endeavor Agreement dated as of July 1, 2021 by and between the Enterprise Boulevard Economic Development District, the City of Lake Charles, Louisiana and the State of Louisiana, and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

This item was Deferred on the Consent Agenda.

- 32. 17-26** A resolution accepting Wastewater Division Operations - Bancroft Street Sewer Repairs as substantially complete and authorizing the advertising of the 45-day lien period.

Enactment No: 22-26

- 33. 18-26** A resolution accepting Wastewater Division Operations - Ryan Street Sewer Repairs as substantially complete and authorizing the advertising of the 45-day lien period.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: 23-26

- 34. 19-26** A resolution accepting Project No. CP3491 - 2024 Sewer Pipe Bursting & Ancillary Infrastructure Improvements as substantially complete and authorizing the advertising of the 45-day lien period.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: 24-26

- 35. 20-26** A resolution accepting Project No. CP3176 - Corbina at E. McNeese Lift Station and Forcemain Replacement as substantially complete and authorizing the advertising of the 45-day lien period.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: 25-26

- 36. 21-26** A resolution accepting Project No. CP3274 - Gauthier Road Waterline Extension as substantially complete and authorizing the advertising of the 45-day lien period.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda.

Enactment No: 26-26

- 37. 22-26** A resolution authorizing the City of Lake Charles to advertise to receive sealed bids for Project No. CP3309 - Ham Reid Road Waterline Extension - Elliot Road to Big Lake Road.

This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda. Mr. Vezinot was appointed as chairman.

Enactment No: 27-26

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Weatherford, Young, Marks, Harvey Jr., Fondel, Bilbo Jr., and Vezinot

Against: 0

Absent: 0

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

- 38. 23-26** An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to purchase property located at 1628 Cessford Street from the record owner.

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

- 39. 24-26** An ordinance amending Section 12-15.3 of the City of Lake Charles Code of Ordinances relative to Permitted Uses.

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

- 40. 25-26** An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles ("City") to enter into a grant agreement with the Louisiana Land and Water Conservation Fund to provide funding for renovations and the extension of the Lakefront Boardwalk.

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

- 41. 26-26** An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible bid and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for Project No. CP3309 - Ham Reid Road Waterline Extension - Elliot Road to Big Lake Road.

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

- 42. 28-26** An ordinance amending Section 20-78 of Chapter 20 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Lake Charles to prohibit parking on the East side of Fifth Avenue from a point approximately 317 feet south of Van

Buren Street to approximately 230 feet and to place “No Parking-Neutral Ground” signs on the median adjacent to the church frontage.

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 6:00 p.m. The next regular council meeting is February 18, 2026.

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 meeting of the City Council of said City, held on the 4th day of February, 2026.

WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my official signature and impressed hereon the official seal of said City, this 4th day of February, 2026.
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 4th day of February 4, 2026.

WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my official signature and impressed upon the official seal of said City, this 6th day of February, 2026.
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.