



# 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*

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Wednesday, March 18, 2026

5:30 PM

Council Chambers at City Hall

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### AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 18, 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 - Tommy M. Bilbo, Jr.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Stuart Weatherford**

#### 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. DeVillie, Clerk of the Council.*

*A presentation was made on behalf of the City Council and Mayor Simien to Ms. Pearl Cole for 38 years of service through Abraham's Tent. The Brothers of Masonic Chapter Golden Chain Lodge #103 were in attendance to accept the award on her behalf.*

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2026

**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

*President Marks stated Items 5 and 10 were being deferred until the April 16, 2026 regular council meeting and Item 6 was being deleted.*

## APPOINTMENTS

### 1. 9-26

An ordinance accepting the lowest responsive and responsible bid and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement to purchase fire truck equipment for use by the Lake Charles Fire Department.

**Councilman Vezinot was appointed as chairman.**

### 2. 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.

**Councilman Vezinot was appointed as chairman.**

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

### 3. 768-24

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 1517 Martha Street, Don Erik Muhammad, owner.

*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 December 17, 2026 and presented photographs and documentation showing proof of service which were made part of the record. Don Muhammad, 1517 Martha Street, stated he had been working on the property and was planning on painting the structure. Mr. Harvey recommended deferring for 90 days until June 17, 2026, which was approved by the following vote.*

**A motion was made 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

### 4. 464-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 1621 2nd Avenue, Judith Lynn Pichon (Estate) and Amber Henry, 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 December 17, 2026 and he had been in contact with Mr. Pichon who was working on a succession. He presented photographs and documentation showing proof of service which were made part of the record. There were no requests to speak on this item. Councilman Fondel noted that the structure had been secured and recommended deferral of 90 days until the June 17, 2026 regular council meeting which was approved by the following vote.*

**A motion was made 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**5. 550-25**

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 711 Fall Street, Rose Young Fontenot and Frank Fontenot, owners.

**This item was deferred at the beginning of the meeting to the April 15, 2026 regular council meeting.**

**6. 554-25**

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 2201 Highway 171, Jasim Family Property, LLC, Elaine Marie Landry Coldiron (Estate), Robert Earl Landry, Belin Landry, Jr., and Sonia Lisa Landry Page, owners, subject to a tax sale to the State of Louisiana.

**This item was deleted at the beginning of the meeting.**

**7. 555-25**

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 1400 North Shattuck Street, Cleven Nash and Elvira Nash, owners.

*Robert Hester, Building Inspector, gave a report as to the condition of the structure and Russell J. Stutes, Jr., City Attorney, presented photographs and documentation showing proof of service which were made part of the record. Brian Nash, grandson of the owner, requested additional time to pull a repair permit. Councilman Harvey recommended deferral of 30 days to the April 15, 2026 regular council meeting which was approved by the following vote.*

**A motion was made 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. 556-25**

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 2116 18th Street, Randle Booth Whittaker and Cheryl Patricia Whittaker, owners.

*Robert Hester, Building Inspector, gave a report as to the condition of the structure and Russell J. Stutes, Jr., City Attorney, presented photographs and documentation showing proof of service which were made part of the record. There were no requests to speak on*

*this item. Mr. Marks stated he had been getting a lot of calls on this property and recommended time delays of 15/15 which were approved by the following vote.*

**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: 20504

## 9. 557-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 1505 McNabb Street, Tyron Gerard Nickerson, owner.

*Robert Hester, Building Inspector, gave a report as to the condition of the structure and Russell J. Stutes, Jr., City Attorney, presented photographs and documentation showing proof of service which were made part of the record. Tyron Nickerson requested additional time to obtain bids to repair. Councilman Harvey recommended deferral for 30 days to the April 15, 2026 regular council meeting, which was approved by the following vote.*

**A motion was made 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. 558-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 411 Gelpi Drive, Gerald (NMI) Armelin, Sr., owner.

**This item was deferred at the beginning of the meeting to the April 15, 2026 regular council meeting.**

## 11. 559-25

An ordinance ordering demolition and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for demolition of a structure located at 317 South Louisiana Avenue (front house only), Grace Smith, Ulric Y. Pryce, Charles Y. Pryce, Monica Manker-Russell, Marcia Manker and Gregory Manker, owners.

*Robert Hester, Building Inspector, gave a report as to the condition of the structure and Russell J. Stutes, Jr., City Attorney, presented photographs and documentation showing proof of service which were made part of the record. Delores Pryce stated that she lives in the garage apartment behind the home and she just discovered that other family members may be interested in the property. Councilman Harvey stated that he had been*

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*contacted by one of the heirs and recommended deferral for 30 days to the April 15, 2026 regular city council meeting, which was approved by the following vote.*

**A motion was made 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

## ORDINANCES FOR FINAL ACTION

### 12. 429-25

An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible bid and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement to purchase one (1) new Three-Wheel Sweeper, for use by the Public Works Department, Streets Division.

**A motion was made by Councilman Bilbo to accept the recommended bid from UTEC Enterprise in the amount of \$288,000.00. The vote was as follows:**

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

**Against:** 0

**Absent:** 0

Enactment No: 20505

### 13. 495-25

An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible bid and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for Project No. LCR401 - Lock Park Inclusive Playground, and amend the budget as necessary.

**A motion was made by Councilman Young to accept the recommended bid from PERC Development, LLC with Alternate 1 and Alternate 2 in the total amount of \$1,674,438.50. The vote was as follows:**

Enactment No: 20506

### 14. 510-25

An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible bid and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for Project No. CP3140 - Millennium Park Fall Surface Replacement.

**A motion was made by Councilman Young to accept the recommended bid from Swift Recreation along with Alternate 1 for a total bid of \$278,410.00. The vote was as follows:**

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

**Against:** 0

**Absent:** 0

Enactment No: 20507

**15. 549-25**

An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible bid and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for Project No. DR002 - Public Works New Facility Phase 2, and amend the budget as necessary.

**A motion was made by Councilman Marks to accept the recommended bid from Keiland Construction, LLC in the amount of \$21,995,678.00. The vote was as follows:**

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

**Against:** 0

**Absent:** 0

Enactment No: 20508

**16. 78-26**

An ordinance authorizing the removal of the yield sign on Center Street at Sycamore Street and authorizing the installation of a stop sign on Center Street at its intersection with Sycamore Street creating a three-way stop.

*Councilman Fondel stated that he had been contacted by a constituent who initially made the request and a traffic study had been done to warrant the sign change.*

**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: 20509

**THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS MAY BE ADOPTED BY CONSENT**

**17. 79-26**

A resolution setting date for public hearing and consideration of the Lake Charles Planning & Zoning Commission's decision to deny a request for a Special Exception in order to reduce required four (4) parking spaces to three (3) parking spaces for existing oil change business, within a Business Zoning District at 4820 Nelson Road.

**The hearing date is set for April 1, 2026.**

Enactment No: 53-26

**18. 80-26**

A resolution authorizing the City of Lake Charles to advertise to receive sealed bids for Project No. CP3520 - WWTP A Basin A-02 Sewer Rehabilitation.

**This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda. Councilman Weatherford was appointed chairman.**

Enactment No: 54-26

**19. 81-26**

A resolution authorizing the City of Lake Charles to advertise to receive sealed bids to purchase bus stop signage for use by the Public Works Department, Transit Division.

**This item was adopted on the Consent Agenda. Councilman Vezinot was appointed chairman.**

Enactment No: 55-26

**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**

**20. 82-26**

An ordinance modifying Chapter 21-2 (b) of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Lake Charles, Louisiana to adopt a rate structure commensurate with the 2025 Water Rate Study.

**21. 83-26**

An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to implement a pay increase to Ward 3 Marshal's Office employees and to adjust the Ward 3 Marshal's Office Pay Plan accordingly.

**Introduced as read into the record on the consent agenda by Chelsea Gott, City Council Liaison.**

**22. 84-26**

An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to implement a pay increase to Lake Charles City Court employees and to adjust the Lake Charles City Court Pay Plan accordingly.

Introduced as read into the record on the consent agenda by Chelsea Gott, City Council Liaison.

**23. 85-26**

An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to implement a pay increase to Career Service, Non-Career, Part-Time and Temporary employees and to adjust the City of Lake Charles Pay Plan accordingly.

Introduced as read into the record on the consent agenda by Chelsea Gott, City Council Liaison.

**24. 86-26**

An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to implement a pay increase to Civil Service employees within the Lake Charles Fire Department and to adjust the Lake Charles Fire Department Pay Matrix accordingly.

Introduced as read into the record on the consent agenda by Chelsea Gott, City Council Liaison.

**25. 87-26**

An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to implement a pay increase to Civil Service employees within the Lake Charles Police Department.

Introduced as read into the record on the consent agenda by Chelsea Gott, City Council Liaison.

**26. 88-26**

An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Moffatt & Nichol.

Introduced as read into the record on the consent agenda by Chelsea Gott, City Council Liaison.

**27. 89-26**

An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Providence Engineering.

Introduced as read into the record on the consent agenda by Chelsea Gott, City Council Liaison.

**28. 90-26**

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

Introduced as read into the record on the consent agenda by Chelsea Gott, City Council Liaison.

**29. 91-26**

An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Lancon Engineers, Inc.

Introduced as read into the record on the consent agenda by Chelsea Gott, City Council Liaison.

**30. 92-26**

An ordinance authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with ELOS Environmental.

Introduced as read into the record on the consent agenda by Chelsea Gott, City Council Liaison.

**31. 93-26**

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

Introduced as read into the record on the consent agenda by Chelsea Gott, City Council Liaison.

**32. 94-26**

An ordinance accepting the lowest responsible bid and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for Project No. CP3520 - WWTP A Basin A-02 Sewer Rehabilitation.

Introduced as read into the record on the consent agenda by Chelsea Gott, City Council Liaison.

**33. 95-26**

An ordinance accepting the lowest responsive and responsible bid and authorizing the City of Lake Charles to enter into an agreement for the purchase of bus stop signage for use by the Public Works Department, Transit Division.

Introduced as read into the record on the consent agenda by Chelsea Gott, City Council Liaison.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**With no other business to come before the Council, President Marks adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m. The next regular council meeting will be held on April 1, 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 18th day of March, 2026.*

*WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my official signature and impressed hereon the official seal of said City, this 20th day of March, 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 18th day of March, 2026.*

*WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my official signature and impressed upon the official seal of said City, this 20th day of March, 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.*