

CITY OF
LAKELAND
TENNESSEE

Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 7, 2026, 5:30 PM
City Hall, Lakeland, Tennessee 38002

I. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Josh Roman 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 7, 2026.

II. INVOCATION:

The invocation was offered by Mayor Roman.

III. PLEDGE:

The Pledge to the Flag was led by Mayor Roman.

IV. ROLL CALL BY RECORDER:

Commissioner Atkinson	Present
Commissioner Johnston	Present
Commissioner McCarter	Present
Vice Mayor Dial	Present
Mayor Roman	Present

Staff personnel in attendance were City Manager Emily Harrell, City Attorney Will Patterson, Finance Director Sue Matthews, Planning Director Paul Luker, Public Works Director Nick Pulido, Parks and Recreation Director Andrew Fisher, ITS Director Josh Thompson, Senior Staff Engineer Luis Camarillio Hernandez, Recreation Manager John Proctor, Staff Engineer Paul Posey and City Recorder Rebecca Hume.

V. PUBLIC HEARING:

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT:

VII. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS & OTHER OFFICERS:

City Manager's Report
City Manager Emily Harrell offered this report.

Mayor Roman recognized the winners of the Young Artist Spotlight.

Planning Director Paul Luker offered an annual update on TIFs.

Mayor's Report

- a. Proclamation — establishing May 17–23, 2026 as Public Works Week
Mayor Roman established the week of May 17 - May 23 as Public Works Week.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

IX. SEWERAGE COMMISSION BUSINESS:

1. **Resolution** - recommending the Board of Commissioners amend Ordinance O-7-2023 Establishing Sewer User Rates and Sewer Charge Adjustments. Mayor Roman moved to bring this item to the floor, seconded by Commissioner Atkinson.

Public Works Director Nick Pulido presented this item.

Discussion ensued.

Mayor Roman called point of order, clarifying the item was still on the floor.

Mayor Roman made a motion to accept the ordinance as written, seconded by Commissioner Atkinson.

When the question was called the resolution passed as presented, roll call vote, 5 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain (5-0-0).

Yea: Commissioner Atkinson, Commissioner Johnston,
Commissioner McCarter, Vice Mayor Dial, Mayor Roman

Nay: None

Abstain: None

X. CONSENT AGENDA:

XI. REGULAR AGENDA:

Mayor Roman advised wanting to add two items to the agenda based on new information he received that day.

The first item 16. Discussion and Possible Action - regarding misinformation.

The second item 17. Discussion and Possible Action - regarding liaison positions.

Commissioner McCarter objected to both items.

City Attorney Will Patterson advised agenda items can be added at meetings. However, it would take a motion and a second due to the objection, followed by a vote on amending the agenda.

Mayor Roman seconded the objection.

When the question was called, adding items 16. Discussion and Possible Action - regarding misinformation and 17. Discussion and Possible Action - regarding liaison positions passed as presented, roll call vote, 4 in favor, 1 against, 0 abstain (4-1-0).

Yea: Commissioner Atkinson, Commissioner Johnston, Vice Mayor Dial, Mayor Roman

Nay: Commissioner McCarter

Abstain: None

Mayor Roman asked to add the following regular agenda items to the front of the agenda with no objections:

5. Resolution- approving a residential development contract with Valleybrook Development, LLC for Lakeland Meadows Planned Development Phase IX-B & X-B

13. Resolution - amending the City of Lakeland Financial Policies Manual to include Use of Excess Sales Tax to Reduce Citizen Fees. Sponsored by Mayor Roman

14. Resolution - recommending an amendment to the salary of the Mayor, Board of Commissioners, and the Board of Education. Recommended by Community Advisory Board

16. Discussion and Possible Action - regarding misinformation

17. Discussion and possible action - regarding liaison positions

5. **Resolution**- approving a residential development contract with Valleybrook Development, LLC for Lakeland Meadows Planned Development Phase IX-B & X-B. Mayor Roman moved to bring this item to the floor, seconded by Vice Mayor Dial.

City Manager Emily Harrell presented this item.

Discussion ensued.

Louis Ricky, Valley Brook Development representative, engaged in discussion and answered questions.

When the question was called the resolution passed as presented, roll call vote, 5 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain (5-0-0).

Yea: Commissioner Atkinson, Commissioner Johnston,
Commissioner McCarter, Vice Mayor Dial, Mayor Roman

Nay: None

Abstain: None

6. **Resolution** - approving a residential development contract with Cummings, LLC for The Estates at Chambers Chapel Planned Development Phases 1 & 2.

With no objections, Mayor Roman moved item 6. Resolution - approving a residential development contract with Cummings, LLC for The Estates at Chambers Chapel Planned Development Phases 1 & 2, after item 5. Resolution- approving a residential development contract with Valleybrook Development, LLC for Lakeland Meadows Planned Development Phase IX-B & X-B, since the developer, Louis Ricky, represented both items.

Mayor Roman moved to bring this item to the floor, seconded by Commissioner Atkinson.

City Manager Emily Harrell presented this item.

Discussion ensued.

When the question was called the resolution passed as presented, roll call vote, 5 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain (5-0-0).

Yea: Commissioner Atkinson, Commissioner Johnston,
Commissioner McCarter, Vice Mayor Dial, Mayor Roman

Nay: None

Abstain: None

13. **Resolution** - amending the City of Lakeland Financial Policies Manual

to include Use of Excess Sales Tax to Reduce Citizen Fees. *Sponsored by Mayor Roman*

Mayor Roman moved to bring this item to the floor, seconded by Vice Mayor Dial.

Mayor Roman presented this item.

Finance Director Sue Matthews engaged in discussion and answered questions from the board.

Resident David Loveland, 4000 block of Pine Hill Cove South, made comments about excess sales tax.

Discussion ensued.

When the question was called the resolution passed as presented, voice vote, 5 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain (5-0-0).

14. **Resolution** - recommending an amendment to the salary of the Mayor, Board of Commissioners, and the Board of Education. *Recommended by Community Advisory Board*
Vice Mayor Dial moved to bring this item to the floor, seconded by Commissioner McCarter.

City Manager Emily Harrell presented this item.

Discussion ensued.

Resident Charles Carroll, 3000 block of Creekwood Cove, made comments regarding pay raises for the board.

Resident David Loveland, 4000 block of Pine Hill Cove South, made comments regarding pay raises for the board.

Resident Kimberly Rossie, 5000 block of Knobby Pine Lane and Chair of the Community Advisory Board, made comments regarding the CAB meeting that took place regarding the recommendation for an amendment to the salary of the Mayor, Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education.

Discussion ensued and comments were made amongst members of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner McCarter asked City Attorney Will Patterson what he requested James Lewellen to speak about on the March 19, 2026, meeting.

Mayor Roman asked City Attorney Will Patterson if he offered to give a presentation to the City regarding information about changing Lakeland's form of government.

City Attorney Will Patterson advised that he did offer to give a presentation to the City. City Attorney Will Patterson advised he asked James Lewellen to give a presentation on the topic of Changing Forms of Government. He confirmed he did not influence James Lewellen what to cover for his presentation. City Attorney Will Patterson advised a point of clarification that there are limited instances in which Boards are allowed to put questions to constituents and ask for a referendum, stating he wasn't sure if they had the authority to do so and offering to look into the subject. City Attorney Will Patterson advised any changes for future board members, in order for the salary change to become effective it has to be passed by 2/3 of the board, 4 in favor to make the change.

Commissioner McCarter advised she would no way ever support anything that would put the city's charter in jeopardy, nor the school's charter in jeopardy. Commissioner McCarter asked if there was a way the City of Lakeland Board of Commissioners can change the charter without the citizens voting on changing the charter.

City Attorney Will Patterson advised he did not know but offered to do research and come back to the board with his findings.

Commissioner McCarter offered information from the Secretary of State to City Attorney Will Patterson.

Mayor Roman advised he would address the information given to City Attorney Will Patterson by Commissioner McCarter, under item 17.

Vice Mayor Dial made comments regarding the CAB meeting and lack of attendance and participation.

Mayor Roman moved to amend the resolution to state the recommendation that the salary received by the mayor be changed from 35,000 to 20,000 for Mayoral pay, seconded by Vice Mayor Dial.

Discussion ensued.

When the question was called the motion to amend passed, roll call vote, 4 in favor, 1 against, abstain (4-1-0).

Yea: Commissioner Atkinson, Commissioner Johnston, Vice Mayor Dial, Mayor Roman

Nay: Commissioner McCarter

Abstain: None

When the question was called the resolution passed as presented

for BOE salaries to be increased as indicated. However, the Mayor and BOC pay does not become effective since the resolution did not receive 2/3 vote approving the same, roll call vote, 3 in favor, 2 against, 0 abstain (3-2-0).

Yea: Commissioner Johnston, Vice Mayor Dial, Mayor Roman

Nay: Commissioner Atkinson, Commissioner McCarter

Abstain: None

Resident Rommen Denkov, 9000 block of Rue Bienville Cove, made comments.

16. **Discussion and Possible Action** - regarding misinformation Mayor Roman presented this item.

Mayor Roman advised this was in response to Commissioner McCarter's most recent post stating two Lakeland events that were not budgeted properly and went over budget and because of that there was not transparency around the two events, Christmas in Lakeland and Freedom Festival. Mayor Roman also referred to the letter from the Secretary of State Commissioner McCarter gave to City Attorney Will Patterson during item 14. Resolution - recommending an amendment to the salary of the Mayor, Board of Commissioners, and the Board of Education. Recommended by Community Advisory Board.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner McCarter advised she did not contact MTAS on behalf of the Board of Commissioners but to ask them a question about changing form of government. Commissioner McCarter asked City Attorney Will Patterson if she was wrong to call and ask MTAS a question.

City Attorney Will Patterson advised she is allowed to call and ask for information on materials.

City Attorney Will Patterson asked for a point of clarification on the question posed by Commissioner McCarter, can the board start the change of government process, offering to give a presentation on the topic in July.

Mayor Roman clarified that if it's at the direction of the board, it needs to come through a resolution.

Commissioner Atkinson made comments regarding an honest discussion about changing the form of government and misinformation surrounding the topic through emails received, comments by residents on the street or at events and things he's read on social media.

Commissioner McCarter made comments and clarified that she did not start the petition in the city and stated James Lewllen is not her expert.

Commissioner Atkinson commented that he called MTAS regarding the "nightmare scenario" (endangering Lakeland's charter and school charter) and it was confirmed that information given about this scenario is accurate.

Commissioner Johnston asked City Manager Emily Harrell if, to her knowledge, the disbursements made regarding the two festivals were made in accordance with the charter and the City Manager's responsibility. The question was also asked if anyone from the board has ever been denied a requested meeting with staff from City Hall.

City Manager Emily Harrell advised no budget amendments were required and the disbursements for the festivals were made in accordance and the events were funded with the approved budget. To her knowledge, no one has ever been denied a meeting with staff at City Hall.

17. **Discussion and Possible Action** - regarding liaison positions Mayor Roman moved to bring this item to the floor, seconded by Vice Mayor Dial.

Mayor Roman presented this item.

Mayor Roman advised receiving a majority of the school board asking for different liaison representation.

Resident Jeremy Burnett, 4000 block of Canada Road, made comments regarding different liaison representation for the Lakeland School Board.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner McCarter made comments. Commissioner McCarter advised she has never been against the school system and advised she would not resign from the position of liaison of the Lakeland School Board.

Commissioner Johnston asked Commissioner McCarter if she was withdrawing her support of the petition for change of government.

Commissioner McCarter advised she withdraws support of the petition at this time until the board determines in the future that moving forward would be the right decision and there would be no harm to the charter or school system.

Mayor Roman made comments regarding suspending the position of school board liaison for three months, taking place over the summer break months.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Johnston moved to suspend the position of liaison to the school board until the August meeting, seconded by Vice Mayor Dial.

When the question was called the motion to suspend the position of liaison to the school board until the August meeting, passed as presented, roll call vote, 5 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain (5-0-0).

Yea: Commissioner Atkinson, Commissioner Johnston,
Commissioner McCarter, Vice Mayor Dial, Mayor Roman

Nay: None

Abstain: None

12.

Resolution - approving the implementation of a neighborhood beautification program and related policies, including the grant application process. *Recommended by Community Advisory Board*

With no objections, Mayor Roman moved the following items after item 17. Discussion and Possible Action - regarding liaison positions.

12. Resolution - approving the implementation of a neighborhood beautification program and related policies, including the grant application process, Recommended by Community Advisory Board.

4. Resolution - authorizing the City Manager to execute a multi-year agreement with Vertosoft for OpenGov Enterprise Resource Planning System, after item 17.

Mayor Roman moved to bring this item to the floor, seconded by Vice Mayor Dial.

Staff Engineer Paul Posey presented this item.

Discussion ensued.

When the question was called the resolution passed as presented, roll call vote, 5 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain (5-0-0).

Yea: Commissioner Atkinson, Commissioner Johnston,
Commissioner McCarter, Vice Mayor Dial, Mayor Roman

Nay: None

Abstain: None

4. **Resolution** - authorizing the City Manager to execute a multi-year agreement with Vertosoft for OpenGov Enterprise Resource Planning System.
Vice Mayor Dial moved to bring this item to the floor, seconded by Mayor Roman.

ITS Director Josh Thompson presented this item.

Joel Smith, representative with OpenGov, provided a presentation.

Discussion ensued.

When the question was called the resolution passed as presented, roll call vote, 5 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain (5-0-0).

Yea: Commissioner Atkinson, Commissioner Johnston,
Commissioner McCarter, Vice Mayor Dial, Mayor Roman

Nay: None

Abstain: None

1. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** April 16, 2026
Mayor Roman moved to bring this item to the floor, seconded by Commissioner Atkinson.

When the question was called the meeting minutes passed as presented, voice vote, 5 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain (5-0-0).

2. **Ordinance First Reading** - amending Ordinance O-7-2023 Establishing

Sewer User Rates and Sewer Charge Adjustments.
Mayor Roman moved to bring this item to the floor, seconded by
Commissioner Atkinson.

Public Works Director Nick Pulido presented this item.

Discussion ensued.

Mayor Roman made a staff request for the following:

1. List of revenue sources on second reading of this ordinance.
2. Levers that can be pulled currently and compare it to Memphis and surrounding municipalities for their revenue sources for sewer.

When the question was called the ordinance passed as presented, roll call vote, 5 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain (5-0-0).

Yea: Commissioner Atkinson, Commissioner Johnston,
Commissioner McCarter, Vice Mayor Dial, Mayor Roman

Nay: None

Abstain: None

3. **Ordinance First Reading** - amending Lakeland's Code of Ethics regarding the acceptance of gratuities.
Mayor Roman moved to bring this item to the floor, seconded by
Commissioner McCarter.

City Attorney Will Patterson presented this item.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner McCarter made comments and asked questions.
Commissioner McCarter noted the highlighted Ordinance number,
asking if the number was meant to be O-6-96.

City Attorney advised that there was a clerical error and that the
highlighted number was meant to be O-6-96, and it would be corrected
for second reading.

When the question was called the ordinance passed as presented, voice vote, 5 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain (5-0-0).

7. **Resolution** - adopting a revised City of Lakeland Vehicle Use
Policy. Mayor Roman moved to bring this item to the floor, seconded by

Commissioner Atkinson.

City Manager Emily Harrell presented this item.

Mayor Roman made a motion to take items 7. Resolution - adopting a revised City of Lakeland Vehicle Use Policy, and 8. Resolution - approving the purchase of a Ford Explorer 4x4 SUV from Lonnie Cobb Ford through State of Tennessee Statewide Contract 209, together, seconded by Commissioner Atkinson, both items were properly moved to floor for discussion.

Discussion ensued.

When the question was called resolutions 7 and 8 passed as presented, roll call vote, 5 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain (5-0-0).

Yea: Commissioner Atkinson, Commissioner Johnston,
Commissioner McCarter, Vice Mayor Dial, Mayor Roman

Nay: None

Abstain: None

8. **Resolution** - approving the purchase of a Ford Explorer 4x4 SUV from Lonnie Cobb Ford through State of Tennessee Statewide Contract 209. For the record, this item was approved with item 7. Resolution - adopting a revised City of Lakeland Vehicle Use Policy, passing with a unanimous roll call vote.
9. **Resolution** - approving the emergency procurement of wastewater collection point repair services from B&C Construction Co., Inc. Mayor Roman moved to bring this item to the floor, seconded by Vice Mayor Dial.

When the question was called the resolution passed as presented, voice vote, 5 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain (5-0-0).

10. **Resolution** - approving an agreement with Pavement Technology, Inc. for the Fiscal Year 2026 Street Preservation project.

Mayor Roman moved to bring this item to the floor, seconded by Commissioner Atkinson.

Senior Staff Engineer Luis Camarillo Hernandez presented this item.

Discussion ensued.

When the question was called the resolution passed as presented, voice vote, 5 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain (5-0-0).

11.

Resolution - approving the lease of a line marking robot from Tiny Mobile Robot.

Vice Mayor Dial moved to bring this item to the floor, seconded by Commissioner Atkinson.

Parks and Recreation Manager John Proctor presented this item.

Discussion ensued.

When the question was called the resolution passed as presented, voice vote, 5 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain (5-0-0).

15. **Discussion and Possible Action** - related to City of Lakeland Solid Waste rates.

Mayor Roman moved to bring this item to the floor, seconded by Commissioner Atkinson.

Public Works Director Nick Puido presented this item.

Discussion ensued.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner McCarter made announcements thanking everyone for coming out for National Day of Prayer and recognized National Nurses Week, Educators Week, Firefighters Day and Public Works Week.

Commissioner Atkinson made note he would like to bring back resolution R-62-2026 regarding salaries at the next meeting.

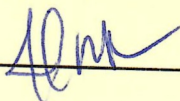
City Attorney Will Patterson made comments regarding resolution R-62-2026 and preparing a new resolution for the next meeting.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

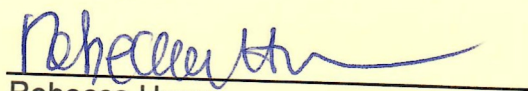
There being no other business on which to act, the meeting was adjourned without objection at 8:47 on Thursday, May 7, 2026.

These minutes were approved on May 21, 2026.

Josh Roman
Mayor



ATTEST:



Rebecca Hume
City Recorder