

The City of Lake Forest
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Proceedings of Tuesday, September 8, 2026 6:30 pm
City Council Meeting – City Council Chambers
220 E Deerpath, Lake Forest, IL 60045

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL: Honorable Mayor Tack called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., and City Clerk Margaret Boyer called the roll of Council members.

Present: Mayor Tack, Alderman Clemens, Alderman Powers, Alderman Kehr, Alderman LeVert, Alderman Bothfeld, Alderman Walther, and Alderman Culbertson.

Absent: Alderman Novit.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by all those present.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

1. COMMENTS BY MAYOR

Mayor Tack stated that Last week, Lake Forest Police Officer Filip Czarnecki was involved in a tragic accident while visiting his sister in Nicaragua. Officer Czarnecki suffered a severe head injury and remains in a coma. Thanks to the incredible generosity of the greater Lake Forest community, Officer Czarnecki's family was able to secure an air ambulance to bring him home. He is expected to arrive in Chicago this evening. Upon his arrival, he will be transferred to Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where he will continue to receive specialized medical care. I want to share how deeply grateful Officer Czarnecki's family is for the tremendous outpouring of support from Lake Forest residents, businesses, and community organizations. We will continue to keep Filip and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

2. COMMENTS BY CITY MANAGER

A. Community Spotlight
-Open Lands
- Ryan London, President

Jason Wicha, City Manager, introduced the evening's community spotlight.

Ryan London, President and CEO of Lake Forest Open Lands, provided an annual update on the organization's programs and initiatives. He highlighted the expansion of youth summer camps, a successful 30th class of summer interns, and the launch of new programs including an Eco Ambassador Program, a Youth Environmental Leadership Council, and the Susie Hoffman Award for Conservation.

Mr. London announced the organization's upcoming Bagpipes and Bonfire fundraiser on September 27th, a fall tree sale on September 24th, and the forthcoming launch of a preserve navigation app. He noted the recent relocation of the administrative headquarters to the Nagle Campus, a generous in-kind gift from Matt and Blair Nagle, and shared that groundbreaking on the new Negani Foundation Center conservation campus at Deerpath and Waukegan would begin later in the fall.

Mr. London also reported that a NOAA-funded bluff armoring and offshore reef project at the lakefront preserve was nearing completion, with trail and shoreline closures in effect during construction. He concluded by expressing appreciation for the Council's prior support of the Illinois Nature Preserve Dedication co-application for McCormick Ravine, noting that the Nature Preserve Commission had accepted the joint application and would formally vote the following week.

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

Diane addressed the Council, expressing gratitude for the community's support of Officer Czarnecki, praising Lake Forest Day, and commending the Police and Fire departments. The resident also noted a library video on the history of the naval station available on the library's YouTube page.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

5. ITEMS FOR OMNIBUS VOTE CONSIDERATION

1. Approval of the Monday, August 3, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes.
2. Approval of the Check Register for the Period of July 25 – August 21, 2026
3. Consideration of a Request to Waive the Fidelity Bond Requirement in Connection with Holding the Raffles in the City of Lake Forest for Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest Health & Fitness Center and The Women's Board of Northwestern Medicine Catherine Gratz Griffin Lake Forest Hospital (Approval by Motion)
4. Approval of a Contract Amendment with GSG Consultants, Inc., in the amount not to exceed \$28,790 for Additional Engineering Design Services associated with the Walden Lane East Bridge Repairs Project.
5. Consideration of Ordinances Approving Recommendations from the Building Review Board for 347 Cherokee Road, 1554 Big Oaks Court, 780 Greenview Place and 1286 N. Sheridan Road. (First Reading and if Desired by the City Council, Final Approval)
6. Consideration of Ordinances Approving Recommendations from the Zoning Board of Appeals for 170 E. Louis Avenue and 347 Cherokee Road. (First Reading, and if Desired by the City Council, Final Approval)
7. Consideration of a Request to Authorize the City Manager to Sign the "Dedication of Nature Preserve Addition to the Jean and John Greene Nature Preserve at McCormick Ravine". (By Motion)

Mayor Tack asked if anyone would like an item removed or taken separately. Seeing none, he asked for a motion.

CITY COUNCIL ACTION: Approve the seven (7) omnibus items as presented.

Alderman Kehr moved to approve the seven (7) omnibus items as presented, seconded by Alderman Walther. The following voted "Aye": Aldermen Clemens, Powers, Kehr, LeVert, Bothfeld, Walther, and Culbertson. The following voted "Nay": none. 7-Ayes, 0-Nays, motion carried.

6. OLD BUSINESS

7. NEW BUSINESS

8. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION/COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Tack noted that there will be no further business following the Executive Session.

He asked for a motion to adjourn into EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (6), as the Council will be discussing the lease of property owned by the public body.

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Alderman Kehr made a motion to adjourn into EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (6), as the Council will be discussing the lease of property owned by the public body, seconded by Alderman Clemens. The following voted "Aye": Aldermen Clemens, Powers, Kehr, LeVert, Bothfeld, Walther, and Culbertson. The following voted "Nay": none. 7-Ayes, 0-Nays, motion carried.

Adjournment into Executive Session 6:54 p.m.

Reconvene into Open Session 7:38 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Tack asked for a motion to adjourn. Alderman Walther made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Powers. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Margaret Boyer, City Clerk

A video of the City Council meeting is available for viewing at the Lake Forest Library and on file in the Clerk's office at City Hall. You can also view it on the website by visiting www.cityoflakeforest.com. Click on I Want To, then click on View, then choose Archived Meetings Videos.