

The City of Lake Forest
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Proceedings of Monday, October 5, 2026
City Council Meeting – City Council Chambers 6:30 p m
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 Novit, Alderman Clemens, Alderman Powers, Alderman Kehr, Alderman LeVert, Alderman Bothfeld, Alderman Walther.

Absent: Alderman Culbertson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by all those present.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

1. COMMENTS BY MAYOR

Mayor Tack remarked on the recent beautiful weather and encouraged residents to get out and enjoy the beauty of the community before the weather turns

2. COMMENTS BY CITY MANAGER

Deputy City Manager George Issakoo introduced this evening's Community Spotlight.

A. Community Spotlight

-Tool Library of Lake County

- Shelley Clark, President, and Van Miller, Founding Member

Shelley Clark, President, and Van Miller, Founding Member, described the volunteer-run Tool Library, founded five years ago and based in Mundelein. It has about 34 volunteers and thousands of donated tools. Members pay a \$50 annual fee and may borrow up to seven tools at a time. The organization also offers hands-on classes in partnership with the College of Lake County and monthly "fix-it" clinics. A WGN news segment on the library was shown, and a chili cook-off fundraiser was announced for January 17 at Tighthead Brewery. City Council had a discussion on membership and confirmed that membership is open to anyone, not only Lake County residents. In response to a question about corporate partnerships, they said such outreach had been difficult and that they continue to seek donations of money and items. Mayor Tack thanked the presenters.

Deputy City Manager George Issakoo introduced Chief Burke for the Police Station Update.

B. Police Station Construction Update

- John Burke, Chief of Police

Chief John Burke reported that interior finish work, including drywall, painting, flooring, and mechanical, electrical, and data systems, is progressing, with exterior concrete work and parking lot repaving scheduled for later this month. He stated that the project remains on schedule for a move-in at the end of the year, and that the reuse of existing doors and glazing produced substantial cost savings. He added that the department is in detailed lease discussions with three entities and hopes to bring at least two lease agreements to the Council before year-end. City Council had a discussion on community tours, and in response to Mayor Tack, confirmed that the crime lab board had approved moving forward and that intergovernmental agreements were distributed to 63 government entities, to be returned by November 30.

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

Diane addressed the Council, expressing thanks to the Police, Fire, Sanitation, Streets, and Parks and Recreation Departments, as well as city communications staff. The resident also noted the improved condition of an injured police officer and looked forward to the reopening of a closed street

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Alderman Nick Bothfeld, Chairman, reported the installation of two bicycle repair stations at the East Lake Forest train station and the Route 41 overpass at Deerpath. He also reported that the committee will update its mission statement as part of updating the 2016 sustainability plan. He sought Council direction on exploring a four-month seasonal ban on commercial gas-powered leaf blowers, which the ESC unanimously supported, and deferred a proposed battery-powered landscape crew pilot to the upcoming capital improvements workshop. A council member opposed a ban, citing the recent revision of landscape equipment hours and a reluctance to prohibit equipment. Another Council member voiced concern about the cost and income impact on commercial landscapers. Staff noted that the city receives about 10 to 15 formal noise complaints annually and that further research would be undertaken only if the Council wished to proceed. A show of hands indicated a split Council, and Mayor Tack concluded that the Council would not direct further staff work at this time and could revisit the matter next year.

5. ITEMS FOR OMNIBUS VOTE CONSIDERATION

- 1. Approval of the Tuesday, September 8, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes.**
- 2. Approval of the Monday, September 21, 2026, City Council Workshop Meeting Minutes.**
- 3. Approval of the Check Register for the Period of August 22 – September 18, 2026.**
- 4. Consideration of a Request to Waive the Fidelity Bond Requirement in Connection with Holding the Raffles in the City of Lake Forest for the Guild of St. Mary (Approval by Motion)**
- 5. Request to Consider Approval of a One-Year Agreement with OpenGov for Public Works Asset Management System Software Maintenance in the amount of \$51,632.**
- 6. Consideration of an Ordinance Approving a Recommendation from the Historic Preservation Commission in Support of a Building Scale Variance for a Shore Cottage and a Boat House at 1345 Lake Road. (First Reading and if Desired by the City Council, Final Approval)**
- 7. Consideration of an Ordinance Approving a Recommendation from the Zoning Board of Appeals for 1345 Lake Road. (First Reading, and if Desired by the City Council, Final Approval)**

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

6. OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Approval of a Contract Amendment with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., in the amount not to exceed \$70,300 for Supplemental Slope Stability Evaluation at McLennon-Reed Bridge.**

City Engineer Ryan Kearney explained that an earlier geotechnical investigation by ECS found the north embankment stable in the short term but in need of long-term stabilization. Because the ECS assumptions were considered too conservative for design, Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates proposed two additional 75-foot soil borings with groundwater monitoring and a recalculation of the long-term factor of safety. The amendment is not to exceed \$70,300, which would bring the firm's total for this scope to roughly \$141,000. Mr. Carney stated that the contractor, Dunnet Bay, could begin winter channel stabilization as early as next week, with the bridge expected to reopen in November. He said a design-build change order is anticipated in February, and completion of construction is now projected for August. In response to Council discussion, he said repair costs could range from six to seven figures pending the supplemental data

Mayor Tack asked if there was anyone from the public who would like to comment on this item. Seeing none, he asked for a motion.

COUNCIL ACTION: Approval of a Contract Amendment with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., in the amount not to exceed \$70,300 for Supplemental Slope Stability Evaluation at McLennon-Reed Bridge.

Alderman Kehr moved to approve a Contract Amendment with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., in the amount not to exceed \$70,300 for Supplemental Slope Stability Evaluation at McLennon-Reed Bridge, seconded by Alderman Powers. The following voted "Aye": Aldermen Novit, Clemens, Powers, Kehr, LeVert, and Bothfeld. The following abstained: Alderman Walther. The following voted "Nay": none. 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Abstention. Motion carried.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Consideration of Recommendations from the Plan Commission and Building Review Board Related to Redevelopment of the Southeast Corner of Westminster and Oakwood Avenue.**

Catherine Czerniak, Director of Community Development, presented a proposal to replace the existing farmhouse on a quarter-acre B3-zoned corner parcel with a two-story, three-unit residential condominium building with underground parking. The Plan Commission voted 6-0 and the Building Review Board voted 5-0 to recommend approval. No variances were requested, and the project qualified for a central business district special use permit, which allows a floor area ratio of up to 1.25. The proposed building is about 10,800 square feet, below the allowable maximum. Ms. Czerniak noted that one neighbor had raised concerns about size and precedent, that a landscape escrow would be required at permit issuance, and that no affordable housing contribution applies to projects of fewer than five units. Alderman Powers expressed support and recommended final approval.

Mayor Tack asked if there was anyone from the public who would like to comment on this item. Seeing none, he asked for a motion.

COUNCIL ACTION: If desired by the City Council, waive first reading and grant final approval of two Ordinances approving redevelopment of the southeast corner of Westminster and Oakwood Avenue as recommended by the Plan Commission and Building Review Board and based on the findings detailed in each Ordinance.

Alderman Powers moved to waive first reading and grant final approval of two Ordinances approving redevelopment of the southeast corner of Westminster and Oakwood Avenue as recommended by the Plan Commission and Building Review Board and based on the findings detailed in each Ordinance, seconded by Alderman Walther. The following voted "Aye": Aldermen Novit, Clemens, Powers, Kehr, LeVert, Bothfeld, and Walther. The following voted "Nay": none. 7-Ayes, 0-Nays, motion carried.

8. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION/COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS
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A Council member sought clarification that first reading had been waived and final approval granted on the prior item, and the Mayor confirmed that both were intended. Alderman LeVert announced that the Lake Forest recognition coin is ready to be presented to those who serve the community. Alderman Kehr reminded attendees of the Lake Forest Preservation Foundation symposium on October 17 and 18, mostly at Lake Forest College. Alderman Powers noted that the caucus election would be held the following day from 1:00 to 8:00 PM at the Gorton.

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 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Margaret Boyer, City Clerk