

**THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**
Monday, March 2, 2026
220 E. Deerpath
Lake Forest, IL 60045

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

6:30 pm.

Honorable Mayor, Stanford R. Tack

Nancy Novit, Alderman First Ward

Alice LeVert, Alderman Third Ward

Peter Clemens, Alderman First Ward

Nick Bothfeld, Alderman Third Ward

Edward U. Notz, Jr., Alderman Second Ward

Eileen Looby Weber, Alderman Fourth Ward

John Powers, Alderman Second Ward

Richard Walther, Alderman Fourth Ward

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

1. COMMENTS BY MAYOR

A. Resolution of Appreciation for Retiring Refuse Collector, Raymond Spetz

A copy of the Resolution is included in the packet on **page 15**.

COUNCIL ACTION: Approval of the Resolution of Appreciation

2. COMMENTS BY CITY MANAGER

A. Griffith-Woodland Storm Sewer Improvement Project Overview
- Byron Kutz, Superintendent of Engineering

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE



1. Consideration of an Ordinance Prohibiting the Use of Coal Tar Sealant Products in the City of Lake Forest (First Reading)

PRESENTED BY: *Keri Kaup, Assistant to the City Manager (847-810-3677)*

PURPOSE AND ACTION REQUESTED: The Environmental Sustainability Committee requests consideration of an ordinance amending Chapter 95 of the City Code to prohibit the use of coal tar sealant in the City.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION: In fall 2025, members of City Council completed a Sustainability Survey to set the priorities for the Environmental Sustainability Committee's work for the upcoming year. Through that survey, coal tar sealant emerged as the highest priority issue for ESC to consider.

Coal tar sealant is a thick, black substance applied to asphalt pavement surfaces to brighten and protect them. Coal tar sealant contains toxic compounds known as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) which have been classified as a known human carcinogen. As the sealant erodes over time, it can cause damage to plants, lawns, ravines, and downstream water quality. Alternatives such as asphalt-based sealants are more environmentally friendly, and PAH levels in asphalt products can be up to 1,000 times lower than coal tar sealants.

Numerous municipalities in the area have established coal tar sealant prohibitions. These municipalities include Deerfield, Highland Park, Wilmette, Winnetka, Vernon Hills, Evanston, Riverwoods, and Cook County.

Staff contacted 10 sealant companies that provide services in Lake Forest. 8 out of 10 companies no longer offer coal tar sealant due to the number of municipalities who regulate against its use.

The draft ordinance prohibits the application of coal tar sealant on public and private property within the City of Lake Forest. As drafted, the responsible party is the individual applying the product.

An Ordinance amending the City Code, adding new subsection 95.196 titled "Coal Tar Sealant Prohibition" can be found on **page 16**.

PROJECT REVIEW/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Reviewed	Date	Comments
Environmental Sustainability Committee	2/17/26	Unanimous vote to recommend draft ordinance to City Council.
Environmental Sustainability Committee	1/20/26	Review of draft ordinance and direction to staff to modify draft.
Environmental Sustainability Committee	11/14/25	Review of Council Survey and direction to staff to begin drafting ordinance.

COUNCIL ACTION: Grant first reading of an Ordinance amending the City Code to add a new subsection 95.196 titled "Coal Tar Sealant Prohibition" to prohibit the use of coal tar sealant products within the City.

5. ITEMS FOR OMNIBUS VOTE CONSIDERATION



1. Approval of February 17, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes

A copy of the minutes can be found beginning on **page 19**

COUNCIL ACTION: Approval of February 17, 2026 City Council Meeting Minutes



2. Approval of the Check Register for the Period of January 24 – February 20, 2026.

STAFF CONTACT: *Diane Hall, Assistant Finance Director (847-810-3614)*

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION: City Code Section 38.02 sets forth payment procedures of the City. The Director of Finance is to prepare a monthly summary of all warrants to be drawn on the City treasury for the payment of all sums due from the City (including all warrants relating to payroll and invoice payments) by fund and shall prepare a detailed list of invoice payments which denotes the person to whom the warrant is payable. The warrant list detail of invoice payments shall be presented for review to the Chairperson of the City Council Finance Committee for review and recommendation. All items on the warrant list detailed for payment by the Finance Committee Chairperson shall be presented in summary form to the City Council for approval or ratification. Any member of the City Council shall, upon request to the City Manager or Director of Finance, receive a copy of the warrant list detail as recommended by the Finance Committee Chairperson. The City Council may approve the warrant list as so recommended by the Finance Committee Chairperson by a concurrence of the majority of the City Council as recorded through a roll call vote.

The Council action requested is to ratify the payments as summarized below. The associated payroll and invoice payments have been released during the check register period noted.

Following is the summary of warrants as recommended by the Finance Committee Chairperson:

Check Register for January 24th - February 20, 2026

	Fund	Invoice	Payroll	Total
101	General	622,787	1,582,408	2,205,195
501	Water & Sewer	125,806	165,993	291,799
220	Parks & Recreation	145,639	341,288	486,927
311	Capital Improvements	817,925		817,925
202	Motor Fuel Tax	0		0
230	Cemetery	12,011	35,318	47,329
210	Senior Resources	9,814	33,091	42,905
510	Deerpath Golf Course	18,762	2,676	21,438
601	Fleet	67,055	57,535	124,590
416 - 434	Debt Funds	54,250		54,250
248	Housing Trust			0
201	Park & Public Land	0		0
	All other Funds	304,670	184,998	489,668
		\$2,178,719	\$2,403,307	\$4,582,026

Included in the subtotal denoted as "All other Funds" is \$589,631 in Water & Sewer Capital Improvement Fund expenditures.

COUNCIL ACTION: Approval of the Check Register for the Period of January 24 – February 20, 2026.



3. Approval of the Purchase of Replacement Computers for all City Departments, Not to Exceed the Amount of \$78,911

STAFF CONTACT: *Cameron Burrell, IT Director (847-810-3598)*

PURPOSE AND ACTION REQUESTED: Staff requests approval to purchase 62 computers based on a 5-year replacement cycle which includes workstations, laptops with docking stations, and ruggedized computers.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION: The City has 24 desktop computers, 32 laptops with docking stations, 4 rugged laptops, and 2 rugged tablets recommended for replacement in FY26. All desktops, laptops, and tablets are considered end-of-life (EOL) as they no longer have a warranty and are demonstrating reduced performance resulting in loss of productivity. The City's current inventory of computers consists of 77 desktops, 120 laptops, 2 hybrid laptops, 49 rugged laptops, and 8 rugged tablets.

The City standardized all desktops and laptops with Dell products 25 years ago. The standardizations help staff to efficiently deploy, troubleshoot, and maintain the systems. This year the staff received pricing from three vendors: Dell, CDW, and SHI. Dell provided a proposal based on the Midwestern Higher Education Compact Master Agreement MHEC-04152022. MHEC is an instrumentality of state government founded in 1991 serving Illinois and eleven other states. Contracts must adhere to the purchasing policies of the MHEC member states.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT: Staff received the following pricing for this project:

Vendor	Total Amount
Dell Direct	\$78,911
CDW	\$95,909
SHI	\$103,964

Has competitive pricing been obtained for proposed goods/services? **Yes**

Below is an estimated summary of Project budget:

FY2026 Funding Source	Amount Budgeted	Amount Requested	Budgeted? Y/N
IT Operating 101-1303-466.66-11	\$81,000	\$78,911	Y

COUNCIL ACTION: Approval of the Purchase of Replacement Computers for all City Departments, Not to Exceed the Amount of \$78,911



4. Approval to Purchase the Verkada Access Control System for the Municipal Services Building from Modern Media Technologies in the Amount of \$113,300.

STAFF CONTACT: Cameron Burrell, Director of Innovation and Technology (847-810-3598)

PURPOSE AND ACTION REQUESTED: Staff requests approval to expend capital funds for a new Access Control System for the Lake Forest Municipal Services Building.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION: This authorization would allow for the implementation of a new Access Control system at the Lake Forest Municipal Services Building. With this project, activities within coverage zones would be documented and available to Municipal Services stakeholders. It would also coexist with our current cloud-based system, Verkada, to provide granular access to Municipal Services doors. We would be able to integrate the access control system with our current Verkada camera system as well to provide a more robust environment for tracking user access to improve building security.

This fiscal year's project is part of a multi-year initiative that would consolidate the outdated access control systems currently in place and expand to other City locations.

PROJECT REVIEW/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Milestone	Date
RFP Issuance	02/02/2026
Intent to Propose Requested	2/13/2026
Final Addenda Distributed	2/16/2026
Vendor Proposals Submitted	02/18/2026

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT: On 02/02/2026, a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an access control system was released by the City, published in the Chicago Tribune, and posted on the City's website. On 02/18/2026, the City received one system proposal. This proposal was reviewed and evaluated based on the ability to fulfill identified needs, vendor qualifications, references, and proposed cost.

The following is the summary chart of the vendor who proposed the preferred system, Verkada. It reflects all door access control hardware, systems' usage licensing, IT staff training, and the first year of maintenance services.

Proposer Finalist	Hardware & Installation Cost	Annual Maintenance Licensing	Overall Proposal Cost
Modern Media Technologies	\$104,900.00	\$8,400.00	\$113,300

Staff's recommended vendor is Modern Media Technologies for the Verkada Access Control system. Modern Media is being recommended due to their understanding of our environment and cost. Staff has verified with the vendor to ensure that the specific scope of the hardware proposed, implementation, training, and on-going services is right sized for the City. They also helped verify that we can maintain use of our current door access control badges, which helps our employees maintain access during this transition. Due to available resources and funding, the Municipal Services Building has been identified as the next location in this fiscal year of the multi-year initiative.

Has City staff obtained competitive pricing for proposed goods/services? **No**

If no, indicate the specific waiver requested:

Administrative Directive 3-5, Section 9.0K – Existing Relationship

During the FY25 Phase 1 of the Access Control Project, the City conducted a competitive solicitation process and received three proposals from qualified vendors. Following evaluation, the City selected a preferred vendor based on demonstrated experience, technical qualifications, and overall value. That vendor has since successfully completed the initial phase of the project and has established a proven track record working within the City's facilities and systems.

For the Phase 2 portion of the project in this fiscal year, the City followed the same outreach and solicitation procedures used during Phase 1 to invite proposals from qualified vendors. Despite these efforts, only one proposal was received. The single respondent was the City's existing vendor, who is uniquely familiar with the City's current access control infrastructure, previously installed equipment, and system integration requirements. Utilizing this vendor for Phase 2 ensures continuity with the existing system, and reduces implementation risk.

FY2026 Funding Source	Amount Budgeted	Amount Requested	Budgeted? Y/N
IT Capital 311-1303-466.66-13	\$100,000	\$113,300	Y

The amount requested for this phase of the project is higher than the originally budgeted amount due to increases in hardware costs, which have occurred industry-wide over the past year. Access control equipment, including electronic door controllers, readers, and associated components, have experienced price adjustments driven by supply chain constraints and manufacturer pricing changes. Despite this increase, the additional funds required for this project can be accommodated within the existing IT Capital budget.

COUNCIL ACTION: Approval to Purchase the Verkada Access Control System for the Municipal Services Building from Modern Media Technologies in the Amount of \$113,300.



5. Approval to Purchase Two Replacement Police Department CSO Vehicles to Kayser Ford Lincoln in the Amount of \$70,750

STAFF CONTACT: *Matt Brugioni, Superintendent of Public Works (810-3561) & John Burke, Police Chief (810-3803)*

PURPOSE AND ACTION REQUESTED: The Public Works Committee and City staff request City Council approval to purchase two replacement Police Department CSO vehicles to Kayser Ford Lincoln, in the amount of \$70,750.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION: This recommended purchase will replace two existing, in-service Police Department CSO vehicles with new Ford Rangers. The two existing vehicles are 2022 Chevrolet Colorados (vehicle #13 and vehicle #14). Vehicle #13 has accrued 99,000 miles and vehicle #14 has accrued 106,000 miles. Both vehicles are due for replacement. One unit has been budgeted to be replaced in fiscal year 2026 and the other in fiscal year 2027. Staff is requesting the advancement of FY 2027 funding so both vehicles can be purchased this month and outfitted at the same time.

Approval of these purchases will allow both Ford Rangers to be outfitted with the new license plate recognition (LPR) system used for parking enforcement. Equipping two identical vehicles is important for operational efficiency, training consistency, and redundancy. If one vehicle is out of service, the Department will still be able to maintain enforcement of the new parking regulations approved by City Council at their February 17, 2026 meeting.

The current CSO vehicles will be transferred within the City and will replace older higher mile vehicles in Community Development, Engineering, and the City's general pool vehicle fleet. Those vehicles will generally accrue a total of 125,000-150,000 miles before they are retired, placed out to bid, and sold to the highest bidder.

PROJECT REVIEW/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Reviewed	Date	Comments
Public Works Committee	12/1/25	Reviewed & Approved FY27 Capital Equipment List
Finance Committee	11/10/25	FY27 Capital Equipment Replacement List Included in Meeting Packet
Public Works Committee	3/17/25	Reviewed & Approved Water Fund Updates to the FY26 Capital Equipment List
Public Works Committee	12/2/24	Reviewed & Approved FY26 Capital Equipment List
Finance Committee	11/12/24	FY26 Capital Equipment Replacement List Included in Meeting Packet

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT: At their December committee meeting, the Public Works Committee reviews and recommends City Council approval of each piece of equipment included in the upcoming fiscal year's capital equipment budget. There are currently no Illinois joint bid

contracts specific to the purchase Ford Rangers that are offered through governmental joint purchasing programs.

City staff issued a bid on January 26, 2026, and held a bid opening on Monday, February 9, 2026. The City received two bids for 2026 Ford Rangers, and both came in under the fiscal year 2026 and fiscal year 2027 budgeted amount as outlined in the below table. However, after reviewing the bid documents, both vendors indicated lead times of approximately 120 to 160 days after a purchase order is issued.

Has City staff obtained competitive pricing for proposed goods/services? **Yes**

Dealer	Vehicle Bid
Elmhurst Ford	\$35,142
Highland Park Ford	\$36,460

Unfortunately, the timeline did not align with the schedule for outfitting the vehicles with the LPR system or the May 1 implementation date for the new parking restrictions. As a result, staff located two, 2025 Ford Rangers currently in stock at Kayser Ford Lincoln, which the dealer has agreed to hold until receipt of a purchase order. Additionally, the below pricing was found to be aligned with pricing received during the recent bid process.

Dealer	Vehicle Bid (each)
Kayser Ford and Lincoln	\$35,375

While the City has not purchased any vehicles from Kayser Ford Lincoln in the past, all reference checks came back favorable. All warranty work will be completed by a local Ford authorized dealer.

Below is an estimated summary of vehicle purchase budget:

FY2026 Funding Source	Amount Budgeted	Amount Requested	Budgeted? Y/N
Capital Fund 311-5003-475-75-02	\$40,000	\$35,375	Y

FY2027 Funding Source	Amount Budgeted	Amount Requested	Budgeted? Y/N
Capital Fund 311-5003-475-75-02	\$40,000	\$35,375	Y

Specific to the fiscal year 2027 budgeted amount and its advancement, the proposed capital fund provides for this replacement in the amount of \$40,000. The costs incurred in fiscal year 2026 would reduce the amount budgeted for fiscal year 2027. If necessary, a fiscal year 2026 supplemental appropriation ordinance will be submitted to City Council for approval at the close of the current fiscal year.

The remaining balance of the approved budget allocations will be used to outfit the vehicles with a bed cap, bed liner, and required lighting. If approved by City Council this evening, staff will immediately purchase the vehicles currently on Kaysers Ford Lincoln auto group's lot.

COUNCIL ACTION: Approval of the Purchase of Two Replacement Police Department CSO Vehicles to Kaysers Ford and Lincoln the Amount of \$70,750.



6. Approval of a Recommendation from the Public Works Committee to Authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Sundance Lawncare for City-Wide Grounds Maintenance Services in the Horticulture FY2027 Budget, for an Amount Not to Exceed \$214,900.

STAFF CONTACT: *Corey Wierema, Superintendent of Public Works - 810-3565*

PURPOSE AND ACTION REQUESTED: The Public Works Committee and City Staff requests approval to award a one-year contract Sundance Lawncare, for \$214,900 to provide mowing and grounds maintenance services city-wide.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION: Annually, the Public Works Department research opportunities to improve operational efficiencies and deliver services in the most cost effective manner. In 2011, the Parks section began outsourcing the mowing of many of our passive parks and miscellaneous parcels. We chose not to bid out all other park properties, such as the neighborhood parks and community parks, due to the significant need to coordinate with ever-changing public use and athletic field schedules. The outsourcing of mowing has proven to be a beneficial fiscal approach by reducing labor expenses and long-term capital equipment replacement costs.

In an effort to restructure the larger contract, staff created a “tiered” system to distinguish the required maintenance levels for various sites. Tier 1 includes some of the City's higher profile sites that require more extensive maintenance, Tier 2 includes City properties with lower maintenance requirements and includes the City's 167 cul-de-sacs, and Tier 3 includes various City owned right-of-ways along roadways.

In December 2023, staff conducted an expansive bid request that included mowing and grounds maintenance on fifteen City property areas, 167 cul-de-sacs and the mowing only of twenty City rights-of-ways. Additional grounds maintenance includes lawn care, weed control, and bed maintenance. Similar to the selection rationale for outsourcing areas in 2011, the right-of-ways and cul-de-sacs are also desirable to outsource because they involve routine scheduling requirements.

PROJECT REVIEW/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Reviewed	Date	Comments
Public Works Committee	02/02/2026	Recommend Approval

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT: Funding for the FY2027 City-wide Grounds Maintenance contract is budgeted in the Horticulture Fund 220 operating budget.

On January 4, 2024, City staff received bids for City-wide Grounds Maintenance Services. Sundance Landscape was selected and approved by the City Council for FY2025 services. In addition, staff included 3-year bids (FY2025 - FY2027) in the bid process and can extend the contract after the FY27 season for two (2) additional one (1)-year terms.

City staff is satisfied with the services performed by Sundance Landscape in FY2026 and are recommending the continuation of their services for FY2027.

Has competitive pricing been obtained for proposed goods/services? **Yes**

Below is an estimated summary of Project budget:

FY2026 Funding Source	Amount Budgeted	Amount Requested	Budgeted? Y/N
220-5610-435.35-10 Horticulture Operating Budget	\$214,900	\$214,900	Y

COUNCIL ACTION: Approval of a Recommendation from the Public Works Committee to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Sundance Lawncare for City-Wide Grounds Maintenance Services in the Horticulture FY2027 Budget, for an Amount Not to Exceed \$214,900.



- Award the Low Bid for the Griffith-Woodland Storm Sewer Improvement Project to Maneval Construction and Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Agreement in the Amount of \$372,150 and a 10% Contingency in the Amount of \$37,215 for a Total Project Cost of \$409,365**

STAFF CONTACT: *Byron Kutz, P.E., Superintendent of Engineering (810-3555)*

PURPOSE AND ACTION REQUESTED: The Public Works Committee and City staff are requesting approval of the Griffith-Woodland Storm Sewer Improvement project to Maneval Construction for \$372,150 with 10% Contingency in the Amount of \$37,215 for a Total Cost of \$409,365. In addition, authorization for the City Manager to Execute the Agreement.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION: The mid-block of Griffith Road just north of Woodland Road floods in medium to large storm events. Large storm events cause significant inconvenience to residents as the roads are impassable and inundate private yards as well. Upsizing the storm sewer will reduce these flooding events.

The construction scope includes storm-sewer replacement and upsizing, spot curb and gutter replacement, spot sidewalk, resurfacing, and striping. The tentative schedule is to start work week of Spring Break (March 23) while there is less traffic in the area and completing at the end of May prior to graduation at the adjacent high school. A letter will be sent to residents

within the limits of the project two weeks prior to start of construction. The City's website, under "Construction Updates", will also provide details on the construction schedule.

PROJECT REVIEW/RECOMMENDATIONS:

Reviewed	Date	Comments
Public Works Committee	2/17/2026	Reviewed & Recommended City Council Approval of Contract
Finance Committee	11/10/2025	Included with FY2027 Capital Plan
Finance Committee	11/12/2024	Included with FY2026 Capital Plan

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT: Six contractors picked up plans, with a total of five bids received. City engineering staff will oversee the contractor, and work with the Communications Director to ensure progress updates are provided weekly to the public.

Has City staff obtained competitive pricing for proposed goods/services? **Yes**

The following is a summary of the five bids received:

Company Name	Bid Amount
Maneval Construction	\$372,150
Berger Excavating Contractors, Inc.	\$478,318
Campanella & Sons, Inc.	\$559,536
DiMeo	\$564,776
D'Land Construction, LLC	\$585,679

The low bidder, Maneval Construction, has recently and successfully completed projects for the City. Staff also contacted three references to verify their storm sewer experience and received satisfactory feedback.

Below is an estimated summary of the project budget:

Funding Source	Amount Budgeted	Amount Requested	Budgeted Y/N
Storm Sewer Improvements Fund 311-3703-478.78-06 (FY2026)	\$200,000	\$200,000	Y
Storm Sewer Improvements Fund 311-3703-478.78-06 (FY2027)	\$225,000	\$209,365	Y

COUNCIL ACTION: Award the Low Bid for the Griffith-Woodland Storm Sewer Improvement Project to Maneval Construction and Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Agreement in the Amount of \$372,150 and a 10% Contingency in the Amount of \$37,215 for a Total Project Cost of \$409,365

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

6. OLD BUSINESS

7. NEW BUSINESS

8. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

9. ADJOURNMENT

A copy of the Decision Making Parameters, along with a guide to icons focusing on the Priority Areas in the Strategic Plan, is included with this agenda, starting on the following page.



Office of the City Manager

February 25, 2026

The City of Lake Forest is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting or the facilities, are required to contact City Manager Jason Wicha, at (847) 234-2600 promptly to allow the City to make reasonable accommodations for those persons.



THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST

DECISION-MAKING PARAMETERS FOR CITY COUNCIL, AND APPOINTED BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Adopted June 18, 2018

The City of Lake Forest Mission Statement:

“Be the best-managed, fiscally-responsible and appealing community and promote a community spirit of trust, respect and citizen involvement.”

The Lake Forest City Council, with the advice and recommendations of its appointed advisory Boards and Commissions, Lake Forest Citizens, and City Staff, is responsible for policy formulation and approval. Implementation of adopted strategy, policy, budgets, and other directives of Council is the responsibility of City Staff, led by the City Manager and Senior Staff. The Mayor and Aldermen, and appointed members of Boards and Commissions should address matters in a timely, deliberate, objective and process-driven manner, making decisions guided by the City of Lake Forest Strategic and Comprehensive Plans, the City’s Codes, policies and procedures, and the following parameters:

- Motions and votes should comprise what is in the best long-term interests of all Lake Forest citizens, measured in decades, being mindful of proven precedents and new precedents that may be created.
- All points of view should be listened to and considered in making decisions with the long-term benefit to Lake Forest’s general public welfare being the highest priority.
- Funding decisions should support effectiveness and economy in providing services and programs, while mindful of the number of citizens benefitting from such expenditures.
- New initiatives should be quantified, qualified, and evaluated for their long-term merit and overall fiscal impact and other consequences to the community.
- Decision makers should be proactive and timely in addressing strategic planning initiatives, external forces not under control of the City, and other opportunities and challenges to the community.

Community trust in, and support of, government is fostered by maintaining the integrity of these decision-making parameters.

The City of Lake Forest’s Decision-Making Parameters shall be reviewed by the City Council on an annual basis and shall be included on all agendas of the City Council and Boards and Commissions.

Priority Areas



FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

Implement an operating budget and capital improvement strategy that is balanced over the long-term.



INFRASTRUCTURE & CITY FACILITIES

Invest in and maintain infrastructure and facilities to ensure they are safe, reliable, and capable of meeting current and future needs of the community.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Ensure the safety and security of all residents by providing efficient and effective police, fire, and emergency services while promoting community-based crime prevention initiatives.



RECREATION AND COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

Promote a healthy and active community by providing diverse recreational opportunities, maintaining parks and open spaces, and supporting programs that enhance residents' quality of life.



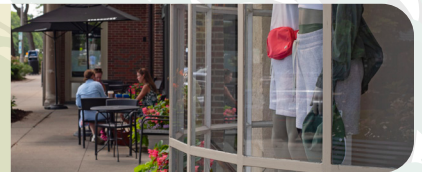
COMMUNITY'S VISUAL CHARACTER AND DEVELOPMENT

Enhance the aesthetic appeal of Lake Forest by balancing preservation of historic buildings, distinct streetscapes and landscapes with being open to opportunities and new ideas.



BUSINESS & ECONOMIC VITALITY

Enhance the business community so that it remains economically viable, enticing to visit, and meets the needs of the community and visitors.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Encourage active participation and communication between the City government and residents, fostering a sense of community and ensuring that voices are heard in the decision-making process.



RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, RAYMOND W. SPETZ has been a dedicated employee of The City of Lake Forest since February 20, 2006, as a Refuse Collector; and

WHEREAS, RAYMOND W. SPETZ will honorably retire from the City on March 3, 2026; and

WHEREAS, RAYMOND W. SPETZ has faithfully served the community with dedication and quiet pride, always taking care to ensure residents received dependable, thoughtful service; and

WHEREAS, the standard of excellence he set through the quality of his work — and the exceptional care he showed for the equipment entrusted to him — reflects his deep sense of responsibility and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, RAYMOND W. SPETZ, over the course of 45 years in the Sanitation field, generously shared his knowledge and experience, helping to educate his colleagues and promote a culture of safety and teamwork throughout daily operations; and

WHEREAS, RAYMOND W. SPETZ, as a CDL trainer, invested in the success of others, patiently mentoring Sanitation employees to become safe, confident, and skilled drivers — strengthening not only individuals, but the entire Section; and

WHEREAS, whether out on his route or assisting residents at the Compost & Recycling Center, **RAYMOND W. SPETZ** could always be counted on to greet residents with a smile and a steady, reassuring presence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST that the Council, on behalf of the administration and residents of the community, hereby expresses its appreciation and gratitude to **RAYMOND W. SPETZ** for a public service faithfully performed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be appropriately inscribed and conveyed to Ray, with a copy to be spread upon the permanent record of the Lake Forest City Council this March 2, 2026.

Mayor

THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-____

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAKE FOREST CITY CODE
TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF COAL TAR SEALANT PRODUCTS**

Adopted by the City Council
of the City of Lake Forest
this ____ day of _____ 2026

Published in pamphlet form by direction
and authority of The City of Lake Forest
Lake County, Illinois
this ____ day of _____ 2026

THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - _____

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAKE FOREST CITY CODE
TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF COAL TAR SEALANT PRODUCTS**

WHEREAS, the City of Lake Forest is a home rule, special charter municipal corporation;
and

WHEREAS, the City has determined that the use of coal tar sealant products poses a danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the City and its residents; and

WHEREAS, in order to protect the health and safety of the residents of the City, the City Council has determined that the use of coal tar sealant products should be prohibited, as set forth in this Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of The City of Lake Forest, County of Lake, and State of Illinois, and pursuant to its home rule authority, as follows:

SECTION ONE: Recitals. The foregoing recitals are incorporated as the findings of the City Council and are hereby incorporated into and made a part of this Ordinance.

SECTION TWO: Amendment to Chapter 95 of Title IX of the City Code. Chapter 95 (“Health and Sanitation”) of Title IX (“General Regulations”) of the City Code of Lake Forest, 2013, is hereby amended by adding a new Subsection 95.196 as follows:

“§95.196 Coal Tar Sealant Prohibition.

- A. *Definition.* For purposes of this Section, "coal tar-based sealant or high polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon sealant product" means a pavement sealant material containing coal tar or a high polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon content greater than 0.1% by weight.
- B. *Prohibition.* It shall be unlawful for any person to apply or affix coal tar sealant or high polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon sealant products of any kind to the surface of any driveway, driveway approach, on or off-street parking area, playground, sidewalk, bike trail, patio, sports facility, loading area or facility, street, highway, roadway, or paved surface within the City, whether publicly or privately owned.

C. *Penalty.* The penalty for violating this section will be as provided in Section 95.999.”

SECTION THREE: Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its passage, approval, and publication in pamphlet form in the manner provided by law.

SECTION FOUR: REPEAL OF CONFLICTING PROVISIONS. All ordinances and resolutions, or parts thereof, in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance, are to the extent of the conflict, expressly repealed on the effective date of this Ordinance.

Passed this ____ day of _____, 2026.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Approved this __ day of _____, 2026.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

The City of Lake Forest
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Proceedings of Tuesday, February 17, 2026
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 Novit, Alderman Clemens, Alderman Notz, Alderman Powers, Alderman LeVert, Alderman Bothfeld, and Alderman Weber.

Absent: Alderman Walther

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by all those present.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

COMMENTS BY MAYOR

Mayor Tack reported that the new pavilions at Lake Forest Hospital were open, including an enlarged emergency department with a new entrance adjacent to Westmoreland Road, and noted that the old entrance is now closed. He said Lake Forest is fortunate to have a quality hospital in the community.

COMMENTS BY CITY MANAGER

A. America 250 Lake Forest Celebration
- Mike Wick, Director of Parks & Recreation

City Manager Jason Wicha introduced a report on the City's America 250 celebration, noting that 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Former Alderman Ara Goshgarian, Chairman of a newly formed resident advisory group, addressed the Council and highlighted the group's community-oriented planning approach, thanking members Mark Gorman, Jackie Greca, Steve Hill, Adam Mancuso, Debbie Saran, and Jeff Erso. He proposed that the Mayor and City Council author a time capsule document reflecting on the state of the city and their hopes for its future.

Director of Parks & Recreation Mike Wick then outlined the July 2–5 core celebration weekend, including a Concert in the Square and Taste of Lake Forest event on July 2, a ticketed dinner at Elawa Farm on July 3, a festival and fireworks at Deer Path Park on July 4 featuring bands Fletcher Rockwell and the Freddie Jones Band and a patriotic 250th-themed fireworks show, and an ice cream social at the beach on July 5.

Communications Director Dana Olson noted that partner organizations—including Ragdale, the History Center, the Chamber of Commerce, Gorton Drama Studio, Lake Forest College, and the Lake Forest Library—have planned complementary events running, and that both a physical and digital time capsule are being explored.

B. Community Spotlight
- Ragdale
-Paul Sacaridiz, Executive Director

City Manager Jason Wicha Introduced Paul Sacaridiz, Executive Director at Ragdale. Mr. Sacaridiz reported that the Ragdale Foundation, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary as a residency program in 2026, is listed

on the National Historic Register as a surviving example of Howard Van Doren Shaw's architecture. He described Ragdale's programs, including approximately 150 competitive residencies per year across disciplines such as writing, dance, music, and visual arts, noting that this year's application pool was the highest in the organization's history. Key anniversary initiatives include a May 16 gala, a brand refresh and new website launching in May, the return of the Ragdale Ring Design-Build Competition, a preservation symposium with the Lake Forest Preservation Foundation, and a partnership exhibition with the History Center of Lake Forest, Lake Bluff. Sacaridiz also announced that Ragdale received a \$368,000 Save America's Treasures grant from the National Park Service for the rehabilitation of its arts and crafts garden, which required a matching \$300,000 that was successfully raised in January, with work expected to be completed in late 2027.

City Council commented that Ragdale had long been a hidden gem in the community and expressed enthusiasm about the organization's efforts to increase public awareness and encouraged collaboration with Lake Forest's four garden clubs.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL

Three youth titleholders from the Lake Forest Lake Bluff community pageant—Teen Miss Issabelle Paulsen, Little Miss Olivia Grace Paulsen, and Junior Miss —addressed the Council, speaking about the pageant's focus on community service, confidence, leadership, and civic engagement, and noting their work with organizations such as Feed My Starving Children and Bernie's Book Drive

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

- 1. Report on Bottle Fill Stations**
 - **Nancy Novit, Chairman, Environmental Sustainability Committee**

Alderman Novit, Chairman of the Environmental Sustainability Committee, reported that the committee was recommending the purchase and installation of eight bottle fill stations at park locations across the city—including Elawa Farm, Everett Park, Waveland Park, Kinderhaven, South Park, and Northcroft Park—to replace standard drinking fountains. She noted the stations reduce single-use plastic consumption, include dog bowl attachments, and include traditional drinking fountains at two heights. This item is part of the omnibus vote.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

- 1. Approval of a Resolution for a Joint Funding Agreement for Federally Funded Right-of-Way with the state of Illinois Department of Transportation for the Waukegan & Everett Project, Section Number 11-00091-00-CH, for a Local Match Estimated at \$218,860, and Authorize the City Manager to Execute Required Agreements and Additional Paperwork as Required by IDOT Related to Work on This Project**

Byron Kutz, Superintendent of Engineering, presented the request for approval of a Joint Funding Agreement with IDOT for federally funded right-of-way acquisition at the Waukegan and Everett intersection, a project with origins dating to 2009 that aims to address traffic congestion, accommodate future development, and improve railroad crossing safety through the addition and lengthening of multiple turn lanes. The total estimated right-of-way cost is approximately \$1,094,300, with the City's 20% local match estimated at

\$218,860, available beginning May 1, 2026; actual costs will not be known until after appraisals and negotiation are completed.

City Council had a discussion on Fire vehicles navigating the proposed median, and IDOT bid opening.

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

Alderman Notz made a motion to approve a Resolution for a Joint Funding Agreement for Federally Funded Right-of-Way with the state of Illinois Department of Transportation for the Waukegan & Everett Project, Section Number 11-00091-00-CH, for a Local Match Estimated at \$218,860, and Authorize the City Manager to Execute Required Agreements and Additional Paperwork as Required by IDOT Related to Work on This Project, seconded by Alderman LeVert. The following voted "Aye": Aldermen Novit, Clemens, Notz, Powers, LeVert, Bothfeld, and Weber. The following voted "Nay": none. 7-Ayes, 0-Nays, motion carried.

ITEMS FOR OMNIBUS VOTE CONSIDERATION

- 1. Approval of January 20, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes**
- 2. Approval of February 2, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes**
- 3. Consideration of an Ordinance approving a Fee Schedule Adjusting Water Rates for FY2027 (Second Reading)**
- 4. Consideration of a Request to Waive the Fidelity Bond Requirement in Connection with Holding the Raffles in the City of Lake Forest Country Day School (Approval by Motion)**
- 5. Approval of a Resolution Reallocating 2026 Volume Cap to the Village of Buffalo Grove, Illinois**
- 6. Approve a One-Year Extension to an Existing Contract with Vogue Printers for Dialogue Newsletter Printing Services in the amount of \$26,076 and a 5.0% contingency in the amount of \$1,304 for a grand total of \$27,380.**
- 7. Approve the purchase of eight bottle-fill stations from Most Dependable Fountains in the amount of \$33,720 to be installed in various parks throughout the City.**
- 8. Consideration to Waive the Bidding Process and Authorize the Purchase of a Pre-owned 2014 J70 sailboat in the amount of \$40,000.**
- 9. Award a Contract for the Installation of Watermain at the Waukegan and Westleigh Intersection to DiMeo Brothers, Inc., and Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Agreement in the Amount of \$49,000 to Include a 10% Contingency in the Amount of \$4,900 for a Total Cost of \$53,900**

CITY COUNCIL ACTION Approve the nine (9) omnibus items as presented.

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

Alderman Novit made a motion to approve the nine (9) Omnibus items as presented, seconded by Alderman Bothfeld. The following voted "Aye": Aldermen Novit, Clemens, Notz, Powers, LeVert, Bothfeld, and Weber. The following voted "Nay": none. 7-Ayes, 0-Nays, motion carried.

Information such as Purpose and Action Requested, Background/Discussion, Budget/Fiscal Impact, Council Action, and a Staff Contact as it relates to the Omnibus items can be found on the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Grant final reading of the Ordinance amending Chapter 78 of the City Code related to Parking and Loading Schedules and approve the zones depicted in the map provided titled “Central Business District Parking Zones.”**

Keri Kaup, Assistant to the City Manager, provided a brief update on changes made to the ordinance since first reading, including the addition of enforcement hours of 6:30 AM to 6:30 PM in Schedules IX, X, and XI, and the reinstatement of four 30-minute quick-stop spaces in the North Train Depot Lot in response to community feedback about the importance of short-term parking for train depot businesses. General housekeeping updates to ensure consistent titling and formatting were also made

Mayor Tack asked if there was anyone from the public who would like to comment.

Diane expressed appreciation for the Council's responsiveness and the work of staff.

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

COUNCIL ACTION: Grant final reading of the Ordinance amending Chapter 78 of the City Code related to Parking and Loading Schedules and approve the zones depicted in the map provided titled “Central Business District Parking Zones.”

Alderman Novit made a motion to grant final reading of the Ordinance amending Chapter 78 of the City Code related to Parking and Loading Schedules and approve the zones depicted in the map provided titled “Central Business District Parking Zones.” *As amended*, seconded by Alderman Powers. The following voted “Aye”: Aldermen Novit, Clemens, Notz, Powers, LeVert, Bothfeld, and Weber. The following voted “Nay”: none. 7-Ayes, 0-Nays, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION/COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Tack asked Council members if they had any additional items. Seeing none. He stated that there will be no further business following the executive session. He then asked for a motion to adjourn into executive session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11). The City Council will discuss pending or threatened litigation.

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Alderman Weber made a motion to adjourn into executive session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11). The City Council will discuss pending or threatened litigation, seconded by Alderman Powers. The following voted “Aye”: Aldermen Novit, Clemens, Notz, Powers, LeVert, Weber, and Walther. The following voted “Nay”: none. 7-Ayes, 0-Nays, motion carried.

Adjournment into Executive Session 7:30 pm

Reconvene into Open Session 8:55 pm

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Tack asked for a motion to adjourn. Alderman Novit made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Notz. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote at 8:56 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.