

The City of Lake Forest
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Proceedings of Monday, July 20, 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 Novit, Alderman Powers, Alderman Kehr, Alderman Bothfeld, Alderman Walther, and Alderman Culbertson.

Absent was Alderman Clemens.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited by all those present.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS

1. COMMENTS BY MAYOR

A. Resolution of Appreciation for Retiring Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, Matt Goodman

Mayor Tack read the resolution, and photos were taken.

COUNCIL ACTION: Approval of the Resolution of Appreciation

Alderman Culbertson made a motion to approve the Resolution of Appreciation, seconded by Alderman LeVert. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mayor Tack stated the 118th Annual Lake Forest Day is August 4 and August 5. Festivities include Carnival, Fun Run, and Parade. New this year will be a Pre-Parade Family Party. Great Lakes Navy Band will perform in the parade. For further details, visit LakeForestDay.com.

2. COMMENTS BY CITY MANAGER

A. Department Spotlight

-Parks & Recreation- Sailing

- Jason Busdecker, Program Manager

- Cristina Ortiz Vivas, Program Manager

Mr. Jason Busdecker, Program Manager, highlighted key points of the sailing program. Lake Forest Sailing Program offers year-round classes for all ages and offers competitive regatta programs in Florida during the Winter Season.

Head Sailing Coach, Cris Ortiz Vivas, competed in international Regattas and the Olympics. She shared pictures and videos as she highlighted the different classes offered for all ages.

City Council had discussion about the City's unique geographical access to Lake Michigan, and discussed waiting lists for sailing classes.

B. Overview of Emergency Engineering Services for the Lake & Spruce Bridge (item #6 on omnibus)

- Michael Thomas, Director of Public Works

Michael Thomas, Director of Public Works, provided an update on the Lake and Spruce Bridge Project. When construction began last March when erosion due to water damage was discovered on the northwest side of the slope. ECS Midwest Consulting provided slope stability analysis. City Manager, Jason Wicha, signed an

agreement to execute the emergency repair. Data analysis from the geotechnical engineer will determine next steps.

City Council had discussion about project budget, data report timeline, and cost of the emergency expenditure.

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL
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Diane stated that the public works did an amazing job on the Ryan Street upgrade. Sanitation Department is always nice and helpful. She is very grateful City staff repaired the broken watermain at 4:00am. Police and Fire did a great job for the 250th Celebration. Go Sailing!

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. GFOA Triple Crown Award Presentation and Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

- **Presented by Kati Skibbe, Finance Director**

Mayor Tack reported the City has received notification that for the fifth consecutive year the Finance Department has been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its FY25 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment is a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. The City has received this prestigious award for the 47th consecutive year. In addition to the Certificate of Achievement, an Award of Financial Reporting Achievement is presented by the GFOA to the individual designated as instrumental in their government unit's achievement of the Certificate. There are more than 90,000 units of government in the US and less than 1% currently hold Triple Crown recognition.

Mayor Tack presented the award to Diane Hall, Assistant Finance Director. Pictures were taken.

Katie Sibbe, Finance Director, commended the Finance Department's hard work.

*****PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CITY'S ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE*****

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Tack asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing.

Alderman LeVert made a motion to open the Public Hearing, seconded by Alderman Novit. The following voted "Aye": Alderman Novit, Alderman Powers, Alderman Kehr, Alderman Bothfeld, Alderman Walther, and Alderman Culbertson. The following voted "Nay": None. 7-Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.

Mayor Tack opened the Public hearing at 7:37p.m.

**2. Consideration of the Annual Appropriation Ordinance for FY2027 and Approval of Rollovers
(Final Reading – Public Hearing Required)**

Katie Skibbe, Finance Director, reported while the annual municipal budget represents the City's financial "plan" for expenditures over the course of the fiscal year, the annual Appropriation Ordinance is the formal legal mechanism by which the City Council authorizes the expenditure of public funds. There are some differences between the Budget and the Appropriation Ordinance. The Appropriation Ordinance includes the Library, which was not included in the budget approved at the April 20, 2026, City Council meeting. The Library

expenses are approved by the Library Board. Debt service payments are included in the budget, but are excluded from the Appropriation Ordinance. The ordinances approving the debt issues serve as the legal authorization for these annual expenditures. It appropriates specific sums of money by object and purpose. Ms. Skibbe stated that the rollovers are requested to eliminate under and over budgeting of funds in the new fiscal year. The Appropriations Ordinance provides for a 10% "contingency" above the budgeted expenditures for each fund, allowing the approval of unbudgeted expenditures based on unanticipated events.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Tack asked the Council if there were any questions. Seeing none he offered the opportunity for public comment. Seeing none, he asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

Alderman Walther made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Alderman Powers. The following voted "Aye": Alderman Novit, Alderman Powers, Alderman Kehr, Alderman Bothfeld, Alderman Walther, and Alderman Culbertson. The following voted "Nay": None. 7-Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.

Mayor Tack closed the Public hearing at 7:42p.m.

***** Close Public Hearing *****

COUNCIL ACTION: City Council consider approval of the final reading of the Ordinance and the rollovers. A copy of the ordinance is available for review by the public in the City Clerk's office.

Mayor Tack asked for a motion to that the City Council consider approval of the final reading of the Ordinance and the rollovers. A copy of the ordinance is available for review by the public in the City Clerk's office. Alderman Walther made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Alderman Powers. The following voted "Aye": Alderman Novit, Powers, Kehr, LeVert, Bothfeld, Walther, and Culbertson. The following voted "Nay": none. 7-Ayes, 0-Nays, motion carried.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

- 1. Deerpath Park Athletic Fields Utilization Report**
 - Mike Wick, Director of Parks & Recreation**

Mike Wick, Director of Parks & Recreation, provided a high-level presentation of Deerpath Community Park Athletic Fields. There has been an increase in program registration, it serves as a central hub for community gatherings, and the playability for all-weather conditions.

City Council had discussion about future field replacement and pickleball court usage.

5. ITEMS FOR OMNIBUS VOTE CONSIDERATION
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- 1. Approval of Monday, June 18, 2026, City Council Meeting Minutes.**
- 2. Approval of the Check Register for the Period of May 23 – July 2, 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 The Spirit of 67 Foundation and the St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Lake Forest (Approval by Motion)**
- 4. Approval of an additional One-Year Professional Services Agreement with Core/Automated Merchant Systems (AMS) to provide credit card processing services with the option for early termination.**

5. **Consideration of approving a recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee to Increase Athletic Field Rental Rates by 5% for all User Tiers Effective August 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027.**
6. **Ratification for Emergency Subsurface Exploration and Geotechnical Engineering Services for the Lake & Spruce Bridge in an Amount Not-To-Exceed \$94,800 to ECS Midwest, LLC**
7. **Consideration of a Recommendation from the Historic Preservation Commission in Support of an Ordinance Rescinding Local Landmark Designation for Structures Located in the Northwest Corner of the Amberley Woods Development and Addressed as 1930 Amberley Court (previously addressed as 1710 Kennedy 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 Kehr made a motion to approve the seven (7) omnibus items as presented, seconded by Alderman Powers. The following voted "Aye": Alderman Novit, Powers, Kehr, LeVert, Bothfeld, Walther, and Culbertson. The following voted "Nay": none. 7-Ayes, 0-Nays, motion carried.

6. OLD BUSINESS

7. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Consideration of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Glenview for participation in a Regional Drone as a First Responder Program**

John Burke, Police Chief, presented a summary of benefits to joining a regional Drone as a First Responder program through an agreement with the Village of Glenview. The drones will be equipped to provide immediate aerial, thermal, and live-video support for public safety incidents. The initiative allows 9-1-1 dispatchers to deploy drones, offering critical situational awareness before personnel arrive.

City Council had discussion about cost, the use of GPS service, and the location of the drone port.

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

COUNCIL ACTION: Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Glenview authorizing the City of Lake Forest to participate in the regional Drone as a First Responder program and authorization for the City Manager to execute the agreement and related implementation documents

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

2. **Approval of Recommendation Authorizing the City Manager to execute Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) with School Districts 67 and 115; Student Resource Officer Agreement (SRO), associated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding waiving fees for underpayment, and Crossing Guard Agreement with School District 67**

George Issakoo, Deputy City Manager, provided key updates that include consolidated facility-use protocols aimed at establishing sustainable, long-term partnerships. The agreements also update Crossing Guard protocols to align with state law and create a stable funding model for CROYA services.

City Council had discussion about the duration and auto-renewal of terms.

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

COUNCIL ACTION: Approval of Recommendation Authorizing the City Manager to execute Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) with School Districts 67 and 115; Student Resource Officer Agreement (SRO), associated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding waiving fees for underpayment, and Crossing Guard Agreement with School District 67

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

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

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Tack asked for a motion to adjourn. Alderman Novet made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Powers. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote at 8:24 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.