

City of Live Oak
City Council Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2026

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The Live Oak City Council met on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall, located at 101 SE White Avenue, Live Oak, Florida 32064, for a regular monthly meeting. The following officials were present: Council President Matt Campbell, Councilmember Tommie Jefferson, Councilmember Vanessa Robinson, Councilmember Gladys Owens, Councilmember David Alford, City Clerk John Gill, Mayor Frank Davis, City Manager Larry Sessions, and City Attorney Todd Kennon.

Council President Campbell called the meeting to order.

Mayor Davis led the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Council President Campbell proceeded to the approval of the agenda with any additions, deletions, or changes. Council President Campbell advised that he would like to move item "R" discussion with possible council action on the first reading of Ordinance 1532 to the top of the meeting. Councilmember Robinson made a motion to move item R to the top of the meeting which Councilmember Alford seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Robinson requested to add to the agenda, discussion on the hiring status of a Public Works Director and the status of old business as item 5D. Councilmember Robinson made a motion to move item 4A, proclamation, before the public comments, which Councilmember Alford seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Councilmember Jefferson added discussion regarding a privacy fence behind J&W Auto Sales on the city property as item 5A. Councilmember Owens made a motion for final approval of the agenda, which Councilmember Alford seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Council President Campbell proceeded to the approval of the March 10, 2026 regular city council meeting minutes and the March 12th emergency called city council meeting minutes. Councilmember Alford made a motion to approve the March 10th regular city council meeting minutes and the March 12th emergency called city council meeting minutes as presented, which Councilmember Owens seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Council President Campbell turned the floor over to Mayor Davis who presented a Proclamation recognizing April 12th thru 18th as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Mayor Davis also reminded everyone of the upcoming Wild Flower Festival on Saturday, May 2, 2026 and encouraged everyone who can to attend.

Council President Campbell then opened the floor for public comments for those who wished to speak at this time or wait until their agenda item was presented:

Moses Clepper spoke regarding salary increases.

With no further comments, the floor was closed to public comments.

Council President Campbell moved to discussion with possible council action on the first reading of Ordinance 1532, ANX 25-01 13.74- acre property off of 11th St. SW generally southwest of the National Guard Armory. An ordinance voluntarily annexing certain real property into the city limits of Live Oak, Florida and redefining the boundary lines of the municipality to include said property. City Attorney Kennon read the title into the record. Council President Campbell then opened the floor for public comments for those who wished to speak regarding Ordinance 1532. City Clerk John Gill swore in everyone that will testify regarding Ordinance 1532.

Mr. George Reeves representative for the applicant of Ordinance 1532 spoke and gave an explanation regarding the annexation request.

The following individuals spoke:

Carolyn Spilatore spoke against Ordinance 1532.

Elsy Cerritos spoke against Ordinance 1532.

Cherly Pruitt spoke against Ordinance 1532.

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Moses Clepper spoke against Ordinance 1532.
Adam Collins spoke against Ordinance 1532.
City Clerk John Gill was sworn in as a citizen to speak regarding Ordinance 1532.
David Chandler spoke against Ordinance 1532.

With no further comments, the floor was closed to public comments.
Councilmember Robinson made a motion to approve Ordinance 1532 with no second the motion failed.

Council President Campbell moved to Councilmember Jefferson's added item, discussion with possible council action regarding a privacy fence behind J&W Auto Sales on city property. City Attorney Kennon stated that there would need to be proper notification for this item which would allow the owners participation. Councilmember Jefferson followed the suggestion of the attorney and removed the item from the agenda.

Councilmember Jefferson then moved to his next item, discussion with council action freezing pay raises, cost of living adjustments (COLA) and any new positions. Mr. Jefferson explained that because the budget is already in place nothing should be added to it. Council President Campbell then opened the floor for public comments for those who signed up to speak regarding this agenda item.
Mrs. Cherly Pruitt spoke regarding pay raises.
With no further comments, the floor was then closed to public comments.

Council President Campbell moved to his item, discussion with possible council action regarding a salary increase for the city manager. Mr. Campbell stated in order to remain competitive and to maintain a highly qualified individual that's performing at a high level is due a pay increase. Mr. Campbell explained per Mr. Sessions evaluation that council should look into giving Mr. Session a raise in pay. Council President Campbell then opened the floor for public comments for those who signed up to speak regarding this agenda item.

The following individuals spoke:
Anita Williams spoke regarding the freezing pay raises.
Virginia Smith spoke regarding the council.
With no further comments from the public, the floor was closed to public comments.

After further discussion, Councilmember Alford made a motion to increase the city manager salary to \$115,000. City Attorney Kennon made note that the funds will need to be identified from where in the budget they will come from and a budget amendment will need to be made. Councilmember Alford amended his motion to increase the city manager salary to \$115,000 and to identify where the funds will come from within the budget, which Council President Campbell passed the gavel and seconded the motion. With no further discussion, a vote was taken and the motion passed 3 to 2 with Councilmember Robinson and Jefferson against.

Council President Campbell moved to discussion with possible Council action regarding the potential creation of and consolidation of current positions into an assistant city manager position. Council President Campbell advised that the item would be best discussed in a workshop.

Council President Campbell moved to Councilmembers Robinson item, discussion regarding hiring status of a Public Works Director and the status of old business. Councilmember Robinson inquired the status regarding the cost of the streetlight on King St. Mr. Session advised that he would get back with the FPL representative on the light. Councilmember Robinson move to the status of illegal dumping on Scott St. Mr. Session advised that there will be cameras installed. Councilmember Robinson move to the status of the firefighter's union contract. Mr. Kennon stated that he would need the permission from the council to allow him to get the retainer fee for Mr. Robert Larkin of Allen Norton & Blue to facilitate a workshop. Councilmember Robinson inquired of the City Manager regarding the email notification sent out about the appointment of a HR Assistant which was supposed to be discussed in a workshop. Mr. Sessions gave an update regarding hiring a Public Works Director as he is still interviewing at this time.

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Council President Campbell moved to discussion with possible action regarding the retention of Robert Larkin to represent the city regarding union negotiations with the Live Oak International Association of Firefighters Local 2481 as to the Union's request for a schedule change. City Attorney Kennon recommended that the council allow him to execute the retainer agreement and begin scheduling the workshop and any necessary meetings regarding the firefighter's union. Councilmember Alford made a motion to approve the retainer agreement to be executed, which Councilmember Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Council President Campbell moved to discussion with possible Council action, lease amendment between Tara Mott, as personal representative of the estate of Danny Mott and the City of Live Oak. Councilmember Alford made a motion to approve the 10-year lease amendment, which Councilmember Jefferson seconded. After discussion Councilmember Alford and Jefferson rescinded their motion. Councilmember Alford made a motion to approve the 10-year lease amendment with a prorated minimum amount of \$2,500 a month, which Councilmember Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Council President Campbell moved to discussion with possible Council action on Revised Resolution 2026-05, a revised resolution authorizing the execution of a federally funded Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program subrecipient agreement. Councilmember Owens made a motion to approve revised Resolution 2026-05, which Councilmember Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Council President Campbell moved to discussion with possible Council action, award bid for RFP-03-2026, design and build for Heritage Park & Gardens. Councilmember Jefferson made a motion to award the bid to Gamble & Associates in the amount of \$180,000, which Councilmember Alford seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2026-07 was presented for discussion with possible Council action, a resolution accepting a bid from Gamble & Associates related to the design and build of new restroom and concession facilities, and a pavilion expansion at Heritage Park And Gardens; providing for the award and execution of a contract for a price not to exceed \$180,000 (Previously tabled at 3/10/26 meeting) Mr. Kennon read the title into the record. Councilmember Alford made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-07, which Councilmember Owens seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Council President Campbell moved discussion with possible Council action award bid for RFP -04-2026, purchase and installation of two (2) standby natural gas generators. Councilmember Robinson requested that \$375,000 be moved to capital projects budget amendment on May agenda. Councilmember Alford made a motion to award Native Electric the bid in the amount of \$74,434.91, which Councilmember Owens seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2026-08 was presented for discussion with possible Council action, a resolution accepting a bid from Native Electric related to the purchase and installation of two (2) standby natural gas generators; providing for the award and execution of a contract for a price not to exceed \$ 74,434.91 (Previously tabled at 3/10/26 meeting). Mr. Kennon read the title into the record. Councilmember Owens made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-08, which Councilmember Alford seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Council President Campbell moved to discussion with possible Council action award bid for RFP -02-2026, A disaster recovery project. Councilmember Robinson made a motion to award Cornerstone Community Partners the bid in the amount of \$187,500, which Councilmember Alford seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2026-09 was presented for discussion with possible Council action, a resolution of the city of Live Oak, Florida, accepting a bid from Cornerstone Community Partners related to grant administrating services; providing for the award and execution of a contract for a price not to exceed \$187,500. Mr. Kennon read the title into the record. Councilmember Alford made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-09, which Councilmember Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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Resolution No. 2026-11 was presented for discussion with possible Council action, a resolution of the City of Live Oak, Florida, accepting a bid from Baker Tilly Advisory Group LP., related to auditing services for the finance department policies and procedures; providing for the award and execution of a contract for a price not to exceed \$25,000, bid previously approved at the March 10th meeting. Mr. Kennon read the title into the record. Councilmember Robinson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-11, which Councilmember Alford seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2026-12 was presented for discussion with possible Council action, a resolution of the City of Live Oak, Florida authorizing the execution of a state highway lighting maintenance, and compensation agreement work order with the State Of Florida, Department of Transportation; accepting \$95,674.11 for the fiscal year 2026-2027. Mr. Kennon read the title into the record. Councilmember Jefferson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-12, which Councilmember Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2026-13 was presented for discussion with possible Council action, a resolution of the City of Live Oak, Florida rescinding city council resolution no. 2026-01 and rescinding the award and execution of a contract to Thomas Howell Ferguson, P.A. Mr. Kennon read the title into the record. Councilmember Jefferson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-13, which Councilmember Alford seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2026-14 was presented for discussion with possible Council action, a resolution of the City of Live Oak, Florida rescinding city council resolution no. 2026-02 and rescinding the award and execution of a contract to North Florida Professional Services, Inc. Mr. Kennon read the title into the record. Councilmember Jefferson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-14, which Councilmember Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Council President Campbell moved to discussion with possible Council action award bid for RFP -06-2026, A project to renovate or rebuild 21 homes in the City of Live Oak. Councilmember Robinson made a motion to award Cornerstone Community Partners the bid in the amount of \$202,500, which Councilmember Alford seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2026-15 was presented for discussion with possible Council action, a resolution of the City of Live Oak, Florida, accepting a bid from Cornerstone Community Partners related to grant administrative services; providing for the award and execution of a contract for a price not to exceed \$202,500. Mr. Kennon read the title into the record. Councilmember Jefferson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-15, which Councilmember Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Council President Campbell moved to discussion with possible Council action award bid for RFP -07-2026, the neighborhood revitalization project in the amount of \$189,000. Councilmember Alford made a motion to award Fred Fox Enterprises the bid in the amount of \$189,000 which Councilmember Owens seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2026-16 was presented for discussion with possible Council action, a resolution of the City of Live Oak, Florida, accepting a bid from Fred Fox Enterprises related to grant administrative services; providing for the award and execution of a contract for a price not to exceed \$189,000. Mr. Kennon read the title into the record. Councilmember Alford made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-16, which Councilmember Owens seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2026-17 was presented for discussion with possible Council action, a resolution of the City of Live Oak, Florida, authorizing the execution of an amendment to the traffic signal maintenance and compensation agreement with the State of Florida, Department of Transportation. Mr. Kennon read the title into the record. Councilmember Jefferson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-17, which Councilmember Owens seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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Resolution No. 2026-18 was presented for discussion with possible Council action, a resolution of the City of Live Oak, Florida, adopting a formal bid protest policy. Mr. Kennon read the title into the record. Councilmember Owens made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-18, which Councilmember Alford seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2026-19 was presented for discussion with possible Council action, a resolution adopting the Local Mitigation Strategy. Mr. Kennon read the title into the record. Councilmember Jefferson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-19, which Councilmember Alford seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Final reading of Ordinance 1558 Located off of Westmoreland St. SE K&J Goods LLC was presented for discussion with possible Council action, An ordinance of the City of Live Oak, Florida, relating to public rights-of-way, making findings and vacating segment(s) of unimproved platted street alleys within the City of Live Oak, Florida, as follows: that certain [unnamed] alley lying between lots 3, 4, 5, 6 and 13 within block b, as recorded on the official plat of the Oakhurst subdivision, dated march of 1964, according to the plat thereof on file in the tax assessor's book in the public records of Suwannee County, Florida, lying and being in section 26, township 2 south, range 13 east; providing for recitals, conveyance, conflict and an effective date. Mr. Kennon read the title into the record. Council President Campbell opened the floor for public hearing. Ms. Bonnie Hearing spoke regarding Ordinance 1558. Development Manager George Curtis explained Ordinance 1558. Council President Campbell closed the floor for public hearing. Councilmember Alford made a motion to approve the final reading of Ordinance 1558, which Councilmember Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Final reading of Ordinance 1559 Located off of White Ave SE Tvisha LLC was presented for discussion with possible Council action, An ordinance of the City of Live Oak, Florida, relating to public right-of-way, making findings and vacating a segment of unimproved platted street alleys within the City of Live Oak, Florida, as follows: that certain [unnamed] alley lying between lots 1, 3, 5 and 2 within block 19, as recorded on the official plat of the Strathoma Subdivision, dated September of 1935, according to the plat thereof on file in the tax assessor's book in the public records of Suwannee County, Florida, lying and being in section 23, township 2 south, range 13 east; providing for recitals, conveyance, conflict and an effective date. Mr. Kennon read the title into the record. Council President Campbell opened the floor for public hearing. None heard. Council President Campbell closed the floor for public hearing. Councilmember Alford made a motion to approve the final reading of Ordinance 1559, which Councilmember Jefferson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Final reading of Ordinance 1560 Located off of Madison St. SW Ralph David Pitzer III was presented for discussion with possible Council action, An ordinance of the City of Live Oak, Florida, relating to public right-of-way, making findings and vacating segments of unimproved platted streets within the City of Live Oak, Florida, as follows: a portion of Lincoln street [avenue] SW between blocks 15 and 16, a portion of Taylor street [avenue] SW between blocks 14 and 15, and a portion of jones street SW between blocks 15 and 18, as recorded on the official plat of the railroad subdivision, according to the plat thereof on file in the tax assessor's book in the public records of Suwannee County, Florida, lying and being in section 22, township 2 south, range 13 east; providing for recitals, conveyance, conflict and an effective date. Mr. Kennon read the title into the record. Council President Campbell opened the floor for public hearing. None heard. Council President Campbell closed the floor for public hearing. Councilmember Alford made a motion to approve the final reading of Ordinance 1560, which Councilmember Jefferson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Council President
Matt Campbell

Attest:
John W. Gill
City Clerk