

City of Live Oak
City Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday July 14, 2026

The City of Live Oak City Council met on Tuesday, July 14th, 2026, at 5:30 PM for a regular monthly meeting held at the Suwannee County Judicial Annex, located at 218 Parsley Street SW. 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.

Installation and Oath of Office for Elected Officials

Mayor Frank Davis, City Clerk John Gill, Council member elect District 1 Adam Collins, and Council member elect District 4 Matt Campbell were administered their respective oaths of office.

Nomination and Election of Council President and Council Pro-tem

The Council conducted a ballot election for Council President. Council Robinson received four votes, and Matt Campbell received one vote. Vanessa Brown-Robinson was elected Council President for a two-year term.

The Council conducted a ballot election for Council Pro-tem. David Alford received four votes, and Matt Campbell received one vote. David Alford was elected Council Pro-tem.

Council President Robinson proceeded to the approval of the agenda with additions, deletions, or changes. A workshop regarding the housing grant was added as Item 7A. Councilmember Campbell made motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Item 7A workshop for housing grant, which Councilmember Owens seconded. The motion carried.

Council President Robinson proceeded to the approval of the June 9th regular monthly meeting minutes and June 29th special called council meeting minutes. Councilmember Alford made a motion to approve the June 9th regular monthly meeting minutes and June 29th special called council meeting minutes. The motion carried.

Public Comments

Susan Duhaine spoke regarding a permanent burn ban.

Addison Snyder spoke regarding the flock cameras.

Kat Meeks Sharp, spoke regarding grant writing for the City of Live Oak.

Al Smith spoke regarding potholes.

Thomas Anderson stated that he would speak on resolution 2026-30 only.

Linda Williams spoke regarding street paving, burning in the city limits, and illegal trash dumping.

Mayor Frank Davis – Matters of the City

Mayor Frank Davis recognized those who assisted with the Freedom Fest celebration and noted the addition of a parade. Mayor Davis raised the selection of a voting delegate for the Florida League of Cities Annual Conference. Councilmember Owens was voting as the voting delegate for the Florida League of Cities. Mayor Davis discussed the need to address road paving during upcoming budget workshop.

Mayor Davis and City Manager Larry Sessions recognized Fire Chief Sid Hayes in connection with his retirement on Friday July 17, 2026. The mayor read a recognition commending Chief Sid Hayes for 38 years of service to the citizens of Live Oak and Suwannee County and for his service protecting life and property as a firefighter and fire chief. City Manager Sessions reported that Chief Hayes had improved the Fire Department's ISO rating through fire-hydrant management and stated that the city would accept applications following Chief Hayes's retirement.

City Council – Item 7A, Housing Grant Workshop

Council President Robinson reported that the city had been awarded a housing grant that could provide for approximately 17 to

21 new homes or home repairs. The Council discussed holding a workshop regarding the grant process, including the need to establish rules and obtain legal guidance. The Council reached consensus to hold a housing grant workshop on Monday, July 20th, at 5:30 PM.

City Manager, Larry Sessions

Set Proposed Maximum Millage Rate and Budget Hearing Dates for FY 2026-27

Tammy presented information regarding the proposed maximum millage rate. She reported that the rollback rate was 8.7629 and that the prior-year millage rate was 9.25. She stated that a 9.25 millage rate would provide slightly less than \$200,000 in additional revenue and that a 9% rate would provide less than \$100,000 in additional revenue. She also explained the voting requirements under recent legislation for increases above the rollback rate.

The Council discussed anticipated budget impacts and was advised that the estimated impact could be approximately \$400,000, with City Manager Sessions stating an amount of 410,298. The Council also discussed the need to establish budget workshop and hearing dates.

Councilmember Campbell made a motion to set the proposed maximum millage rate at 9.25; schedule a budget workshop for July 28th at 4:30; schedule the tentative budget hearing for September 8th, 2026, at 5:30 PM; and schedule the final budget hearing for September 22nd, 2026, at 5:30 PM, which Councilmember Alford seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

USDA Grant for City of Live Oak Fire Department

The Council received a presentation regarding a USDA grant for a Fire Department utility vehicle. The vehicle would be used to deliver foam and fire retardant in small or difficult-to-access areas and could be used at events where a fire truck may not be able to immediately access a fire. The grant was described as a 25/75 grant, with the City's 25 percent share already included in the Fire Department budget. The total grant amount was stated to be \$41,750, with approximately \$31,000 from the grant.

An initial motion and second were withdrawn. Councilmember Campbell made a motion to authorize the Fire Department to accept funds from the applied-for USDA grant, which Councilmember Owens seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2026-30

Resolution No. 2026-30, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Live Oak, Florida, ratifying the execution of Article XI, hours of work agreement, providing for severability, providing for conflicts, and providing for an effective date, was presented for discussion with possible Council action.

Thomas Anderson, President of the Professional Firefighters of Live Oak, Local 2481, reported that representatives met with city council on June 4th regarding amendment of the agreement. He stated that the agreement would provide for a 48/96 work schedule in place of a 24/48 schedule. Mr. Kennon read the title into record. Councilmember Alford made a motion approve Resolution 2026-03, which Councilmember Owens seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Confirmation of Public Works Director

City Manager Sessions introduced Mr. Sampson Edwards as the Public Works Director. He stated that Mr. Edwards had experience in public works and would replace Jerald Lee.

Councilmember Campbell made a motion to approve Mr. Sampson Edwards as the Public Works Director, which Councilmember Alford seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Baker Tilly Contract Changes or Rebid of RFP

The Council discussed requested contract changes by Baker Tilly to perform an audit of Finance Department policies and procedures. City Attorney Mr. Todd Kennon reviewed proposed changes, including provisions related to indemnification, limitation of liability, venue, public records, affidavits, and use of affiliated entities. Mr. Kennon advised against accepting provisions that would limit the contractor's exposure to gross negligence, fraud, or willful misconduct and against litigating contract matters in the city. The Council discussed whether to negotiate further with Baker Tilly or rebid the RFP.

Councilmember Campbell made a motion to rebid the contract, which Councilmember Alford seconded. A roll-call vote was requested. David Alford, Adam Collins, Matt Campbell, and Council Owens voted yes to rebid; Council President Robinson voted no. The motion carried 4 to 1.

Resolution 2026-31

Resolution No. 2026-31, a resolution of the City Council of the City of Live Oak, Florida, retiring certain personal property owned by the City to be either surplus to its needs and sold at a publicly noticed sale or determined to be obsolete, non-serviceable, or beyond economic repair and appropriately discarded, was presented. The surplus-property request included a 2013 Ford Explorer and a Whirlpool refrigerator. Mr. Kennon read the title into record. Councilmember Campbell made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-31, which Councilmember Owens seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2026-28

Resolution No. 2026-28, relating to community redevelopment; approving the recommendations of the Live Oak Community Redevelopment Agency and the Planning and Zoning Board of the City of Live Oak, Florida; and approving the Live Oak Community Redevelopment Plan Update pursuant to the Community Redevelopment Act of 1969, was presented. Mr. Kennon read the title into record. Nicholas Frigiola, CRA Director, stated that the CRA Board had previously approved the matter and that staff recommended approval. Councilmember Campbell made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-28, which Councilmember Alford seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2026-29

Resolution No. 2026-29, relating to community redevelopment and authorizing the continued existence of the Live Oak Community Redevelopment Agency, was presented. Mr. Kennon read the title into record. Councilmember Campbell made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2026-29, which Councilmember Alford seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

First Reading of Ordinance 1562

First reading of Ordinance No. 1562, providing for the funding of the Redevelopment Trust Fund; approval and adoption of the expansion of the Live Oak Community Redevelopment Area; establishing a base year for determining assessed values relating to property located in the expansion area for tax increment purposes; and providing for annual appropriation of the tax increment by taxing authorities within the Community Redevelopment Area, was presented. Mr. Kennon read the title into record. Councilmember Owens made a motion to approve Ordinance 1562, which Councilmember Campbell seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

First Reading of Ordinance 1569

The Council received a presentation regarding proposed Ordinance No. 1569, which would impose a temporary one-year moratorium on land-development approvals for data center facilities, data processing facilities, data mining, or cryptocurrency mining operations. The City Attorney reviewed state-law provisions concerning large-scale data centers, electricity, water use, Senate Bill 180, and potential litigation risk associated with a moratorium. Mr. Kennon read the title into record. Councilmember Campbell made a motion to table the first reading of Ordinance 1569 until further information could be obtained, which Councilmember Owens seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Kennon stated that he would monitor litigation and provide updates.

First Reading of Ordinance 1563

First reading of Ordinance No. 1563, application LDR 26-05, changing the assigned zoning district for 0.64 acres, more or less, from Residential Single Family/Manufactured Home-3 to Office-Institutional for Sweet Hope Missionary Baptist Church, was presented. Mr. Kennon read the title into record. Mr. George Curtis, Development Manager, reported that the Planning and Zoning Board had unanimously recommended approval on May 18. The public hearing was opened and closed with no recorded public comment. Councilmember Campbell made a motion to approve Ordinance 1563, which Councilmember Alford seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

First Reading of Ordinance 1564

First reading of Ordinance No. 1564, application CPA 26-02, changing the future land use classification for 0.51 acres, more or less, from Residential Medium Density to Commercial for J&W Auto Repair, Part 1 of a two-part application, was presented. Mr. Kennon read the title into record. Mr. Curtis reported that the property owner proposed to use the property for overflow and employee parking and that the Planning and Zoning Board had recommended approval. The public hearing was opened and closed with no recorded public comment. Councilmember Campbell made a motion to approve Ordinance 1564, which Councilmember Alford seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

First Reading of Ordinance 1565

First reading of Ordinance No. 1565, application LDR 26-06, changing the assigned zoning district for 0.51 acres, more or less, from Residential Single Family-2 to Commercial-Intensive for J&W Auto Repair, Part 2 of a two-part application, was presented. Mr. Kennon read the title into record. The public hearing was opened and closed with no recorded public comment. Councilmember Alford made a motion to approve Ordinance 1565, which Councilmember Campbell seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

First Reading of Ordinance 1566

First reading of Ordinance No. 1566, application LDR 26-07, changing the assigned zoning district for 0.39 acres, more or less, from Residential Single Family/Manufactured Home-2 to Residential-Office for property at 713 Duval Street Northwest, was presented. Mr. Kennon read the title into record. Mr. Curtis reported that the request would allow the existing two homes on the

property to be legally occupied and that the Planning and Zoning Board had recommended approval. The public hearing was opened and closed with no recorded public comment. Councilmember Campbell made a motion to approve Ordinance 1566, which Councilmember Alford seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

First Reading of Ordinance 1567

First reading of Ordinance No. 1567, application CPA 26-03, changing the future land use classification for 3.74 acres, more or less, from Residential High Density to Commercial for Gerald Milton Smith Jr., Part 1 of a two-part application, was presented. Mr. Kennon read the title into record. Mr. Curtis reported that the property consisted of lots in Canyon Vistas Commercial Park and that the Planning and Zoning Board had unanimously recommended approval. Darren Webb, CEO of ESMS Developers and Circle of Life Assisted Living, stated that he was available to answer questions. The public hearing was opened and closed no recorded public comment. Councilmember Campbell made a motion to approve Ordinance 1567, which Councilmember Alford seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

First Reading of Ordinance 1568

First reading of Ordinance No. 1568, application LDR 26-08, changing the assigned zoning district for 3.74 acres, more or less, from Residential Multiple Family-2 to Commercial-Intensive for Gerald Milton Smith Jr., Part 2 of a two-part application, was presented. Mr. Kennon read the title into record. The public hearing was opened and closed with no recorded public comment. Councilmember Owens made a motion to approve Ordinance 1568, which Councilmember Alford seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made. The meeting was adjourned.

Council President

Vanessa Brown-Robinson

Attest:

John Gill
City Clerk