Minutes from the City Commission meeting called August 11, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Tuesday, August 11, 2026
CITY COMMISSION MEETING - 5:30 PM

Present: Mayor Pro Tempore Pat Perno
Commissioner Sam Peebles
Commissioner Jamie Warrick
Commissioner Judy Tinder
Mayor Dave Lowery

Apologies:

OPENING ITEMS

1. Call to order.

Mayor Lowery called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

2. Invocation by Pastor Steve Taylor of Emerald Coast Fellowship followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The invocation given by Steve Taylor of Emerald Coast Fellowship was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Additions, Deletions, Modifications of Agenda.

None.

PROCLAMATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Resolution 2026-08-574 Amending Records Retention and Disposition Policy

City Manager read Resolution 2026-08-574 by title only.

5. Barbara Mobert Application to the General Employee Pension Board

6. Jacob Durrance application to the Police Pension Board

7. Approve minutes from special meeting held 07/17/26.

8. Approve minutes from meeting of 07/28/26.

****MOTION NEEDED TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Commissioner Warrick to Approve.

Second to Motion : Commissioner Sam Peebles

On Vote:
Peebles aye

Perno aye

Warrick aye
TInder aye
Lowrey aye Motion passed: 5-0

OLD BUSINESS

9. Discussion and Possible Approval of Resolution 2026-08-576 Approving the Municipal Legal Services Agreement between the City of Lynn Haven and Dunlap and Shipman, LLC. and appointing Courtney Sinagra as City Attorney. **(City Manager)**

The City Manager read the resolution by title only and corrected the title to be effective date August 12th, 2026.
Discussion ensued.
Commissioner Tinder agrees with all the amendments by Commissioner Warrick.
The City Manager clarified that if the amendments were approved, then the contract would have to go back to the attorney for review and come back to the next meeting for approval.
Commissioner Peebles likes the annual performance review addition.
Further discussion ensued about the amendments.
Commissioner Perno - 4.7 - Anti-discrimination laws — what would you expect them to identify? Is it not covered in 4.6(b)?
Pre-approval reimbursable expenses — who is authorized to approve those?
- Mayor — if the city attorney were operating as an employee would it be their chain of command?
- the city manager invited Ms. Sinagra to speak to it.

Ms. Sinagra:
Indemnity clause — Commissioner Perno — you are exactly right because we are covered by the malpractice insurance and ethical rules that we must follow, so that new clause is a hard no for our firm, as it is redundant.
- although they will service everybody, they would prefer to have one point of contact. Mayor— if the city clerk is approved, it would be the City Manager and City Clerk.
- Performance review — we won't agree to that as a firm to have as part of the contract. It seems that it is a policy the commission should have separate to the contract. There is no action for the firm to take.
Mr. Krebs — we're not prepared tonight to accept these edits. We can discuss them and get back with the city with the new contract.
Ms. Sinagra — will redraft the contract to include the spirit of what Commissioner Warrick said.

City Attorney Myers recommended approving the resolution tonight with direction to the city manager to go back to the firm and make an amendment to bring back to the commission to approve the amendment.

Commissioner Warrick — labor employment services — we may look at adjusting the price if they are not taking over the labor services.
Ms Sinagra agreed to continue with the labor attorney in terms of a relationship and ad hoc services.
Ms. Hodges - Rumburger is on an as-needed contract, and we don't have a retainer with them.

Commissioner Warrick feels it needs to be a clean contract rather than approving it tonight.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tempore Perno to Approve the Resolution and agreement with agreed-upon amendments to come back before the commission for final approval.
Second to Motion : Commissioner Judy Tinder

Public Commentary:
Mr. Scray provided his opinion and some advice. Set a milestone of agreeing on amendments in a specific timeframe. If you can't get it done before the next meeting, he will have questions why.
Commissioner Peebles — do we have systems in place to track the work that is done? Ms. Sinagra — we report back to you monthly on the work we have done, included in the invoices.

On Vote:

Peebles	aye	
Perno	aye	
Warrick	no	
TInder	aye	
Lowrey	aye	Motion Passed: Yes 4, No 1, Abstained 0

10. Discussion of directing staff on Resolution 2026-06-559 regarding consolidation of services. **(City Manager)**

The City Manager advised that the County Sheriff and the County Manager he had spoken with have suggested waiting until after the decision in November about the property taxes. He requested the commission to consider the direction regarding consolidation of services that they would like to give him, regardless of what happens in November.
Commissioner Warrick - Was pretty clear about what he wanted. He wanted to see the data and the numbers before he provided direction so he could justify any decisions the commissioners voted on.
Mayor Lowery explained the reason for tightening of the budget again.
Commissioner Warrick would like to see the numbers related to the consolidation of any services before he even considers it.
Further discussion ensued.

Public Commentary:

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Member of the public: to clarify, it wasn't Hurricane Michael, it was corruption.
Mr. Finch — You can wait till November if you want, but it won't solve the problem. You will have to cut a lot of services and raise taxes. No use putting that decision off. The city is bloated and needs to be cut.
Mayor Lowery — To Mr. Finch's point — our taxes have stagnated and costs have gone up.
Mr. Scray — other options to look into while we wait. Direct Chris tonight to spend $5k for Stantec to look at writing up a 5-year public safety non-ad valorem assessment, and lower the millage.
Commissioner Peebles — would we have to pay Stantec extra to do that? City Manager — can get a proposal from Stantec.
Mr. Switzer has been on the receiving end of losing two jobs due to cutbacks. Each time he ended up better than he was. Cut deep once, then you don't have to do it again.
Ms. Day — Spoke about the attorney contract and Stantec, and about Chris Lightfoot being our lawyer since 2020. Take on the engineering as well.
Ms. Moore — is Lynn Haven the only no-kill animal shelter. Mr. Lightfoot — we are not a no-kill animal shelter. Ms. Moore — The county should be doing more.

11. Final Reading of Ordinance *1176-AR* Comprehensive Plan Amendment **(Planning Director)**

The City Manager read the Ordinance by title only.
City Attorney — if you approve it tonight, it will be sent to the state.

Motion by Commissioner Warrick to Approve.

Second to Motion : Mayor Pro Tempore Pat Perno

There were no public comments.

On Vote:

Peebles	aye	
Perno	aye	
Warrick	aye	
TInder	aye	
Lowrey	aye	Motion passed: 5-0

12. Discussion and possible rejection of the James Rogers Park ITB. **(City Manager)**

Motion by Commissioner Warrick to Reject the bid.

Second to Motion : Commissioner Sam Peebles

Public Commentary:

Mr. Scray -- invited everyone to join him on Saturday to discuss the LH community fund. Looking for a CPA who would be interested in helping them.
Mr. Switzer — will join Mr. Scray.

On Vote:

Peebles	aye	
Perno	no	
Warrick	aye	
TInder	no	
Lowrey	aye	Motion Passed: Yes 3, No 2, Abstained 0

13. First Reading only of Ordinance 1191 Adopting Rules of Procedure. **(City Manager)**

The City Manager read the Ordinance by title only.

14. First Reading of Ordinance 1192 Amending Chapter 42 of the City's Code; Updating the Code of Conduct in City Parks **(City Manager)**

The City Manager read the ordinance by title only.

TABLED ITEMS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

15. Discussion and Possible Approval to accept conveyance of 110' strip of land for a roadway via warranty deed, and direct staff to record the deed as evidence of such acceptance. **(City Manager)**

The City Manager explained the item.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tempore Perno to Accept the conveyance and direct staff to record the deed as evidence of such acceptance.
Second to Motion : Commissioner Sam Peebles

There were no public comments.

On Vote:

Peebles	aye

Perno aye

Warrick aye
TInder aye
Lowrey aye Motion passed: 5-0

16. Discussion and Possible Approval of Vermont Avenue Stormwater Culvert Replacement in the Amount of $58,500 to Emerald Coast Wastewater Solutions, LLC **(City Manager)**.

The City Manager read the resolution by title only and explained the item.

Motion by Commissioner Warrick to Approve.

Second to Motion : Mayor Pro Tempore Pat Perno

There were no public comments.

On Vote:
Peebles aye

Perno aye

Warrick aye
TInder aye
Lowrey aye Motion passed: 5-0

17. Discussion and Possible Approval of renewing the contract with Capital City Consulting for Lobbying Services **(City Manager)**

The City Manager explained the item.
Commissioner Warrick doesn't feel we need them anymore.

Motion by Commissioner Warrick to not renew the contract.

Second to Motion : Mayor Pro Tempore Pat Perno

There were no public comments.

On Vote:
Peebles aye

Perno aye

Warrick aye
TInder aye
Lowrey aye Motion passed: 5-0

18. Discuss and Possible Approval of Resolution 2026-08-577 Approving the Purchase of Fire Rescue Dispatch Equipment **(City Manager)**

The City Manager read the resolution by title only and explained the item.

Motion by Commissioner Warrick to Approve.

Second to Motion : Commissioner Sam Peebles

There were no public comments.

On Vote:
Peebles aye

Perno aye

Warrick aye
TInder aye
Lowrey aye Motion passed: 5-0

19. Discuss & Possible Approval on directing staff to hold a special meeting to approve ballot language for the November referendum on charter changes. **(City Manager)**

The City Manager explained the reason for a special meeting, because they have some items they want to bring to the November ballot.
Mr. Langford — there are 3 spaces open in the November election for ballots, so he would like to try to get those on. Would want to have a meeting with the Charter review committee to discuss those items before bringing it to the commission.
Commissioner Warrick - do a joint meeting on 19th at 5.15pm.

Public Comments:
Mr. Scray — Would like to update the section 15 vacancy protocol to 60 days; Available every day until that meeting if it needs to change.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Ms. Moore - spoke about the decision about the attorney.
Ms. Day - asked for an update on Chris Lightfoot's sign for his vehicle. Also, she asked about liability coverage on the vehicle. She would like feedback on this. Thanked Judy Tinder for

voting now for the continuing contract. Spoke about statute 166.241 about when you say you have 28 employees that we won't have working for us anymore, and it is actually only 5 or 6 employees.
Ms. Parker - wanted to mimic what mr. Langford said about the city clerk. Recalled what Mr. Finch said about the corruption in this building when Vickie Gainer was allowed back into this building 3 times, and that was wrong. you should all have a problem with that as well.
A member of public - agrees with Ms. Parker. Then spoke about the Flock cameras that go against the constitutional rights, the 4th amendment.
Mr. Switzer - spoke about Flock cameras being unconstitutional, being mass surveillance of citizens. Read a few statistics.
Ms. Sandi Garmin - Camera that Chris took down in the executive office is wrong. Asked why the dais is not on the camera and been replaced by the agenda. Mr. Lightfoot advised that there should not be paper agendas. Mr. Harold — the dais on the big screen was his error as he forgot to change it.
Mr. Scray - Shared a story about the candidate forum, and accepted ownership for failing to communicate effectively.

REPORTS

20. Mayor's Report.

Mayor Lowery complimented the residents on coming out so well in the primary elections.
He is grateful to Mr. Finch for the land donation.
The mayor spoke briefly about the traffic issues related to school pickup and that he is working on forming a working group to address the issue.

21. Commissioners' Reports.

Commissioner Perno — thanked everybody for coming out to the meeting. Thanked all the employees. Implored for cool heads while driving in school traffic. Thanked Ms. Amy for working with them all these years.

Commissioner Peebles — Thanked those who volunteered to serve on the pension board. Thanked the charter review committee for their work. Thanked Mr. Finch for the donation of that land to ease traffic flow. Thanked Commissioner Tinder and Chris Lightfoot for the FPL electricity bill audit. TPO meeting this month and will give feedback.

Commissioner Warrick — encouraged everyone to get out and vote.

Commissioner Tinder — Recently met with a very dear friend who referenced the Grey Panther (an historical organization). She said she thought that LH did euthanize animals that were violent and unsafe.

22. City Manager's Report.

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Gave a report on sports updates, and some maintenance issues.

A. Finance Report.

Finance Report:
Commissioner Tinder asked about the card fees — Ms. Roman advised we charge a $3 fee for credit cards, and we don't accept debit cards at all. We are transitioning into Tyler cashiering, at which time we will do away with the $3 fee.
Next budget workshop is scheduled for 25th.

B. Discuss Kinsaul Park Donation

Passed around a map of the Kinsaul Park Donation. Mr. Finch has offered to donate a pavilion to put on that site once the old splash pad is demolished.
Will be bringing the official donation to accept at the next meeting.

23. City Attorney's Report.

Ms. Myers said it was a pleasure to work with the city and wishes everyone the best.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7.48 PM.

APPROVED THIS [#] DAY OF [MONTH] 2026

Dave Lowery
____
Dr. Dave Lowery, Mayor

ATTEST:

Chris Lightfoot
____
Chris Lightfoot, City Manager

Prepared By: Cicelia Rushing

08.11.26_Minutes

Final Audit Report 2026-08-26

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