WHEREAS, in the opinion of the Lake County Auditor, the public interests required that the Lake County Council, should be called to meet in special session at this time, for the purpose of considering Second Reading for the 2027 Budgets. A written notice was sent to each member of the Council, and proper advertisement made, and all other acts performed in accordance with the laws governing such matters.

And now in obedience to such call, come Christine Cid, President, Ronald Brewer, David Hamm, Pete Lindemulder, Ted Bilski and Randy Niemeyer, County Councilpersons, together with Tom O'Donnell and Ray Szarmach, County Council Attorneys. Councilman Charlie Brown was absent.

Supporting Documents: Official signed instruments (including ordinances, resolutions, contracts and agreements) adopted during this session will be available to view via 10-13-2026 Second Reading Documents.pdf

Lindemulder made the motion, seconded by Bilski, to reduce the salary of position 500513457003 to $34,013 in the Weights and Measures Department. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes, 1-absent.

Bilski made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to reduce line item 63145-Legal Services to $210,000 for department 6001. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes, 1-absent.

Bilski made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve elimination of position 200116624004 and use that money to increase salaries as requested in the Lake County Assessor's office.

Lake County Assessor Latonya Spearman explained that a recently retired employee's position would be eliminated, and the savings spread among her 20 staff members based on their job duties and state-required certifications, along with the 4% the council previously approved.

Councilmen Niemeyer and Lindemulder questioned giving both the 4% raise and the reorg, suggesting that some of the leftover funds should return to the General Fund to reduce future budget reliance under Senate Enrolled Act 1.

Bilski offered to amend his original motion to cap the total payout so that employees received either the reorg amount or a 4% minimum without exceeding targeted thresholds.

President Cid expressed that unneeded vacant positions should simply be cut for taxpayer savings rather than redistributed for raises, while also noting hesitation over the increase for the Assessor's salary.

Motion to approve the reorganization and additional salary increases failed. Bilski, Hamm and Brewer voted yes. Niemeyer, Lindemulder and Cid voted no. Brown was absent.

Councilman Bilski asked Coroner David Pastrick to present his department's budget and salary requests to the council.

Coroner Pastrick asked to eliminate a vacant pathologist technician position and use that money to give raises to his staff investigators, which would save the county about $6,500 overall. Councilman Niemeyer then brought Veterans Service Officer Jason Gootee into the discussion. Gootee also asked to eliminate a vacant position and use those funds to adjust pay scales for his team, pointing out that Lake County ranks first in the Northwest District across all VA expenditure metrics.

Councilmen Niemeyer and Lindemulder expressed concerns about both requests, specifically about eliminating positions and spreading that money among employees. They also questioned how the changes would affect the general fund, with an across-the-board 4% raise already approved for all employees. They said the Council had no clear way to see the starting numbers in Oracle, so it was hard to tell how much the changes would really save, and that the Council needed a policy on how vacant positions are handled. Councilman Hamm, however, agreed with the Coroner's request, pointing out that $6,500 was a very small amount for the entire department.

In the Matter of Ordinance Authorizing Tax Levies (OR-1)

Brewer made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve on Second Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve on Second Reading carried 6-yes,1-absent.

In the Matter of Ordinance for Appropriations, Forms 4A and 4B (OR-2)

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Bilski, to approve on Second Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve on Second Reading carried 6-yes,1-absent.

In the Matter of Salary Ordinance for 2027 (OR-3)

Bilski made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve on Second Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve on Second Reading carried 6-yes,1-absent.
In the Matter of Longevity Ordinance for 2027 (OR-4)

Lindemulder made the motion, seconded by Brewer, to approve on Second Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve on Second Reading carried 6-yes,1-absent.

In the Matter of Uniform Clothing Allowance Ordinance (OR-5)

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Bilski, to approve on Second Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve on Second Reading carried 6-yes,1-absent.

In the Matter of Per Diem Expense Ordinance for 2027 (OR-6)

Brewer made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve on Second Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve on Second Reading carried 6-yes,1-absent.

In the Matter of Binding Recommendations/Ordinances – Lake Ridge Fire Ordinance (OR-7)

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Bilski, to approve on Second Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve on Second Reading carried 6-yes,1-absent.

In the Matter of Binding Recommendations/Ordinances – Lake County Solid Waste Ordinance (OR-8)

Bilski made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve on Second Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve on Second Reading carried 6-yes,1-absent.

In the Matter of Binding Recommendations/Ordinances – Crown Point Library

Lindemulder made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve on Second Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve on Second Reading carried 6-yes,1-absent.

In the Matter of Resolution for the Distribution of Funds for Mental Health for Lake County for 2027 (R-1)

Niemeyer made the motion, seconded by Brewer, to approve. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes,1-absent.

In the Matter of Motion to use the sum of $35,006,432,662.00 as the assessed value for 2027 for Lake County

Brewer made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes,1-absent.

In the Matter of Motion to approve the 16 Line Statement for Funds, Levies and Rates for 2027 for Lake County

Hamm made the motion, seconded by Brewer, to approve. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve carried 6-yes,1-absent.

In the Matter of Ordinance Repealing and Rescinding Ordinance No. 1430A Adopted on March 12, 2019, the Ordinance Establishing the Procedure to Approve Transfers Within Major Budget Classifications or Series During the Calendar Year

Bilski made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to approve on First Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve on First Reading carried 6-yes,1-absent.

Bilski made the motion, seconded by Hamm, to Suspend Rules. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to Suspend Rules carried 6-yes,1-absent.

Bilski made the motion, seconded by Brewer, to approve on Second Reading. Majority voted yes. Brown was absent. Motion to approve on Second Reading carried 6-yes,1-absent.

There being no further business to come before the Council, it was moved and seconded that this Council does now adjourn, to meet again as required by law.

ATTEST:

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Peggy Holinga Katona,
Lake County Auditor

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President, Lake County Council