

Mayor & Board of Aldermen –Special Call Meeting

Meeting Minutes

- June 29, 2026

Present: Mayor Adrian Wiggins
Vice Mayor Cates
Aldermen Austin, Bailey, Campbell and LaBudde

1. Call to Order

Mayor Wiggins called the meeting to order.

2. Establish Quorum

All Present

3. Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance

4. Agenda Approval

Vice Mayor Cates made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

5. Citizen's Comments

Jay Edwards – Breezy Loop- Referred to Ordinance 26-04 and Ordinance 26-05, stated in the previous meeting the 1st Reading of FY27 Budget was approved with a \$300k shortfall; as well as, an approval for a twenty-cent property tax increase. The property tax increase was estimated to bring in approximately \$1m. Mr. Edwards requested a clear explanation of what the excess property tax, \$700,000, will be earmarked for.

Roy Neuhauser – Countryside Drive- expressed concern of the agenda.

Mike Heidebur – Misty Birch Lane – spoke on Property Tax increase.

Connie Howell – Fair Oaks Drive – addressed the Board related to Ordinance 26-04 and Ordinance 26-05. Ms. Howell questioned the FY27 Budget deficit and commented that this is the second property tax increase in 2 years. She inquired about a plan for the funds over and beyond those used to balance the FY27 Budget. She spoke in opposition to using them for funding the new park or the Industrial Development Board. Instead, she suggested using them for a much-needed activity center or municipal building.

6. Industrial Development Board – New Member Nomination

Mayor Wiggins introduced Scott Krah to the Board members. Vice Mayor Cates made a motion to accept Scott Krah to fill the vacancy on the IDB. Alderman LaBudde seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

7. Ordinance 26-05- Adopting the FY 2027 Annual Operating and Capital Budget -FINAL READING

Mayor Wiggins declared a Public Hearing opened.

Roy Neuhauser – Countryside Drive- expressed his opposition in passing a negative budget, based on the assumption that the deficit will be covered by a property tax increase. He opined the process of passing the budget first then voting on a property tax seems out of order.

Mike Heidebur – Misty Birch Lane- stated the 1st Reading FY27 Budget was posted on the town webpage which allowed everyone the opportunity to review the numbers, however, the (2nd Reading) budget presented tonight was not. He encouraged the aldermen to do their due diligence in cutting areas of the budget, suggesting surplus phones, vehicles, etc.

With no-one else wishing to speak, Mayor Wiggin declared the public hearing close.

Alderman LaBudde made a motion to hear Ordinance 26-05. Vice Mayor Cates seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

Vice Mayor Cates questioned what cuts could be made if the presented FY27 Budget is passed, but the tax increase (Ord. 26-04) does not. Town Manager Ellis commented that his first recommendation would be the \$500k added for street paving; with his second being to make the \$800K Clay Street Improvement a 2-part project.

Alderman LaBudde asked, "This makes the budget, right"? Mr. Ellis stated, "this proposed budget leaves \$150k in surplus". The proposed budget (Referenced as: Final 6.11.2026) included the twenty-cent property tax increase, indicates a 1.14% Net Increase (totaling \$150,847).

Finance Director Rice commented the \$1m (property tax) will cover the increased expenses of fuel in the Fire & Police Departments, salaries in Fire & Police Departments, to cover the Sidewalk grant and Signal grant, the Clay Street Improvement Project, 10.5% Employee Health Insurance & 1.5% TCRS, and property insurance that increased due to FY26 reappraisal. The tax increase will achieve a balanced budget, with the remaining \$150k net increase reserved for emergency use.

With no further questions, Mayor Wiggins called for a motion.

Alderman LaBudde made a motion to pass the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 26-05- FY27 Budget. Vice Mayor Cates seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. Ordinance 26-05 passed.

8. Ordinance 26-04 - Establishing Municipal Property Tax Levy for FY27- FINAL READING

Mayor Wiggins declared a Public Hearing opened.

Myron Massey - Lakewood Drive – referred to past statements of "No property tax increase" and encouraged the citizens to hold accountable those in position.

Mike Heidebur – Misty Birch Lane – spoke in opposition of the Property Tax increase and the negative effects an increase will have on individuals and the community.

Tom Sutton – Hidden Meadows Cove- opposed to the proposed property tax increase, he recommended to balance the budget with reserves.

Roy Neuhauser – Countryside Drive-spoke in opposition to Ordinance 26-04. He questioned how funds were being spent, implying that non-essential funding (IDB) could be cut.

Ken Sutton – Black Ankle – spoke in favor of balancing the budget, stating a six-cent property tax increase would cover the shortfall. He asked for justification for a twenty-cent increase; where will the additional fourteen cents be spent?

Mr. Sutton, speaking on the overall budget, expressed to the Board the importance of budgeting for depreciation.

With no-one else wishing to speak, Mayor Wiggin declared the public hearing close.

Alderman LaBudde made a motion to hear Ordinance 26-04. Alderman Bailey seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

Vice Mayor Cates asked Town Manager Ellis to clearly restate how the twenty-cent increase will be spent. Mr. Ellis declared the twenty-cent increase will be used to balance FY27 General Fund Budget specifically to:

- employee health Insurance (10.5%)
- employee retirement (TCRS 1.5%)
- property insurance increase (FY26 re-appraisal)
- two (2) TDOT grants (Signal & Sidewalk)
- Clay Street improvement (\$800k)
- Fire & Police Salaries (2 PT positions)
- Fire & Police Fuel
- \$150k for emergency use

Mr. Ellis reported the following allocations for depreciation as \$941,860 in the water fund and \$826,000 in the sewer fund.

Vice Mayor Cates made a motion to pass the 2nd Reading of Ordinance 26-04, increasing the current property tax rate twenty cents. Mayor Wiggins called for a roll-call vote; Alderman Campbell – voted NO, Alderman Austin voted NO, Alderman LaBudde voted YES, Alderman Bailey voted YES and Vice Mayor Cates voted YES; resulting 3 in favor and 2 opposing. The 2nd Reading of Ordinance 26-04 passed.

9. Resolution 26-40 Authorizing Residual ARPA Funds to be Transferred to the Waste-water Account

Vice Mayor Cates made a motion to hear Resolution 26-40.

Alderman LaBudde made a motion to approve Resolution 26-40. Alderman Bailey seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. Resolution 26-40 passed.

10. Resolution 26-41 Authorizing the Renewal of Fayette County Board of Education Agreement

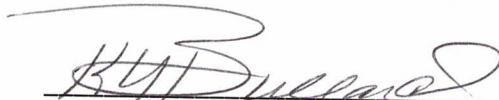
Alderman Bailey made a motion to hear Resolution 26-41.

Mr. Ellis stated that the Town of Oakland has had an ongoing agreement with Fayette County School Board for use of Oakland Elementary and West Jr. High facilities; staff recommended this agreement to be renewed for 1 year. He added there were no changes to the agreement.

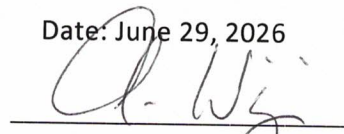
Alderman LaBudde made a motion to approve Resolution 26-41. Alderman Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. Resolution 26-41 passed.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman LaBudde.


K. Yvonne Bullard, Town Recorder

Date: June 29, 2026


Adrian Wiggins, Mayor