

**State of Texas
County of Denton
City of Lake Dallas**

The Lake Dallas City Council met in a Special Called meeting on April 15, 2026 at Lake Dallas City Hall, 212 Main Street, with notice of the meeting given, as required by Title 5, Chapter 551.041 of the Texas Government Code.

1. Roll Call

Kristy Bleau	Mayor
Stephen Wohr	Councilmember 1
Rachel Fitzpatrick	Councilmember 2
Rick Lewelling	Councilmember 3 (arrived 5:12 p.m.)
Rudy Glynn Vrba	Councilmember 4

Absent:

Randy Evans	Councilmember 5
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Staff Present: City Manager Luke Olson, Director of Administrative Services/City Secretary Codi Delcambre, Lt. Connor Farrell, Public Works Director Jeremy Wilks and Finance Director Sarah Cochran.

Open Session

1. Call to Order & Determination of Quorum.

Mayor Bleau called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

2. Citizen Agenda & Public Comments: No one signed up to speak

3. Work Session:

a) Council Retreat and Budget Kick Off for 2026-2027

Council received a presentation from staff regarding the budget process long with foreseen needs of the city that should be addressed this year. Council discussed the priorities of the city and budget needs.

Council took a break at 7:04 p.m. and returned back into open session at 7:09 p.m.

4. Executive Session:

As authorized by Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code, this meeting may be convened into closed executive session for the purpose of seeking confidential legal advice from the City Attorney on any agenda items listed above or herein.

Adjournment

Mayor Bleau adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Approved:

Kristy Bleau
Kristy Bleau, Mayor

Attest:

Codi Delcambre
Codi Delcambre, City Secretary



Statement by Mayor Kristy Bleu

Special City Council Meeting, April 1, 2026

GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE.

THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE TONIGHT. WE TRULY APPRECIATE YOU TAKING THE TIME TO ATTEND AND STAY ENGAGED AS WE WORK TOGETHER TO UNDERSTAND BETTER WHAT HAPPENED ON MARCH 19 AND WHAT IS HAPPENING MOVING FORWARD.

THIS INCIDENT HAS SHAKEN OUR COMMUNITY. IT HAS IMPACTED FAMILIES, NEIGHBORS, AND FIRST RESPONDERS, AND RAISED VERY REAL CONCERNS ABOUT SAFETY, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

WHILE WE ARE GRATEFUL THAT LIVES WERE NOT LOST, WE RECOGNIZE THE CONCERN AND UNCERTAINTY THIS HAS CAUSED.

TO OUR RESIDENTS: YOUR INTEREST IN UNDERSTANDING THIS SITUATION IS IMPORTANT, YOUR QUESTIONS ARE VALID, AND YOUR SAFETY IS NOT NEGOTIABLE.

AT THE OUTSET, I WANT TO BE CLEAR: THIS INCIDENT REMAINS UNDER ACTIVE INVESTIGATION BY THE TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSION. BECAUSE OF THAT, NOT EVERY QUESTION MAY BE ANSWERED IN FULL DETAIL THIS EVENING. INFORMATION IS STILL BEING COLLECTED, AND NO ONE, EITHER FROM THE RAILROAD COMMISSION, CITY ELECTED OFFICIALS OR STAFF, WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE ANSWERS UNTIL WE KNOW WITH CERTAINTY WHAT WE ARE SAYING IS TRUE.

WHILE WE DO NOT HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS RIGHT NOW, THAT DOES NOT DIMINISH OUR COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY OR OUR EXPECTATION THAT ANSWERS WILL CONTINUE TO BE PROVIDED AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

SINCE MARCH 19, YOUR SMALL-BUT-MIGHTY CITY STAFF, THE CITY COUNCIL AND I HAVE BEEN FULLY ENGAGED. WE HAVE BEEN IN CONSTANT COMMUNICATION, WORKING DILIGENTLY TO GATHER INFORMATION, PUSH FOR ANSWERS AND ENSURE OUR COMMUNITY REMAINS INFORMED. THERE HAVE BEEN LONG DAYS AND LATE NIGHTS DEDICATED TO GETTING US TO THIS POINT WHERE YOU CAN HEAR DIRECTLY FROM ATMOS ENERGY.

I ALSO WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO THANK ATMOS ENERGY FOR BEING HERE TONIGHT.

WE HAVE ASKED ATMOS ENERGY TO BE HERE TONIGHT BECAUSE OUR RESIDENTS DESERVE CLEAR, HONEST INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED, WHAT IS BEING DONE AND WHAT MEASURES ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED MOVING FORWARD.

BEFORE WE BEGIN, I WANT TO COMMEND THE EFFORTS OF OUR FIRST RESPONDERS, EMERGENCY PERSONNEL AND EVERYONE INVOLVED IN ADDRESSING THIS SITUATION. THEIR WORK, COORDINATION AND COMMITMENT DURING A CRITICAL TIME DO NOT GO UNNOTICED.

AS MAYOR, I WILL CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE FOR LAKE DALLAS AND ITS RESIDENTS. THE COUNCIL AND I WILL CONTINUE TO ASK THE HARD QUESTIONS AND SEEK ANSWERS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF OUR COMMUNITY.

TONIGHT IS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN THAT PROCESS.
AGAIN, OUR MEETING HERE TONIGHT WILL NOT ANSWER
EVERY QUESTION IMMEDIATELY, BUT IT IS A MEANINGFUL
STEP TOWARD UNDERSTANDING AND PLOTTING OUR
NEXT STEPS.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR BEING HERE, FOR STAYING
ENGAGED.

Statement By City Manager Luke Olson

Special City Council Meeting, April 1, 2026

GOOD EVENING, MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY. I AM HERE TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE RECENT UTILITY AND FIRE INCIDENTS THAT OCCURRED BETWEEN MARCH 17 AND MARCH 26, 2026.

[TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026]

ON TUESDAY, MARCH 17, TWO SEPARATE GAS LINE BREAK INCIDENTS OCCURRED, SEVERAL HOURS APART. THESE INCIDENTS WERE UNRELATED.

THE FIRST INCIDENT OCCURRED AT BETCHAN AVE, WHERE AN LAKE CITIES MUNICIPAL UTILITY AUTHORITY CONTRACTOR WAS PERFORMING WATERLINE REPLACEMENT WORK. DURING EXCAVATION, A LINE WAS STRUCK DUE TO THE EXTREMELY CLOSE PROXIMITY OF THE WATERLINE

AND GAS LINE, WHICH APPEARED NEARLY OVERLAPPING. PRIOR TO ANY WORK, 811 UTILITY LOCATES WERE REQUESTED AND MARKINGS WERE IN PLACE.

AS A PRECAUTION, NEARBY BUSINESSES WERE ASSESSED AND EVACUATED, INCLUDING CITY HALL, COWBOY'S, THE TIRE SHOP, AND CREATIVE GATHERINGS. THE LAKE CITIES FIRE DEPARTMENT CONDUCTED MONITORING AND CONFIRMED THERE WAS NO ONGOING HAZARD.

THE SECOND INCIDENT TOOK PLACE AT HUNDLEY DRIVE AND SHADY SHORES ROAD, AND INVOLVED A DIRECTIONAL BORING MACHINE OPERATING DIRECTLY ABOVE AN EXISTING GAS LINE. VIBRATIONS FROM THE EQUIPMENT ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE CAUSED THE LINE FAILURE.

THE INTERSECTION OF HUNDLEY DRIVE AND SHADY SHORES ROAD WAS CLOSED FOR APPROXIMATELY 22 HOURS FOR REPAIRS TO THE GAS LINE AND RESTORATION OF THE ROADWAY.

[THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026]

AT APPROXIMATELY 7:06 P.M., LAKE CITIES FIRE UNITS WERE DISPATCHED TO A REPORTED MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT INVOLVING AN EXPLOSION, RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE COLLAPSE, AND FIRE. ENGINE 591, MEDIC 591, AND BATTALION CHIEF WILSON ARRIVED ON SCENE WITHIN TWO MINUTES AND THIRTY-EIGHT SECONDS.

THE LAKE DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT ARRIVED WITHIN APPROXIMATELY **THREE MINUTES**, WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM THE HICKORY CREEK AND CORINTH POLICE DEPARTMENTS.

THE MAYOR CONTACTED ME REGARDING A POSSIBLE EXPLOSION, AND I COORDINATED WITH LIEUTENANT FARRELL TO CONFIRM THE SITUATION, AS CHIEF ROBB WAS ATTENDING MANDATORY TRAINING. **I ARRIVED ON SCENE AT APPROXIMATELY 7:25 P.M.**

UPON ARRIVAL, I COORDINATED WITH SGT. WEIR, WHO WAS MANAGING PERIMETER CONTROL. ONE VICTIM WAS TRANSPORTED BY AMBULANCE TO A LANDING ZONE AT SWISHER COURTS LOCATED AT 501 SWISHER ROAD, WHERE OFFICER YOUSEFF ESTABLISHED AN AIR MEDICAL LANDING ZONE AND THE PATIENT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY AIRLIFTED. ADDITIONAL POLICE PERSONNEL WERE CALLED IN TO ASSIST WITH AREA SECURITY.

THE INCIDENT WAS MANAGED AS A ONE-ALARM STRUCTURE FIRE, WHICH TRIGGERED AUTOMATIC

MUTUAL AID FROM THE LEWISVILLE AND HIGHLAND VILLAGE FIRE DEPARTMENTS. **AT APPROXIMATELY 8:00 P.M., ATMOS ENERGY TECHNICIANS ARRIVED TO CONDUCT GAS MONITORING.**

EVACUATIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS: EAST N. LAKEVIEW, MYER, ALL OF WILSON AND PEARL, PORTIONS OF NOYES, AND ALL OF MORRIS AND GILBRAITH.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CONDUCTED DOOR-TO-DOOR NOTIFICATIONS TO ENSURE RESIDENT SAFETY.

THE LAKE CITIES FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE INITIATED AN INVESTIGATION, SECURING THE DEBRIS FIELD AND CONDUCTING INTERVIEWS. ASSISTANCE WAS PROVIDED BY THE DENTON AND TARRANT COUNTIES FIRE MARSHAL TASK FORCES.

CITY STAFF COORDINATED BARRICADES,
OPERATIONAL SUPPORT, PUBLIC INFORMATION
UPDATES, AND PROVIDED FOOD AND BEVERAGES FOR
FIRST RESPONDERS.

[FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026 AND ONGOING OPERATIONS]

THE TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSION, WHICH HAS
REGULATORY AUTHORITY AND INVESTIGATIVE
JURISDICTION OVER ALL GAS COMPANIES IN TEXAS,
ARRIVED FRIDAY MORNING TO BEGIN THEIR
INVESTIGATION AND MAINTAINED AN ON-SITE
PRESENCE FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK.

DENTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PERSONNEL
PROVIDED RELIEF FOR OVERNIGHT SHIFTS. DENTON
COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ESTABLISHED A
SUPPORT AREA WITH MAPPING AND TECHNOLOGICAL

RESOURCES, ASSISTING WITH PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS.

CITY HALL WAS OPENED AS A SAFE LOCATION FOR DISPLACED RESIDENTS, AND THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPLOYED THE CERT REHABILITATION TEAM.

THE MAJORITY OF DISPLACED RESIDENTS WERE ABLE TO RETURN HOME BY APPROXIMATELY 3:00 P.M. ON FRIDAY, WITH THE REMAINING RESIDENTS RETURNING BY THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026, EXCEPT FOR ONE HOME THAT SUSTAINED SIGNIFICANT STRUCTURAL DAMAGE.

LOCATIONS THAT REMAINED RESTRICTED INCLUDED MOSELY STREET, MORRIS STREET, AND TWO HOMES ON GALBRAITH STREET. ATMOS ENERGY COORDINATED DIRECTLY WITH AFFECTED

HOMEOWNERS TO PROVIDE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS AND ASSISTANCE FOR RESIDENTS WITHOUT GAS SERVICE.

ADDITIONAL GAS LEAKS WERE IDENTIFIED IN THE VICINITY AND WERE REPAIRED IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED. ATMOS ENERGY ALSO CONTINUED CONDUCTING SAFETY SURVEYS IN THE AREA, WHICH INCLUDED ONGOING MONITORING AND RESPONSE EFFORTS.

STAFF CONTINUED TO ASSIST WITH BARRICADE PLACEMENT AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT. **ATMOS ESTABLISHED A 24/7 RESIDENT ASSISTANCE CENTER AT CITY HALL FROM FRIDAY UNTIL SUNDAY AT 5:00 P.M., HELPING DISPLACED RESIDENTS CONNECT WITH RESOURCES.**

BEGINNING SATURDAY, COORDINATION CALLS WERE HELD TWICE DAILY AT 10:00 A.M. AND 4:00 P.M. WITH ATMOS ENERGY, LAKE CITIES FIRE DEPARTMENT, LAKE DALLAS ISD, LCMUA, AND CITY STAFF. THESE CALLS TRANSITIONED TO ONCE DAILY FROM TUESDAY, MARCH 24, THROUGH THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026.

THIS CONCLUDES THE SUMMARY OF THE INCIDENTS AND THE CITY'S RESPONSE. IN EVERY INSTANCE, I AM PROUD OF HOW OUR ENTIRE CITY ORGANIZATION— FROM PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS TO THOSE CALLED IN FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS— PERFORMED THEIR DUTIES WITH PROFESSIONALISM AND GRACE UNDER PRESSURE.

INCIDENT TIMELINE: MARCH 17–26, 2026

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Two separate line break incidents occurred on this date, several hours apart, and were **unrelated**.

Betchan Line Break

- Caused by an LCMUA contractor performing waterline replacement work.
- During excavation, a line was struck due to the extremely close proximity of the waterline and gas line, which appeared nearly overlapping.
- **Precautionary Measures:**
 - 811 utility locates were requested and markings were in place prior to excavation.
 - Nearby businesses were assessed and evacuated:
 - City Hall
 - Cowboys
 - The Tire Shop
 - Creative Gatherings
 - Fire Department conducted atmospheric monitoring; readings indicated no ongoing hazard.

Hundley & Shady Shore Line Break

- Attributed to a directional boring machine operating directly above an existing gas line.
 - Vibrations from the equipment are believed to have caused the line failure.
-

Thursday, March 19, 2026

At approximately **7:06 p.m.**, fire units were dispatched to a reported **mass casualty incident** involving an explosion, residential structure collapse, and fire.

Initial Response

- Engine 591, Medic 591, and Battalion Chief Wilson arrived on scene within **2 minutes, 38 seconds**.

- Lake Dallas Police Department arrived within approximately **3 minutes**, with additional support from Hickory Creek and Corinth Police Departments.

Notification and Command

- Mayor contacted me at approximately 7:06 p.m. regarding a possible explosion.
- Lieutenant Farrell confirmed the situation and was en route, as Chief Robb was attending mandatory training.
- I arrived on scene at approximately **7:25 p.m.**

On-Scene Operations

- Coordinated with Officer Weir, managing perimeter control.
- One victim transported by ambulance to a landing zone at Swisher Courts; Officer Youseff established the air medical landing zone. The patient was subsequently airlifted.
- Additional police personnel were called in to assist with area security.

Fire and Evacuation Operations

- Incident managed as a **one-alarm structure fire**, triggering automatic mutual aid from Lewisville and Highland Village Fire Departments.
- At approximately **8:00 p.m.**, Atmos Energy technicians arrived to conduct gas monitoring.

Evacuated Areas:

- East N. Lakeview
- Myer
- All of Wilson
- All of Pearl
- Portion of Noyes
- All of Morris
- All of Gilbraith
- Law enforcement conducted **door-to-door notifications** to ensure resident safety.

Investigation and Support

- Lake Cities Fire Marshal's Office initiated investigation, including securing the debris field and conducting interviews.

- Assistance provided by:
 - Denton County Fire Marshal Task Force
 - Tarrant County Fire Marshal Task Force
 - City staff coordinated barricades and operational support.
 - Public information updates were prepared and disseminated.
 - Food and beverages were provided for first responders.
-

Friday, March 20, 2026, and Ongoing Operations

State and County Support

- Texas Railroad Commission arrived Friday morning to begin investigation; maintained on-site presence for approximately one week.
- Denton County Sheriff's Office provided relief personnel for overnight shifts.
- Denton County Emergency Management established a support area with mapping and technological resources, assisting in drafting and reviewing public communications.

Resident Support and Shelter

- City Hall opened as a safe location for displaced residents.
- Office of Emergency Management deployed CERT Rehabilitation Team.
- The majority of displaced residents were able to return home by approximately **3:00 p.m. Friday**.
- Remaining displaced residents returned to their homes by **Thursday, March 26, 2026**, except for the one home that sustained significant structural damage.

Locations Remaining Restricted:

- Mosely Street
- Morris Street
- Two homes on Galbraith Street
- Atmos Energy coordinated directly with affected homeowners to provide:
 - Hotel accommodations
 - Assistance for residents without gas service

Ongoing Field Operations

- Additional gas leaks identified in the following days, requiring monitoring and response.
- Staff assisted with barricade placement and operational support as needed.

Resident Assistance Center

- Atmos established **24/7 assistance at City Hall** from Friday until Sunday at 5:00 p.m.
- Staff worked to identify displaced residents and connect them with resources.

Coordination and Communication

- Beginning Saturday, coordination calls held twice daily (**10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.**) with:
 - Atmos Energy
 - Lake Cities Fire Department
 - Lake Dallas ISD
 - LCMUA
 - City of Lake Dallas staff and Lake Dallas PD