

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Regular Session, on July 1, 2024 beginning at 6:00 PM, in the City Council Chambers, located at City Hall 205 North Marion Avenue, Lake City, Florida. Members of the public also viewed the meeting on our YouTube Channel.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION – Council Member/Mayor Stephen Witt

ROLL CALL

Mayor/Council Member
City Council

Stephen M. Witt

Jake Hill, Jr.

Chevella Young

Ricky Jernigan

James Carter

City Attorney

Clay Martin

City Manager

Don Rosenthal

Sergeant-at-Arms

Chief Gerald Butler

City Clerk

Audrey Sikes

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Jernigan made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

- Larry Barrett
- Sylvester Warren
- Glenel Bowden
- Brayla Williams and Kerianna Williams with Young Women of Excellence

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes - June 17, 2024 Regular Session
2. City Council Resolution No. 2024-052 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving that certain Amendment No. 2 WG057 between the City and State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection for an extension of time for completing SR47/I-75 wastewater improvements and an extension thereof to the Casey Jones RV Park; making certain findings of fact in support of the City approving amendment; recognizing the authority of the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said agreement; directing the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said agreement; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.

3. City Council Resolution No. 2024-053 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, adopting the evaluation and tabulation of responses to that certain Invitation to Bid number 014-2024 for waste water sludge collection, transportation, and disposal services; accepting the bid from H&H Liquid Sludge Disposal, Inc., a Florida Corporation as the lowest responsive bid; approving the agreement with said vendor; making certain findings of fact in support thereof; recognizing the authority of the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said agreement; directing the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said agreement; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.
4. City Council Resolution No. 2024-054 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving that certain agreement between the City and NJN Consulting Services, Inc. for governmental finance consulting services for employment and labor matters; making certain findings of fact in support of the City approving said agreement; recognizing the authority of the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said agreement; directing the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said agreement; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.
5. City Council Resolution No. 2024-057 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, recognizing a need for the development and design of the north taxiway at the Lake City Gateway Airport in the City of Lake City, Florida; recognizing a need for financial assistance through grant funding to complete the development and design of the north taxiway at the Lake City Gateway Airport; authorizing the City to apply for that certain Fiscal Year 2024 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Grant for grant funding in the amount of one hundred forty thousand dollars in furtherance of development and design of the north taxiway at the Lake City Gateway Airport; making certain findings of fact in support of the City applying for said grant; recognizing the authority of the Mayor to execute such documents as are necessary to apply for said grant; directing the Mayor to execute said documents; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date. Note: This resolution was removed from the consent agenda and readdressed as item #23.
6. City Council Resolution No. 2024-058 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, calling for an election to be held August 20, 2024; providing for the election of a council member from District Twelve; providing for the City Clerk to coordinate said election with the Columbia County Supervisor of Elections; directing the City Clerk to publish notice of the election; repealing all resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.
7. City Council Resolution No. 2024-060 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, adopting that certain quote from AK Associates as the lowest quote available to the City for E9-1-1 call center equipment and system maintenance; approving the agreement with said vendor; making certain findings of fact in support thereof; recognizing the authority of the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said agreement; directing the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said agreement; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing for an effective date.

8. City Council Resolution No. 2024-061 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, adopting that certain quote from Motorola as the lowest quote available to the City for law enforcement video equipment and systems; approving the agreement with said vendor; making certain findings of fact in support thereof; recognizing the authority of the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said agreement; directing the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said agreement; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.
9. City Council Resolution No. 2024-062 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving that certain legal services agreement with Birchfield & Humphrey for legal services related to eminent domain proceedings arising from the City's enhancement of Sallie May Jerry Park; making certain findings of fact in support thereof; recognizing the authority of the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said agreement; directing the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said agreement; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.
10. Approval to modify Police Department's Position Schedule to reflect the reallocation of the remaining nine (9) Communication Officer Positions to four (4) additional Police Officer Positions. This adjustment would bring the total of Police Officers in the Position Schedule to thirty-one. Total Staffing for the Police Department will be sixty-two (62) personnel from current sixty-seven (67) Personnel approved in 2024 Budget. (see attachment)
11. Approval to reclassify Job Description for Communication Supervisor to Accreditation Manager. This position will maintain the same pay grade (Pay Grade 8). Approval of the new Accreditation Manager Job Description to replace current Communication Supervisor Job Description
12. Approval to transfer funds from the Police Department Personnel Services Account to appropriate Police Department Account to fund annual payment to County (PD Share) for County Dispatch Services per City Council Resolution 2023-126. This amount will be pro-rated based on date the County physically takes over the dispatch duties and the City Dispatchers from the City become County Employees. This amount is a split with City Fire Department based on City Council Resolution 2023-126.
13. Authorize the transfer of funds from the Police Department Vehicle Fuel / Car Wash (.52 Account) to purchase four additional patrol units and a K9 unit (Units which are at the end of lease and are to be turned in to Enterprise Leasing). Four Patrol Units are for additional officers and the K9 unit will be used as a spare K9 unit.
14. Authorize use of funds for the Police Department to purchase one additional patrol unit to replace the unit which was totaled and not replaced for a total cost of \$2,603.42.

Ms. Young made a motion to remove Item #5, City Council Resolution No. 2024-057, from the consent agenda and to table it. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Ms. Young	Aye
Mr. Carter	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Nay
Mayor Witt	Aye

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the remaining consent agenda as presented. Mr. Hill seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Ms. Young stated she may have to pull her motion relating to tabling City Council Resolution No. 2024-057 and discussed the urgency of the grant.

Mr. Rosenthal confirmed this is time sensitive with an upcoming deadline.

Attorney Martin asked for a little time to research revisiting the item after being tabled and asked the members to come back to this item later in the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

- 15. Presentation of Certificate of Completion of the Institute for Elected Municipal Officials to Council Member James Carter (Mayor Stephen Witt)
- 16. Brendan McKitrick, CPA with James Moore - Annual Audit for the Year Ended September 30, 2023

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the audit as presented. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Mr. Carter	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

- 17. Columbia Maker Space - Shawn Holmgren - PowerPoint Presentation

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinances

At this time Mayor Witt closed the regular session and opened a public hearing for the purpose of hearing comments on City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2286. City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2286 was read by title. Mayor Witt asked if anyone wanted to be heard regarding City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2286. After hearing public comment from Sylvester Warren, Mayor Witt closed the public hearing.

18. City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2286 (final reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, closing, abandoning, and vacating a utilities easement for HCA Florida Lake City Hospital pursuant to application VRW24-03 submitted by same; finding abandoning and vacating said utilities easement will not adversely affect the public health, safety, or welfare; authorizing and directing the Mayor to execute such Quit Claim of easement as are necessary to effectuate the intent hereof; directing the City Attorney to prepare said Quit Claim of easement; finding it is in the best interest of the City and for the general welfare of its citizens to vacate said easement; repealing all ordinances in conflict; providing severability; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2286 on final reading. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Mr. Carter	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

At this time Mayor Witt closed the regular session and opened a public hearing for the purpose of hearing comments on City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2287. City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2287 was read by title. Mayor Witt asked if anyone wanted to be heard regarding City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2287. After hearing public comment from Sylvester Warren, Mayor Witt closed the public hearing. Note: During public comment point of order was called on two occasions by Mr. Carter and seconded by Mr. Jernigan.

19. City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2287 (final reading) - An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, closing, abandoning, and vacating a utilities and drainage easement for Clyde Skaflestad pursuant to application VRW24-01 submitted by same; finding closing, abandoning, and vacating said utilities and drainage easement will not adversely affect the public health, safety, or welfare; conditioning the closing, abandonment, and vacation of said easement on the applicant granting an alternative drainage easement to the City; authorizing and directing the Mayor to execute such Quit Claim of easements as are necessary to effectuate the intent hereof; directing the City Attorney to prepare said Quit Claim of easement from the City to the applicant; directing the City Attorney to prepare said grant of easement of the alternative easement from the applicant to the City; finding it is in the best interests of the City and for the general welfare of its citizens to close, abandon, and vacate said easement upon the conditions set forth in this ordinance; repealing all ordinances in conflict; providing for severability; and providing an effective date. (Clyde Skaflestad) **Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2287 on final reading. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Mr. Carter **Aye**
Mr. Jernigan **Aye**
Mr. Hill **Aye**
Ms. Young **Aye**
Mayor Witt **Aye**

Other Items

20. Update and Direction from Council: Paul Dyal's Severance Package

Mr. Carter stated he requested this item to be researched to see if there is a viable errors and omissions claim.

Members concurred to have staff prepare a resolution to bring back at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren; Glenel Bowden

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinances

21. City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2273 (first reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending the text of the City of Lake City Land Development Regulations, as amended; pursuant to an application, LDR 24-02; relating to an amendment to the text of the Land Development Regulations; providing for amending Section 12.4 entitled, "Notice of Hearing" by adding a provision requiring notices to property owners within three hundred (300) feet of a property that is the subject of certain land use actions; providing severability; repealing all ordinances in conflict; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2273 on first reading. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Mr. Carter **Aye**
Mr. Hill **Aye**
Ms. Young **Aye**
Mr. Jernigan **Aye**
Mayor Witt **Aye**

22. City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2288 (first reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, calling for a referendum question to be placed before the qualified electors of the City of Lake City at a Special Election to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024; providing a Charter referendum question determining whether the means by which the City Council may establish the compensation of the Mayor and members of the City Council shall be limited exclusively to adoption of a stand alone resolution of the City Council where the subject matter of such resolution is limited to the question of such compensation,

and permitting the City Council to further implement such Charter provision by ordinance; providing for requisite ballot language; providing for conflicts; providing for severability; and providing an effective date.

At the request of Glenel Bowden, City Attorney Clay Martin read into the record lines 17-34 and 54-65 of the ordinance as follows:

WHEREAS, Section 302 of the Charter of the City of Lake City (“Charter”) presently provides the City Council has the authority to set the salaries of the mayor and members of the city council by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the City has applied Section 302 of the Charter via the annual budget approval process which process does not necessarily allow for a stand-alone vote by the City Council on the single subject of the compensation of the mayor and members of the city council; and

WHEREAS, Florida Statute 166.031 provides that a governing body of a municipality may, by ordinance, submit to the electors a proposed amendment to its charter; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Lake City desires to submit one (1) referendum question to the city’s qualified electors that, if approved, would strike the present provision of Section 302 of the Charter authorizing establishment by ordinance the annual salaries of the mayor and members of the city council, and instead establish that (i) the Mayor and City Council may only establish or change the compensation of the mayor and members of the city council by adoption of a stand-alone resolution where the subject matter of such resolution is limited to the question of such increase in compensation, and (ii) the city council and mayor may further implement the provisions of the newly adopted charter provision by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, if the proposed amendment to Section 302 of the Charter were disapproved the annual compensation of the mayor and members of the city council would continue to be set by ordinance.

SHALL MAYORAL AND CITY COUNCIL COMPENSATION BE DETERMINED BY SINGLE SUBJECT, STAND ALONE RESOLUTION

Shall the city’s charter be amended to provide the compensation of the mayor and members of the city council shall only be established or changed by adoption of a stand-alone, single-subject resolution, and further permitting the city council and mayor to adopt an ordinance to further implement the provisions of the foregoing charter provision, if adopted?

_____ **YES** to amend the charter as stated above.

_____ **NO** to continue establishment by ordinance the annual salaries of the mayor and members of the city council.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Glenel Bowden; Sylvester Warren

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2288 on first reading. Mayor Witt seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Mr. Carter	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Ms. Young	Nay
Mr. Jernigan	Nay

Resolutions

23. City Council Resolution No. 2024-057 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, recognizing a need for the development and design of the north taxiway at the Lake City Gateway Airport in the City of Lake City, Florida; recognizing a need for financial assistance through grant funding to complete the development and design of the north taxiway at the Lake City Gateway Airport; authorizing the City to apply for that certain Fiscal Year 2024 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Grant for grant funding in the amount of one hundred forty thousand dollars in furtherance of development and design of the north taxiway at the Lake City Gateway Airport; making certain findings of fact in support of the City applying for said grant; recognizing the authority of the Mayor to execute such documents as are necessary to apply for said grant; directing the Mayor to execute said documents; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.

Ms. Young made a motion to remove City Council Resolution No. 2024-057 from the table. Mr. Hill seconded the motion.

Mr. Jernigan requested that City Manager Don Rosenthal and staff meet with Florida Gateway College President, Larry Barrett to resolve any issues.

Mr. Rosenthal explained this resolution was granting permission for the City to apply for the grant funds.

Mayor Witt spoke in support of the application and requested for staff to look into Mr. Barrett's concerns.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Larry Barrett

Mayor Witt called for a voice vote to remove City Council Resolution No. 2024-057 from the table. Those in favor were Ms. Young, Mr. Hill and Mayor Witt. Those opposed were Mr. Carter and Mr. Jernigan.

Mr. Jernigan made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2024-057. Mr. Hill seconded the motion.

Mr. Carter expressed concern with the land dispute.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mr. Carter	Nay
Mayor Witt	Aye

Other Items

24. Schedule a Council Photo Session prior to City Council Meeting at 5:00 PM (Mayor Stephen Witt)

Members concurred to hold a photo session prior to the August 5, 2024 Regular Session Meeting.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION – None

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Jernigan stated Lake City Police Chief Gerald Butler and staff conducted a traffic study in the Forrest Hills subdivision, and reported no violations at this time. He stated he would get with staff on possibly moving the speed bumps located in the neighborhood.

Ms. Young requested speed bumps on Martin Luther King and reminded members to schedule their evaluations with City Clerk Audrey Sikes.

Mr. Carter reported visiting the Lake City Gateway Airport and recognized staff: Director Ed Bunnell; Manager John Nettles; Senior Lineman Andrew Meyer; Lineman Casey Roach; Lineman Floyd Rifenburg; and Lineman Jihycein Weston.

Mr. Hill requested speed bumps on Georgia Street and Wilson Street to address speeding.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Carter made a motion to adjourn at 8:01 PM and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Stephen M. Witt, Mayor/Council Member

Audrey Sikes, City Clerk