

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Regular Session, on February 2, 2026, 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.

EVENTS PRIOR TO MEETING – 5:00 PM Community Redevelopment Agency Meeting

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION – Mayor/Council Member Noah Walker

ROLL CALL

Mayor/Council Member
City Council

Noah Walker
Chevella Young
Ricky Jernigan
James Carter
Tammy Harris
Clay Martin
Don Rosenthal
Chief Gerald Butler
Audrey Sikes

City Attorney
City Manager
Sergeant-at-Arms
City Clerk

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

1. Certificate of Appreciation Presented to Mayor Noah Walker at New Day Springs Missionary Baptist Church (Vice Mayor Chevella Young)

Vice Mayor Young presented the certificate to Mayor Walker.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

- George Hudson
- Debbie Griffin (provided handout regarding fundraiser for Lake City Humane Society)
- Stew Lilker

QUASI-JUDICIAL HEARINGS

Final Reading

Open Quasi – Judicial Proceeding

At this time Attorney Clay Martin read from a prepared script.

Preliminary Matters (Attorney Clay Martin):

The City Attorney shall read the ordinance by title

2. City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2349 (final reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, pursuant to Petition No. ANX 25-07, submitted by Lake City 47, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, relating to voluntary annexation; annexing certain real property located in Columbia County, Florida, which is reasonably compact, into the boundaries of the City of Lake City, Florida; making certain findings of fact in support thereof; providing severability; repealing all ordinances in conflict; providing an effective date. This property is located at the SW quadrant of I75 and SR 47.

Disclosure by Council members of ex-parte communications (this includes site visits), if any.

Ms. Young	No
Mr. Carter	No
Mr. Jernigan	No
Ms. Harris	No
Mayor Walker	No

Swearing in of applicant/appellant, staff and all witnesses collectively by City Attorney.

City Attorney Martin swore in Planning Technician Robert Angelo and Justin Tabor, Senior Planner, North Florida Professional Services, Inc., as agent for Lake City 47, LLC.

Clerk should take custody of exhibits.

Note: All exhibits, diagrams, photographs and similar physical evidence referred to during the testimony or which you would like the Council to consider, must be marked for identification and kept by the Clerk for 30 days.

A. Brief introduction of ordinance by city staff. Planning Technician Robert Angelo asked to adopt the presentation and all documents from the previous meeting on January 5, 2026, into the record. They are attached as Exhibit A.

B. Presentation of application by applicant. Mr. Tabor waived.

C. Presentation of evidence by city staff. N/A

D. Presentation of case by third party intervenors, if any. N/A

E. Public comments. None

F. Cross examination of parties by party participants. Waived

G. Questions of parties by City Council. None

H. Closing comments by parties. Waived

I. Instruction on law by attorney.

J. Discussion and action by City Council.

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2349 on final reading. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Mr. Carter	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Ms. Harris	Aye
Mayor Walker	Aye

3. City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2350 (final reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, pursuant to Petition No. ANX 25-08, submitted by Pam Stewart and Scott D. Stewart, relating to voluntary annexation; annexing certain real property located in Columbia County, Florida, which is reasonably compact, into the boundaries of the City of Lake City, Florida; making certain findings of fact in support thereof; providing severability; repealing all ordinances in conflict; providing an effective date. This property is located at the SW quadrant of I75 and SR 47.

Disclosure by Council members of ex-parte communications (this includes site visits), if any.

This was answered under the previous ordinance.

Swearing in of applicant/appellant, staff and all witnesses collectively by City Attorney.

This was done under the previous ordinance.

Clerk should take custody of exhibits.

Note: All exhibits, diagrams, photographs and similar physical evidence referred to during the testimony or which you would like the Council to consider must be marked for identification and kept by the Clerk for 30 days.

A. Brief introduction of ordinance by city staff. Planning Technician Robert Angelo moved to adopt the presentation and all documents from the previous meeting, January 20, 2026, into the record. They are attached as Exhibit B.

B. Presentation of application by applicant. Mr. Tabor waived.

C. Presentation of evidence by city staff. N/A

D. Presentation of case by third party intervenors, if any. N/A

E. Public comments. None

F. Cross examination of parties by party participants. Waived

G. Questions of parties by City Council. None

H. Closing comments by parties. Waived

I. Instruction on law by attorney.

J. Discussion and action by City Council.

Ms. Harris made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2350 on final reading. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Ms. Harris	Aye
Mr. Carter	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Mayor Walker	Aye

At this time, members took a short recess due to technical difficulties from 6:20 PM until 6:23 PM.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinances

At this time Mayor Walker closed the regular session and opened a public hearing for the purpose of hearing comments on City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2347. City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2347 was read by title. Mayor Walker asked if anyone wanted to be heard regarding City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2347. No one asked to be heard on City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2347; therefore, Mayor Walker closed the public hearing.

4. City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2347 (final 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 25-03, by the Growth Management Department of Lake City, Florida; providing for Amending Seciton 4.1.1 entitled Zoning Districts, Establishment of Districts by adding a "MU" Mixed-Use Zoning District; providing for amending Section 4.1.6 entitled Zoning Districts, Definitions of Groupings of Various Districts by adding a definition of Mixed-Use; providing for adding Section 4.19 entitled Zoning Districts, Mixed-Use Zoning District; providing severability; repealing all ordinances in conflict; providing an effective date. **Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2347 on final reading. Ms. Harris seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Mr. Carter	Aye
Ms. Harris	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Mayor Walker	Aye

At this time Mayor Walker closed the regular session and opened a public hearing for the purpose of hearing comments on City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2348. City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2348 was read by title. Mayor Walker asked if anyone wanted to be heard regarding City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2348. No one asked to be heard on City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2348; therefore, Mayor Walker closed the public hearing.

5. City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2348 (final 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 25-04, by the Growth Management Department of the City of Lake City, Florida; providing for amending Section 4.9.8 entitled "RMF" Residential, Multiple Family, Maximum Height of Structures, Section 4.10.8 entitled "RO" Residential/Office, Maximum Height of Structures and Section 4.14.8 entitled "C-CBD" Commercial, Central Business District, Maximum Height of Structures by limiting the height of Single Family Dwellings and Duplex Dwellings to 35 feet and all other structures to 85 feet; providing for amending Section 4.12.8 entitled "CG" Commercial, General, Maximum of Height of Structures, Section 4.13.8 entitled "CI" Commercial, Intensive, Maximum Height of Structures, Section 4.15.8 entitled "CHI" Commercial, Highway Interchange, Maximum Height of Structures, Section 4.16.8 entitled "ILW" Industrial, Light and Warehousing, Maximum Height of Structures, and Section 4.17.8 entitled "I" Industrial, Maximum Height of Structures, by limiting the height of structures to 85 feet; providing for amending Section 4.15.6 entitled "CHI" Commercial, Highway Interchange, Minimum Lot Requirement by deleting the Minimum Area and Width Requirements; providing for amending Section 15.7 entitled "CHI" Commercial, Highway Interchange, Minimum Lot Yard Requirement by reducing the Front Yard Requirement from 30 feet to 20 feet and by deleting the Side and Rear Yard Requirements; providing for severability; repealing all ordinances in conflict; providing an effective date. **Ms. Harris made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2348 on final reading. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Ms. Harris	Aye
Mr. Carter	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Mayor Walker	Aye

Resolutions

6. City Council Resolution No. 2026-012 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving that certain agreement between the City and AVI-SPL, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, for audio visual equipment and related professional services; 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Stew Lilker

Information Technologies Director Jason Dumas provided an update on what equipment was being purchased: additional microphones, projector, and screen.

Council Member Young spoke in opposition of spending funding on equipment when a new City Hall was being considered.

Council Member Jernigan spoke in opposition of spending funding on equipment and suggested using the current equipment.

Mayor Walker inquired as to what the purchase would include.

Council Member Carter reported the purchase was not necessary at this time.

No motions were made on City Council Resolution No. 2026-012.

Other Items

7. Paul Dyal Severance Agreement Matter

City Attorney Martin provided a brief update on the matter and reported he and City Manager Rosenthal reached out to Guy Norris for the purpose of a limited engagement to perform a litigation analysis and report back to council. Attorney Norris reviewed and summarized Mr. Dyals Separation Agreement, and his litigation analysis.

Attorney Joel Foreman, representation for Paul Dyal, summarized the January 15, 2026 letter offering an exchange of mutual general releases and reiterated his settlement authority given by Mr. Dyal.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ben Loftstrom; Barbara Lemley; Stew Lilker

Members discussed the topic at length.

City Attorney Martin suggested if members wanted to counter offer there be a deadline for acceptance, no longer than 48 hours, and authorization for the mayor to sign documents if the offer was accepted by Mr. Dyal.

Attorney Martin reported the City has spent an estimated \$5,000.00 on Attorney Guy Norris and \$14,000.00 on Cavendish Partners, P.A. relating to the matter.

Council Member Carter made a motion to authorize Guy Norris to make a settlement offer to Mr. Dyal in the amount of \$5,000.00 and the signature of mutual general releases by both the City and Mr. Dyal. The motion includes authorization for counsel to move forward with the original plan of litigation if Mr. Dyal refuses the settlement offer. There is a 48-hour deadline for Mr. Dyal to accept with any settlement offer coming before the council at the next meeting. Ms. Harris seconded the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Stew Lilker

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Mr. Carter	Aye
Ms. Harris	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Nay
Mayor Walker	Aye

At this time members took a five-minute recess from 7:59 PM until 8:06 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions

8. City Council Resolution No. 2026-015 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving that certain services and performance extension agreement extending that certain agreement between the City and Sunrise Consulting Group, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company for Government Affairs Consulting Services; 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. **Mr. Jernigan made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2026-015. Ms. Young seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mr. Carter	Aye
Ms. Harris	Aye
Mayor Walker	Aye

9. City Council Resolution No. 2026-016 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending that certain agreement between the City and Looks Great Services of MS, Inc., a Mississippi Corporation, for annual tree removal, stump grinding, and mulching; making certain findings of fact in support of the City amending 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. **Ms. Harris made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2026-016. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Ms. Harris	Aye
Mr. Carter	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Mayor Walker	Aye

10. City Council Resolution No. 2026-017 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, designating an administrative authority to receive, review, and process plat or replat submittals, and designating an administrative official responsible for approving, approving with conditions, or denying plats or replats, pursuant to Section 177.071, Florida Statutes, as amended; repealing all resolutions in conflict; providing an effective date; directing the City Clerk to reflect said appointment in such records of the City as are necessary and prudent; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date. **Ms. Harris made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2026-017. Ms. Young seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Ms. Harris	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Mr. Carter	Aye
Mayor Walker	Aye

11. City Council Resolution No. 2026-018 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, adopting the evaluation and tabulation of responses to that certain Request for Proposal Number 026-2025 for consulting services to perform a fire consolidation feasibility study for the City and the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners; accepting the proposal from Matrix Consulting Group, LTD., a California Corporation; approving the agreement with said vendor; making certain findings of fact in support thereof; providing for sharing the costs and results of such study with the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners; 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. **Ms. Harris made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2026-018. The motion failed due to lack of second.**

Other Items

12. Discussion and Possible Action - Consider appointment to Planning and Zoning Board to fill unexpired term through October 31, 2028, for Seat 3-F.
Applicant: Kendria Jones

Council Member Carter requested a more formal vetting process and for applicants to attend the meeting for council to be able to speak with them.

The consensus was to direct staff to return to the next meeting with a resolution to appoint Kendria Jones to the Planning and Zoning Board.

COMMENTS BY:

City Manager Don Rosenthal – Mr. Rosenthal shared the Lake City Police Department had completed their annual report and reported there were lots of water line breaks due to inclement weather.

City Attorney Clay Martin – Mr. Martin reported he and City Clerk Audrey Sikes attended an ADA conference in Orlando and stated the topic of ADA was more comprehensive than he anticipated. He recommended council reconvenes on this issue and designate an overall ADA coordinator, not just someone to perform compliance on documents and the city's website.

City Clerk Audrey Sikes – Ms. Sikes offered condolences to former Mayor Stephen Witt and his family on the loss of his son. She announced the funeral would be Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 2:00 PM at Gateway Forrest Lawn Funeral Home.

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL:

Vice Mayor Chevella Young – Ms. Young expressed gratitude for everyone staying safe during the winter storm and commented on a good meeting that night.

Chief Butler requested permission from council to accept the donation of a K9 German Sheppard, there was a consensus to accept the dog.

Council Member Ricky Jernigan – Mr. Jernigan requested a proclamation and key to the City for Judge Leandra Johnson in honor of her retirement; recommended I Love My Dentist and their professionalism; recognized the Lake City Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments for their work over the weekend and during the winter storm; spoke in opposition of spending citizen's money on the Paul Dyal issue; thanked all departments for their work; reported he would have comments for Mayor Walker and Council Member Carter at the next meeting.

Council Member James Carter – Mr. Carter spoke in support of a coordinator for the ADA position; requested an update on the status of agenda workflows and reported he would like to see the agenda go out the Wednesday prior to meetings, City Clerk Sikes reported directors had login and workflow directions, and there would be training in the coming week; offered condolences to Mayor Witt and his family.

Council Member Tammy Harris – Ms. Harris reported speaking with City Manager Rosenthal and Assistant City Manager Dee Johnson requesting the following topics on the next agenda: staff present a plan of action for City owned parks and requested her idea of a splashpad be incorporated into that plan; requested the topic of a Festival of Love be placed on the next agenda for discussion, she reported speaking with Columbia County Commissioners about a partnership for the festival; asked City Manager Rosenthal to condense what good things each department in the City has completed for the year 2025.

Council Member Young reported in March there will be a City of Lake City Expo where each department will be on display.

Mayor Noah Walker – Mayor Walker reported the Humane Society was holding a fundraiser at Texas Road House February 17th, from 3:00 PM until 10:00 PM, where 10% of your bill will go to the Humane Society; Coffee with a cop at Panera Bread on February 4th, from 8:30 AM until 10:00 AM; listed multiple events going on in the City and surrounding areas in celebration of Black History Month; mirrored comments made on behalf of Judge Leandra Johnson and her long career; praised the water departments being out in the cold repairing leaks; spoke about successful Legislative Action Days in Tallahassee the week prior; expressed excitement for the Accessory Dwelling Unit expansion that will be happening; inquired as to how the City could incentivize within the Historic District, he requested City Manager Rosenthal, City Attorney Martin, and Planning Technician Robert Angelo work on that and bring it back at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, Mayor Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Noah Walker, Mayor/Council Member

Audrey Sikes, City Clerk