

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Regular Session, on September 20, 2021 beginning at 6:00 P.M., in the City Council Chambers, located at City Hall 205 North Marion Avenue, Lake City, Florida. Members of the public also viewed the meeting live on our YouTube Channel.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION –Council Member Jake Hill, Jr.

#### ROLL CALL

Mayor/Council Member  
City Council

City Attorney  
Sergeant-at-Arms  
City Clerk

Stephen M. Witt  
Jake Hill, Jr.  
Eugene Jefferson  
C. Todd Sampson  
Frederick Koberlein, Jr.  
Chief Argatha Gilmore  
Audrey Sikes

#### MINUTES

1. August 16, 2021 Regular Session
2. August 17, 2021 - Budget Workshop
3. August 30, 2021 - Budget Workshop
4. September 7, 2021 - Regular Session

**Mr. Jefferson made a motion to approve the August 16, 2021 Regular Session, August 17, 2021 Budget Workshop, August 30, 2021 Budget Workshop, and September 7, 2021 Regular Session minutes as presented. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.**

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Witt suggested moving Emergency Item #19, City Council Resolution No. 2021-144, up on the agenda after Item #5. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.**

#### APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

5. Permit application from the Lake City-Columbia County Chamber of Commerce to hold the Gateway City Craft Beer and Wine Festival on Saturday, October 23, 2021, from 8:00 AM until 8:00 PM at Darby Pavilion and Wilson Park. All supporting documents including the certificate of insurance have been provided.

**Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of item #5 above. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.**

19. Emergency Item - City Council Resolution No. 2021-144 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of an agreement with Michael D. Williams for management services related to the vacant City Manager position; and providing for an effective date.

Mayor Witt stated Mr. Williams would accept the salary the City had been previously paying this position. Mr. Sampson confirmed with Mayor Witt, \$120,000.00 was within the realm of the salary provided to previous City Managers. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-144, authorizing the execution of an agreement with Michael D. Williams for management services related to the vacant City Manager position, at the salary of \$120,000.00. Mr. Hill seconded the motion.**

Members concurred to have the resolution and starting salary active the day Mr. Williams started. Mr. Koberlein stated he would need to research on making the start date of Mr. Williams retroactive. **A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

#### BUDGET HEARINGS

**At this time Mayor Witt asked the City Finance Director to provide a summary of the budget process and address those items essential to comply with the State of Florida TRIM compliance.**

Finance Director Donna Duncan reported the City Council proposes a final millage rate of 4.9000 mills and a final capital and operating budget of \$60,625,247 for fiscal year 2021-2022. Council action tonight constitutes the "Final" Budget Hearing as required by State TRIM criteria and was announced to the General Public by advertisement in the Lake City Reporter published on September 16, 2021. She stated, during this hearing, the following agenda will be addressed:

- The Council will discuss the 2021-2022 millage and operating budget and allow citizen input as appropriate.
- The Council will direct announcement of the final millage rate proposed for adoption and of any increase, decrease, or no change.
- The City Attorney will read, by title, Millage Resolution No. 2021-130.
- The Council will adopt Millage Resolution No. 2021-130 on final reading.
- The City Attorney will read, by title, Budget Resolution No. 2021-131.
- The Council will adopt Budget Resolution No. 2021-131 on final reading.

**At this time Mayor Witt declared the "Final Budget Hearing" open for public discussion and input followed by discussion by the City Council.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Danny Witt addressed Council and stated according to a public records request, on July 26, 2021, there were raise increases not authorized by Council Members. He also stated he

has been advised that there is a public records request for three months' worth of salary the City has not yet released.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren expressed concern with the budget process, with no input from the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Glenel Bowden expressed concern with the budget process and lack of public input at the budget workshops.

**Mayor Witt asked if there were any comments of Council regarding the Final Budget for fiscal year 2021-2022. No one asked to be heard therefore Mayor Witt closed the public hearing.**

Mayor Witt stated if there are no further comments regarding this matter, he would ask the City Finance Director to state for the record 1) the taxing authority, 2) the millage rate to be adopted, 3) the rolled-back millage rate, and 4) any change the final millage rate represents to the current year's millage.

Ms. Duncan reported the City Council of the City of Lake City, as Taxing Authority, proposed a final tax on all property located within the City of Lake City, Florida, at the rate of 4.9000 mills for the fiscal year 2021-2022 operating budget. The current year proposed operating millage rate is a 0.51% decrease from the 4.9253 rolled-back millage rate as defined by Florida Statutes and represents no change from the previous year's millage rate of 4.9000 mills.

6. City Council Resolution No. 2021-130 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, adopting a millage rate for the levy of ad valorem taxes for the City for fiscal year 2021-2022; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-130, adopting a millage rate for the levy of ad valorem taxes for the City for fiscal year 2021-2022. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

7. City Council Resolution No. 2021-131 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, adopting the budget for fiscal year 2021-2022; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Jefferson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-131, adopting the budget for fiscal year 2021-2022. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL – None

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. 2021-2204. City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2204 was read by title. Mayor Witt asked if anyone wanted to be heard regarding City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2204. No one asked to be heard therefore Mayor Witt closed the public hearing.**

8. City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2204 (final reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending the code of the City of Lake City, Florida, Chapter 70, Article IV, Police Officers Retirement Fund; providing for the addition of a Section 70-106; providing for a share account (defined contribution component); providing for severability; providing for conflicts; providing for codification; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Jefferson made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2204, on first reading, amending the code of the City of Lake City, Florida, Chapter 70, Article IV, Police Officers Retirement Fund; providing for the addition of a Section 70-106, and providing for a share account (defined contribution component). Mr. Sampson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

Other Items

9. Discussion and Possible Action - Fire Pension Board and General Employee Pension Board Appointee (Mayor Witt)

Mayor Witt stated he had a couple of people in mind for the positions and he will follow-up with them.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinances

10. City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2202 (first reading) - An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending Chapter 104, entitled vegetation of the City Code of ordinances; providing for repeal of Section 40, titled creation of City Tree Board; appointment of members; terms of the City Code in its entirety; providing for severability; providing for codification; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to adopt City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2202, on first reading, amending Chapter 104, entitled vegetation of the City Code of ordinances; providing for repeal of**

**Section 40, titled creation of City Tree Board; appointment of members, and terms of the City Code in its entirety. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

11. City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2203 (first reading) - An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending the City Code to add a new Section Number 86-110.16 to Article III, Chapter 86, which provides for the permanent vacating of the two utility easements located between Lots 5 (Parcel 34-3S-16-02465-105) and Lot 6 (Parcel 34-3S-02465-106), and Lot 6 (Parcel 34-3S-02465-106) and Lot 7 (Parcel 34-3S-16-02465-107), all of said lots being located in the Stonegate Park Subdivision as recorded on a plat thereof and recorded in plat book 7, pages 61 and 62, of the public records of Columbia County, Florida; providing for conflicts; providing for severability; providing for codification; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Jefferson made a motion to adopt City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2203, on first reading, amending the City Code to add a new Section Number 86-110.16 to Article III, Chapter 86, which provides for the permanent vacating of the two utility easements located between Lots 5 (Parcel 34-3S-16-02465-105) and Lot 6 (Parcel 34-3S-02465-106), and Lot 6 (Parcel 34-3S-02465-106) and Lot 7 (Parcel 34-3S-16-02465-107), all of said lots being located in the Stonegate Park Subdivision as recorded on a plat thereof and recorded in plat book 7, pages 61 and 62, of the public records of Columbia County, Florida. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

## Resolutions

12. City Council Resolution No. 2021-136 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of an agreement with Marks Gray, P.A.; providing for the provision of special legal counsel services related to aviation at the Lake City Gateway Airport; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-136, authorizing the execution of an agreement with Marks Gray, P.A., and providing for the provision of special legal counsel services related to aviation at the Lake City Gateway Airport. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

13. City Council Resolution No. 2021-137 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the acceptance of a grant award in an amount of \$504,994.00 from the State of Florida, Department of Transportation; providing for the resurfacing of Patterson Avenue from United States Highway 90 to State Road 100A; and providing for an effective date.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren discussed repaving for the north side of town.

**Mr. Jefferson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-137, authorizing the acceptance of a grant award in an amount of \$504,994.00 from the State of Florida, Department of Transportation, and providing for the resurfacing of Patterson Avenue from United States Highway 90 to State Road 100A. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

14. City Council Resolution No. 2021-138 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of an agreement with the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council; providing for the receipt of comprehensive planning services; providing for compensation not-to-exceed \$23,500.00; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Jefferson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-138, authorizing the execution of an agreement with the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council; providing for the receipt of comprehensive planning services, and providing for compensation not-to-exceed \$23,500.00. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

15. City Council Resolution No. 2021-139 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, reappointing Steve Brown as the Director to serve on the Florida Gas Utility Board of Directors on behalf of the City and reappointing Paul Dyal, Executive Director of Utilities, as Alternate Director in the absence of Steve Brown; providing for the repeal of all prior resolutions in conflict with this resolution; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Hill made a motion to adopt**

**City Council Resolution No. 2021-139, reappointing Steve Brown as the Director to serve on the Florida Gas Utility Board of Directors on behalf of the City and reappointing Paul Dyal, Executive Director of Utilities, as Alternate Director in the absence of Steve Brown, and providing for the repeal of all prior resolutions in conflict with this resolution. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

16. City Council Resolution No. 2021-140 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of the American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Agreement with the State of Florida, Division of Emergency Management; providing for the receipt of fiscal recovery funds in the amount of \$6,186,544.00; providing for the reimbursement of certain expenses incurred due to the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency in accordance with the limitations prescribed in the act; providing for conflicts; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-140, authorizing the execution of the American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Agreement with the State of Florida, Division of Emergency Management; providing for the receipt of fiscal recovery funds in the amount of \$6,186,544.00, and providing for the reimbursement of certain expenses incurred due to the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency in accordance with the limitations prescribed in the act. Mr. Hill seconded the motion.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren requested a workshop to communicate with the public what the funds would be spent on.

Mayor Witt stated he would be willing to hold a workshop.

**A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

17. City Council Resolution No. 2021-141 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the write-off of delinquent utility accounts through September 30, 2019; finding the delinquent utility accounts to be uncollectable; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Jefferson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-141, authorizing the write-off of delinquent utility accounts through September 30, 2019; finding the**

**delinquent utility accounts to be uncollectable. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

18. Emergency Item - City Council Resolution No. 2021-142 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of a contract with C & K of Lake City, Inc., doing business as ServePro of Columbia and Suwannee Counties for the remediation of mold from the first floor of the City Hall building; providing for a contract price not to exceed \$34,292.35; providing for the execution of the contract; and providing for an effective date. (Dave Young)

Mr. Koberlein expressed needing clarification from Growth Management Director Dave Young, or Procurement Director Karen Nelmes on whether the contract had been authorized by the previous Interim City Manager, Ami Fields. The company was requiring half of the payment before starting services, which they planned to start on Friday, September 24, 2021.

Growth Management Director Dave Young stated C & K of Lake City, Inc. was requiring a down payment of half the contract price, and the second half once the job was completed.

**Mr. Sampson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-142, authorizing the execution of a contract with C & K of Lake City, Inc., doing business as ServePro of Columbia and Suwannee Counties for the remediation of mold from the first floor of the City Hall building; providing for a contract price not to exceed \$34,292.35, and providing for the execution of the contract. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

19. Emergency Item - City Council Resolution No. 2021-144 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of an agreement with Michael D. Williams for management services related to the vacant City Manager position; and providing for an effective date.  
**This item was moved to the top of the agenda right after item #5.**

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION



## Other Items

20. Discussion and Possible Action - Filling the vacancy of Council Member for City Council District 14.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Glenel Bowden expressed to Council to be as expeditious as they could with this process and to be fair.

Mayor Witt stated Mr. Greene resigned September 9, 2021, so the first week in November is when the position would need to be filled. He suggested all applications being in by mid-October and conducting interviews.

Mr. Sampson stated he preferred an election.

Members concurred on the application being due Thursday, October 7, 2021 by the close of business, with interviews being held on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 1:00PM. Applicants must submit a written statement of intent, along with qualifications being no more than two pages. Members also concurred for interested candidates to must have one-year residency and must submit a residency affidavit and show they are a qualified voter.

Public Comment: Stew Lilker asked members to clarify close of business.

Members concurred to discuss at the next meeting the process to utilize for ranking of the interested applicants.

**Mr. Sampson made a motion to follow the procedure as outlined: No later than the close of the business day (5:00 PM) on Thursday, October 7, 2021, interested applicants are to submit to the City Clerk a written statement of interest and qualifications (no more than two pages); submit a residency affidavit; and proof they are a qualified voter, with interviews being held on October 13, 2021 starting at 1:00 PM. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

21. Discussion and Possible Action: Memorial Stadium (Todd Sampson)

Growth Management Director Dave Young and Mr. Bishop with North Florida Professional Services were in attendance to answer questions.

Mr. Bishop reported there was no reason the fields could not be used, the stands were not secure, and to not use the buildings underneath as they are free standing. He stated it would be a policing issue to keep people out of the stands.

**Mr. Sampson made a motion to allocate up to \$3,000.00 for the purchase of the bleachers. The motion identifies the funding source as contingency fund. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**Mr. Sampson made a motion to authorize a Task Order for the engineering services from or of North Florida Professional Services in the amount of \$27,214.00 for Memorial Stadium. The funding source identified is contingency.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren encouraged Council to distribute funds equally with North Marion Street.

Mr. Hill made a motion to spend funds on Memorial Stadium and North Marion Street with the money being spread equally. Mayor Witt reminded Mr. Hill that there was already on a motion on the floor.

**Mr. Hill seconded Mr. Sampson's motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

PUBLIC COMMENT: Vanessa George addressed Council and asked for an update on the CRA and Beautification Project.

22. Discussion and Possible Action - SR47/I75 Groundbreaking Ceremony  
Scheduled for Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 1:00 PM (Todd Sampson)

Mr. Sampson informed everyone the SR47/I75 Groundbreaking Ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 1:00PM at the lift station on Ring Court.

23. Emergency Item - Discussion and Possible Action: Fire Department Staffing  
(Josh Wehinger)

Mr. Wehinger expressed to Council, due to the Covid outbreak and being short on staff, this has forced overtime. They are down three positions at the moment. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to authorize the reclassification of the four reservists' unpaid positions to four part time positions. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

At this time Mr. Koberlein expressed to Council that they needed to readdress Item #19; Council needed to instruct the Lake City Police Department to handle the background check on Mr. Williams; and to review his employment application. **Mr. Sampson made a motion for the Lake City Police Department to conduct the background check on Mr. Williams. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

#### COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Reminder: Special Joint Florida Gateway College District Board of Trustees/City/County Meeting on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 6 PM in the Wilson S. Rivers Library & Media Center Building 200, Room 102.

Mr. Sampson reminded Council that the second meeting in October will be the second hearing for the Covid CDBG Grant for Richardson Community Center in the amount of 5.1 million. He encouraged citizens to come to this meeting. Mr. Sampson asked for an update on the CRA fund. Finance Director Donna Duncan reported the balance in the account has not changed since the last meeting, there is still roughly \$290,00.00.

Mr. Hill expressed disappointment in the Police Department with the recent shooting in Youngs Park. **Mr. Hill made a motion to find funding to install video cameras in the parks. The motion did not receive a second.**

Mr. Sampson stated cameras may be helpful, but is unclear on the legality.

Chief Gilmore presented Council with a PowerPoint presentation and updated them on the crime rate statistics for the City.

Public Comment: Sylvester Warren spoke in opposition of the leadership at the Lake City Police Department.

Public Comment: Vanessa George stated she is not against the police department and suggested having officers more visible in and around City parks.

Public Comment: Glenel Bowden spoke on the need to establish trust with law enforcement and the community.

Public Comment: Ken Bochette shared an interaction he had with the Lake City Police Department regarding a call he placed for assistance.

ADJOURNMENT

**All matters having been handled, the meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM on a motion made and duly seconded.**

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Stephen M. Witt, Mayor/Council Member

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Audrey Sikes, MMC City Clerk