

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Regular Session, on February 18, 2025 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 Chevella Young

#### 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.**

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

- Stew Lilker
- Tim Williams
- Tim Atkinson

#### APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes - January 6, 2025 Regular Session
2. Minutes - January 21, 2025 Regular Session
3. Minutes - February 3, 2025 Regular Session

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

#### PRESENTATIONS

4. Tyler Todd, Lead Operator Saint Margarets Wastewater Treatment Facility, Powerpoint - Flush to Finish

Tyler Todd, lead operator at Saint Margarets Wastewater Treatment Facility provided a PowerPoint presentation.

5. Cameron Myers and Cheyanne Myers - Fox Lagoon (Council Member Ricky Jernigan)

At this time a short video was shown, a copy is on file with the City Clerks Office.

Cameron and Cheyanne Myers presented their project, Fox Lagoon, to members. They proposed a partnership with the City to utilize it's Branford Crossing site.

Mr. Rosenthal reported that property was purchased for water and wastewater use.

Wastewater Director Cody Pridgeon provided an update of what the property is to be used for.

Mr. Rosenthal recommended for the City to keep the property for future use.

## OLD BUSINESS

Ordinances – None

Resolutions – None

Other Items

6. Discussion and Possible Action - Michael Cavendish, Cavendish Partners - Legal opinion on a matter involving a final employment payment made to departing City Manager Paul Dyal. (Mayor Noah Walker)

Mayor Walker allowed public comment on this item before hearing attorney Cavendish's legal opinion, Council discussion, as well as prior to any motions being made.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ben Loftstrom; Glenel Bowden; Sylvester Warren; Todd Sampson; Stew Lilker

Attorney Cavendish provided a summary of his legal opinion.

Ms. Harris verified who signed and drafted the document, and posed the question "who was in the wrong?"

Attorney Cavendish reminded members to be mindful on passing a final judgement on an initial investigation.

Mr. Carter asked if it was attorney Cavendish's opinion the City was owed the money paid to Mr. Dyal.

Attorney Cavendish stated the money paid out was in a manner that violated City Code.

Mayor Walker reported during a meeting with staff, he learned about City Council Resolution No. 2024-131, which was a Budget Amendment, and stated this was not factored into the opinion. He stated, the resolution, which passed at the November 4, 2024 Regular Session Council Meeting did not expressly cure the matter. Mayor Walker would like to have a supplemental opinion performed.

Attorney Cavendish reported it was communicated to him the week prior there was a budget amendment that mentioned the payments to Mr. Dyal. He stated in order to provide members with an addendum to his opinion, he would need more time to research.

Mr. Jernigan inquired if Mr. Cavendish had ever spoken with the City Attorney. Attorney Cavendish reported he had not spoken to Attorney Martin by design.

Mr. Carter spoke in support of the City recouping the overpayments.

Attorney Martin reported Folds Walker was co-council with Robinson, Kennon, & Kendron, and this would go beyond the fact-finding legal opinion. He advised members to look to Attorney Cavendish for their next course of action.

Ms. Young reminded members to consider the cost of litigation if this is pursued.

Ms. Harris spoke in support of the City recouping the overpayments.

Mr. Carter suggested members seek a second opinion to help the members decide on how to proceed.

Ms. Harris confirmed with Attorney Cavendish the statute of limitations, to which he stated, four years.

**Ms. Harris made a motion to authorize Attorney Cavendish to provide an additional opinion based on the November 2024 Resolution, City Council Resolution No. 2024-131. Mr. Carter seconded the motion.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ben Loftstrom; Glenel Bowden; Sylvester Warren; Todd Sampson; Stew Lilker

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

<b>Ms. Harris</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Carter</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Ms. Young</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jernigan</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Mayor Walker</b>	<b>Aye</b>

Ms. Harris inquired as to whether the overpayment was criminal, and stated she is interested in all details on the matter.

At this time, Mayor Walker adjourned the meeting for a break from 7:53 PM – 7:59 PM.

Mr. Jernigan suggested for the State Attorney to look into this matter instead of an outside attorney. Mayor Walker reported he had already submitted the opinion to the State Attorney's office for review, but had not received a response. Mayor Walker reminded the State Attorney's Office pursues criminal charges, and Attorney Cavendish is civil.

Ms. Harris stated if criminal activity had been taken, the City should pursue. She requested a rendering from the State Attorney's office in writing.

Attorney Cavendish stated it would be up to the State Attorney to follow up and or decide if prosecution is needed.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Resolutions

7. City Council Resolution No. 2025-017 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving that certain form of Hangar Lease Agreement for use by the City Manager for leasing corporate hangars and "T" - hangars at Lake City - Gateway Airport; making certain findings of fact in support of the City approving said form of hangar lease agreement; authoring non-substantive changes to said form of hangar lease agreement with the concurrence of the City Attorney; directing the City Manager to utilize said form of hangar lease agreement in all such cases where it is applicable; authorizing the City Manager or the City Manager's designee to execute such hangar lease agreement on behalf of the City; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren

**Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2025-017. Ms. Harris seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Carter</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Ms. Harris</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Ms. Young</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jernigan</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Walker</b>	<b>Aye</b>

8. City Council Resolution No. 2025-018 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving that certain agreement between the City and PFM Financial Advisors, LLC, a foreign limited liability company for Bond Advisory 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: Sylvester Warren was removed from the meeting during his public comments; Glenel Bowden

**Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2025-018. Ms. Young seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Carter</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Ms. Young</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jernigan</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Ms. Harris</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Mayor Walker</b>	<b>Aye</b>

9. City Council Resolution No. 2025-026 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida urging the Legislature of the State of Florida to enact legislation to provide a public records exemption for Municipal Clerks, Employees performing municipal elections work, and/or employees having any part in code enforcement functions of a city; making findings of fact in support thereof; repealing resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2025-026. Ms. Harris seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Carter</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Ms. Harris</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Ms. Young</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Mr. Jernigan</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Mayor Walker</b>	<b>Aye</b>

10. City Council Resolution No. 2025-027 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida accepting the proposal for engineering services and authorizing Task Order Number Thirteen (13) pursuant to the Contract with Mittauer & Associates, Inc., a Florida Corporation, to evaluate the City-owned site of 454 acres commonly known as the "Branford Crossing Site" to determine the feasibility of converting said site into a restricted public access land application effluent disposal site; approving that certain proposal and task order between the City of Lake City and said vendor in the amount of \$90,600; making certain findings of fact in support of the City approving said proposal and task order; recognizing the authority of the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said proposal and task order; directing the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said proposal and task order; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Tim Williams – spoke regarding a no cost land swap proposal of a similarly sized parcel of land adjacent to the County landfill.

Mr. Jernigan asked Executive Director of Utilities Steve Brown to provide a brief overview of the task assignment.

Mr. Brown reported the staff recommendation is to use the property for what the City had planned, which is for the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Mayor Walker inquired as to the timeline of use for the property.

Wastewater Director Cody Pridgeon reported the timeline will be determined by the engineering study.

Mr. Carter reported he was not opposed to tabling the item until the next council meeting, so members could have time to review the documents provided by Tim Williams.

Ms. Young spoke in opposition of entertaining Tim Williams proposal.

Mr. Jernigan spoke in support of moving forward with the resolution.

Mr. Rosenthal recommends to keep the property and to move forward with the resolution.

**Mr. Jernigan made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2025-027. Ms. Young seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Jernigan</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Ms. Young</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Carter</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Ms. Harris</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Walker</b>	<b>Aye</b>

11. City Council Resolution No. 2025-028 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving that certain agreement between the City and Columbia County, Florida, to operate the Waste Water Treatment Plant located within the North Florida Mega Industrial Park and owned by Columbia County, Florida; 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: Glenel Bowden

**Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2025-028. 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

### Other Items

12. Discussion and Possible Action - Lake City Womens Club located at 257 SE Hernando Avenue (City Manager Don Rosenthal)

Mr. Rosenthal turned comments over to Mr. Carter who reported that a local real estate agent, Daniel Crapps asked to postpone this item for 90 days, in order to present a proposal that may save the building.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Tina Roberts; Debra Griffin

Mr. Carter spoke in support of trying to save the building and suggested looking into grants and other avenues.

Mr. Jernigan spoke in support of saving the building.

Ms. Young spoke in support of saving the building and looked forward to a positive outcome.

Ms. Harris spoke in support of saving the building and performing repairs.

Mayor Walker spoke in support of saving the building and reported speaking with the Chairman of the Historical Preservation Agency Board about a provision not allowing the demolition of the building.

13. Discussion and Possible Action: Consider removal of tables in front of dais in council chambers (Council Member Tammy Harris)

Ms. Harris spoke in support of removing the tables.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Glenel Bowden; Ben Loftstrom

Mr. Carter spoke in support of removing the tables.

**Mr. Carter made a motion to remove the barrier tables and stanchions in the City Council Chambers. Ms. Harris seconded the motion.**

Mr. Jernigan spoke in support of the tables staying in place for council protection.

Ms. Young expressed concerns with removal of the table if someone says they are afraid.

Chief Butler explained to members how the current chamber set up came to be and it was to address safety concerns.

Ms. Young suggested to have the law enforcement officers stand during council meetings if the tables were removed.

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

<b>Mr. Carter</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Ms. Harris</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Ms. Young</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jernigan</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Mayor Walker</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**Mr. Jernigan made a motion to have an additional option available if the tables are removed.**

Mr. Bowden was removed from the meeting during this time.

**Ms. Young seconded the motion.**

Chief Butler provided members with one of the options available that he was asked to research, ie: velvet style barriers.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ben Loftstrom; Stephanie Bennett; Pamela Bowden; Dee Ethridge; Martha Ann Ronsonet

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

<b>Mr. Jernigan</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Ms. Young</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Carter</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Ms. Harris</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Mayor Walker</b>	<b>Nay</b>

#### COMMENTS BY CHARTER OFFICERS:

City Manager Don Rosenthal – None

City Attorney Clay Martin – None

City Clerk Audrey Sikes – None

#### COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Chevella Young – Ms. Young questioned why Charter Officers were given a chance to speak with open comments on the council agenda and does not feel it is necessary. Mr. Rosenthal responded he added this section to the agenda. Attorney Martin reported in most of the other cities



his firm represents, there is opportunity for the Charter Officers to have time on the agenda for comments for any late breaking events or on a legal perspective that the Council may need to be updated on. Mayor Walker spoke in favor of having Charter Officer comments on the agenda.

Ms. Young suggested, in light of the recent tragedy of a young girl being hit while riding her bicycle, having a bike safety event inclusive of giving out free helmets and lights.

Council Member Ricky Jernigan – Mr. Jernigan stated he wanted members to work together as a unit, and suggested for them to have lunch or dinner together once a month.

Council Member James Carter – Mr. Carter asked for an update on the council chamber audio system upgrade. Assistant City Manager Dee Johnson reported the purchase order had been approved and it would be three to four months for completion of the project. Mr. Carter stated he would support a cohesive environment and suggested hosting a Town Hall Meeting or similar event.

Council Member Tammy Harris – Ms. Harris expressed just because members may not agree, does not mean they do not like each other.

Mayor Noah Walker – Mayor Walker reminded members and the public of upcoming events: Health 360 Event on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at 9:00 AM; City of Lake City Free Shred Event on Saturday, March 8, 2025 from 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM; and the Police Explorers Education Event, Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 5:00 PM. Mayor Walker stated he did his best to apply meeting decorum fairly, and that he would be reviewing this meeting.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**Having there been no further business, Mayor Walker adjourned the meeting at 9:57 PM.**

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Noah Walker, Mayor/Council Member

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Audrey Sikes, City Clerk