

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in a Joint Workshop with the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners, on January 20, 2026, beginning at 5:00 PM, at the Columbia County School Board Administrative Complex Auditorium located at 372 West Duval Street, Lake City, Florida, 32055. Members of the public also viewed the meeting on the Board of County Commissioners' YouTube Channel.

#### CALL TO ORDER

INVOCATION – County Commissioner Tim Murhpy

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### ROLL CALL COUNTY COMMISSION

Tim Murphy  
Rocky Ford  
Everett Phillips  
Robby Hollingsworth – absent  
Kevin Parnell

#### 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

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Stew Lilker

#### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

##### 1. Fire Consolidation Feasibility Study

City Manager Rosenthal introduced the topic, and suggested members consider an analysis to see if there are going to be any financial savings.

Columbia County Fire Chief Crawford and Lake City Fire Chief Wehinger reported the following:

- The City's Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating would go from two (2) to four (4)
- How a consolidation would impact costs for residents
- If any stations closed in the County it would create more Class 10 areas where coverage isn't available

- By Florida Statute anything exempted must be paid back to the budget, the City/County would have to fund these
- If a Fire District is created, there would have to be a personnel department
- Advanced Life Support (ALS) services cannot be funded via Special District
- Pointed out the two different retirement systems
- Spoke in opposition of consolidating

Members discussed at length with the Commissioners whether to move forward with a study at this time.

Council Member Carter spoke in opposition of the study.

Commissioner Murphy spoke in support of the study.

Commissioner Parnell spoke in support of the study.

A vote was taken to move forward with the Fire Consolidation Feasibility Study:

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Commissioner Murphy     | Yes |
| Mayor Walker            | Yes |
| Council Member Harris   | Yes |
| Commissioner Ford       | No  |
| Council Member Jernigan | Yes |
| Commissioner Parnell    | Yes |
| Council Member Young    | No  |
| Commissioner Phillips   | Yes |
| Council Member Carter   | No  |

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:06 PM.

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Noah Walker, Mayor/Council Member

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Audrey Sikes, City Clerk