
MINUTES
CITY OF LAKE CITY
City Council Regular Session
June 01, 2026
6:00 PM at City Hall

This meeting will be held in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall located at 205 North Marion Avenue, Lake City, FL 32055. Members of the public may also view the meeting on our YouTube channel. YouTube channel information is located at the end of this agenda.

Events Prior to Meeting - 5:00 PM Closed and Exempt Session pursuant to FS 447.605(1)

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation - Mayor Noah Walker

Roll Call

Mayor/Council Member
City Council

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

City Attorney
Assistant 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. Ms. Young reported there was scrivener’s error on City Council Resolution No. 2026-060, the third whereas read negotiating a contract with “SMS,” it should read “SGS.” **The motion to approve the agenda as amended carried unanimously on a voice vote.**

Proclamations/Awards/Recognitions - None

Public Participation - Persons Wishing to Address Council

- Tom Johnson
- Cecilia Davis
- Sylvester Warren
- Tony Buzzella
- Bea Coker

Approval of Consent Agenda

1. Minutes - April 20, 2026 Regular Session

2. Minutes - May 18, 2026 Workshop
3. City Council Resolution No. 2026-058 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving that certain agreement between the City and GML Coatings, LLC, A Florida Limited Liability Company, for sanitary sewer, stormwater, line, and manhole rehabilitation 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.
4. City Council Resolution No. 2026-060 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving that certain agreement between the City and SGS Contracting Services, Inc., a Florida Corporation, for underground utility services at the Saint Margarets Waste Water Treatment Facility; 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. 2026-065 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving that certain agreement between the City and the Suwannee River Economic Council, Inc., regarding the purchase of natural gas services from the City on behalf of households eligible for the Low-Income Household Energy Assistance Program; 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; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. 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

Presentations

6. Presentation from Columbia County concerning proposed Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) and valorem taxes for countywide law enforcement services provided by the sheriff and for countywide ambulance service. (County Management)

County Manager David Kraus reported the proposal originated from a desire to increase transparency in property tax bills by clearly showing how much tax revenue funds law enforcement services provided by the sheriff. He stated the proposal would separate these costs into a Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) so taxpayers could see the specific portion of their taxes allocated to law enforcement. Mr. Kraus also explained an EMS funding proposal to provide additional ambulance services, personnel, and resources.

New Business

Ordinances

7. City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2371 (first reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, pursuant to Petition No. ANX 26-04, submitted by Ring Power Corporation, 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 on SW Ring Court) **Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2371 on first 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

At this time member took a short recess from 7:01 PM until 7:06 PM.

8. City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2375 (first reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, requesting and consenting to the inclusion of all the City of Lake City, Florida, within the Columbia County Law Enforcement Municipal Service Taxing Unit to fund law enforcement and corrections services, facilities, and programs; providing for annual renewal of such request and consent; providing for severability; and providing an effective date.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren – removed from meeting due to not following rules of decorum

No motions were made.

9. City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2376 (first reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, requesting and consenting to the inclusion of all of the City of Lake City within the Columbia County Emergency Medical Services Municipal Service Taxing Unit to fund emergency medical services, facilities, and programs; providing for annual renewal of such request and consent; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Jernigan made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2376 on first reading.**

Council member Carter spoke in support of working with the County for this next year and not rushing the ordinance.

Council member Jernigan spoke in support of passing the ordinance.

Mayor Walker reported being interested in more information on a half cent sales tax and spoke in opposition to last-minute items for discussion.

Assistant City Manager Dee Johnson reported this is needed and asked members to approve.

Assistant Fire Chief Ret Tompkins expressed concerns regarding EMS staffing levels, ambulance availability, and response times. He reported improvements were urgently needed to reduce delays and ensure adequate coverage.

Chief Butler expressed concerns regarding frequent ambulance delays, noting that these shortages affect critical incidents such as SWAT operations and agreed with Assistant Chief Tompkins that expanding EMS resources is a critical public safety need.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

Resolutions - None

Other Items

10. Update: Young's Park Improvement Plan Cost (Procurement Director Brenda Karr)

Ms. Karr provided cost updates on equipment.

Assistant City Manager Johnson obtained a consensus from members to create a PO due to time constraints.

11. Discussion and Possible Action: Richardson Summer Camp Registration Funding (Vice Mayor Chevella Young)

Council Member Young reported a request to support the Richardson Summer Camp, noting that funding for the program had been unintentionally overlooked during the budget process. Camp staff explained the program, which has been operating since 2008, provides educational, recreational, and leadership-building activities for youth ages 5-13, but due to rising costs, have increased registration fees to \$400 per camper, contributing to lower enrollment.

Ms. Young made a motion to approve \$20,000.00 for Richardson Community Center for summer camp and to allow Finance to identify the funding source. The motion provides the registration funds are to be used for City residents only. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

12. Fire Pension Board Trustee Resignation - David Brewer, Council Appointed Trustee

Trustees on Fire Pension Board: Adam Brannon (Plan Member Appointed Trustee), Daniel Dohrn (Plan Member Appointed Trustee), Alfred Torrans (Fifth Member Trustee), Lisa Morris (Council Appointed Trustee)

Mayor Walker announced the vacancy on the Fire Pension Board and recommended someone with significant financial experience.

13. Discussion and Possible Action - Consideration of the following dates for Budget Workshops

August 4, 2026, Tuesday 5:00 PM - Budget, Capital Projects, utilizing GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association) budgeting format (Nicholas Narducci, NJN Consulting)

August 5, 2026, Wednesday 5:00 PM - Workshop - General, CRA, Fire, Airport, Debt Service Funds

August 6, 2026, Thursday 5:00 PM - Workshop - Utility Funds

Members agreed on the proposed dates for budget workshops by changing the time from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM on August 4th and 5th.

Departmental Administration

14. Discussion and Possible Action: Create an Intern Administrative Assistant Position to work in the Community Programs Department (Assistant City Manager Dee Johnson)

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the request as presented. 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

Comments by:

Assistant City Manager Dee Johnson – None

City Attorney Clay Martin – None

City Clerk Audrey Sikes – Ms. Sikes reminded everyone that qualifying would begin June 8, 2026, at 12 Noon and end on June 12, 2026, at 12 Noon, and offered condolences to former City Council Member George Ward’s family, who passed away earlier this week.

Comments by Council Members

Council Member Chevella Young – Ms. Young congratulated Community Programs Administrative Assistant Laney Grinstead on her acceptance to Florida State University and

announced the City event being held at The Woods on June 18, 2026, from 6:30 PM until 9:30 PM.

Council Member Ricky Jernigan – Mr. Jernigan recognized the Lake City Police, Fire, Airport, Finance, Public Works, and Procurement Departments, as well as offered condolences to George Ward’s family on his passing.

Council Member James Carter – Mr. Carter offered condolences to George Ward’s family, congratulated Laney Grinstead, and confirmed the City would give out Gatekeeper Awards to the Columbia High Softball team for winning their state championship.

Council Member Tammy Harris – Ms. Harris offered condolences to the Ward family, recognized the Columbia High Softball team for winning their state championship, announced Unity Love Fest would held on August 1, 2026 and thanked the Mayor for his donation to the event, requested others who have promised donations to get with her as soon as possible, and thanked Police Chief Butler, Executive Director of Utilities Steve Brown, City Manager Don Rosenthal, and Fire Chief Wehinger for all they do.

Mayor Noah Walker – Mayor Walker offered condolences to the Ward family, showed appreciation to George Hudson for his time at Campbell Park and Lake Montgomery, recognized Befaihtful Coker for her organization’s events during the month of April, recommended Cecilia Davis get with the Chamber of Commerce for her new business venture, announced there were four students from Columbia High who were competing for a national championship in skills, the CHS drone team and CHS welding team, announced City Night at The Woods, announced the upcoming Independence Day Celebration being held on July 4, 2026, at the Columbia County Fairgrounds.

Adjournment

Having no further business, Mayor Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM.

Noah Walker, Mayor/Council Member

Audrey Sikes, City Clerk