
MINUTES
CITY OF LAKE CITY
City Council Regular Session
July 20, 2026
6:00 PM at City Hall

This meeting was 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 also viewed the meeting on our YouTube channel. YouTube channel information is located at the end of this agenda.

Events Prior to Meeting - 5:00 PM Council Workshop - Panhandling and Homeless Concerns

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation - Council Member Ricky Jernigan

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. Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Proclamations/Awards/Recognitions – None

Presentations

1. City of Lake City Annual Audit for the Year Ended September 20, 2025 - James Moore & Co.:
Brendan McKittrick, CPA; Spencer Machuga, CPA

Brendan McKittrick and Spencer Machuga presented members with the City's annual audit.

Council member Young recognized the City's Finance Department.

Public Participation - Persons Wishing to Address Council

- Mark Eshbaugh
- Eric Thober

- Octaejah Hill – Karnage Hill Travel Softball Team requested \$5,000.00 in funding for the fall season

Approval of Consent Agenda

2. City Council Resolution No. 2026-082 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing Task Assignment Number Seven (7) pursuant to the continuing contract with Passero Associates, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, to provide professional engineering services to replace existing roof systems on hangars 1 and 2 at the Lake City Gateway Airport; making certain findings of fact in support of the City approving said task assignment; recognizing the authority of the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said task assignment; directing the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said task assignment; authorizing the City Manager with the consent of the City Attorney to make minor changes to the scope of work of the task assignment provided such changes do not increase the quoted price in the task assignment; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.
3. Authorize participation in PFAS PWS Phase II Action Fund for claims against 3M and DuPont. PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals" were in the U.S. until the early 2000's. These chemicals were used in and around the City of Lake City in the vicinity of Lake City Gateway Airport. The City's testing shows the presence of these chemicals in the City to be within levels meeting established tolerances considered to be of no imminent danger to public health by state and federal environmental standards. Even so, the City may have claims against two of the largest producers of PFAS chemicals - 3M and Dupont.

Mr. Jernigan made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

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. 2026-2380. City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2380 was read by title. Mayor Walker asked if anyone wanted to be heard regarding City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2380 and read into the record on behalf of Betty Goggins, who was absent, her public comment of inquiring who makes up the Community Redevelopment Agency Board and then closed the public hearing.

4. City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2380 (final reading) - An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Columbia County, Florida, amending Chapter 2, Article VII, City of Lake City Code of Ordinances to expand the Community

Redevelopment Board of Commissioners from five members to seven members; providing definitions; establishing eligibility criteria for said members; providing for severability; providing for conflicts; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2380 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

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. 2026-2381. City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2381 was read by title. Mayor Walker asked if anyone wanted to be heard regarding City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2381. No one asked to be heard on City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2381; therefore, Mayor Walker closed the public hearing.

- 5. City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2381 (final reading)- An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Columbia County, Florida, amending Chapter 2, Article VII, Section 295, City of Lake City Code of Ordinances to provide additional detail to the legal descriptions defining the area of the City of Lake City Community Redevelopment Agency; making findings of fact in support thereof; providing for severability; providing for conflicts; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2381 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

Resolutions – None

Other Items – None

New Business

Ordinances

- 6. City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2378 (first reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending the Future Land Use Plan Map of the City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan, as amended; relating to an amendment of 50 or less acres of land, pursuant to an application, CPA 26-07S, by Elizabeth Steely, the property owner of said acreage, under the amendment procedures established in Sections 163.3161 through 163.3248, Florida Statutes, as amended; providing for changing the Future Land Use Classification from

County - Commercial to City - Commercial of certain lands within the corporate limits of the City of Lake City, Florida; making findings of fact in support of thereof; providing severability; repealing all ordinances in conflict; providing an effective date. (This property is located on Turner Road north of Highway 90) **Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2378 on first 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

Quasi-Judicial Hearings

Open Quasi-Judicial Hearing

First Reading

7. City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2379 (first reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending the Official Zoning Atlas of the City of Lake City Land Development Regulations, as amended; relating to the rezoning of less than ten acres of land, pursuant to an application, Z 26-05S, by Elizabeth Steely, the property owner of said acreage; providing for rezoning from County - Commercial, Intensive (CI) to City - Commercial, Intensive (CI) of certain lands within the corporate limits of the City of Lake City, Florida; providing for severability; repealing all ordinances in conflict; providing an effective date. (This property is located on Turner Road north of Highway 90)

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

Ms. Young	No
Mr. Carter	Reported watching Planning and Zoning meetings, but stated it would not affect his ability to give an impartial hearing
Mr. Jernigan	No
Ms. Harris	No
Mayor Walker	No

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

Attorney Martin swore in Planning Technician Robert Angelo.

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.** Robert Angelo entered into the record the application and presentation. They are attached as Exhibit A.

- B. Presentation of application by applicant. N/A
- 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. N/A
- G. Questions of parties by City Council. Mayor Walker
- 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. 2026-2379 on first reading. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

8. City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2382 (first reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, relating to the criminal background screening of certain public service providers, municipal employees, vendors, contractors, contractor employees, and appointees, including volunteers; amending Chapter 70, Article I, Section 70-1 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lake City, Florida, providing for criminal background screening of such individuals; making findings of fact in support thereof; repealing all ordinances in conflict herewith and providing an effective date. **Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2382 on first 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

Resolutions

9. City Council Resolution No. 2026-079 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, adopting an update to the Lake City Community Redevelopment Plan; providing for severability; repealing all previous resolutions in conflict; providing an effective date. **Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2026-079. 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

10. City Council Resolution No. 2026-083 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving that certain agreement between the City and Playcore Wisconsin, Inc., a Wisconsin Corporation, doing business as Gametime for the replacement of playground equipment at Kiwanis Park; 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; authorizing 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. 2026-083. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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

Other Items

11. Discussion and Possible Action - Designation of Florida League of Cities Voting Delegate (Mayor Noah Walker)

The Florida League of Cities Annual Conference will be held in Hollywood, Florida, from August 13, 2026, through August 15, 2026. It is important for each municipality to designate one official as "voting delegate" to participate in voting at the Annual Business Meeting which will be held on Saturday, August 15, 2026, at 9:00 AM.

Mr. Carter made a motion to nominate Mayor Walker as the voting delegate. 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

12. Discussion and Possible Action - Concerning long term extension of public bench program. Options include: 1) Directing staff to finalize negotiations of a long-term contract with the vendor to continue the program and placing resolution adopting the contract on a future agenda; 2) directing staff to send notice to the current vendor terminating the current contract; 3) other possible options including continuing the program and reducing the number/location of benches, etc. (City Attorney Clay Martin)

Members discussed whether it would be appropriate for Council member Carter to recuse himself due to his leadership role with an organization that receives donations from the current vendor. Attorney Martin agreed to verify the applicable conflict-of-interest requirements.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Patrick Mency, Chris Cuadras

Procurement Director Brenda Karr confirmed the current vendor received the highest Request for Proposal ranking based on qualifications, experience, and their overall proposal. She reported their current contract was good through August 18, 2026.

Members discussed terminating the contract and removing all benches versus selectively reducing the number and locations. Their concerns were littering and maintenance costs, as well as noting some residents and visitors legitimately use the benches.

Mr. Jernigan made a motion to remove all benches and terminate the current contract. Mr. Carter seconded the motion.

At this time, members took an eight-minute break so that Attorney Martin could further read the conflict-of-interest requirements.

Attorney Martin confirmed Council member Carter could not vote on the issue or offer a second. At the advice of Attorney Martin, **Council member Carter rescinded his seconded on the motion.**

Mayor Walker seconded the motion.

Councilmember Young verified next steps after terminating the current contract: benches will be removed, and the City would send out a survey for the public via social media and newspaper to express which benches are commonly used.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Mayor Walker	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mr. Carter	Voting conflict declared
Ms. Harris	Nay

At the request of Attorney Martin, **Mr. Jernigan made a motion to reject all proposals recently received by Procurement. Ms. Young seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mr. Carter	Voting conflict declared
Ms. Harris	Nay
Mayor Walker	Aye

13. Discussion and Possible Action - Approval to move forward with a dog park on parcel 00-00-12300-00, adjacent to the City of Lake City Information Technology Department, located on NW Desoto Street between NW Stadium Terrace and NW Hilton Avenue. (Council Member Tammy Harris)

Assistant City Manager Dee Johnson reported \$20,000.00 was budgeted for this project and while plans have been drawn, a parcel has not been chosen.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Betty Goggins – Mayor Walker read her public comment into the record as she left the meeting early.

Councilmember Jernigan spoke in support of the park but was concerned about the area.

Mr. Carter made a motion to move forward with the project at this location. Ms. Harris seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Mr. Carter	Aye
Ms. Harris	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye – silent vote
Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Mayor Walker	Aye

Departmental Administration

14. Discussion and Possible Action - Staff recommendation to approve proposed FY26/27 "Tentative Millage Rate" to the Columbia County Tax Appraiser for Truth in Millage (TRIM) Notice advertisement to property owners for the City's Tentative Budget Hearing (City Manager Don Rosenthal and Finance Director Angie Taylor Moore)

City Manager Rosenthal reported members had three choices for the TRIM notice: maximum millage rate at 5.2532, which would produce a 10% tax increase in an amount of \$6,273,292.00; current millage rate at 4.9 which would produce a 2.6% tax increase in an amount of \$5,851,506.00; the roll back millage rate at 4.7756 which would produce a 0% tax increase in the amount of \$5,702,950.00.

Mr. Carter made a motion to advertise the roll back rate of 4.7756. 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

15. Discussion and Possible Action - Staff recommendation to approve the TRIM Schedule for FY26/27 (City Manager Don Rosenthal and Finance Director Angie Taylor Moore)

Finance Director Angie Taylor Moore reported this schedule was following the Florida Statute Requirements.

Ms. Harris made a motion to approve the staff recommendations for the TRIM Schedule for Fiscal Year 26/27. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

Comments by:

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 requested something to be done with the microphones and audio in the chambers; mentioned Sallie Mae Jerry Park was near completion and would be holding a grand opening; expressed concern with the City getting information out to citizens on issues like water shortages. Members concurred to get information out.

Council Member Ricky Jernigan – Mr. Jernigan recognized the Police and Fire Departments; reported a constituent called regarding a public records request to which he brought to City Clerk Sikes' attention to which she took care of; reported to City Management receiving a call regarding potholes off Southeast Allen Place; reported an organization called First Things First, was available to help with homelessness as some of their priorities were assisting first responders and military as well as their families.

Council Member James Carter – Mr. Carter encouraged members of the community to attend meetings and get involved.

Council Member Tammy Harris – Ms. Harris recognized new owners Mr. and Ms. McGuire on their grand opening of the Lake City Florist; encouraged City staff working outside to remain hydrated and stated she and her husband would be giving out water and Gatorade; reported this year she would be taking 40 people out for lunch; commended Finance Director Angie Taylor Moore and the Finance Department; announced the upcoming Love Fest to be held on August 1, 2026, Richardson Gym Event to be held on August 2, 2026, and Unity Day to be held on August 6, 2026.

Mayor Noah Walker – Mayor Walker provided a summary on the Humane Society Contract; suggested for the park renaming and splash pad naming a contest be held to let the youth decide the name or sell sponsorships to fund youth programs; provided a summary of the minutes research on City benches; reminded members of the Suwannee River League Dinner Meeting being held this week.

Adjournment

Having no further business, Mayor Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:31 PM.

Noah Walker, Mayor/Council Member

Audrey Sikes, City Clerk