

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Regular Session, on November 18, 2024 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.

EVENTS PRIOR TO MEETING – 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM - Reception to recognize outgoing Mayor Stephen Witt and Council Member Jake Hill, Jr. and to welcome new Mayor, Noah Walker, new Council District 12 Member Tammy Harris and Council District 13 Member James Carter.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION – Council Member Ricky Jernigan

#### ROLL CALL

Mayor/Council Member  
City Council

Stephen M. Witt  
Jake Hill, Jr.  
Chevella Young  
Ricky Jernigan  
James Carter

City Attorney  
City Manager  
Sergeant-at-Arms  
City Clerk

Clay Martin  
Don Rosenthal  
Chief Gerald Butler  
Audrey Sikes

#### APPRECIATION AWARD AND PROCLAMATION

At this time Mayor Witt read aloud a proclamation for Jake Hill, Jr. and recognized his years of service as council member. Mayor Witt provided Mr. Hill with an appreciation plaque and key to the City.

#### SWEARING IN CEREMONY

At this time City Clerk Audrey Sikes swore in the following members to their respective roles: Noah Walker, Mayor; Tammy Harris, Council Member District 12; James Carter, Council Member District 13.

#### APPRECIATION AWARD AND PROCLAMATION

At this time Mayor Walker read aloud a proclamation for Stephen Witt and recognized his years of service as Mayor and council member. Mayor Walker provided Mayor Witt with an appreciation plaque and a key to the City. Mayor Witt officially passed the gavel to Mayor Walker.

#### **Mayor Walker read the following into the record from a prepared statement:**

Good evening, everyone, it is with great honor and humility that I stand before you tonight as your Mayor of Lake City. This moment marks not just the beginning of my term but the continuation of our

collective commitment to serve our citizens, support our community, and shape the future of this great city together.

I take this responsibility seriously and am committed to working within the boundaries of our city charter, alongside and through our City Manager, Mr. Don Rosenthal, to ensure that we achieve remarkable milestones for Lake City. To my fellow council members, I am excited to be among you, and I also encourage you to embrace this collaborative spirit as we express our vision and allow it to flow through administration to departments and employees so that we may all work together as one unified team.

Our strength as a city lies in our unity. Each of us, elected officials, staff members, and citizens has a role to play in identifying and addressing the needs of our community. I encourage and welcome public participation, because I firmly believe that all of us working together are better than any one of us alone.

As we embark on this journey, I want to make clear my commitment to dignity, professionalism and decorum in our council meetings. To ensure efficient and respectful proceedings, I ask that all communication to and from the dais be addressed through me, as Chair. This practice will help maintain order, transparency, and the highest standards of conduct as we conduct the public's business.

My focus remains steadfast on serving the interests of the citizens of Lake City, and I am committed to ensuring that every decision we make is in their best interest. Together, we have the opportunity to do great things. Let's seize this moment to move forward as one community, united in purpose, and committed to quality of life. I am excited about the work ahead and the future we will build together. Thank you for your trust, your support, and your dedication to Lake City.

**After Mayor Walker read his statement, a short break was taken from 6:21 – 6:31 PM.**

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

- Glenel Bowden

#### APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes - November 4, 2024 Regular Session
2. City Council Resolution No. 2024-128 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving that certain amended and restated contract for Collection & Disposal Services for Solid Waste & Recycling between the City and Waste Pro of Florida, Inc., a Florida Corporation; making certain findings of fact in support of the City approving said amended and restated contract; recognizing the authority of the Mayor to execute and

bind the City to said amended and restated contract; directing the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said amended and restated contract; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.

3. City Council Resolution No. 2024-130 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving that certain agreement between the City and NUE Urban Concepts, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, for Mobility Fee Consulting 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. 2024-133 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving that certain amendment to the Public Transportation Grant Agreement between the City and State of Florida Department of Transportation for additional funds in the amount of \$430,833.00 for the design and construction of a hangar building at Lake City Gateway Airport; finding the City is eligible for and requested a Rural Economic Development Initiative Waiver pursuant to Florida Statute 288.0656; making certain findings of fact in support of the City approving said amended agreement; recognizing the authority of the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said amended agreement; directing the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said amended agreement; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.
5. City Council Resolution No. 2024-134 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving that certain Public Transportation Grant Agreement between the City and the Florida Department of Transportation relating to Project No. 411574-8-94-01; providing for the design and construction of the North Hangar Development Taxiway at the Lake City Gateway Airport; finding the City is eligible for and has requested a Rural Economic Development Initiative Waiver pursuant to Florida Statute 288.0656; 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, as appropriate, to execute and bind the City to said agreement; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.
6. City Council Resolution No. 2024-135 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, accepting the donation of a vehicle from the State's Attorney's Office of the Third Judicial Circuit for use by the Lake City Police Department; making certain findings of fact in support of the City accepting said donation; recognizing the authority of the Mayor to execute such documents as are necessary to transfer ownership of said vehicle to the City of Lake City for use by the Lake City Police Department; directing the Mayor to execute such documents as are necessary to transfer ownership of said vehicle to the City of Lake City for the use by the Lake City Police Department; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.

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

PRESENTATIONS – None

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinances

**Open Quasi – Judicial Proceeding**

At this time Attorney Clay Martin read from a prepared script.

**Preliminary Matters (Attorney Clay Martin):**

**The City Attorney shall read the ordinance by title.**

7. City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2294 (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 23-03, by Lance Jones as agent for the Law Offices of Travis Koon, 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 Residential, Moderate Density (allowing up to 4 dwelling units per acre) and/or (Residential Medium, allowing up to eight dwelling units per acre) to Commercial of certain lands within the Corporate Limits of the City of Lake City, Florida; providing severability; repealing all ordinances in conflict; and providing an effective date. (This property is located at the corner of Baya Avenue and Main Boulevard)

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

**Note: This disclosure applies to this ordinance and the next.**

Ms. Young	No
Mr. Carter	No
Mr. Jernigan	No
Ms. Harris	No
Mayor Walker	No

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

Mr. Martin swore in Bryan Thomas of the Growth Management Department and Lance Jones as the representative of the applicant.

**Clerk should take custody of exhibits.**

Growth Management entered the report attached as Exhibit A.

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.** Bryan Thomas provided a PowerPoint presentation.

**B. Presentation of application by applicant.** Mr. Jones entered the application into the record.

**C. Presentation of evidence by city staff.** Bryan Thomas and Executive Director of Utilities, Steve Brown.

**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.** N/A

**H. Closing comments by parties.** N/A

**I. Instruction on law by attorney.**

**J. Discussion and action by City Council.** N/A

**Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2294 on first reading. 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>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Walker</b>	<b>Aye</b>

8. City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2295 (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 ten or less contiguous acres of land, pursuant to an application, Z 24-04, by Lance Jones as agent for the Law Offices of Travis Koon, the property owner of said acreage; providing for rezoning from Residential Single Family-2 (RSF-2) and/or Residential Office (RO) to Commercial General (CG) of certain lands within the Corporate Limits of the City of Lake City, Florida; providing severability; repealing all ordinances in conflict; and

providing an effective date. (This property is located at the corner of Baya Avenue and Main Boulevard)

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

Members answered this question with the previous ordinance.

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

Bryan Thomas and Lance Jones were still sworn in from the previous ordinance.

**Clerk should take custody of exhibits.**

Staff's Exhibit A applies to this ordinance.

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.** Bryan Thomas

**B. Presentation of application by applicant.**

**C. Presentation of evidence by city staff.**

**D. Presentation of case by third party intervenors, if any.**

**E. Public comments.** None

**F. Cross examination of parties by party participants.** N/A

**G. Questions of parties by City Council.** N/A

**H. Closing comments by parties.** N/A

**I. Instruction on law by attorney.**

**J. Discussion and action by City Council.**

**Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2295 on first reading. 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>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Walker</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**At this time, City Clerk, Audrey Sikes, announced the results from the November 5, 2024 election relating to the referendum question on the ballot:**

The results of the November 5, 2024 election as submitted by the Columbia County Supervisor of Elections Office, are as follows: City of Lake City Referendum Question Relating to Mayoral and City Council Compensation: Yes for Approval 1,814 votes; No for Rejection 2,100 votes.

Resolutions

- City Council Resolution No. 2024-136 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, accepting the November 5, 2024 election results from the referendum established by Ordinance No. 2024-2288 concerning City Council salaries; making certain findings of fact in support thereof; recognizing referendum question was not adopted; directing the City Clerk to reflect said election results in the records of the City as is necessary and prudent; making certain findings of fact in support of the City Clerk reflecting such election results in the records of the City; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Jernigan made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2024-136. 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>

Other Items

- Discussion and Possible Action - appointment to Columbia County Tourist Development Council and appointment to North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Mr. Jernigan reported he would like to continue to serve on the Tourist Development Council, members concurred.

Mr. Carter volunteered to serve on the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, members concurred.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION – None

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Chevella Young – Ms. Young welcomed new members and stated she was looking forward to working with everyone.

Council Member Ricky Jernigan – Mr. Jernigan welcomed new members and spoke on the importance of growing the City with new business. He commended Community Programs Director Terri Phillips on the Downtown BBQ Showdown.

Council Member James Carter – Mr. Carter welcomed new members and thanked the following staff for their contributions to the Downtown BBQ Showdown: Public Works Department – Steve Brown; Luther Milton; Mike Grisson; Jim Furman; K’Hiry Sirmans; Gerald Minter; Quincy Jones; Scott Ruise Jr.; Scott Ruise Sr.; Allen Smedley; Shelby Waldron; Jaquez Reddic; Timmy Harrell; Kim Moore. Distribution & Collections – Brian Scott; Austin Mayo; Mark Witt; Austin Polbos; Hayden Johnson; Chris Lund. Mr. Carter also thanked Tina Roberts for the flower arrangements she provided.

Council Member Tammy Harris – Ms. Harris thanked the voters, City Clerk Audrey Sikes, and City Manager Don Rosenthal for their assistance. She also thanked members for the support of the Richardson Community Cheerleaders, spoke to the homeless issue the City is facing, and inquired about the railroad crossing repair. Ms. Harris commended Executive Director of Utilities, Steve Brown on keeping the City clean.

Mayor Noah Walker – Mayor Walker commended Community Programs Director, Terri Phillips on a successful Downtown BBQ Showdown, as well as Public Works on hurricane storm cleanup, and the Lake City Police Department. Mayor Walker also announced there would be a free Farm Share Event on December 7, 2024, and reminded members there would be a council photo session on December 2, 2024 at 5:00 PM.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Mr. Jernigan made a motion to adjourn at 7:16 PM. Ms. Young seconded the motion.**

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Noah E. Walker, Mayor/Council Member

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Audrey Sikes, City Clerk