

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Regular Session, on December 18, 2023 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 – Vice Mayor – Council Member Todd Sampson

ROLL CALL

Mayor/Council Member
City Council

Stephen M. Witt
Jake Hill, Jr.
C. Todd Sampson
Chevella Young
Ricky Jernigan
Todd Kennon
Dee Johnson
Chief Gerald Butler
Audrey Sikes

City Attorney
Interim City Manager
Sergeant-at-Arms
City Clerk

After Mayor Witt read the rules of decorum aloud, Mr. Jernigan inquired about consequences should someone violate the rules. Mayor Witt reported the consequences would depend on the severity and they could be removed.

MINUTES

1. December 4, 2023 Regular Session

Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Hill seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Witt requested Item #18 be heard before Item #4. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, as well as adding as an Emergency Item #20, unapproved raises of the budget. Mr. Hill seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.**

PUBLIC COMMENT – PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

- Sylvester Warren – Mr. Warren was removed from the meeting during his public comments.

Mr. Jernigan made a motion to remove Sylvester Warren from the meeting. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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| Mr. Jernigan | Aye |
| Mr. Sampson | Aye |
| Mr. Hill | Aye |
| Ms. Young | Aye |
| Mayor Witt | Aye |

- Treashonna Graham
- Betty Goggins
- Glenel Bowden

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

2. Approval to award ITB-020-2023 to Ag-Pro Companies, sole responsive bidder, to purchase a Skid Steer Boom Arm Mower with a 48" Cyclone Rotary Mower and a 9' Sickle Bar Mower to be attached to a 287D Cat Skid Steer Loader for \$47,950.00. This item was budgeted for \$64,000.00.
3. IT Department is requesting approval to move funds from 001.07513-060.64 to 001.07.513-030.46 in the amount of \$125,000.00 for a VxRail for the PD Network which was budgeted in FY24; however, the item was completed in FY23 via P O No. 2023-0898. Additional critical services totaling \$111,000.00, based on FY23 figures, were found to have not been budgeted correctly for FY24. By approving this request, the critical services will be covered as well, and other unforeseen increases.

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

18. Discussion and Possible Action: Dee Johnson to serve as Interim City Manager for eighteen (18) months (Council Member Chevella Young)

Ms. Young spoke to Mr. Johnson’s accomplishments, and suggested allowing him more time as Interim City Manager.

Mr. Kennon referred to the City Charter and briefly reviewed the requirements for the City Manager position, which consists of a Bachelors Degree, along with ten years experience, or any equivalence of training and experience. He cautioned members on setting a definitive term as Mr. Johnson doesn’t hold the necessary qualifications and suggested he remain as Interim City Manager until members decide otherwise.

Ms. Young made a motion that Mr. Johnson will remain in the Interim City Manager position until the council decides otherwise. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion.

Mayor Witt stated if the City were to stop the City Manager search, the City could be in violation of the City Charter.

Members expressed support for Mr. Johnson as Interim City Manager.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Betty Goggins; Glenel Bowden; Ben Loftstrom

Ms. Young removed her motion, as members concurred to keep Mr. Johnson as Interim City Manager while a search for City Manager was taking place.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions

4. City Council Resolution No. 2023-142 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of an amended agreement with Flock Group, Inc. for the purchase and use of Flock safety software and hardware at an annual price not-to-exceed \$93,600.00; providing for severability; providing for conflicts; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Jernigan made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2023-142, authorizing the execution of an amended agreement with Flock Group, Inc. for the purchase and use of Flock safety software and hardware at an annual price not-to-exceed \$93,600.00. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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| Mr. Jernigan | Aye |
| Mr. Sampson | Aye |
| Mr. Hill | Aye |
| Ms. Young | Aye |
| Mayor Witt | Aye |

5. City Council Resolution No. 2023-143 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of a continuing contract with Bio-Tech Consulting, LLC; providing for engineering services; providing for severability; providing for conflicts; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Hill made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2023-143, authorizing the execution of a continuing contract with Bio-Tech Consulting, LLC, and providing for engineering services. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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| Mr. Hill | Aye |
| Mr. Sampson | Aye |
| Ms. Young | Aye |
| Mr. Jernigan | Aye |
| Mayor Witt | Aye |

6. City Council Resolution No. 2023-144 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of a continuing contract with Chen Moore and Associates, Inc.; providing for engineering services; providing for severability; providing for conflicts; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2023-144,**

authorizing the execution of a continuing contract with Chen Moore and Associates, Inc., and providing for engineering services. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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| Mr. Sampson | Aye |
| Mr. Jernigan | Aye |
| Mr. Hill | Aye |
| Ms. Young | Aye |
| Mayor Witt | Aye |

7. City Council Resolution No. 2023-145 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of a continuing contract with EDA Consultants Inc.; providing for engineering services; providing for severability; providing for conflicts; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2023-145, authorizing the execution of a continuing contract with EDA Consultants Inc., and providing for engineering services. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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| Mr. Sampson | Aye |
| Mr. Hill | Aye |
| Ms. Young | Aye |
| Mr. Jernigan | Aye |
| Mayor Witt | Aye |

8. City Council Resolution No. 2023-146 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of a continuing contract with Gmuer Engineering, LLC; providing for engineering services; providing for severability; providing for conflicts; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Hill made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2023-146, authorizing the execution of a continuing contract with Gmuer Engineering, LLC, and providing for engineering services. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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| Mr. Hill | Aye |
| Mr. Jernigan | Aye |
| Mr. Sampson | Aye |
| Ms. Young | Aye |
| Mayor Witt | Aye |

9. City Council Resolution No. 2023-147 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of a continuing contract with GSE Engineering & Consulting, Inc.; providing for engineering services; providing for severability; providing for conflicts; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Hill made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2023-147, authorizing the execution of a continuing contract with GSE Engineering &**

Consulting, Inc., and providing for engineering services. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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| Mr. Hill | Aye |
| Mr. Sampson | Aye |
| Ms. Young | Aye |
| Mr. Jernigan | Aye |
| Mayor Witt | Aye |

10. City Council Resolution No. 2023-148 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of a continuing contract with Pitman Engineering LLC; providing for engineering services; providing for severability; providing for conflicts; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Hill made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2023-148, authorizing the execution of a continuing contract with Pitman Engineering LLC, and providing for engineering services. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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| Mr. Hill | Aye |
| Mr. Sampson | Aye |
| Ms. Young | Aye |
| Mr. Jernigan | Aye |
| Mayor Witt | Aye |

11. City Council Resolution No. 2023-149 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of a continuing contract with TOCOI ENGINEERING, L.L.C.; providing for engineering services; providing for severability; providing for conflicts; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2023-149, authorizing the execution of a continuing contract with TOCOI ENGINEERING, L.L.C., and providing for engineering services. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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| Mr. Sampson | Aye |
| Mr. Hill | Aye |
| Ms. Young | Aye |
| Mr. Jernigan | Aye |
| Mayor Witt | Aye |

12. City Council Resolution No. 2023-150 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of a continuing contract with Wetland Solutions, Inc.; providing for engineering services; providing for severability; providing for conflicts; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2023-150, authorizing the execution of a continuing contract with Wetland Solutions, Inc., and providing for engineering services. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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| Mr. Sampson | Aye |
| Mr. Hill | Aye |
| Mr. Jernigan | Aye |
| Ms. Young | Aye |
| Mayor Witt | Aye |

13. City Council Resolution No. 2023-151 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of a contract with Florida Industrial & Construction Services, LLC, for the purchase and installation of a 24 foot in length x 30 foot in width x 12 foot in height prefabricated metal building (pole barn) at a cost not to exceed \$32,719.46. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2023-151, authorizing the execution of a contract with Florida Industrial & Construction Services, LLC, for the purchase and installation of a 24 foot in length x 30 foot in width x 12 foot in height prefabricated metal building (pole barn) at a cost not to exceed \$32,719.46. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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| Mr. Sampson | Aye |
| Mr. Hill | Aye |
| Ms. Young | Aye |
| Mr. Jernigan | Aye |
| Mayor Witt | Aye |

14. City Council Resolution No. 2023-152 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of a letter to Florida Commerce by the Mayor, requesting an extension of Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity; and providing for an effective date. (Wilson Park) **Mr. Hill made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2023-152, authorizing the execution of a letter to Florida Commerce by the Mayor, requesting an extension of Florida Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion.**

Mr. Sampson confirmed with administration this grant was for the Wilson Park Amphitheater, and spoke on not extending the grant, but applying for a different CDBG grant.

Mr. Johnson recommended following through with the grant authorized by this resolution.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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| Mr. Hill | Aye |
| Mr. Sampson | Aye |
| Ms. Young | Aye |
| Mr. Jernigan | Aye |
| Mayor Witt | Aye |

15. City Council Resolution No. 2023-153 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, related to the release of reverter to grantor as authorized by City Council Resolution No. 2009-005 and contained in the deed dated February 20, 2009, from the City of Lake City, Florida to Greater Lake City Community Development Corporation, Inc.; providing for conflicts; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2023-153, related to the release of reverter to grantor as authorized by City Council Resolution No. 2009-005 and contained in the deed dated February 20, 2009, from the City of Lake City, Florida to Greater Lake City Community Development Corporation, Inc. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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| Mr. Sampson | Aye |
| Mr. Hill | Aye |
| Ms. Young | Aye |
| Mr. Jernigan | Aye |
| Mayor Witt | Aye |

16. City Council Resolution No. 2023-154 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing and adopting an Honorary Street Name Designation Policy; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Jernigan made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2023-154, authorizing and adopting an Honorary Street Name Designation Policy. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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| Mr. Jernigan | Aye |
| Mr. Hill | Aye |
| Mr. Sampson | Aye |
| Ms. Young | Aye |
| Mayor Witt | Aye |

17. City Council Resolution No. 2023-156 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the City to enter into Change Order Number One to the contract between The City and CGC, Inc., relating to the Taxiway C realignment and terminal apron rehabilitation project for a price not-to-exceed \$2,508,750.45. **Mr. Hill made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2023-156, authorizing the City to enter into Change Order Number One to the contract between The City and CGC, Inc., relating to the Taxiway C realignment and terminal apron rehabilitation project for a price not-to-exceed \$2,508,750.45. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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| Mr. Hill | Aye |
| Mr. Sampson | Aye |
| Ms. Young | Aye |
| Mr. Jernigan | Aye |
| Mayor Witt | Aye |

Other Items

18. Discussion and Possible Action: Dee Johnson to serve as Interim City Manager for eighteen (18) months (Council Member Chevella Young)

Per motion made at approval of agenda this item was heard before Item #4.

19. Schedule Council Workshops for the following:

- Mariah Fund – scheduled for January 22, 2024 at 6PM

- Affordable Housing/Properties and Application and Policy for Grant Funding request - #5,000.00 max - scheduled for February 26, 2024 at 6PM.

- Council Meeting Decorum – scheduled for January 29, 2024 at 6PM

- Citizens Review Board - tabled

Mr. Jernigan made a motion to remove the Citizens Review Board Workshop from the agenda. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Glenel Bowden

At the advice of the City Attorney, **Mr. Jernigan modified his motion, his modified motion is to table the Citizens Review Board Workshop in order to provide administration and legal additional time to perform research. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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| Mr. Jernigan | Aye |
| Mr. Sampson | Aye |
| Mr. Hill | Aye |
| Ms. Young | Aye |
| Mayor Witt | Aye |

20. Informational Purposes Only - City Attorney Robinson, Kennon, and Kendron, P.A. invoices for November 2023. Folds Walker, LLC invoice for November 2023.

20A. Emergency Item added by Mr. Sampson regarding salary increases and severance being paid to Paul Dyal

Mr. Sampson expressed concerns with changes to the budget regarding salary increases that members were not made aware of. He stated he would like to see any information regarding a resolution or ordinance that sets a limit on how much of a raise a City Manager is allowed to give. Mr. Sampson requested an independent investigator to be hired to look into the pay increases given out by previous administration, as well as the severance currently being paid to Paul Dyal.

Mr. Sampson made a motion to hire an outside independent investigator, preferably a law firm, to research pay increases and severance pay to see if malfeasance has taken place. Mr. Hill seconded the motion.

Ms. Young reported she would like to see documentation on the raises given before hiring an attorney to investigate the matter.

Mr. Sampson asked for the information disseminated on his public records request to be shared with the entire council along with the salary budget documents provided during the budget workshops.

Mr. Sampson requested to see information on all raises not in the budget that were given by Paul Dyal.

Mayor Witt requested to see all raises given before voting. City Clerk Audrey Sikes confirmed with the Mayor a timeframe of his request for raises. Mayor Witt responded the past year. At the request of Mr. Johnson, the timeframe suggested to review raises given was July 2023 to present. Mayor Witt concurred.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Glenel Bowden

Mr. Sampson withdrew his motion and asked for this topic to be added as an agenda item on December 27, 2023.

Mr. Sampson made a motion to stop paying a severance package immediately to Paul Dyal, and get back what has been paid out. The motion also calls for an attorney other than the City Attorney to review Paul Dyal's contract. Mr. Hill seconded the motion.

Ms. Young requested for this item to be placed on the next agenda with supporting documentation.

Mr. Sampson withdrew his motion and asked for this topic to be added as an agenda item on December 27, 2023.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

21. City Manager Hiring Process Update (Human Resources Director BillieJo Bible)

Ms. Bible updated members on where the position was being advertised, and reported there were two complete applications submitted thus far, as well as one resume.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Glenel Bowden

22. Approval of job descriptions for the Police, Water Treatment Plant, Waste Water Treatment Plant, Sprayfield, Distribution and Collection, and Natural Gas Departments. The Human Resources Department has been in the process of reviewing all job descriptions for positions that were approved in the FY 23-24 Budget. This completes the descriptions identified in FY 23-24. Future modifications to approved job descriptions will be presented to council for approval.

Ms. Young made a motion to approve the Job Descriptions for the Police, Water Treatment Plant, Waste Water Treatment Plant, Sprayfield, Distribution and Collection, and Natural Gas Departments as presented. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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| Ms. Young | Aye |
| Mr. Jernigan | Aye |
| Mr. Hill | Aye |
| Mr. Sampson | Nay |
| Mayor Witt | Aye |

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Hill expressed concerns with the Ethics Training that members attended with Folds Walker in Gainesville and inquired as to when members would be receiving their certificates of completion.

Mr. Jernigan expressed appreciation for Mr. Johnson, and asked for clarification on how things were billed via the City Attorney.

Ms. Sikes reported the certificates of completion for the Ethics Training are forth coming.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Jernigan made a motion to adjourn at 7:51 PM. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Stephen M. Witt, Mayor/Council Member

Audrey Sikes, City Clerk