

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Workshop, on June 29, 2023 beginning at 6:00 P.M., 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.

ROLL CALL

Mayor/Council Member
City Council

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

City Attorney
City Manager
Sergeant-at-Arms
City Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Discuss City Hall and Vacant Lots

Supporting documentation attached to agenda:

City Hall Structural Assessment, Tetra Tech, 9-6-2018
City Hall Facade and Structural Reassessment, Tetra Tech, 1-26-2023
Email dated 2-9-2023, Updated cost estimate
City Owned Property and Vacant Lots, 2023

Mr. Dyal requested direction from members on how to proceed with City Hall. He reviewed estimated costs for remodeling and stated it would not be feasible to invest funds into the current City Hall building.

Mr. Jernigan spoke to the importance of safety for staff.

Mr. Sampson referenced page 9 of Tetra Tech's September 6, 2018 Assessment and expressed concern with exterior weight bearing walls that have been eliminated.

Mr. Dyal reported the current City Hall building would be sound for now and recommended building a smaller City Hall, with sufficient meeting area, on the vacant lot next to the current Customer Service and Growth Management building, located at 173 NW Hillsboro Street with the new structure built to allow for future growth. He recommended closing the street and building a walkway to connect the new City Hall building to the Customer Service and Growth Management building. At this time, Mr.

Dyal does not recommend doing anything with the current City Hall building located at 205 North Marion Avenue.

Mr. Dyal reported he has not received a response from the Lake Shore Hospital Authority relating to the City utilizing the donated vacant parcels for use other than a new City Hall building.

Mr. Dyal suggested keeping the Columbia County Bank Building currently housing the Customer Service and Growth Management Departments and selling the other bank building.

Mayor Witt concurred with Mr. Dyals recommendations.

Mr. Sampson recommended for Mr. Dyal to research what is in the best interest for the City and the administration and to compile information on construction of a new City Hall and/or expansion to the building next to the current Customer Service and Growth Management location. Mr. Hill and Mr. Jernigan concurred.

Mr. Dyal confirmed with members, he is to look at options on a cost for construction of a new building for City Hall at the current Customer Service and Growth Management location and options and costs for expansion to the current Customer Service and Growth Management building.

No recommendations were made as to the City owned Vacant Lots.

2. Structuring of Advisory Committees

Supporting documentation attached to agenda:

City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2178

City Council Ordinance No. 2022-2229

Mr. Dyal reported the Standing Advisory Committees had not been meeting and recommended for the Council to meet as a whole and serve as the committee for Beautification Advisory Committee, Community Redevelopment Advisory Committee and the Utility Advisory Committee, maintaining the Airport Advisory Committee as is. He stated the City Council could meet for committee purposes prior to Council Meetings at 5:30 PM with public participation thus allowing input directly to the City Council.

Mr. Sampson recommended handling all the Committees that way.

Mr. Jernigan spoke in support of Mr. Dyal's recommendation.

Ms. Sikes reported Section 2-49 of City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2178 already provides for the City Council to serve as a Committee of the whole council at which the

members could meet in workshop to consider any matter that would normally be brought before any of the standing committees.

Staff will work on elimination of the standing committees (Airport Advisory Committee, Beautification Advisory Committee, Community Redevelopment Advisory Committee, and Utility Advisory Committee) by modification of the ordinance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

- Elena Highland
- Jake Mickelson
- Joshua Garner

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hill made a motion to adjourn at 6:45 P.M. Ms. Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Stephen M. Witt, Mayor/Council Member

Audrey Sikes, City Clerk