

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Regular Session, on August 2, 2021 beginning at 6:00 P.M., in the City Council Chambers, located at City Hall 205 North Marion Avenue, Lake City, Florida. The meeting was also held via Communications Media Technology.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION –Mayor Stephen M. Witt

ROLL CALL

Mayor/Council Member	Stephen M. Witt
Vice Mayor/Council Member	Chris Greene
City Council	Jake Hill, Jr.
	Eugene Jefferson
	C. Todd Sampson
City Attorney	Frederick Koberlein, Jr.
City Manager	Joseph Helfenberger
Sergeant-at-Arms	Chief Argatha Gilmore
City Clerk	Audrey Sikes

PROCLAMATIONS – None

MINTUES

1. 7-19-2021 Regular Session

Mr. Greene made a motion to approve the July 19, 2021 Regular Session minutes as presented. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Witt stated item #11 on the agenda, City Council Resolution No. 2021-123, needed to be moved above item #6, which is the beginning of the Resolutions. Jaime Bell with Jones Edmonds would be added under Persons Wishing to Address Council to give an update, and the Council would add an Emergency Walk On Item under Departmental Administration for the Water Plant. **Mr. Hill made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.**

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

2. Permit application from Dr. Christopher M. Esing to hold a Bicentennial Founders Day Celebration on Saturday, November 20, 2021.
3. Approval for the Lake City Gateway Airport to apply for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Airport Rescue Grant Program (ARGP), in an amount up to \$59,000.

Mr. Hill made a motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of items 2-3 identified above. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

PRESENTATIONS – None

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Sylvester Warren stated he wanted to speak later in the meeting.

Anthony Newton addressed Council and stated he was opposed to the League of the South coming into the City limits.

Glennel Bowden addressed Council and stated he was opposed to the League of the South coming into the City limits. Mr. Bowden stated he intended to be at the Lake City Garden Club and to have a peaceful protest.

Chief Gilmore addressed Council and stated there would not be an event at that location.

Councilman Greene inquired about other facilities the City sublets to non-profits and stated those relationships with those groups needed to be reviewed.

Jaime Bell with Jones Edmunds provided members with an update on the State Road 47 and Interstate 75 wastewater project. Ms. Bell stated the materials arrived early and they are a few months ahead of schedule, with construction now starting in September. Ms. Bell would like for the Council to start considering a date for groundbreaking. She also stated Legacy Water Group is contractually allowed twelve (12) months for the project.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinances

At this time Mayor Witt closed the regular session and opened a public hearing for the purpose of hearing comments on City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2195. City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2195 was read by title. Mayor Witt asked if anyone wanted to be heard regarding City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2195. No one asked to be heard therefore Mayor Witt closed the public hearing.

4. City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2195 (final reading) - An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending section 22-4 of article 1 of chapter 22 of the City Code of the City of Lake City; providing for a schedule of permit fees; providing for the relocation or demolition of buildings and structures; providing for the set-up of mobile homes, manufactured homes, and modular homes; providing for the addition of driveway access; providing for the establishment of the City's military veteran building permit discount program, providing for the repeal of conflicts; providing for severability; providing for codification; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Greene made a motion to adopt City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2195, amending section 22-4 of article 1 of chapter 22 of the City Code of the City of Lake City; providing for a schedule of permit fees; providing for the relocation or demolition of buildings and**

structures; providing for the set-up of mobile homes, manufactured homes, and modular homes; providing for the addition of driveway access, and providing for the establishment of the City's military veteran building permit discount program. **Mr. Sampson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called and the motion carried.**

Mr. Greene	Aye
Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinances

5. City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2199 (first reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, pursuant to Petition No. ANX 20-03, relating to voluntary annexation; making findings; annexing certain real property located in Columbia County, Florida, which is reasonable compact, and contiguous to the boundaries of the City of Lake City, Florida, into the boundaries of the City of Lake City, Florida; providing severability; repealing all ordinances in conflict; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to adopt City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2199, pursuant to Petition No. ANX 20-03, relating to voluntary annexation; making findings; annexing certain real property located in Columbia County, Florida, which is reasonable compact, and contiguous to the boundaries of the City of Lake City, Florida, into the boundaries of the City of Lake City, Florida. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called and the motion carried.**

Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mr. Greene	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

11. City Council Resolution No. 2021-123 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the acceptance of a grant award in an amount of up to \$166,520.00, from the United States of America acting through the Federal Aviation Administration in accordance with the Department of Transportation Appropriations Act of 2021, for projects at the Lake City Gateway Airport; providing for the realignment of Taxiway C; providing for the rehabilitation of the apron and taxi lanes; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Hill made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-123, authorizing the acceptance of a grant award in an amount of up to \$166,520.00, from the United States of America acting through the Federal Aviation Administration in accordance with the Department of Transportation Appropriations Act of 2021, for projects at the Lake City Gateway Airport; providing for the realignment of Taxiway C, and providing for the rehabilitation of the apron and taxi lanes. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called and the motion carried.**

Mr. Hill	Aye
Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Greene	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

Note: This item was moved up on the agenda via the approval of the agenda.

- City Council Resolution No. 2021-082 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of Task Assignment Fourteen with Passero Associates, LLC, for professional services related to the realignment of Taxiway C at the Lake City Gateway Airport at a cost not-to-exceed \$59,150.00; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Greene made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-082, authorizing the execution of Task Assignment Fourteen with Passero Associates, LLC, for professional services related to the realignment of Taxiway C at the Lake City Gateway Airport at a cost not-to-exceed \$59,150.00. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called and the motion carried.**

Mr. Greene	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

- City Council Resolution No. 2021-087 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of Task Assignment Fifteen with Passero Associates, LLC, for professional services related to the rehabilitation of the apron and taxi lanes at the Lake City Gateway Airport at a cost not-to-exceed \$103,370.00; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-087, authorizing the execution of Task Assignment Fifteen with Passero Associates, LLC, for professional services related to the rehabilitation of the apron and taxi lanes at the Lake City Gateway Airport at a cost not-to-exceed \$103,370.00. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called and the motion carried.**

Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Greene	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

- City Council Resolution No. 2021-106 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing and ratifying the appointment of Ami Mitchell Fields as Interim City Manager; providing for the execution of an Employment Agreement with Ami Mitchell Fields; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Hill made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-106, authorizing and ratifying the**

appointment of Ami Mitchell Fields as Interim City Manager, and providing for the execution of an Employment Agreement with Ami Mitchell Fields. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion.

Mr. Greene expressed concerns with the resolution as written and felt it did not fully recognize this was a temporary position. He suggested an agreement that the City could renew during this process.

A roll call vote was called and the motion carried.

Mr. Hill	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Greene	Nay
Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mayor Witt	Nay

9. City Council Resolution No. 2021-120 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of an agreement with Englewood Electrical Supply Company for the purchase of programmable logic controllers at a price not-to-exceed \$139,496.20; providing for an exception to the competitive procurement of the commodity; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Jefferson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-120, authorizing the execution of an agreement with Englewood Electrical Supply Company for the purchase of programmable logic controllers at a price not-to-exceed \$139,496.20, and providing for an exception to the competitive procurement of the commodity. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion.**

Mr. Greene expressed concerns with the \$139, 496.20 as it was coming from an account that had been set aside for an infrastructure project for the installation of a new well. Water Treatment Plant Director Mike Osborn reported this was funded as extra and was not needed. He stated the estimated cost now for the well is 1 million versus \$350,000.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mr. Greene	Nay
Mayor Witt	Aye

10. City Council Resolution No. 2021-121 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, declaring one firearm to be surplus to the City's needs; providing for the conveyance of the firearm to Lieutenant Keith Heston for his outstanding service to the City and its citizens during his career with the Lake City Police Department; and providing for the removal of the firearm from the fixed assets of the City. **Mr. Greene**

made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-121, declaring one firearm to be surplus to the City's needs; providing for the conveyance of the firearm to Lieutenant Keith Heston for his outstanding service to the City and its citizens during his career with the Lake City Police Department; and providing for the removal of the firearm from the fixed assets of the City. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Mr. Greene	Aye
Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

11. City Council Resolution No. 2021-123 - This item was moved up on the agenda via the approval of the agenda. Presented and adopted prior to item #6 above.

12. City Council Resolution No. 2021-124 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, constituting the fiscal year 2021-22 preliminary fire assessment resolution; relating to the provision of fire protection services, facilities and programs in the City of Lake City, Florida; confirming previous resolution as amended; reimposing fire protection assessments and establishing fire protection not-to-exceed assessment rates; directing the preparation of the preliminary assessment roll; authorizing a public hearing and directing the provision of notice thereof; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Greene made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-124, constituting the fiscal year 2021-22 preliminary fire assessment resolution; relating to the provision of fire protection services, facilities and programs in the City of Lake City, Florida; confirming previous resolution as amended; reimposing fire protection assessments and establishing fire protection not-to-exceed assessment rates; directing the preparation of the preliminary assessment roll; authorizing a public hearing and directing the provision of notice thereof. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Mr. Greene	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

OTHER ITEMS

13. Discussion and Possible Action - Extension of State of Emergency (Mayor Witt)

Mayor Witt asked if the City needed to readdress this and asked the members if they would like to do anything different.

Mr. Greene stated this would be a question for the City Manager. He stated City Hall was previously closed, and inquired about the City's Covid policy.

Interim City Manager Ami Mitchell Fields reported there are five employees actively sick, and five coming back to work soon. She stated the City would maintain CDC guidelines and City Hall is fully open.

14. Discussion and Possible Action - Selecting a firm to assist in City Manager search (Mayor Witt)

Mayor Witt stated information for five (5) firms were emailed out today and asked members to review with the topic coming back at the next meeting.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

Emergency Walk-on Item – Refurbishment and upgrade for generators

Mike Osborne addressed Council and stated this Emergency Walk-on Item is for the refurbishment and upgrade proposal is to receive from Xylon, one of the Ozone Generators. He stated one generator is extremely close to failing, and it would take 6-8 weeks to get the items manufactured. The cost to refurbish and upgrade would be \$124,770.00, with the funding source being funds leftover from the well infrastructure. **Mr. Greene made a motion to approve the Emergency refurbishment and upgrade of the Ozone generator at the Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$124,770.00. The motion identifies the funding source as budgeted funds from the well project. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Mr. Greene	Aye
Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

15. Discussion and Possible Action - Fire Pension Board Appointee (Donna Duncan)

Donna Duncan addressed Council and stated she would be filing the annual report for pensions. She reported the number of Board members currently sits at four (4) members and the Fire Pension Board needs five (5) members.

Members were asked to consider a person to serve in this role.

16. Discussion and Possible Action - City's options to deal with complaints regarding the homeless in downtown (Ami Fields)

PUBLIC COMMENT- Glennel Bowden addressed Council and stated the City needed to be as compassionate as possible regarding the homeless.

Interim City Manager Ami Mitchell Fields reported there is a homeless issue and no ordinance so options are limited. She stated there needs to be an ordinance from the City Council, to create a space for the homeless.

Mr. Sampson concurred this is a real problem for business owners and agreed there needs to be an ordinance to provide balance and safety.

Mr. Greene suggested appealing to Church pastors and faith-based leaders.

Chief Gilmore stated she has been meeting for two years with a Committee via the United Way to come up with solutions. This group recently toured the Ability House in Jacksonville to see if something similar could be done in Lake City. Chief Gilmore reported County Manager David Kraus has committed funds to coming up with a solution. She stated there will be a Homeless Services Summit at the American Legion on Tuesday, August 31, 2021, from 9AM-12PM and encouraged the members to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Anthony Newton suggested incorporating the help and expertise of a mental health expert to help the homeless.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Rachel Walker addressed Council and requested funding to research and determine the need for public transportation. She reported this research would show there is a need for public transportation.

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL – None

ADJOURNMENT

All matters having been handled, the meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM on a motion made and duly seconded.

Stephen M. Witt, Mayor/Council Member

Audrey Sikes, MMC City Clerk