

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Regular Session, on February 22, 2022 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.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION – Council Member Todd Sampson

## ROLL CALL

Mayor/Council Member  
City Council

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

Stephen M. Witt  
Jake Hill, Jr. – Tardy  
Eugene Jefferson  
C. Todd Sampson  
Frederick Koberlein, Jr.  
Paul Dyal – absent  
Interim Chief Gerald Butler  
Audrey Sikes

PROCLAMATIONS – None

## MINUTES

1. February 7, 2022 Regular Session

**Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve the February 7, 2022 regular session minutes as presented. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.**

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

## PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

- Kurt Ruppert
- Dr. Chris Esing & Leila Williams
- Shawn Holmgren

## APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

2. On February 7, 2022 City Council voted to appoint Mr. James Carter to the Planning and Zoning Board. City Council Resolution 2022-020 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, appointing James Carter to serve as a member on the Planning and Zoning Board, the Board of Adjustments, and the Historical Board; and providing an effective

date. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.**

## PRESENTATIONS

### 3. Citizens Police Academy Alumni presentation to Lake City Fire Department

The Citizens Police Academy Alumni President, Ernie Ursomarso presented the Lake City Fire Department with a plaque in memory of Chief Randy Burnham.

### 4. Dr. Christopher M. Esing - Requesting permission to erect a historic marker in Olustee Park.

Dr. Esing requested to erect a historic marker in the war monument section of Olustee Park and reported the donations he collected would cover expenses. He stated his target date would be either Memorial Day or Veteran's Day.

Mr. Sampson stated he was in favor of this and bringing it forward as an action item.

### 5. Annie Mattox Board President Ms. Lawanda Austin and Board Member Mr. Sylvester Warren, funding request for Annie Mattox Park.

Mr. Warren gave a presentation to members and provided a handout.

Interim Chief Butler reported the lighting and security cameras would be priority.

Mr. Sampson stated he was in favor of security cameras with Mr. Jefferson agreeing, and stating he was in favor of a holistic approach from end to end on the downtown area.

Mr. Koberlein reported this must be added on as an emergency item if action is to be taken.

## PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Vanessa George
- Ja'Darrious Bowles
- Ja'Darrean Bowles
- Conrad Wallace
- Robin George
- Shomeri Bowden
- Travis George
- David Day
- Ray Keen
- Davion Jones
- Chevella Young
- Glenel Bowden
- Shawn Holmgren
- Sylvester Warren

Mayor Witt stated he would like to see a license agreement, Mr. Jefferson concurred.

Mr. Hill apologized for being tardy but stated he was in support of funding.

A proposed license agreement is to be presented at the next meeting for consideration.

6. Mr. Sylvester Warren, funding request for North downtown projects.

**Mr. Sampson made a motion to put the request for funding the North Downtown Project on the agenda as an emergency action item. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**Mr. Sampson made a motion to authorize an allocation of up to \$50,000.00 for the project (trashcans, benches, pavers and concrete, relocation of Welcome to Downtown Sign, antique lights, easement); and to instruct administration to move forward with the relocation of the Welcome to Downtown Lake City sign and relocation of the Historic District sign. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

7. Mr. Sylvester Warren, funding request for Skateboard Park Project

Mr. Warren presented his request for funding for the Skateboard Park Project.

Members concurred to add the demolition of the old pool building onto the next agenda as a discussion and possible action item. Members also discussed combining the request for a Skateboard Park Project into the Memorial Stadium Project.

## OLD BUSINESS

Ordinances – None

Other Items

8. Mr. Zack Paulk, Columbia County Quarterback Club President, uniforms and equipment sponsorship request.

Mr. Paulk reported no Columbia High School Varsity games can be played at Memorial Stadium. However, maybe some Junior Varsity games such as purple

and gold could be played there. Mr. Paulk requested \$20,000.00 for a uniform and equipment sponsorship. He reported this could be split over fiscal years.

Due to non-appropriation the members could only pledge funding for this fiscal year. Members concurred for Mr. Paulk to request additional funding during the budget cycle for the equipment sponsorship request.

**Mr. Sampson made a motion to award \$5,000.00 in funding to the Columbia County Quarterback Club for a uniform and equipment sponsorship. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

9. Discussion and Possible Action - City Manager Position

Renee Narloch with Narloch & Associates attended the meeting via Zoom and updated members on the City Manager search. She stated she would provide another update in two weeks.

Mr. Hill stated he did not want to consider any candidate looking at other job opportunities.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Stew Lilker

10. Discussion and Possible Action - Fire Pension Board Appointee (Mayor Stephen Witt)

Mayor Witt reminded members there was still need for a Fire Pension Board Appointee.

11. Discussion and Possible Action - Planning and Zoning Board (Mayor Stephen Witt)

Application received on 2-11-2022 via email from Sean McMahon.

Application received on 2-15-2022 via email from Ann McKellum.

Application received on 2-17-2022 via email from Keith Hatcher.

*Note: If applicants are considered for appointment, council will need to determine what office designation to fill. Listed below are the two vacancies: Unexpired one (1) year term of Daniel Adel that is set to expire on October 31, 2022.*

*Three (3) year (vacant) term that is set to expire on October 31, 2024.*

**Mr. Sampson made a motion to nominate and approve Sean McMahon and Ann McKellum to the Planning and Zoning Board. The motion provides**

**Sean McMahon to be appointed to the unexpired one (1) year term of Daniel Adel that is set to expire on October 31, 2022; and for Ann McKellum to be appointed to a three (3) year (vacant) term that is set to expire on October 31, 2024. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

12. Discussion and Possible Action - Police Officers Pension Board Appointee (Mayor Stephen Witt)

Mayor Witt reminded members there was still need for a Police Officers Pension Board Appointee.

13. Discussion and Possible Action - Determine if City is moving forward with the Bell Street Wastewater Improvements Project and 5A Water Main Project and if so, how to fund both task assignments. Both projects were approved by City Council on October 18, 2021 via City Council Resolution No. 2021-149 and City Council Resolution No. 2021-150. At the time of approval funding was not identified. (Interim City Manager Paul Dyal)

**Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve funding for the engineering of the projects identified in City Council Resolution No. 2021-149 and City Council Resolution No. 2021-150 in the amount of \$403,000.00. The motion identifies restricted ARPA funds as the funding source. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

14. Discussion and Possible Action - Application process for Senior Housing Rehabilitation Project (Council Member Todd Sampson)

Mr. Sampson would like to set aside \$250,000.00 in funding and to let the County utilize their funds first.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren

Mr. Sampson would like to see the City Program be more inclusive to be able to bring properties up to code.

**Mr. Sampson made a motion to refer back to administration to come up with the correct application for this purpose. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

Members concurred, if possible, to place a link on the City's website to the County's application for the Senior Housing Rehabilitation Project.

15. Update - Camera System Upgrade for City owned properties (Information Technology Director Matt Benedetti)

Mr. Benedetti updated members on options for the Citywide camera system upgrade, and recommended option one. He reported this upgrade would take 3-4 months.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren

**Mr. Sampson made a motion to move forward with Option 1 at the next meeting, and to have a proposal for park locations. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

## NEW BUSINESS

Ordinances – None

Resolutions

16. City Council Resolution No. 2022-021 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of a grant agreement with the State of Florida, Department of Environmental Protection; providing for the acceptance of a grant award of up to \$1,408,566.00 in the reimbursable costs associated with the construction of utilities at the State Road 47 and Interstate 75 Interchange; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2022-021, authorizing the execution of a grant agreement with the State of Florida, Department of Environmental Protection; providing for the acceptance of a grant award of up to \$1,408,566.00 in the reimbursable costs associated with the construction of utilities at the State Road 47 and Interstate 75**

**Interchange. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

17. City Council Resolution No. 2022-022 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of a grant agreement with the State of Florida, Department of Environmental Protection; providing for the acceptance of a grant award of up to \$475,000.00 in reimbursable costs associated with the connection of the Casey Jones RV Park to the City's Wastewater Utility System; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2022-022, authorizing the execution of a grant agreement with the State of Florida, Department of Environmental Protection, and providing for the acceptance of a grant award of up to \$475,000.00 in reimbursable costs associated with the connection of the Casey Jones RV Park to the City's Wastewater Utility System. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

18. City Council Resolution No. 2022-023 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing Task Assignment Number Seven to the Continuing Contract with Mittauer & Associates, Inc., a Florida corporation; providing for engineering services related to the City's 120 acre wetland and the identification of additionally potential effluent disposal sites; providing for the submission of a plan of action to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection; providing for a cost not-to-exceed \$79,500.00; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2022-023, authorizing Task Assignment Number Seven to the Continuing Contract with Mittauer & Associates, Inc., a Florida corporation; providing for engineering services related to the City's 120 acre wetland and the identification of additionally potential effluent disposal sites; providing for the submission of a plan of action to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and providing for a cost not-to-exceed \$79,500.00. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

Other Items

19. Discussion and Possible Action - Approval to move forward on eminent domain on property to be used for parking at Sallie Mae Jerry Park (Mayor Stephen Witt)

*Note: The Community Redevelopment Advisory Committee met on February 8, 2022 and recommends to the City Council moving forward with eminent domain on the lot across from Sallie Mae Jerry Park.*

After discussion, members concurred to direct administration to start the process.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren

20. Discussion - Digital sign corner of Marion and Long Street (Mayor Stephen Witt)

Mayor Witt reported this needed to go back to the Community Redevelopment Agency to get finalized.

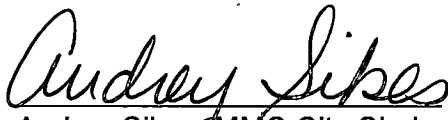
DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION – None

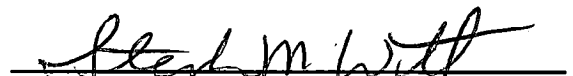
COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Hill apologized for being tardy.

ADJOURNMENT

**All matters having been handled, the meeting adjourned at 9:14 PM on a motion made and duly seconded.**

  
Audrey Sikes, MMC City Clerk

  
Stephen M. Witt, Mayor/Council Member