

CM/rrp
01/30/2025

RESOLUTION NO 2025 - 009

CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA ESTABLISHING SUPPORT FOR A TEACHING GARDEN; MAKING FINDINGS OF FACT IN SUPPORT THEREOF; IDENTIFYING A SITE TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR A PRIVATELY MANAGED TEACHING GARDEN; DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO SOLICIT PROPOSALS FROM INTERESTED CHARITABLE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS TO PRIVATELY UTILIZE SUCH SITE FOR A GARDEN FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES; DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO INCLUDE REASONABLE AND PRUDENT GUIDELINES FOR RESPONDENTS TO SAID SOLICITATION; REPEALING ALL PRIOR RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, community gardens make a significant contribution to the civic and cultural life of communities and create gathering places that bring people together; and

WHEREAS, community gardens provide access to healthy food for people of all economic backgrounds, allowing residents to improve nutrition and lower food costs; and

WHEREAS, community gardens serve as a tool to fight obesity by positively contributing to the physical activity of participants, increasing access to nutritional foods, and serving as an important environmental and health educational tool; and

WHEREAS, community gardeners eat healthier, more nutrient-rich diets than do non-gardening families; and

WHEREAS, community gardens provide positive attributes as urban green spaces, beautify blighted areas, build a sense of community, abate criminal activity, and prevent trash accumulation, dumping, and littering; and

WHEREAS, community gardens contribute to the preservation, access to, and use of open space, vacant lots, and public parks; and

WHEREAS, community gardens empower residents to become more active in their communities, to preserve open space and create gardens for the benefit of present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, children are oftentimes unaware of the benefits of gardening and lack the knowledge to successfully manage a garden; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lake City ("City") desires to create opportunities for children to learn the benefits of gardening and how to successfully garden; and

WHEREAS, the City has identified a parcel of land generally identified as tax parcel number 12300-000 as a parcel suitable for a garden to be used for educating children about the benefits and technics related to gardening; and

WHEREAS, the City finds such a garden and the educational programs related thereto would be best managed by a private, charitable, non-profit entity which entity's purpose aligns with the City's findings and desires set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, the City finds an open, competitive process of solicitation and selection of such a private, charitable, non-profit entity to manage said garden and programs is the most transparent means of identifying such an organization in a manner fair to all interested parties; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager via the City's office of procurement is best equipped to prepare and manage the solicitation of proposals from private, charitable, non-profit entities via a request for proposals; and

WHEREAS, identifying and selecting such a private, charitable, non-profit entity to manage said garden and programs is in the public interest and in the interests of the City; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida:

1. Identifying and selecting a private, charitable, non-profit entity to manage an education-focused garden and programs for children is in the public or community interest and for public welfare; and
2. In furtherance thereof, the City Manager is directed to develop criteria for, and prepare and manage the solicitation of proposals from private, charitable, non-profit entities via a request for proposals; and

3. The City Manager is directed to evaluate any responses to such solicitation and, provided a qualified organization provides a response to the solicitation which is complete and reasonably meets the criteria of the solicitation, identify such entity to the City Council accompanied by a management agreement with such entity for consideration by the City Council; and
4. All prior resolutions of the City Council of the City of Lake City in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict; and
5. This resolution shall become effective and enforceable upon final passage by the City Council of the City of Lake City.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED, by an affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum present of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, at a regular meeting, this ___ day of February, 2025.

BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY,
FLORIDA

Noah E. Walker, Mayor

ATTEST, BY THE CLERK OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA:

Audrey E. Sikes, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Clay Martin, City Attorney