

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Regular Session, on December 2, 2024 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.

EVENTS PRIOR TO MEETING – 5:00 PM – Council Workshop – Council Photo Session

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION – Mayor Noah Walker

ROLL CALL

Mayor/Council Member
City Council

Noah Walker
Chevella Young
Ricky Jernigan
James Carter
Tammy Harris
Clay Martin
Don Rosenthal
Chief Gerald Butler
Audrey Sikes

City Attorney
City Manager
Sergeant-at-Arms
City Clerk

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Harris seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

- Barbara Lemley
- Stew Lilker
- Glenel Bowden

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes - November 18, 2024 Regular Session
2. City Council Resolution No. 2024-137 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, nominating Ricky Jernigan to serve on the Columbia County Tourism Development Council; making findings of fact in support thereof; directing the City Clerk to communicate such nomination to the Columbia County Board of Commissioners; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.
3. City Council Resolution No. 2024-138 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, appointing James Carter to serve on the North Central Florida Regional Planning

Council; making findings of fact in support thereof; directing the City Clerk to reflect said appointment in such records of the City as are necessary and prudent; directing the City Clerk to communicate such appointment to the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.

4. City Council Resolution No. 2024-139 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the renewal of the Third Judicial Circuit Mutual Aid Agreement between the Police Departments located in the Third Judicial Circuit of Florida; making certain findings of fact in support of the City renewing said agreement; recognizing the authority of the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said renewal agreement; recognizing the authority of the Chief of Police to execute and bind the City to said renewal agreement; directing the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said renewal agreement; directing the Chief of Police to execute the City to said renewal agreement; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.

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

PRESENTATIONS

5. IEMO Certificate of Completion from the Florida League of Cities to Council Member Chevella Young and Council Member Tammy Harris (Mayor Noah Walker)

Mayor Walker presented Ms. Young and Ms. Harris with their certificate of completion from the Florida League of Cities.

6. John Cole - Kids Feeding Kids PowerPoint Presentation

After council discussion concerning longevity of the program and location, Mayor Walker directed staff to create a Request For Proposal for community programs, and the private use of public property per direction from City Attorney Martin.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Glenel Bowden

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinances

Open Quasi – Judicial Proceeding

At this time Attorney Clay Martin read from a prepared script.

Preliminary Matters (Attorney Clay Martin):

The City Attorney shall read the ordinance by title.

7. City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2294 (final reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending the Future Land Use Plan Map of the City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan, as amended; relating to an amendment of 50 or less acres of land, pursuant to an application, CPA 24-03, by Lance Jones as agent for the Law Offices of Travis Koon, the property owner of said acreage, under the amendment procedures established in Sections 163.3161 through 163.3248, Florida Statutes, as amended; providing for changing the Future Land Use Classification from Residential, Moderate Density (allowing up to 4 dwelling units per acre) and/or (Residential Medium, allowing up to eight dwelling units per acre) to Commercial of certain lands within the Corporate Limits of the City of Lake City, Florida; providing severability; repealing all ordinances in conflict; and providing an effective date. (This property is located at the corner of Baya Avenue and Main Boulevard)

Disclosure by Council members of ex-parte communications (this includes site visits), if any.

Young	No
Carter	No
Jernigan	No
Harris	No
Mayor Walker	No

Swearing in of applicant/appellant, staff and all witnesses collectively by City Attorney.

For purposes of swearing in, Mr. Martin asked to handle all four ordinances at the same time.

Mr. Martin swore in Lance Jones as applicant, and Bryan Thomas of the Growth Management Department.

Clerk should take custody of exhibits. Application was moved into the record. Application documentation provided by Growth Management is archived in the agenda packet record.

Note: All exhibits, diagrams, photographs and similar physical evidence referred to during the testimony or which you would like the Council to consider must be marked for identification and kept by the Clerk for 30 days.

A. Brief introduction of ordinance by city staff. PowerPoint presentation given by Bryan Thomas. Presentation provided by Growth Management is archived in OnBase.

B. Presentation of application by applicant. Mr. Jones moved application into the record. Application documentation provided by Growth Management is archived in the agenda packet record.

C. Presentation of evidence by city staff. N/A

D. Presentation of case by third party intervenors, if any. N/A

E. Public comments. Barbara Lemley (sworn in by Mr. Martin)

F. Cross examination of parties by party participants. None

G. Questions of parties by City Council. None

H. Closing comments by parties. None

I. Instruction on law by attorney.

J. Discussion and action by City Council.

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2294 on final reading. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Mr. Carter	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Ms. Harris	Aye
Mayor Walker	Aye

8. City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2295 (final reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending the Official Zoning Atlas of the City of Lake City Land Development Regulations, as amended; relating to the rezoning of ten or less contiguous acres of land, pursuant to an application, Z 24-04, by Lance Jones as agent for the Law Offices of Travis Koon, the property owner of said acreage; providing for rezoning from Residential Single Family-2 (RSF-2) and/or Residential Office (RO) to Commercial General (CG) of certain lands within the Corporate Limits of the City of Lake City, Florida; providing severability; repealing all ordinances in conflict; and providing an effective date. (This property is located at the corner of Baya Avenue and Main Boulevard)

Disclosure by Council members of ex-parte communications (this includes site visits), if any.

This was answered under previous ordinance.

Swearing in of applicant/appellant, staff and all witnesses collectively by City Attorney.

This was completed under previous ordinance.

Clerk should take custody of exhibits. Application was moved into the record.

Application documentation provided by Growth Management is archived in the agenda packet record.

Note: All exhibits, diagrams, photographs and similar physical evidence referred to during the testimony or which you would like the Council to consider must be marked for identification and kept by the Clerk for 30 days.

A. Brief introduction of ordinance by city staff. Adopted prior presentation into record. Presentation provided by Growth Management is archived in OnBase.

B. Presentation of application by applicant. Mr. Jones moved application into record. Application documentation provided by Growth Management is archived in the agenda packet record.

C. Presentation of evidence by city staff. Moved prior application into record. Application documentation provided by Growth Management is archived in the agenda packet record.

D. Presentation of case by third party intervenors, if any. None

E. Public comments. None

F. Cross examination of parties by party participants. None

G. Questions of parties by City Council. None

H. Closing comments by parties. None

I. Instruction on law by attorney.

J. Discussion and action by City Council.

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2295 on final reading. Ms. Young seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Mr. Carter	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Ms. Harris	Aye
Mayor Walker	Aye

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinances

9. City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2298 (first reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending the Future Land Use Plan Map of the City of Lake

City Comprehensive Plan, as amended; relating to an amendment of 50 or less acres of land, pursuant to an application, CPA 24-04, by Charles Millar as agent for VYP, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, property owner of said acreage, under the amendment procedures established in Sections 163.3161 through 163.3248, Florida Statutes, as amended; providing for changing the Future Land Use Classification from Commercial County to Commercial City of certain lands within the Corporate Limits of the City of Lake City, Florida; providing severability; repealing all ordinances in conflict; and providing an effective date. (This property is located next to Advance Auto Parts at the SW corner of Highway 90 and Branford Highway)

Disclosure by Council members of ex-parte communications (this includes site visits), if any.

This was answered under previous ordinance.

Swearing in of applicant/appellant, staff and all witnesses collectively by City Attorney.

This was completed under previous ordinance.

Clerk should take custody of exhibits. Application was moved into the record. Application documentation provided by Growth Management is archived in the agenda packet record.

Note: All exhibits, diagrams, photographs and similar physical evidence referred to during the testimony or which you would like the Council to consider must be marked for identification and kept by the Clerk for 30 days.

A. Brief introduction of ordinance by city staff. Bryan Thomas. Presentation provided by Growth Management is archived in OnBase.

B. Presentation of application by applicant. Per Mr. Thomas Charles Millar was not able to attend.

C. Presentation of evidence by city staff. Bryan Thomas

D. Presentation of case by third party intervenors, if any. None

E. Public comments. None

F. Cross examination of parties by party participants. None

G. Questions of parties by City Council. None

H. Closing comments by parties. None

I. Instruction on law by attorney.

J. Discussion and action by City Council.

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2298 on first reading. Ms. Harris seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Mr. Carter	Aye
Ms. Harris	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Mayor Walker	Aye

10. City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2299 (first reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending the Official Zoning Atlas of the City of Lake City Land Development Regulations, as amended; relating to the rezoning of ten or less contiguous acres of land, pursuant to an application, Z 24-05, submitted by Charles Millar as agent for VYP, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, the property owner of said acreage; providing for rezoning from Commercial Intensive County (CI Co) to Commercial Intensive (CI) of certain lands within the Corporate Limits of the City of Lake City, Florida; providing severability; repealing all ordinances in conflict; and providing an effective date. (This property is located next to Advanced Auto Parts at the SW corner of Highway 90 and Branford Highway)

Disclosure by Council members of ex-parte communications (this includes site visits), if any.

This was answered under previous ordinance.

Swearing in of applicant/appellant, staff and all witnesses collectively by City Attorney.

This was completed under previous ordinance.

Clerk should take custody of exhibits. Application was moved into the record. Application documentation provided by Growth Management is archived in the agenda packet record.

Note: All exhibits, diagrams, photographs and similar physical evidence referred to during the testimony or which you would like the Council to consider must be marked for identification and kept by the Clerk for 30 days.

A. Brief introduction of ordinance by city staff. Adopt prior presentation, moved application into record. Presentation provided by Growth Management is archived in OnBase.

B. Presentation of application by applicant. Per Mr. Thomas, Charles Millar was not able to attend.

- C. Presentation of evidence by city staff.** Bryan Thomas
- D. Presentation of case by third party intervenors, if any.** None
- E. Public comments.** None
- F. Cross examination of parties by party participants.** None
- G. Questions of parties by City Council.** None
- H. Closing comments by parties.** None
- I. Instruction on law by attorney.**
- J. Discussion and action by City Council.**

Ms. Harris made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2299 on first reading. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Ms. Harris	Aye
Mr. Carter	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Mayor Walker	Aye

At this time, members took a break, from 7:15PM – 7:21PM.

Other Items

11. Discussion and Possible Action: Request for Code Enforcement Lien Forgiveness for Daniel Ochs, buyer, or property at 301 NW Jefferson Street, located in District 12 (sponsored by Mayor Noah Walker)

Mayor Walker stated his reason for sponsoring this item and suggested a process be put in place and for staff to bring forward recommendations.

Ms. Young spoke in support of waiving a portion of the lien.

Mr. Carter spoke in support of waiving the entire lien, but putting actionable consequences in place.

Mr. Jernigan spoke in support of waiving a portion of the lien.

Mr. Rosenthal reported bringing back several settlement processes for the members to choose from.

Mr. Carter made a motion to waive 100% of the fines for property located at 301 NW Jefferson Street. The motion includes the release of the lien is conditional and will be based on the sale of the property. Ms. Harris seconded the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Barbara Limley; Stew Lilker

City Attorney Clay Martin reported the fine amount is set by the Magistrate and the lien to force the payment of that fine belongs to the City Council. He stated the release of lien could be done conditionally or unconditionally and terms could be negotiated on how to release the lien. Mr. Martin also reported the Magistrate could be petitioned to amend the order.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Mr. Carter	Aye
Ms. Harris	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Nay
Mayor Walker	Aye

12. Discussion and Possible Action: Request for Code Enforcement Lien Forgiveness for Avery Bass, of property at 714 NW Alma Avenue, located in District 12 (sponsored by Council Member Tammy Harris)

Mr. Jernigan spoke in support of waiving a portion of the lien.

Ms. Young spoke in support of waiving a portion of the lien.

Mr. Carter spoke in support of waiving the entire lien.

Mayor Walker reminded a settlement process is needed.

Mr. Carter made a motion to waive 100% of the fines for property located at 714 NW Alma Avenue. The motion includes the release of lien is conditional and will be based on the sale of the property. Ms. Harris seconded the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Barbara Lemly; Glenel Bowden; Stew Lilker; Julius Moreland

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Mr. Carter	Aye
Ms. Harris	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Nay
Mayor Walker	Aye

13. Discussion and Possible Action: Council to elect Vice-Mayor to serve the remainder of 2024 and for 2025 (Mayor Noah Walker)

Mayor Walker nominated Mr. Carter to serve the remainder of 2024 and for 2025 as Vice-Mayor, as he was aware of Mr. Carter's experience on the Planning and Zoning Board.

Mr. Jernigan spoke in support of nominating a member with seniority.

Ms. Harris confirmed the qualifications for being nominated were just being a member of council.

Ms. Young nominated Mr. Jernigan for Vice-Mayor.

Ms. Harris nominated Ms. Young for Vice-Mayor.

Mr. Jernigan nominated Ms. Harris for Vice-Mayor.

Ms. Harris declined her nomination by Mr. Jernigan.

Ms. Harris made a motion to close nominations for Vice-Mayor. Mr. Carter seconded the motion.

Mayor Walker selected a written ballot process, and read all votes aloud: voting member Chevella Young voted for Chevella Young; voting member Tammy Harris voted for Chevella Young; voting member Noah Walker voted for James Carter; voting member James Carter voted for James Carter; voting member Ricky Jernigan voted for Chevella Young.

Copies of ballots are attached to the minutes as Exhibit A.

Mr. Jernigan made a motion to ratify the appointment of Chevella Young as Vice-Mayor to serve the remainder of 2024 and for 2025. Ms. Harris seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Ms. Harris	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mr. Carter	Aye
Mayor Walker	Aye

14. Don Rosenthal, City Manager, Six-Month Evaluation

Mr. Rosenthal reiterated per his contract there was to be an evaluation performed by members of his accomplishments over a six-month period, and whether it would justify a pay increase.

Mr. Carter suggested using the same form as was used to evaluate the City Clerk.

Mr. Jernigan suggested using the same system as used for the previous City Manager.

City Attorney Martin reported the International City/County Management Association has a model evaluation form that members could use.

Mayor Walker suggested evaluations be performed individually, then bring considerations to a meeting.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

15. Four Day Work Week Proposal - PowerPoint Presentation (Human Resources Director BillieJo Bible and City Manager Don Rosenthal)

Ms. Bible gave a PowerPoint presentation on a Four Day Work Week Proposal.

Mr. Carter spoke in support of a four-day work week, but against City Hall only being open Monday through Thursday, and reported he would like to see a polling of staff.

Ms. Young spoke in support of administration operating Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Ms. Harris inquired as to whether Ms. Bible had spoken with staff and spoke in support of a four-day work week. She suggested a trial period of six months, instead of one year.

Mr. Jernigan spoke in support of a four-day work week and suggested Ms. Bible poll staff.

Mr. Rosenthal stated he would have Ms. Bible poll staff.

Mayor Walker spoke in support of a four-day work week, along with being open five days.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Barbara Lemley; Glenel Bowden; Bryan Thomas

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Chevella Young – Ms. Young thanked members for the appointment of Vice Mayor; and provided the public with an update relating to railroad crossing repairs.

Council Member Ricky Jernigan – Mr. Jernigan reported volunteers and food were needed at the American Legion to feed Veterans for Christmas, from 3:00 PM until 7:00 PM; and thanked Mayor Walker for how he is handling things.

Council Member James Carter – Mr. Carter spoke in opposition the barrier tables being used in the Council Chambers; and inquired with legal as to whether there was a bridged version of the Quasi-Judicial Proceedings. Mr. Martin reported staff is streamlining them as much as possible and stated each proceeding must have an independent record. Mr. Carter also had zoning questions regarding Lake Shore Hospital and the use of the facility. He suggested this be a future council discussion item.

Council Member Tammy Harris – None

Mayor Noah Walker – Mayor Walker thanked the Executive Director of Utilities Steve Brown's staff for the cleanup efforts after the hurricane; he also provided reminders of upcoming dates of interest: December 7, 2024 at 8:00 AM Farm Share - Free Food Drive at Lake City Police Department; December 8, 2024 at 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM - Christmas Tree Celebration (Lighting of the Christmas Tree) - Olustee Park; December 14, 2024 at 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM - Christmas in Columbia Holiday Market – Darby Pavilion/Wilson Park/Olustee Park; December 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Christmas Parade.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Jernigan made a motion to adjourn at 9:05 PM. Mr. Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Noah Walker, Mayor/Council Member

Audrey Sikes, City Clerk