

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Regular Session, on October 18, 2021 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 live on our YouTube Channel.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION – Councilman Eugene Jefferson

ROLL CALL

Mayor/Council Member
City Council

Stephen M. Witt
Jake Hill, Jr.
Eugene Jefferson
C. Todd Sampson
Frederick Koberlein, Jr.
Michael Williams
Chief Argatha Gilmore
Audrey Sikes

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

MINUTES

1. October 4, 2021 City Council Workshop
2. October 4, 2021 Regular Session

Mr. Jefferson made a motion to approve the October 4, 2021 City Council Workshop and October 4, 2021 Regular Session minutes as presented. Mr. Hill seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Witt stated the lawsuit filed regarding Item #3 needed to be added to the agenda. **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.**

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

- Glenel Bowden asked Council what their intentions were on the Confederate Monument.
- Sylvester Warren addressed Council on Christmas lights and festivities for Sally Mae Jerry Park and the installation of benches and trash cans for north Marion Street.
- Mr. Hill asked Interim City Manager Michael Williams about the process to get benches and trash cans for north Marion Street.

- Shawn Holmgren addressed Item #15 and stated this should be conducted in a Sunshine meeting. He stated topics such as moving statues and facilities should be discussed in public, and brought to a vote.
- Bea Coker addressed Council and asked them to review the documents she handed out. She asked for the City Attorney to make a recommendation.
- Stew Lilker addressed Council regarding the questions he submitted during the interview process for the District 14 seat, education policy for staff, the consent agenda and restriction of access for taking photos.

APPOINTMENT OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBER FOR DISTRICT 14

3. City Council Resolution No. 2021-154 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida appointing Stephen A. Douglas as Council Member of District Fourteen in accordance with the City Charter; and providing an effective date.

City Attorney Fred Koberlein reported a lawsuit had been filed against the City earlier that afternoon titled Befaitful Coker v's City of Lake City Florida City Council. The City has not been served as of yet. He explained the options available to the Council. The City can defend the lawsuit or have another public meeting. Mr. Sampson inquired about a litigation meeting. Mr. Koberlein reported the Council would need to wait until they are served to schedule a litigation session.

Members discussed tabling the item and/or reconsidering the item at a special meeting and/or reconducting the interview the process.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Stew Lilker stated the resolution should be removed, not tabled.

Mr. Hill made a motion to table Item No. 3 and redo the interview process. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion failed.

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

Mr. Koberlein suggested for the members to address Item No. 3 then address the process.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Kim Estergren inquired about inappropriate behavior of Council members towards a candidate for the District 14 seat.

Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2021-154. The motion died due to lack of a second.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Anthony Newton spoke in favor of revisiting the appointment.

Mr. Sampson made a motion to table City Council Resolution No. 2021-154 and to discuss further action at the end of the meeting. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called the motion carried.

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

4. Swearing in Ceremony New Council Member, City Council District 14 – Not applicable

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

5. Permit application from Lake City VFW Post #2206 to hold the Veterans Day Parade on Thursday, November 11, 2021 from 10:00 AM until 12:30 PM. All supporting documents including certificate of insurance have been provided.
6. Travel Request - Council Member Jake Hill has requested to attend the 2021 Florida League of Cities Legislative Conference in conjunction with his attendance at the Florida League of Cities Board of Directors Meeting on Thursday, November 4, 2021. The Florida League of Cities Legislative Conference is to be held November 3 - 5, 2021 in Kissimmee, Florida. This is not a budgeted conference. Funds are budgeted to cover the estimated cost of \$210.00 associated with mileage, parking and toll charges for the Board of Directors Meeting. The unbudgeted estimated cost to attend the conference will be approximately \$695.00.

Currently budgeted in the Council Travel accounts 511.30-40 and 511.30-55 are the following: Airport \$2,900; City Council Travel Allowance \$9,000; Florida League of Cities Board Travel Expenses - Hill \$750.00; Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials \$900; Florida League of Cities \$6,150; IEMO Training - Basic and/or Advanced \$2,750.

Mr. Hill made a motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of items 5-6 identified above. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

PRESENTATIONS

At this time Mayor Witt closed the regular session and opened a public hearing for the purpose of hearing comments on the Community Development Block Grant CV Funding 2020-2021.

7. Corbett Alday, V.P. of Guardian Community Resource Management, Inc. - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) CV Funding 2020-2021 Second Public Hearing PowerPoint (Richardson Community Center Covid Testing Site)

Mr. Alday gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Community Development Block Grant Covid Funding Program.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Glenel Bowden expressed concern with the ownership of the facility (Richardson Community Center Covid Testing Site).

PUBLIC COMMENT: County Manager David Kraus spoke in support of the project.

At this time Mayor Witt closed the public hearing.

8. City Council Resolution No. 2021-152 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of an application to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for a Community Development Block Grant; providing for the rehabilitation of the existing Richardson Community Center for the use of Covid testing and vaccinations; providing for consistency with the City's Comprehensive Plan; providing for consistency with the Community Development Plan; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Jefferson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-152, authorizing the execution of an application to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for a Community Development Block Grant; providing for the rehabilitation of the existing Richardson Community Center for the use of Covid testing and vaccinations; providing for consistency with the City's Comprehensive Plan, and providing for consistency with the Community Development Plan. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinances – None

Resolutions – None

Other Items

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

Mayor Witt reminded members there is still a need for this appointee.

10. Discussion and Possible Action - Lake City Police Department requesting approval to purchase laptops at a cost of \$102,947.00 to bring laptops used by officers into compliance with SmartCop's standards. (Chief Gilmore)

Interim City Manager Michael Williams stated at the last meeting there were two questions presented on this topic: Is this an approved State contract, and what would be the funding source, contingency monies or some other source. In response to those questions, Mr. Williams reported yes, this is an approved State contract, and the City may be able to recover funds later in the year from the Lake City Police Department's budget. He stated an option would be to take from contingency fund and recoup later in the year, all funds, or some of the funds if possible from the Police Department budget. **Mr. Jefferson made a motion to approve the purchase of laptops at a cost of \$102,947.00 to bring laptops used by officers into compliance with SmartCop's standards. The motion identifies contingency as the funding source with a**

stipulation of recouping funds from the Lake City Police Department's budget if funds are available. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinances

11. City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2208 (first and final reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, extending the moratorium related to the issuance of new business tax receipts that are connected to activities that include electronic simulated gaming promotions or electronic sweepstakes as adopted by Ordinance No. 2021-2189; providing for an extension of ninety (90) days; providing for severability; providing for conflicts; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Jefferson made a motion to adopt City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2208, extending the moratorium related to the issuance of new business tax receipts that are connected to activities that include electronic simulated gaming promotions or electronic sweepstakes as adopted by Ordinance No. 2021-2189, and providing for an extension of ninety (90) days. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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

Resolutions

12. City Council Resolution No. 2021-149 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of Task Assignment Number Eight to the Continuing Contract with Jones Edmunds & Associates, Inc., for professional services and assistance with four (4) wastewater improvement projects; providing for the payment for the professional services and assistance at a not to exceed cost of \$403,000.00; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-149, authorizing the execution of Task Assignment Number Eight to the Continuing Contract with Jones Edmunds & Associates, Inc., for professional services and assistance with four (4) wastewater improvement projects, and providing for the payment for the professional services and assistance at a not to exceed cost of \$403,000.00. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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

13. City Council Resolution No. 2021-150 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of Task Assignment Number Nine to the Continuing Contract with Jones Edmunds & Associates, Inc., for professional services and assistance with the installation of a twenty-four (24) inch water main from the Price Creek Water Treatment Plant to the North Florida Mega Industrial Park; providing for the payment for the professional services and assistance at a not to exceed cost of \$268,000.00; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-150, authorizing the execution of Task Assignment Number Nine to the Continuing Contract with Jones Edmunds & Associates, Inc., for professional services and assistance with the installation of a twenty-four (24) inch water main from the Price Creek Water Treatment Plant to the North Florida Mega Industrial Park, and providing for the payment for the professional services and assistance at a not to exceed cost of \$268,000.00. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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

14. City Council Resolution No. 2021-153 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, appointing Glenel Bowden to the Board of Trustees of the General City Employee Retirement Plan to serve as Trustee; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Jefferson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-153, appointing Glenel Bowden to the Board of Trustees of the General City Employee Retirement Plan to serve as Trustee. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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

Other Items

15. Discussion and Possible Action - Complaint identifying employees and the City Manager. F.S 119.071(2)(k) exempts all information related to employee complaint and investigation.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Glenel Bowden expressed Sunshine concerns.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Shawn Holmgren inquired what this was in reference to.

City Attorney Fred Koberlein reported there was a complaint filed by a City employee. The complaint is alleging a hostile workplace environment involving other employees and the City Manager. Mr. Koberlein stated because this involves a City Charter Officer, the Council should investigate or refer the investigation out to a professional entity.

Mr. Jefferson made a motion to the send the complaint out to Allen, Norton, and Blue to investigate. Mr. Hill seconded the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Glenel Bowden suggested sending this out to bid if the cost was going to be over \$20,000.00.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Stew Lilker asked the Council to reconsider and to conduct its own investigation.

Mr. Hill expressed interest in sending this out for bid to find someone cheaper. Procurement Director Karen Nelmes explained if the amount was over \$20,000.00 it should go out for a formal bid, with a clear scope of work being requested. Mr. Koberlein discussed the challenges of putting this out for formal bids.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Williams updated Council on Memorial Stadium and stated North Florida Professional Services had begun their work and he should have a report back by the November 1st meeting.

Mr. Koberlein expressed the urgency in working on a Human Resource policy, for evaluating complaints when complaints are brought forward to the City Council when the records are exempt from public disclosure. This will be a policy he will work on with the new Human Resource Director when that position is filled.

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Members concurred to set a Special Meeting to select a City Council Member for District 14 to revisit the October 13, 2021 previously filed applications. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to have a Special Meeting on October 26, 2021 at 6:00 PM for the purpose of Discussion and Possible Action by City Council - selecting a City Council Member for District 14 - revisiting of the October 13, 2021 previously filed applications. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: Stew Lilker asked for clarification of the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Anthony Newton encouraged members to establish a process now.

ADJOURNMENT

All matters having been handled, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM on a motion made and duly seconded.

Stephen M. Witt, Mayor/Council Member

Audrey Sikes, MMC City Clerk