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**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF LAKE CITY**  
**City Council Regular Session**  
**August 03, 2026**  
**6:00 PM at City Hall**

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This meeting was held in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall located at 205 North Marion Avenue, Lake City, FL 32055. Members of the public also viewed the meeting on our YouTube channel.

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

**Proclamations/Awards/Recognitions**

1. City of Lake City Gatekeeper Award Presented to Columbia High School Welding and Drone Students (Mayor Noah Walker)

**Welding:**

Ruby Chandler - 2026 SkillsUSA State Champion Welding Sculpture  
Mason Dusen - 2026 SkillsUSA State Champion Individual Welding  
Teacher - Darryl Thomas

**Drone:**

Rylan Moses - Gold Medalist and Title Winner of 2026 Florida State Champion in the Commercial sUAS Drone Category  
Kevin Windham - Gold Medalist and Title Winner of 2026 Florida State Champion in the Commercial sUAS Drone Category  
Teacher - George Jones

## Public Participation - Persons Wishing to Address Council

- Sylvester Warren
- Jerry Presley

## Approval of Consent Agenda

2. Minutes - July 7, 2026 Regular Session
3. City Council Resolution No. 2026-085 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving Change Order Number Three to that certain contract between the City and Advantage Contracting Group, Inc., a Florida Corporation, said Change Order to extend the project completion date for ninety (90) days; recognizing the authority of the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said Change Order; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.
4. City Council Resolution No. 2026-087 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, conditionally approving that certain agreement between the City and the Points of Light Foundation, Inc., a Delaware nonprofit corporation, to participate in the Lowe's Community Impact Grant Program and for administration of said grant; making certain findings of fact in support of the City conditionally approving said agreement; conditionally recognizing the authority of the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said agreement; conditionally directing the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said agreement; directing the City Attorney to review and approve the legality of said agreement prior to the execution of said agreement by the Mayor; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.

**Mr. Jernigan made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Carter seconded the motion.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren

**A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Jernigan</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Carter</b>   | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Ms. Young</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Ms. Harris</b>   | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mayor Walker</b> | <b>Aye</b> |

Mayor Walker explained that the Lowe's Grant Program was for small renovations provided by Lowe's within the Fire Department. He reported Lowe's would perform some of the work and the grant was for \$50,000.00.

**Presentations - None**

**Old Business**

Ordinances

**At this time Mayor Walker closed the regular session and opened a public hearing for the purpose of hearing comments on City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2378. City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2378 was read by title. Mayor Walker asked if anyone wanted to be heard regarding City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2378. No one asked to be heard on City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2378; therefore, Mayor Walker closed the public hearing.**

5. City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2378 (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 26-07S, by Elizabeth Steely, 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 County - Commercial to City - Commercial of certain lands within the corporate limits of the City of Lake City, Florida; making findings of fact in support of thereof; providing severability; repealing all ordinances in conflict; providing an effective date. (This property is located on Turner Road north of Highway 90)

Growth Management Director Scott Thomason requested to adopt the presentation from the first reading and move it into the record. He reported the applicant was present for any questions.

**Mr. Carter made a motion to adopt City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2378 on final reading. Ms. Harris seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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|---------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Carter</b>   | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Ms. Harris</b>   | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Ms. Young</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Jernigan</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mayor Walker</b> | <b>Aye</b> |

### **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**

### **Final Reading**

6. City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2379 (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 less than ten acres of land, pursuant to an application, Z 26-05S, by Elizabeth Steely, the property owner of said acreage; providing for rezoning from County - Commercial, Intensive (CI) to City - Commercial, Intensive (CI) of certain lands

within the corporate limits of the City of Lake City, Florida; providing for severability; repealing all ordinances in conflict; providing an effective date. (This property is located on Turner Road north of Highway 90)

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

|              |                                                                                                            |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ms. Young    | No                                                                                                         |
| Mr. Carter   | reported watching Planning and Zoning meetings, but stated it would not affect his ability to be impartial |
| Mr. Jernigan | No                                                                                                         |
| Ms. Harris   | No                                                                                                         |
| Mayor Walker | reported speaking to property owners that night, but it would not affect his decision                      |

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

At this time Attorney Martin swore in Growth Management Director Scott Thomason.

**Clerk should take custody of exhibits.**

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.** Growth Management Director Scott Thomason requested the presentation and application be adopted into the record. It is attached as Exhibit A.

**B. Presentation of application by applicant.** Elizabeth Steely was present for any questions.

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

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

**E. Public comments.** None

**F. Cross examination of parties by party participants.** Waived

**G. Questions of parties by City Council.** None

**H. Closing comments by parties.** Waived

**I. Instruction on law by attorney.**

**J. Discussion and action by City Council.**

**Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2379 on final reading. Ms. Harris seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Carter</b>   | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Ms. Harris</b>   | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Jernigan</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Ms. Young</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mayor Walker</b> | <b>Aye</b> |

**At this time Mayor Walker closed the regular session and opened a public hearing for the purpose of hearing comments on City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2382. City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2382 was read by title. Mayor Walker asked if anyone wanted to be heard regarding City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2382. After hearing public comment from Sylvester Warren on City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2382, Mayor Walker closed the public hearing.**

7. City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2382 (final reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, relating to the criminal background screening of certain public service providers, municipal employees, vendors, contractors, contractor employees, and appointees, including volunteers; amending Chapter 70, Article I, Section 70-1 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lake City, Florida, providing for criminal background screening of such individuals; making findings of fact in support thereof; repealing all ordinances in conflict herewith and providing an effective date. **Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2382 on final reading. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Carter</b>   | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Jernigan</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Ms. Young</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Ms. Harris</b>   | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mayor Walker</b> | <b>Aye</b> |

Resolutions - None

Other Items - None

**New Business**

Ordinances

8. City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2383 (first reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, pursuant to Petition No. ANX 26-05, submitted by Ajay U. Mhatre, Anjali U. Mhatre, Shipla U. Mhatre, Umesh M. Mhatre, Anita Mhatre Mihalcik, and the Mhatre Irrevocable Family Trust dated December 27, 1990, relating to voluntary annexation; annexing certain real property located in Columbia County, Florida, which is reasonably compact into the boundaries of the City of Lake City, Florida; making certain findings of

fact in support thereof; providing severability; repealing all ordinances in conflict; providing an effective date.

Growth Management Director Scott Thomason went over a presentation and the Interlocal Service Boundary Agreement.

**Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2026-2383. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Carter</b>   | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Jernigan</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Ms. Young</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Ms. Harris</b>   | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mayor Walker</b> | <b>Aye</b> |

### Resolutions

9. City Council Resolution No. 2026-084 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, constituting the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Preliminary Fire Assessment Resolution; providing authority; providing purpose and definitions; relating to the provision of the Fire Protection Services, facilities and programs in the City of Lake City, Florida; confirming previous resolutions 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; providing for application of assessment proceeds; providing for conflicts; and providing an effective date.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren

**Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2026-084. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Carter</b>   | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Jernigan</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Ms. Young</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Ms. Harris</b>   | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mayor Walker</b> | <b>Aye</b> |

### Other Items

10. Discussion: Criteria for naming the Splash Pad at Youngs Park

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren

After lengthy discussion, members concurred to have every elementary school in the City limits to provide the council with one name each for the Splash Pad at Youngs Park. Administration is to create a package for consideration of sponsorships for the Splash Pad and Park with the funds going for youth engagement and gun violence prevention.

11. Discussion and Possible Action: Flock Cameras (Council Member James Carter)  
City Council Resolution No. 2026-094 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, calling for a nonbinding referendum question to be placed before the qualified electors of the City of Lake City at a Special Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, in conjunction with the 2026 State of Florida General Election; providing a nonbinding referendum question determining whether the City of Lake City or its contractors shall continue installation and maintenance of automatic license plate readers and cameras that collect and store license plate and other vehicular data; providing for requisite ballot language; providing direction to the City Clerk; repealing all resolutions in conflict; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

Council Member Carter read from a prepared statement expressing his perspective that government surveillance raises serious concerns about privacy and constitutional rights, emphasizing that people should not have to prove they are innocent to deserve protection from unwarranted monitoring. He distinguished government surveillance from private companies collecting data because the government has powers such as arrest and prosecution that corporations do not. Although surveillance can sometimes help catch criminals, Mr. Carter questioned whether its usefulness justifies expanding government power over everyone. Using London's extensive CCTV system as an example, he stated that increased surveillance has not necessarily produced a significant reduction in crime. Overall, Mr. Carter expressed concern that widespread surveillance could be the beginning of a surveillance state and believes innocent citizens should not have their information tracked or stored without legal justification. However, he acknowledged the issue is highly divided and proposed putting the question on the November election ballot so the public can decide.

Council Member Harris clarified how quickly this item was prepared and if this was legal.

Council Member Young spoke in support of cameras stating they have made a great difference.

Council Member Jernigan reported citizens wanted cameras for certain reasons and requested Chief Butler explain the pros and cons of the cameras.

**Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2026-094. Mayor Walker seconded the motion.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Eric Thober; Sylvester Warren; David Nobles; Mark Eshbaugh; Befaihtful Coker

Council Member Young spoke in support of the cameras.

**A roll call vote was taken and the motion failed.**

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

At this time, members took a short recess from 7:55 PM until 8:02 PM.

### **Departmental Administration**

12. Discussion and Possible Action: Approval for ADA-Risk/Safety Director position previously approved on May 18, 2026, to be changed to a Manager position and add a Safety Coordinator position (Human Resources Director BillieJo Bible)

**Ms. Harris made a motion to approve changing the ADA-Risk/Safety Director position to a Manager position. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| <b>Ms. Harris</b>   | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Jernigan</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Ms. Young</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Carter</b>   | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mayor Walker</b> | <b>Aye</b> |

### **Comments by:**

City Manager Don Rosenthal – Mr. Rosenthal reported the Police Department won first place in the Traffic Safety Award. Chief Butler reported the department won a speed trailer.

City Attorney Clay Martin – None

City Clerk Audrey Sikes – None

### **Comments by Council Members**

Council Member Chevella Young – Ms. Young thanked citizens who attended the meeting.

Council Member Ricky Jernigan – Mr. Jernigan recognized Classy Balloons; an antique and vintage store on 90 East; commented on successful events that took place over the weekend; spoke to the procedure of paving City roads; recognized the Lake City Police and Fire Departments.

Council Member James Carter – Mr. Carter referenced a novel, 1984, and stated the ends could not justify the means for the simple and obvious reason that the means employed to determine the nature are the reasons the means employed to determine the nature of the ends produced.

Council Member Tammy Harris – Ms. Harris thanked everyone for a successful Love Fest Event: Bo Lord in the Public Works Department, the Police Department for the bicycle course, the Fire Department for grilling hamburgers, Assistant City Manager Dee Johnson, Council Member Jernigan, Mayor Walker, City Clerk Audrey Sikes, and asked to give everyone employed at the City a round of applause.

Mayor Noah Walker – Mayor Walker congratulated Michaela Collins on her wedding over the weekend; recognized the City Clerks Office and everyone who was involved in putting the Suwannee River League of Cities Dinner Meeting on; commented on successful events that took place over the weekend: Community Unity Day, Love Fest, and the Back-to-School Bash at Richardson Community Center; recognized Detective Poteat; reported an ice cream shop called

Creamy Colada was now located where Ed and Barbs Donuts used to be; recognized citizens who attended the meeting; recognized City Management and Public Works for addressing trash issues under the underpass on Highway 90; reported August 7, 2026, there would be a ribbon cutting at Sallie Mae Jerry Park at 10:00 AM; announced Budget Workshops would be held August 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM and August 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.

### **Adjournment**

Having no further business, Mayor Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.

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Noah Walker, Mayor/Council Member

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Audrey Sikes, City Clerk