

**UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
July 9, 2018**

The City Utility Advisory Committee for the City of Lake City met on July 9, 2018, at 5:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall located on 205 North Marion Avenue, Lake City, Florida.

**MEMBERS**

Eugene Jefferson-City Council Member-Chairman  
George Ward -City Council Member  
Stephen Witt-Mayor Council Member

Steve Brown – Gas Department Director  
Grayson Cason – Interim City Manager  
Paul Dyal – Assistant City Manager Utilities and Public Works  
Thomas Henry – Public Works Director  
Mike Osborn – Wastewater Treatment Plant Director  
Cody Pridgeon – Water Treatment Plant Director  
Brian Scott – Distribution and Collection Director

**Support Staff**

Audrey Sikes-City Clerk-Committee Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER  
Mr. Jefferson called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.
2. ROLL CALL  
Mr. Jefferson asked City Clerk Audrey Sikes to call roll. Attendance is indicated above.
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
**Mayor Witt made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Ward seconded the motion and the motion carried on a voice vote.**
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS  
Ron Williams, Columbia County Board of County Commission, stated the County is willing to work with the City to identify needs and to move forward.  
  
Mayor Witt introduced Joseph Helfenberger as the new City Manager and stated his contract was on the agenda for approval and Council action tonight. Mr. Helfenberger's official start date is August 1, 2018.
5. MINUTES – July 17, 2017  
**Mr. Ward made a motion to approve the July 17, 2017 minutes as presented. Mayor Witt seconded the motion and the motion carried on a voice vote.**

6. OLD BUSINESS

None

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Utility Discussion with County and B. General Utility Update

Mr. Cason asked for the County to address the committee and identify what the needs are of the County.

Board of County Commission Chairman Tim Murphy addressed members and stated he was in attendance as a follow-up to the economic summit held recently at the Florida Gateway College. Mr. Murphy stated the county needs a sewer operation on the East side of town and mentioned there are grant opportunities available but timing for the grant funds is critical.

Mr. Glen Hunter, Economic Development Director for Columbia County identified two (2) prime areas for industrial development. The Mega Site at the Airport and Bell Road. The Bell Road project is approximately 450 acres and needs paving, water, sewer and gas.

Mr. Hunter discussed three (3) grants the County is working on right now.

1. Rural Infrastructure Fund Grant – 3.2 million.

The County has an open 2017 RIF grant and is unable to author another RIF grant until the 2017 grant is closed. He anticipates grant funding of approximately \$50,000 for this 2018 RIF grant that would authorize the study.

2. EDA Grant for Bell Road – 7.7 million

This is for the design and study and would not include build out costs. Mr. Hunter stated this project would bring a significant amount of industry.

3. Florida Jobs Growth Grant – 85 million available

Mr. Hunter hopes to obtain 10-15 million to service the East side of town with a sewer plant or improvements to lift stations. He stated the County is moving forward with this grant.

David Kraus, Grant Writer stated the grants have been submitted and have received favorable reviews. Mr. Kraus stated the County needs to transfer authorship from the County to the City on the RIF grant. He stated the Florida Jobs Growth Grant will address the entry way road and the wastewater treatment solution.

County Manager Ben Scott stated during the discussion with City staff he understands it is not a capacity issue as it is getting the waste to the plant. Mr. Scott stated Plum Creek is a big push with the utilities. Mr. Scott stated the County is asking for assistance. The County can put together the grant application, however the City must agree and accept the new plant once it is up and operational.

Mr. Brown requested to have the grant modified to include all utilities.

Mr. Dyal stated he fully supports a joint partnership wastewater system on the East side of town. He would like to see the system looped all the way to Bell Road and back to assist with pressure of the system. Mr. Dyal fully supports a study on City lines by the County, all the grants discussed by the County and improving our systems.

Mike Osborn discussed flows and reported we will have to subsidize in the future and will have to find ways to increase our water while looking at this project.

County Manager Ben Scott stated land would be donated for the facility to be built on and the City could partner with the County.

Interim City Manager Grayson Cason stated he read through the Interlocal Agreement and several questions came to mind. He expressed concerns with capacity as the St. Margaret's Wastewater Treatment Facility is embarking on a 3-5 year reconstruction project of the facility. When working on the facility, flows will have to be diverted. Flows must go down to make renovations possible. Mr. Cason has concerns with undefined capacity.

Mr. Dyal reported the issue isn't capacity it is how to get it there. Flows will have to be redirected from St. Margaret's.

Mr. Pridgeon reminded the City must have someplace for disposal as the City only has one (1) three (3) million gallon per day disposal site.

County Manager Ben Scott stated the County is willing to work with the City on the East side plant for the City to take over. Mr. Murphy elaborated the Board of County Commission is trying to expand County utilities.

County Commissioner Ron Williams briefly discussed a Community Development Block Grant to assist residents in area of Voss Road back to Washington. Residents of Candle Heights Subdivision have a terrible time when it rains.

It was decided an Interlocal Agreement was not necessary if the council makes a motion of support.

**Mr. Ward made a motion to support the RIF Grant with the Columbia County Board of County Commission. Mayor Witt seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.**

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM on a motion duly made and seconded.

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Audrey E. Sikes, MMC City Clerk