

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Regular Session, on January 21, 2025 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION – Council Member James Carter

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. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. Mr. Rosenthal reported Ms. Harris was requesting Item #2 be removed from the consent agenda for discussion. **With that amendment, the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

- George Hudson

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval to reallocate funds for replacement lease vehicles for the Fire Department - requesting to move funds from the 64 account for replacement of truck lap tops in the amount of \$14,888.00 to increase the vehicle lease account 110.50.522-030.44 from \$30,567.00 to \$38,862.00.
2. Removed from consent agenda.
3. City Council Resolution No. 2025-011 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving that certain agreement between the City and Brame Heck Architects, Inc, a Florida Corporation, to conduct a City Hall Feasibility Analysis; making certain findings of fact in support of the City approving said agreement; recognizing the authority of the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said agreement; directing the Mayor to execute

and bind the City to said agreement; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.

4. City Council Resolution No. 2025-012 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the City to extend and renew a Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Florida Department of ~~Economic Opportunity~~ Commerce for the implementation of the Rural Area of Opportunity Designation; making certain findings of fact in support of the City entering into said agreement; recognizing the authority of the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said agreement; directing the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said agreement; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.
5. City Council Resolution No. 2025-013 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the renewal of the Voluntary Cooperation and Operational Assistance Mutual Aid Agreement with the Columbia County Sheriff's Office; 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 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.

2. City Council Resolution No. 2025-010 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, directing the erection of signs along with that certain segment of northwest Escambia Street situated between northwest Alachua Avenue and North Marion Avenue in honor of Apostle Cleopatra Steele; co-designating said street segment as Cleopatra Steele Street; providing for conflicts; providing for severability; providing for an effective date.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Shonna Lee Williams

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2025-010. 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

PRESENTATIONS

6. Colleen Dudgeon with Serafin and Associates Inc.- City of Lake City Strategic Plan

Ms. Dudgeon joined the council meeting by Zoom and presented her PowerPoint Presentation.

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. 2025-2301. City Council Ordinance No. 2025-2301 was read by title. Mayor Walker asked if anyone wanted to be heard regarding City Council Ordinance No. 2025-2301. No one asked to be heard on City Council Ordinance No. 2025-2301, therefore Mayor Walker closed the public hearing.

7. City Council Ordinance No. 2025-2301 (final reading) - An ordinance pertaining to buildings, building regulations, contracting, permitting, licensure and insurance within the City of Lake City; repealing existing provisions of City Code; establishing certain uniform codes; establishing permitting fees and requirements; establishing insurance requirements; repealing all ordinances in conflict; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2025-2301 on final 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

NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions

8. City Council Resolution No. 2025-008 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, appointing Sophia Adams to serve in Seat "3-F" on the City's Planning and Zoning Board, Board of Adjustment, and Historic Preservation Agency Board through October 31, 2028, the end of the current term for said seat; making certain findings of fact in support thereof; recognizing the expiration of said term on October 31, 2028; directing the City Clerk to reflect said appointment and expiration of term in such records of the City as are necessary and prudent; making certain findings of fact in support of the City Clerk reflecting such appointment and expiration of term in the records of the City; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.

Growth Management Director David Young confirmed the applicant met all minimum requirements.

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2025-008. 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

- 9. City Council Resolution No. 2025-016 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving and adopting that certain Strategic Plan Development Process Proposal prepared by Serafin & Associates, Inc.; making certain findings of fact in support of the City approving and adopting said strategic plan development process proposal; directing the City Manager to implement said strategic plan development process proposal; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.

Attorney Martin noted a scrivener’s error on the resolution reading 2024, it will be corrected to reflect 2025.

Mr. Jernigan made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2025-016. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

Other Items

- 10. Discussion and Possible Action: City to host the Northeast Florida League Dinner Meeting on Thursday, December 18, 2025 (Mayor Noah Walker)

Mayor Walker reported the City hosted the dinner two years ago, and spoke in support of hosting again this year.

Mr. Carter reported the City rotates hosting the event with Lake Butler and suggested hosting at the Blanche Hotel.

Ms. Harris spoke in support of hosting of the dinner.

Mr. Jernigan spoke in support of hosting of the dinner and suggested one of the hotels west of town on Highway 90.

Ms. Young spoke in support of selecting a venue and locking it in.

Mayor Walker instructed staff to offer a primary and secondary location to host the December 18, 2025 Northeast Florida League Dinner meeting for a future vote.

Ms. Sikes clarified staff could bring back estimates and offer different venues at a later date for council consideration. She stated at this time, staff only needed a motion to host the dinner.

Ms. Harris made a motion to authorize hosting the Northeast Florida League Dinner Meeting on Thursday, December 18, 2025. 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

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Ricky Jernigan – Mr. Jernigan expressed appreciation to the Lake City Police and Fire Departments.

Council Member James Carter – Mr. Carter read from a prepared statement regarding the importance of budgeting expenditures and being fiscally responsible.

Council Member Chevella Young – Ms. Young expressed the importance of helping the five applicants for the Senior Home Repair Program.

Council Member Tammy Harris – Ms. Harris expressed appreciation to the following: crews at Annie Mattox Park, City Manager Don Rosenthal, Assistant City Manager Dee Johnson, Executive Director of Utilities Steve Brown and public works for street cleaning.

Ms. Young informed members and the public of the kickoff event at Richardson Community Center on February 6, hosted by the City and Florida Gateway College for Black History Month.

Mr. Rosenthal reported due to extreme weather conditions, the City would be closed, Wednesday, January 22, 2025.

Mayor Noah Walker – Mayor Walker thanked first responders and expressed appreciation for Apostle Cleopatra Steele and reported presenting her with a Black History Month Proclamation. He thanked Waste Water Director Cody Pridgeon for a tour of the facilities.

Ms. Sikes reported there was a scrivener’s error on City Council Resolution No. 2025-012 that would be corrected, the resolution should read ‘State of Florida Department of Commerce,’ not ‘State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.’

Mayor Walker announced there were two upcoming events, Coffee with a Cop on February 5, 2025 at IHOP from 8:30 AM until 10:00 AM, and Breakfast with the Chief on January 25, 2025 from 9:00 AM until 10:30 AM at the American Legion.

ADJOURNMENT

Having there been no further business, Mayor Walker adjourned the meeting at 6:55 PM.

Noah Walker, Mayor/Council Member

Audrey Sikes, City Clerk