

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Regular Session, on February 3, 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 – 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

At this time Mayor Walker provided a brief reminder of what constitutes boisterous behavior, and how to address the City Council.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Carter requested Item #8 be removed from the consent agenda for discussion. **Mr. Jernigan made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.**

PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation 25-01 - Black History Month - February 2025

Mayor Walker presented the proclamation for Black History Month to Bea Coker.

Ms. Coker presented Mayor Walker with a framed article from Our Community Cares Coalition, and requested funding.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

- Harry Joiner
- Victoria Coker
- Sylvester Warren

- Glenel Bowden

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

2. Minutes - December 2, 2024 Regular Session
3. Minutes - December 16, 2024 Regular Session
4. City Council Resolution No. 2025-019 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the renewal of the Columbia County Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force Mutual Aid Agreement between the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, City of Lake City Police Department, and the State of Florida Department of Law Enforcement; making certain findings of fact in support of the City renewing said agreement; recognizing the authority of the Mayor to execute and bind to said renewal agreement; recognizing the authority of the Chief of Police to execute 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.
5. City Council Resolution No. 2025-020 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, accepting Grant Funds awarded by the State of Florida Department of Transportation State Safety Office to the City of Lake City Police Department; providing additional funding for the Strategic Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) to cover costs associated with enforcing impaired driving laws; adopting the grant award agreement as a condition of accepting such grant funds; making certain findings of fact in support of the City accepting such funds and adopting said grant award 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.
6. City Council Resolution No. 2025-021 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, accepting grant funds awarded by the State of Florida Department of Transportation State Safety Office to the City of Lake City Police Department; providing additional funding for the Strategic Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) to cover costs associated with enforcing occupant protection laws; adopting the grant award agreement as a condition of accepting such grant funds; making certain findings of fact in support of the City accepting such funds and adopting said grant award 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.
7. City Council Resolution No. 2025-022 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, accepting grant funds awarded by the State of Florida Department of Transportation State Safety Office to the City of Lake City Police Department; providing additional funding for the Strategic Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) to cover costs associated with enforcing speed and aggressive driving laws; adopting the grant award agreement as a condition of accepting such grant funds; making certain findings of fact in support

of the City accepting such funds and adopting said grant award 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.

8. Removed from consent agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Glenel Bowden

Mr. Jernigan made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ms. Young seconded the motion.

Mr. Rosenthal provided a brief overview of City Council Resolution 2025-020, City Council Resolution 2025-021 and City Council Resolution 2025-022.

Mr. Jernigan stated that some items on the consent agenda could be difficult for citizens to understand.

Members discussed pulling the resolutions for further explanation.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion failed.

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

Ms. Harris made a motion to remove items 5, 6, and 7 from the consent agenda. 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

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve items 2, 3, and 4 on the consent agenda as presented. 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

RESOLUTIONS PULLED FROM CONSENT AGENDA (Items 5, 6, 7)

5. City Council Resolution No. 2025-020 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, accepting Grant Funds awarded by the State of Florida Department of Transportation State Safety Office to the City of Lake City Police Department; providing additional funding for the Strategic Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) to cover costs associated with enforcing impaired driving laws; adopting the grant award agreement as a condition of accepting such grant funds; making certain findings of fact in support of the City accepting such funds and adopting said grant award 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.

Chief Butler provided a brief overview of item #5, 6, and 7.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren; Glenel Bowden

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2025-020. 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

6. City Council Resolution No. 2025-021 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, accepting grant funds awarded by the State of Florida Department of Transportation State Safety Office to the City of Lake City Police Department; providing additional funding for the Strategic Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) to cover costs associated with enforcing occupant protection laws; adopting the grant award agreement as a condition of accepting such grant funds; making certain findings of fact in support of the City accepting such funds and adopting said grant award 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren; Glenel Bowden

Mr. Jernigan made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2025-021. 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

7. City Council Resolution No. 2025-022 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, accepting grant funds awarded by the State of Florida Department of Transportation State Safety Office to the City of Lake City Police Department; providing additional funding for the Strategic Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) to cover costs associated with enforcing speed and aggressive driving laws; adopting the grant award agreement as a condition of accepting such grant funds; making certain findings of fact in support of the City accepting such funds and adopting said grant award 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren; Glenel Bowden

Mr. Jernigan made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2025-022. 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

8. City Council Resolution No. 2025-023 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving that certain agreement between the City and Saxon Gilmore for legal services in furtherance of establishing a housing authority in the City; 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Glenel Bowden; Sylvester Warren

Mr. Rosenthal reported the firm has extensive experience and specializes in Housing Authority.

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2025-023. 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

At this time, members took a break, from 7:28PM – 7:33PM

NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions

9. City Council Resolution No. 2025-009 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, establishing support for a teaching garden; making findings of fact in support thereof; identifying a site to be made available for a privately managed teaching garden; directing the City Manager to solicit proposals from interested charitable non-profit organizations to privately utilize such site for a garden for educational purposes; directing the City Manager to include reasonable and prudent guidelines for respondents to said solicitation; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Glenel Bowden

Ms. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2025-009. 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 Resolution No. 2025-014 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving that certain amendment to Section 14.06 of the City of Lake City Personnel Manual concerning Outstanding Employees of the Year for the City of Lake City; making certain findings of fact in support of the City approving said amendment to implement the amended policy adopted hereby; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2025-014. 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

11. City Council Resolution No. 2025-015 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving those certain amendments to the pay grade matrix for the City of Lake City Personnel Program; making certain findings of fact in support thereof; directing the City Manager to implement into the City pay grade matrix the amended pay grades adopted hereby; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.

Mr. Rosenthal provided a brief overview of why the resolution was necessary. He stated the raises given in October threw the pay matrix off.

Ms. Sikes reported there was a scrivener's error on the exhibit to City Council Resolution No. 2025-015 and has already been corrected. The exhibit was corrected to reflect the addition of Water Plant Chief Operator from a 2024 Paygrade 6 to a 2025 Paygrade 12.

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2025-015. 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

12. City Council Resolution No. 2025-024 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, appointing Mary M. McKellum to serve in Seat "3-G" 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 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. **Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2025-024. 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

13. City Council Resolution No. 2025-025 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending the City of Lake City Personnel Manual; exempting certain employees of the City from the classification system established by same; clarifying the exemption of the Charter Officers of the City from certain provisions of the personnel manual; making certain findings of fact in support thereof; directing the City Manager to implement the amendments adopted hereby; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Jernigan made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2025-025. 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

14. Informational Purposes Only: Lake Shore Hospital (City Attorney Clay Martin)

Attorney Martin informed members the City was in conflict with the Lake Shore Hospital over a land-use matter. He asked members to contact him individually if they had any questions. Attorney Martin reported this was an active dispute and is in a Florida Statute mediation process.

Attorney Martin provided a brief overview of the statutory process, and reported the entities will meet on March 12, 2025 in the council chambers.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

15. Discussion and Possible Action - Consideration to hire an Administrative Assistant for Community Program Director (Human Resource Director Billie Jo Bible)

Ms. Bible expressed the need for an administrative assistant for the Community Program Director, as the number of events the City holds has increased.

Mr. Rosenthal reported this position was not budgeted, but could be funded with the salary budgeted for the grant writer, as one had not been hired. He stated he would like to utilize the budgeted funds for the vacant grant writer position to fund the administrative assistant position and a part time Code Enforcement Officer position.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Glenel Bowden; Sylvester Warren

Ms. Harris made a motion to approve the addition of an administrative assistant to the Community Program Director. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Chevella Young – Ms. Young invited members and the public to Richardson Community Center on February 6 at 6:00 PM to participate in the reading of the Black History Month Proclamation, and honoring of Ron Williams and Dr. Rodney Brown.

Council Member Ricky Jernigan – Mr. Jernigan asked that members and the public pray for the Peterson family, and inquired as to whether or not the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade was going to be rescheduled.

Council Member James Carter – Mr. Carter asked for an update at the next council meeting on Sallie Mae Jerry Park, and stated members should vote on the table setup in the council chambers.

Attorney Martin reported appraisals are complete and the initial letters were sent to the title owners of the property the City was looking to purchase to use for parking next to Sallie Mae Jerry Park. He stated the City is right at the end of the initial 30-day period.

Council Member Tammy Harris – Ms. Harris inquired whether or not Sallie Mae Jerry Park was open, Executive Director of Utilities Steve Brown reported the park was open, but the restrooms were locked. Ms. Harris requested for the park restrooms to be opened.

Mayor Noah Walker – Mayor Walker reported the City's new cell phone application was live, and citizens could receive City notifications and information. He also announced upcoming events: Community Shred It Day on March 8, 2025, a Health 360 event on February 22, 2025, and the Black History Month event at Richardson Community Center on February 6, 2025.

Mr. Rosenthal reported the Growers Market was going to start again on Saturday, February 8, 2025.

Mayor Walker announced the Sweets in the Streets event coinciding with the Growers Market on Saturday, February 8, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Carter made a motion to adjourn at 8:16 PM. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion.

Noah Walker, Mayor/Council Member

Audrey Sikes, City Clerk