

CM/rrp  
12/09/2025

## **RESOLUTION NO 2025 - 168**

### **CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA PROVIDING FOR MAINTENANCE AND SECURITY OF THE CEMETERY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA COMMONLY IDENTIFIED AS WILSON CEMETERY, SUCH CEMETERY BEING SITUATED ON COLUMBIA COUNTY 2025 TAX PARCEL 11248-000 AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE INTERSECTION OF NORTHWEST REDDING AVENUE AND NORTHWEST WILSON STREET; CITING THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 497.284, FLORIDA STATUTES AS THE LEGAL BASIS FOR PROVIDING FOR MAINTENANCE AND SECURITY OF SAID CEMETERY; MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS OF FACT IN SUPPORT OF THE CITY PROVIDING FOR MAINTENANCE AND SECURITY OF SAID CEMETERY; RECOGNIZING LIMITATIONS TO THE CITY'S LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES; RECOGNIZING THE CITY'S RIGHT TO RECOVER AMOUNTS EQUAL TO THE VALUE OF SUCH MAINTENANCE AND SECURITY; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT THIS RESOLUTION TO THE STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES, DIVISION OF FUNERAL, CEMETERY, AND CONSUMER SERVICES; DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO SEEK ANY AVAILABLE GRANT FUNDS TO PROVIDE FOR SUCH MAINTENANCE AND SECURITY; REPEALING ALL PRIOR RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, situated in the City of Lake City ("City") is a cemetery commonly identified as Wilson Cemetery, such cemetery being situated on Columbia County 2025 tax parcel 11248-000 at the southwest corner of the intersection of Northwest Redding Avenue and Northwest Wilson Street (the "Cemetery"); and

WHEREAS, the Cemetery has no identifiable owner, caretaker, or custodian other than the City; and

WHEREAS, the Cemetery has all appearances of having been abandoned by the person or entity which designated and established the Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, for more than the six (6) month period occurring prior to the adoption of this resolution, the City has provided, and continues to provide for certain maintenance activities for the Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, the City is unaware of any person or entity other than the City maintaining the Cemetery for the period exceeding six (6) months prior to the adoption of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, Section 497.284, Florida Statutes provides a municipality which has within its jurisdiction an abandoned cemetery or a cemetery that has not been reasonably maintained for a period in excess of six (6) months may, upon notice to the State of Florida Department of Financial Services(the “Agency”), take such action as is necessary and appropriate to provide for maintenance and security of such cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Section 497.284, Florida Statutes further provides the solicitation of private funds and the expenditure of public funds is authorized for the maintenance and security of an abandoned or unmaintained cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Section 497.284, Florida Statutes further provides no action taken by a municipality to maintain and secure an abandoned or unmaintained cemetery shall establish an ongoing obligation or duty to provide continuous security or maintenance for such cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Section 497.284, Florida Statutes further provides no municipality nor any person under the supervision or direction of the municipality, providing good faith assistance in securing or maintaining an abandoned or unmaintained cemetery may be subject to civil liabilities or penalties of any type for damages to property at the cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Section 497.284, Florida Statutes further provides a municipality that has maintained or secured an abandoned or unmaintained cemetery may maintain an action at law against the owner of the cemetery to recover an amount equal to the value of such maintenance or security; and

WHEREAS, the City has applied for and been awarded certain grant funds from the Abandoned African-American Cemeteries Grant (the “Grant”) program by the State of Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources; and

WHEREAS, as a condition of receiving the Grant, the City must take such action as is necessary and appropriate to care for and maintain the cemetery by providing the above-described notice to the Agency; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to provide notice to the Agency that the City will take such action as is necessary and appropriate to provide for maintenance and security of the Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, taking such action as it necessary and appropriate to provide for the maintenance and security of the Cemetery by providing notice to the Agency of such actions pursuant to Section 497.284, Florida Statutes is in the public interest and in the interests of the City; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida:

1. Taking such action as it necessary and appropriate to provide for the maintenance and security of the Cemetery by providing notice to the Agency of such actions pursuant to Section 497.284, Florida Statutes is in the interests of the City, in the public or community interest, and for public welfare; and
2. In furtherance thereof, the City does affirmatively declare its intention to provide for the maintenance and security of the Cemetery; and
3. Among other things, the City Clerk of the City of Lake City is the officer of the City duly designated by the City's charter as the custodian of all official records of the City, as the officer responsible for the proper administration of all affairs concerning records of the city placed under the city clerk's authority, and as the officer who shall keep the journal of City's proceedings; and
4. The City Clerk of the City of Lake City is authorized and directed to transmit this signed resolution to the State of Florida Department of Financial Services, Division of Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services; and
5. The City Manager of the City of Lake City is the officer of the City duly designated by the City's charter as the chief administrative officer of the City; and
6. The City Manager of the City of Lake City is authorized and directed to seek any available

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grant funds to provide for such maintenance and security of the Cemetery, subject to approval by the City Council pursuant to City ordinances, policies, and procedures; and

7. All prior resolutions of the City Council of the City of Lake City in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict; and
8. This resolution shall become effective and enforceable upon final passage by the City Council of the City of Lake City.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED, by an affirmative vote of a majority of a quorum present of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, at a regular meeting, this \_\_\_\_ day of December, 2025.

BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY,  
FLORIDA

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Noah E. Walker, Mayor

ATTEST, BY THE CLERK OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA:

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Audrey E. Sikes, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

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Clay Martin, City Attorney