

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Regular Session, on December 15, 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.

EVENTS PRIOR TO MEETING – 5:00 PM Community Redevelopment Agency Meeting

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION – Vice Mayor/Council Member Chevella Young

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. Mr. Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.**

PROCLAMATIONS

1. In recognition of Terry Hancock

Mayor Walker presented a proclamation in recognition of Terry Hancock to his family.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

- Azie Handy
- Sylvester Warren
- Bea Coker
- Bo Beachum
- Sherry & Victor

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

2. Minutes - November 17, 2025 Workshop
3. Minutes - December 1, 2025 Workshop

4. City Council Resolution No. 2025-162 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, accepting grant funds awarded to the City of Lake City Police Department by the State of Florida Department of Transportation State Safety Office; 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.
5. City Council Resolution No. 2025-163 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, accepting grant funds awarded to the City of Lake City Police Department by the State of Florida Department of Transportation State Safety Office; 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. 2025-164 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, accepting grant funds awarded to the City of Lake City Police Department by the State of Florida Department of Transportation State Safety Office; 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. 2025-168 - 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 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 the 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.

**Mr. Carter made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ms. Young seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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

## QUASI-JUDICIAL HEARING

### First Reading

#### **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**

8. City Council Ordinance No. 2025-2315 (first 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 contiguous acres of land, pursuant to an application, Z 25-03, by Carol Chadwick, P.E., as agent for Florida First Coast Investment Corp., Inc., the property owner of said acreage; providing for rezoning from Residential, Single Family-3 (RSF-3) to Commercial, Neighborhood (CN) of certain lands within the corporate limits of the City of Lake City, Florida; providing severability; repealing all ordinances in conflict; providing an effective date. This property is located on Laurel Lane behind Circle K on Highway 90.

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

Ms. Young	No
Mr. Carter	No
Mr. Jernigan	No
Ms. Harris	No
Mayor Walker	No

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

At this time Attorney Martin swore in Planning Technician Robert Angelo.

#### **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.** Planning Technician Robert Angelo presented members with a PowerPoint presentation and moved the application and staff reports into the record. This is attached as Exhibit A.

**B. Presentation of application by applicant.** N/A

**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.** N/A

**G. Questions of parties by City Council.** Mayor Walker inquired about property frontage; Council Member Jernigan inquired as to whether residents were asked; Council Member Harris confirmed this was a dead-end street.

**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. 2025-2315 on first 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>Ms. Young</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jernigan</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Walker</b>	<b>Aye</b>

## **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. 2025-2345. City Council Ordinance No. 2025-2345 was read by title. Mayor Walker asked if anyone wanted to be heard regarding City Council Ordinance No. 2025-2345. After hearing public comment from Sylvester Warren on City Council Ordinance No. 2025-2345, Mayor Walker closed the public hearing.**

9. City Council Ordinance No. 2025-2345 (final reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving, adopting, and authorizing the execution of an Interlocal Service Boundary Agreement between the City of Lake City, Florida, and the Columbia County, Florida, Board of County Commissioners regarding a

joint planning area and Municipal Service Area to be commonly identified as the Cornerstone Planning Area; providing for recordation; providing for severability; providing for conflicts; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2025-2345 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>

NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions

10. City Council Resolution No. 2025-108 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, adopting that certain update amendment to the procedure for processing public records requests element of the City's Public Record Request Policy; making certain findings of fact in support of the City approving said update; directing the City Manager in cooperation and consultation with the City Clerk to update the City's procedure for processing public records requests element of the City's Public Record Request Policy; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren

Ms. Young stated she would prefer to keep the deposit at 50% for requests over \$1,000 versus 75%.

**Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2025-108. 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. Young</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Mr. Jernigan</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Walker</b>	<b>Aye</b>

11. City Council Resolution No. 2025-161 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the City Manager, after consultation with the City Attorney, to issue trespass warnings and orders related to real property owned or leased by the City; requiring the City Manager to notify the City Council of any such warnings or orders issued by the City Manager; authorizing the City Council to rescind any such warnings or orders issued by the City Manager; making findings of fact in support thereof; directing the City Clerk to reflect said authorization in such records of the City as are necessary and prudent; making certain findings of

fact in support of the City Clerk reflecting such authorization in the records of the City; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren

**Mr. Jernigan made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2025-161. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. 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>

Other Items

12. Discussion and Possible Action - 2025 Employee Holiday Schedule

City Council Resolution No. 2025-171 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending the schedule of paid holidays for the 2025 calendar year; making certain findings of fact in support of the City amending the schedule of paid holidays for the 2025 calendar year; recognizing the authority of the City Council to adopt such amendment; directing the City Manager to give effect to such amendment; establishing all other published paid holidays for the 2025 calendar year shall remain in full force and effect, without change; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.

Human Resources Director BillieJo Bible reported staff was requesting to change the days off from December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> to match the County Offices.

Council Member Harris spoke in support of closing City Offices December 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup> and at a minimum, closing ½ day on Christmas Eve.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren

**Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2025-171. 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>

At the recommendation from Attorney Martin, the remedy for failure to ask for public comment at the approval of consent agenda would be to do a do-over (cure/revote). The old motion would now be void per Attorney Martin.

Mayor Walker opened for public comment on the consent agenda. Hearing none, Mayor Walker closed public comment.

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

13. Appoint Council Member to serve on the Columbia County Tourist Development Council for 2026 (Mayor Noah Walker)

Council Member Carter expressed interest in serving.

Council Member Harris spoke in support of Council Member Jernigan continuing to serve.

Since there was no additional interest, Mayor Walker reported nominations were closed.

Mayor Walker called for a show of hands to reappoint Council Member Jernigan to the TDC Board – Council Member Harris and Council Member Jernigan raised their hands.

Mayor Walker called for a show of hands to appoint Council Member Carter to the TDC Board – Council Member Carter and Mayor Walker raised their hands.

Due to a tie, Mayor Walker called for a show of hands to reappoint Council Member Jernigan to the TDC Board – Council Member Harris, Jernigan, Young, and Mayor Walker raised their hands.

Mayor Walker called for a show of hands to appoint Council Member Carter to the TDC Board – Council Member Carter raised his hand.

Council Member Jernigan was reappointed to the TDC Board 4 to 1.

#### DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

14. Informational purposes only - Gwen Lake Update

Assistant Manager Johnson provided members with an update and reported the next update would be the end of January.

## COMMENTS BY:

City Manager Rosenthal – Manager Rosenthal reported members needed to schedule a meeting with the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners after January to review the City/County Fire Service Consolidation Study.

Mayor Walker reminded members about the upcoming Northeast Florida League of Cities Dinner Meeting being hosted by the City of Lake City at the Towne Place Suites.

City Attorney Clay Martin – None

City Clerk Audrey Sikes – None

## COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Vice Mayor Chevella Young – Council Member Young spoke to the importance of members at the dais holding themselves to a higher standard and apologized to members of the audience.

Council Member Ricky Jernigan – Council Member Jernigan thanked the Lake City Police and Fire Departments for their efforts on the Christmas parade and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year; he concurred with Council Member Young and apologized to the youth in attendance.

Council Member James Carter – Council Member Carter stated he was blessed to serve his position and reported one of his goals was to get the council chambers filled again. He also would like to see the Community Redevelopment Agency Board and Downtown Action Committee going again.

Council Member Tammy Harris – Council Member Harris apologized to the children in attendance and stated the council chambers needed to become a safe place to allow more members of the public to attend meetings.

Council Member Jernigan thanked his wife for attending the meeting.

Mayor Noah Walker – Mayor Walker stated what occurred between meetings that night was unacceptable and that he and the City Attorney would expand the public comment cards; reminded members about the Northeast Florida League of Cities Dinner Meeting Thursday, December 18, 2025 and Shop with a Cop.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Having no further business, Mayor Walker adjourned the meeting at 7:21 PM.**

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Noah Walker, Mayor/Council Member

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Audrey Sikes, City Clerk