

ORDINANCE 2024-2275

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CITY CODE TO ADD NEW SECTION NUMBER 86-2 TO PART III, CHAPTER 86, ARTICLE I; PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF PUBLIC PARKS, PARK HOURS, AND PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS the City of Lake City, a political subdivision of the State of Florida (hereinafter the “City”), operates a number of City Parks for the benefit of the public; and

WHEREAS the City desires to adopt rules and regulations that are applicable and enforceable to various City Parks; and

WHEREAS the City Council finds that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the City to amend the City Code to add new Section Number 86-2 to Part III, Chapter 86, Article I.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and accurate and adopted and incorporated herein.

Section 2. The following Section of Chapter 86, Article I, of the City Code of Ordinances titled “Regulation in Parks: Hours; Penalties”, which creates regulations of public parks, shall be established as follows (words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions):

Sec. 86-2. – Regulation in parks: hours; penalties.

- (a) Purpose. It is the purpose of this section to protect the public health, welfare and safety by regulating the hours of use of and activities in city parks. The City Council finds that these regulations are necessary to protect the safety, integrity and lawful use of city parks so that they can be enjoyed by all citizens, and that these regulations are the minimum necessary to carry out this purpose. These regulations shall be interpreted to carry out this intent.
- (b) Use of park prohibited when closed. No person shall use or enter or be present on any portion of any city park during the hours that the park is closed in accordance with this section, unless they are participating in an activity authorized and supervised by the city.

- (c) Park hours. Halpatter Park, Kiwanis Park, Lake Desoto Park, Lake Isabella Park, Olustee Park, Sallie Mae Jerry Memorial Park, the Veteran's Plaza, Wilson Park, and Young's Park shall be open from 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset. Campbell Park/Lake Montgomery Park shall be open from 7:00 A.M. until 8:00 P.M. during the months of June, July, and August. Campbell Park/Lake Montgomery Park shall be open from 8:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. at all other times not specified herein.
- (d) City manager may set more restrictive closing hours. The city manager may establish in writing closing hours for parks more restrictive than the closing hours provided above for a period of not more than 30 days when necessary to protect the public health, welfare and safety, and based upon the following factors to be taken into consideration when the closing hours are set:
- (1) The amount of daylight at the time of year during which the closing hours will be in effect.
 - (2) The availability of artificial lighting.
 - (3) The ability to provide (and the cost of providing) adequate police protection during the hours the park is open.
 - (4) The occurrence of acts of vandalism or other crimes in the park.
 - (5) The prevention of the deterioration of existing buildings, playground apparatus or other structures or facilities.
 - (6) The prevention of the deterioration of shrubbery, trees and grass.
 - (7) The protection of new plantings of grass, trees or shrubbery.
- (e) Filing memorandum of new hours. The city manager shall file a memorandum with the city clerk and chief of police establishing any new closing hours set by the city manager pursuant to subsection (4).
- (f) City Council may set different opening and closing hours. The City Council by resolution may at any time set different opening and closing hours for any public park.
- (g) Posting of hours. A sign shall be posted at each main authorized entrance to each city park identifying the park and stating the current hours during which the park or area is open and closed. The signs shall also indicate that using the park during closed hours is prohibited.
- (h) Allowance of activities. The city manager may authorize a particular activity to be carried on in a city park during the closed hours set for that park or area, so long as the activity to be carried on does not violate the considerations contained in subsection (d) above and the activity is supervised by at least one city employee. A fee shall be charged for the activity to offset additional costs to the city.
- (i) Penalties. Pursuant to Florida Statute § 162.22, any person who violates this section may be sentenced to pay a fine, not to exceed \$500, and may be

sentenced to a definite term of imprisonment, not to exceed 60 days, in a municipal detention facility or other facility as authorized by law. The failure of the alleged violator to see or understand, or of the City to erect, any signs or other notices provided for in this section shall not be a defense to or in the prosecution of any violation of this section.

Section 3. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are severable.

Section 4. Conflicts. All ordinances, resolutions, official determinations or parts thereof previously adopted or entered by the City or any of its officials and in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent inconsistent herewith.

Section 5. Codification. It is the intention of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, that the provisions of this ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Code of the City of Lake City, Florida, and the sections may be renumbered in order to accomplish such intentions.

[Remainder of this page left blank intentionally.]

Section 6. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED upon first reading this ____ day of _____ 2024.

NOTICE PUBLISHED on the _____ day of _____ 2024.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on the _____ day of _____ 2024.

CITY OF LAKE CITY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Stephen M. Witt, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGALITY:

By: _____
Audrey E. Sikes, City Clerk

By: _____
Thomas J. Kennon, III,
City Attorney