

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Regular Session, on February 1, 2021 beginning at 6:00 P.M., at the Columbia County School Board Administrative Complex Auditorium located at 372 West Duval Street, Lake City, FL 32055, and via Communications Media Technology.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Mayor Stephen Witt

ROLL CALL

Mayor/Council Member  
Vice Mayor/Council Member  
City Council

Stephen M. Witt  
Chris Greene  
Jake Hill, Jr.  
Eugene Jefferson  
C. Todd Sampson  
Frederick Koberlein, Jr.  
Joseph Helfenberger  
Chief Argatha Gilmore  
Audrey Sikes

City Attorney  
City Manager  
Sergeant-at-Arms  
City Clerk

Chief Gilmore provided members with packets to be completed prior to participating in a ride along with the Lake City Police Department.

PROCLAMATIONS

The following people spoke about the importance of Black History Month prior to the presentation of the Proclamation: Michael Coker; Tahleighla Jernigan; Victoria Coker; Bea Coker.

1. Black History Month – Mayor Witt presented the Black History Month Proclamation to Beafaitful Coker and students.

MINUTES - None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Mr. Greene made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.**

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

2. Lake City Police Department is changing from the current COBAN camera system to Motorola/Watchguard camera system as it is best suited for the Department's operational needs. The new camera system includes features that enhance officer safety and accountability. Request is to reclassify funds from one asset to another: account 001.11.521.030.46 "Utility Rocket Annual Maintenance (Support) \$3,000 and

account 001.11.521.060.64 VHF Infrastructure Upgrades \$19,000.00 for a total of \$22,000.00. Reclassification will be to purchase new camera system as per Motorola Quote 1379033 (10 Sierra Wireless Modems - 5 year Essential Elite) at a cost of \$20,914.00. **Mr. Greene made a motion to approve the Lake City Police Department changing from the current COBAN camera system to the Motorola/Watchguard camera system. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.**

PRESENTATIONS - None

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Linard Johnson spoke in favor of a Citizens Review Board.

Sylvester Warren spoke in favor of a Citizens Review Board and stated he was in fear of the officers that he spoke of last meeting, Sergeant Johns and Officer Kosko.

**Mr. Jefferson made a motion to develop an advisory committee and conduct a workshop. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion.**

<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Greene</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Nay</b>

Mr. Hill stated he supports an Advisory Board 100% as it will show transparency.

Mr. Greene stated he would like to hear from the Chief as a stakeholder on this topic.

Chief Gilmore stated a Police Advisory Council has always been one of her initiations and asked to be allowed to implement it.

Mr. Sampson stated this would be a way to share ideas and relationships and initiate change in departments.

Vanessa George spoke in favor of a Citizen Review Board.

Freddie Terral Staten spoke in favor of a civilian panel.

Linda Andrews encouraged the use of more Code Enforcement.

HS Holmgren spoke in opposition of a Citizens Review Board.

Victoria Coker spoke in opposition of a Citizens Review Board.

Glenel Bowden addressed Council and spoke in favor of a Citizens Review Board.

Shalea Jernigan spoke regarding her son, Jai Anthony Holley, being arrested and the public records request regarding the incident.

Stew Lilker spoke in opposition of an Advisory Committee.

OLD BUSINESS  
Ordinances

**At this time Mayor Witt closed the regular session and opened a public hearing for the purpose of hearing comments on City Council Ordinance No. 2020-2167. City Council Ordinance No. 2020-2167 was read by title. Mayor Witt asked if anyone wanted to be heard regarding City Council Ordinance No. 2020-2167. No one asked to be heard therefore Mayor Witt closed the public hearing.**

3. Ordinance No. 2020-2167 (final reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending Ordinance No. 91-688, as amended, relating to an amendment to the text of the City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan, pursuant to Application, CPA 20-06, by the City Council, under the amendment procedures established in sections 163.3161 through 163.3248, Florida Statutes, as amended; providing for amending Policy I.1.2 of the Future Land Use element by changing the floor area ration from less than or equal to 0.50 to less than or equal to 1.0 within the Industrial Land Use classification; repealing all ordinances in conflict; and providing an effective date. Passed on first reading 11/16/2020. **Mr. Greene made a motion to adopt City Ordinance No. 2020-2167, on final reading, amending Ordinance No. 91-688, as amended, relating to an amendment to the text of the City of Lake City Comprehensive Plan, pursuant to Application, CPA 20-06, by the City Council, under the amendment procedures established in sections 163.3161 through 163.3248, Florida Statutes, as amended; providing for amending Policy I.1.2 of the Future Land Use element by changing the floor area ration from less than or equal to 0.50 to less than or equal to 1.0 within the Industrial Land Use classification. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.**

Mr. Greene	Aye
Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

**At this time Mayor Witt closed the regular session and opened a public hearing for the purpose of hearing comments on City Council Ordinance No. 2020-2177 (final). City Council Ordinance No. 2020-2177 was read by title. Mayor Witt asked if anyone wanted to be heard regarding City Council Ordinance No. 2020-2177. Mr. Jefferson spoke in support of this ordinance but declared a possible conflict. Public comment: Shawn Coldrun inquired as to the dollar amount of the lien. Upon completion of the public comments Mayor Witt closed the public hearing for comments on City Council Ordinance No. 2020-2177.**

4. City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2177 (final reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida amending the code of the City of Lake City, Florida to provide for lien amnesty and forgiveness of fines and liens associated with code enforcement proceedings. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to adopt City Ordinance No. 2021-2177, on final reading, amending the code of the City of Lake City, Florida to provide for lien amnesty and forgiveness of fines and liens associated with code**

enforcement proceedings. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.

Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Abstained
Mr. Greene	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

At this time Mayor Witt closed the regular session and opened a public hearing for the purpose of hearing comments on City Council Ordinance No. 2020-2179. City Council Ordinance No. 2020-2179 was read by title. Mayor Witt asked if anyone wanted to be heard regarding City Council Ordinance No. 2020-2167. No one asked to be heard therefore Mayor Witt closed the public hearing.

5. City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2179 (final reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending Section 22-3 of Chapter 22, Article I, of the Code of the City of Lake City, Florida; providing for the explicit adoption of appendices identified in the Florida Building Code: providing for severability; providing for repeal of ordinances in conflict; providing for codification; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Jefferson made a motion to adopt City Council Ordinance No. 2020-2179, on final reading, amending Section 22-3 of Chapter 22, Article I, of the Code of the City of Lake City, Florida; providing for the explicit adoption of appendices identified in the Florida Building Code. Mr. Greene seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.**

Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Greene	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

## NEW BUSINESS

### Ordinances

6. City Council Ordinance No. 2020-2175 - (first reading) An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, to provide for the waiving and suspension of water and sewer impact fees for a period of twelve (12) months as an inducement for economic development; requiring any applicant seeking to take advantage of the development incentive to apply for and acquire a building permit and commence construction of the development prior to the expiration of the development period; providing for severability; providing for conflicts; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Greene made a motion to adopt City Council Ordinance No. 2020-2175, on first reading, to provide for the waiving and suspension of water and sewer impact fees for a period of twelve (12) months as an inducement for economic development; requiring any applicant seeking to take advantage of the development incentive to apply for and acquire a building permit and commence construction of the development prior to the expiration of the development period. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.**

Mr. Greene	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

Resolutions

7. City Council Resolution No. 2021-011 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the Lake City Police Department to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Another Way, Inc., Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center, to coordinate services to victims and survivors of domestic violence. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-011, authorizing the Lake City Police Department to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Another Way, Inc., Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center, to coordinate services to victims and survivors of domestic violence. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.**

Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mr. Greene	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

8. City Council Resolution No. 2021-012 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the Lake City Police Department to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Another Way, Inc., Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center, to coordinate services to adult and adolescent victims and survivors of rape. **Mr. Greene made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-012, authorizing the Lake City Police Department to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Another Way, Inc., Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center, to coordinate services to adult and adolescent victims and survivors of rape. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.**

Mr. Greene	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

9. City Council Resolution No. 2021-016 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, ratifying the Mayor's extension of the State of Emergency arising from the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency. **Mr. Jefferson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-016, ratifying the Mayor's extension of the State of Emergency arising from the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.**

Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mr. Greene	Aye
Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

10. City Council Resolution No. 2021-017 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the donation of real property to the Board of County Commissioners of Columbia County, Florida, in accordance with the terms and conditions of an "Agreement to Donate Land" for the paving projects associated with Cypress Lake Road and Charles Terrace; authorizing the Mayor's execution of instruments conveying the real property; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Greene made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2021-017, authorizing the donation of real property to the Board of County Commissioners of Columbia County, Florida, in accordance with the terms and conditions of an "Agreement to Donate Land" for the paving projects associated with Cypress Lake Road and Charles Terrace, as modified. The amendment relates to verbiage regarding the donation of land without compensation on page 71 of the Interlocal agreement. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called and the motion passed.**

Mr. Greene	Aye
Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

11. City Council Resolution No. 2021-020 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of Task Assignment Number Four to the continuing contract with Jones, Edmunds & Associates, Inc., for professional consulting services related to the preparation of an Emergency Response Plan; and authorizing payment for the consulting services totaling \$45,545.00. **Mr. Greene made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2021-020, authorizing the execution of Task Assignment Number Four to the continuing contract with Jones, Edmunds & Associates, Inc., for professional consulting services related to the preparation of an Emergency Response Plan; and authorizing payment for the consulting services totaling \$45,545.00. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.**

Mr. Greene	Aye
Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

12. City Council Resolution No. 2021-021 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of Task Assignment Number Five to the continuing contract with Jones Edmunds & Associates, Inc., for professional consulting services and the preparation of a Water Main Routing Study to provide recommendations to the City related to providing potable water utility service from the Price Creek Water Treatment Plant to the North Florida Mega Industrial Park; and at a

cost not-to-exceed \$38,900.00. **Mr. Jefferson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-021, authorizing the execution of Task Assignment Number Five to the continuing contract with Jones Edmunds & Associates, Inc., for professional consulting services and the preparation of a Water Main Routing Study to provide recommendations to the City related to providing potable water utility service from the Price Creek Water Treatment Plant to the North Florida Mega Industrial Park; and at a cost not-to-exceed \$38,900.00. Mr. Greene seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.**

<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Greene</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

#### Other Items

13. Discussion and Possible Action: Recommendations from Utility Advisory Committee. The recommendations being declaring the City of Lake City to be the providing utility service for Lake City and the entire County, and working with the County to develop a five year strategic plan for County wide utility services. **After discussion Mr. Sampson made a motion to accept the recommendations from the Utility Advisory Committee as presented, declaring the City of Lake City to be the providing utility service for Lake City and the entire County, and working with the County to develop a five year strategic plan for County wide utility services. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.**

<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Greene</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

Public Comment: Stew Lilker stated he was in opposition to the proclamation and suggested memorializing this with a resolution.

14. Discussion and Possible Action - Utility Advisory Committee Membership. **After discussion Mr. Sampson made a motion to adopt a five member committee consisting of two City Council Members, two Columbia County Board of County Commissioners, and the Mayor as ex-officio. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.**

<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Greene</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**Mr. Hill made a motion to appoint Mr. Greene and Mr. Sampson to serve on the Utility Advisory Committee. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.**

<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Greene</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION – None

Chief Gilmore spoke asking for clarity of Council meeting; items not on the agenda, what is supposed to happen; if not on agenda and it receives a motion; she is confused about order. Mayor deferred to Mr. Koberlein. Mr. Koberlein stated no final action may be taken on an agenda; no final action, function or responsibility were decided; when there is a final action, it must be advertised to the public.

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Hill stated something to think about – pull some info, council received a raise in 2008, stated giving themselves a raise would be something to think about.

Mr. Greene stated concerns about impact of morale of employees; after last few meetings, employees have come under attack. Stated we need to be supportive and offer constructive criticism through city manager and must maintain order in meetings. Both the Mayor and Mr. Jefferson agree with Mr. Greene; should adhere to the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

**All matters having been handled, the meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m. on a motion made and duly seconded.**

Audrey Sikes, MMC City Clerk