

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Special Session, on November 8, 2021 beginning at 6:00 P.M., in the City Council Chambers, located at City Hall 205 North Marion Avenue, Lake City, Florida. Members of the public also viewed the meeting live on our YouTube Channel.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION – Mayor Stephen Witt

ROLL CALL

Mayor/Council Member
City CouncilStephen M. Witt
Jake Hill, Jr.
Eugene Jefferson
C. Todd Sampson
Frederick Koberlein, Jr.
Michael Williams
Assistant Chief Gerald Butler
Audrey SikesCity Attorney
Interim City Manager
Sergeant-at-Arms
City Clerk

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Hill made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

- Mario Coppock spoke in support of Ricky Jernigan.
- Geraldine Ellison spoke in support of Ricky Jernigan.
- Elena Highland spoke in support of Ricky Jernigan.
- Linard Johnson asked members to consider the two candidates that have previously run for the City Council District 14 vacancy.
- Sarah Law spoke in support of Ricky Jernigan.
- Regina Lee spoke in support of Ricky Jernigan.
- Jesseca French spoke in support of Ricky Jernigan.
- Sylvester Warren spoke in support of Ricky Jernigan.
- Susan Adel spoke in support of Befaihtful Coker.
- Kim Estergren spoke in support of Befaihtful Coker.
- Charles Morgan spoke in support of Ricky Jernigan.
- Jessica Hicks spoke in support of Ricky Jernigan.
- Genny Hazelip spoke in support of Ricky Jernigan.
- Steve Smith spoke in support of Stephen Douglas.
- Glenel Bowden spoke in support of Ricky Jernigan.
- Shawn Holmgren spoke in support of Befaihtful Coker.
- Natalie Kato, attorney for Befaihtful Coker spoke on the Writ of Mandamus.

- Befaihtful Coker encouraged members to uphold the decision they made on October 26, 2021.
- Ricky Jernigan asked members to consider him for the City Council District 14 vacancy.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY COUNCIL

1. Discussion and Possible Action - City Council Resolution No. 2021-167 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida appointing Befaihtful Coker as Councilmember of District Fourteen in accordance with the City Charter; and providing an effective date; or
2. Discussion and Possible Action - City Council Resolution No. 2021-168 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida appointing Stephen A. Douglas as Councilmember of District Fourteen in accordance with the City Charter; and providing an effective date; or
3. Discussion and Possible Action - City Council Resolution No. 2021-169 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida appointing Ricky Jernigan as Councilmember of District Fourteen in accordance with the City Charter; and providing an effective date.
4. Swearing in Ceremony for the individual selected to fill the City Council District Fourteen vacancy.

City Attorney Fred Koberlein announced an order had been issued that afternoon, at 5:11 PM, stating the primary judge was recused, and the substituting judge, Judge Darren Jackson had issued an order granting a stay in the proceedings, finding that the petition filed today by Befaihtful Coker was legally sufficient to stay the proceedings in order for the City to show cause within twenty days. Per the court, the City cannot fill the vacant District 14 seat, and must file response to the action within twenty days. He encouraged the Mayor to recess the meeting, instead of adjourning, and come back at a later date on this item.

Mayor Witt recessed the meeting at 6:52 PM.

Stephen M. Witt, Mayor/Council Member

Audrey Sikes, MMC City Clerk