

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Regular Session, on June 20, 2023 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION – Council Member Jake Hill, Jr.

ROLL CALL

Mayor/Council Member
City Council

City Attorney
City Manager
Sergeant-at-Arms
City Clerk

Stephen M. Witt
Jake Hill, Jr.
C. Todd Sampson
Chevella Young
Ricky Jernigan
Todd Kennon
Paul Dyal
Chief Gerald Butler
Audrey Sikes

PROCLAMATIONS – None

MINUTES

1. June 5, 2023 Regular Session

Mr. Jernigan made a motion to approve the June 5, 2023 Regular Session minutes as presented. Mr. Hill seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

- Sylvester Warren

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

2. Approval to award Bid No. ITB-011-2023 Purchase of Ground Power Unit (GPU) to Mark C. Pope Associates, Inc., lowest bidder, for \$49,995.00. Funding sources are \$45,000.00 from the Public Transportation Grant Agreement from Florida Department of

Transportation and the remainder of \$4,995.00 from the Airport's Operating Expense/Operating Supplies Account.

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

PRESENTATIONS – None

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. 2023-2250. City Council Ordinance No. 2023-2250 was read by title. Mayor Witt asked if anyone wanted to be heard regarding City Council Ordinance No. 2023-2250. No one asked to speak on City Council Ordinance No. 2023-2250, therefore Mayor Witt closed the public hearing.

3. City Council Ordinance No. 2023-2250 (final reading) - An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending the City Code to add a new Section Number 86-110.20 to Article III, Chapter 86, which provides for the partial abandonment of a 20.00 foot water and sewer utility easement as a portion of Parcel 1 of Official Records Book 776, Page 1724, of the Public Records of Columbia County, Florida; providing for conflicts; providing for severability; providing for codification; and providing an effective date. (U-Haul)
Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2023-2250 on final reading, amending the City Code to add a new Section Number 86-110.20 to Article III, Chapter 86, which provides for the partial abandonment of a 20.00 foot water and sewer utility easement as a portion of Parcel 1 of Official Records Book 776, Page 1724, of the Public Records of Columbia County, Florida. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Ms. Young	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. 2023-2251. City Council Ordinance No. 2023-2251 was read by title. Mayor Witt asked if anyone wanted to be heard regarding City Council Ordinance No. 2023-2251. No one asked to speak on City Council Ordinance No. 2023-2251, therefore Mayor Witt closed the public hearing.

4. City Council Ordinance No. 2023-2251 (final reading) - An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending the City Code to add a new Section Number 86.110.21 to Article III, Chapter 86, which provides for the permanent closing of all that portion of Waldron street lying wholly in Section 33, Township 3 South, Range 17 East, Columbia County, Florida; providing for conflicts; providing for severability; providing for codification; and providing an effective date. (Tractor Supply) **Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2023-2251 on final reading, amending the City Code to add a new Section Number 86.110.21 to Article III, Chapter 86, which provides for the permanent closing of all that portion of Waldron street lying wholly in Section 33, Township 3 South, Range 17 East, Columbia County, Florida. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Ms. Young	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. 2023-2252. City Council Ordinance No. 2023-2252 was read by title. Mayor Witt asked if anyone wanted to be heard regarding City Council Ordinance No. 2023-2252. No one asked to speak on City Council Ordinance No. 2023-2252, therefore Mayor Witt closed the public hearing.

5. City Council Ordinance No. 2023-2252 (final reading) - An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, revising the boundaries of the four (4) separate Election Districts, consisting of Districts 10, 12, 13, and 14, created by and described in Section 301(C) of Article III of the City Charter, as authorized and required by Section 301(E) of Article III of the City Charter; redefining the boundaries, pursuant to State Law and the Voting Rights Act, of each District 10, 12, 13, and 14 to insure that each separate District has approximately the same number of residents in accordance to 2020 Census Data, by population; providing that the General law of the State of Florida on the subject of Elections shall apply to all City Elections in the absence of conflicts with the City Code and City Charter; providing for the repeal of ordinances in conflict with any of the provisions of this ordinance; providing for severability; providing for codification; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Hill made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2023-2252 on final reading, revising the boundaries of the four (4) separate Election Districts, consisting of Districts 10, 12, 13, and 14, created by and described in Section 301(C) of Article III of the City Charter, as authorized and required by Section 301(E) of Article III of the City Charter; redefining the boundaries, pursuant to State Law and the Voting Rights Act, of each District 10, 12, 13, and 14 to insure that each separate District has approximately the same number of residents in accordance to 2020 Census Data, by population; providing that the General**

law of the State of Florida on the subject of Elections shall apply to all City Elections in the absence of conflicts with the City Code and City Charter, and providing for the repeal of ordinances in conflict with any of the provisions of this ordinance. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Mr. Hill	Aye
Mr. Sampson	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

Resolutions – None

Other Items – None

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinances – None

Resolutions

6. City Council Resolution No. 2023-068 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of Amendment Number One to the contract between the City and Anderson Columbia Co., Inc., for annual asphalt services; providing for additional costs; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2023-068 authorizing the execution of Amendment Number One to the contract between the City and Anderson Columbia Co., Inc., for annual asphalt services, and providing for additional costs. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

7. City Council Resolution No. 2023-069 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending the Grant Agreement between the City of Lake City, Florida, and Annie Mattox Recreation Center, Inc. dated June 21, 2022; providing for conflicts; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Befaihtful Coker; Susan Adel; Ben Douglass; Sylvester Warren

Mr. Sampson expressed concerns with removing background checks from anyone being around children and cited Florida Statute Chapter 435.

Mayor Witt suggested background checks across the board for every park, and any employee that would be around children.

Mr. Hill made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2023-069, amending the Grant Agreement between the City of Lake City, Florida, and Annie Mattox Recreation Center, Inc. dated June 21,2022. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Mr. Hill	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Mr. Sampson	Nay
Ms. Young	Aye
Mayor Witt	Nay

8. City Council Resolution No. 2023-071 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the Lake City Police Department to accept the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$113,942.00; providing for the procurement of equipment for the use and benefit of the Police Department; and providing for an effective date.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren

Chief Butler provided a brief update on the grant and what the funds would be used for.

Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2023-071, authorizing the Lake City Police Department to accept the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$113,942.00, and providing for the procurement of equipment for the use and benefit of the Police Department. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

9. City Council Resolution No. 2023-072 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the acceptance and execution of a Grant Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration; providing for improvements to the South airfield drainage study at the Lake City Gateway Airport; providing for the receipt of up to \$148,500.00 in allowable costs; and providing an effective date.

Airport Manager Ed Bunnell provided a brief update on this grant.

Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2023-072, authorizing the acceptance and execution of a Grant Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration; providing for improvements to the South airfield drainage study at the Lake City Gateway Airport, and providing for the receipt of up to \$148,500.00 in allowable costs. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

10. City Council Resolution No. 2023-073 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of a lease agreement with Jayviation, Inc. for the leasing of a parking lot located at the Lake City Gateway Airport for a month-to-month term. **Mr. Hill made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2023-073, authorizing the execution of a lease agreement with Jayviation, Inc. for the leasing of a parking lot located at the Lake City Gateway Airport for a month-to-month term. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

Mr. Hill	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Mr. Sampson	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

Other Items

11. Discussion and Possible Action: Designation of Florida League of Cities Voting Delegate (Mayor Witt)

The Florida League of Cities' Annual Conference will be held in Orlando, Florida from August 10-12, 2023. It is important for each municipality to designate one official as "voting delegate" to participate in voting for League leadership and adoption of resolutions that determine the direction of the League.

Mr. Sampson made a motion to designate Mr. Hill as the Florida League of Cities Voting Delegate. Ms. Young seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Mr. Sampson	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

12. Discussion and Possible Action: Authorize the City Attorney to obtain an opinion from the Attorney General in regards to the constitutional requirement of clemency in the recent appointment of Sylvester Warren to the Planning & Zoning Board/Board of Adjustments/Historic Preservation Agency. (Council Member Todd Sampson)

Mr. Sampson would like to authorize the City Attorney to obtain an opinion from the Attorney General to insure the City is following the law for the state.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Robinson; Befaihtful Coker; Ben Douglass; Glenel Bowden

Ms. Young spoke in support of obtaining an opinion from the Attorney General.

Mr. Sampson suggested vetting future applicants up front.

Mr. Sampson made a motion to authorize the City Attorney to obtain an opinion from the Attorney General in regards to the constitutional requirement of clemency in the recent appointment of Sylvester Warren to the Planning & Zoning Board/Board of Adjustments/Historic Preservation Agency. Ms. Young seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Mr. Sampson	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

13. Discussion and Possible Action: Interaction between City Clerk and City Attorney; Interaction between City Clerk, City Attorney, and the City Council (Council Member Chevella Young)

Ms. Young expressed concerns with interactions between the City Clerk, City Attorney and City Council in regards to the process of items being placed on the agenda.

Ms. Sikes read from a prepared statement as to the timeline of events and the instruction that her office received from the City Attorney.

Mr. Kennon reported his timeline of events and the conclusion his office came to regarding a clemency issue with an appointment to the Planning and Zoning Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren; Susan Adel; Dennielle Decker; Glenel Bowden; Stew Lilker; Befaihtful Coker

Mayor Witt expressed support for Ms. Sikes and Mr. Kennon.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ben Lofstrom

Mr. Hill addressed scheduling conflicts with the City Attorney.

Mr. Jernigan expressed support for Ms. Sikes, and not Mr. Kennon.

Mr. Hill expressed support for Ms. Sikes.

Mr. Sampson expressed support for Ms. Sikes and requested the City Attorney bills be on every agenda for approval.

Ms. Young and Ms. Sikes mutually agreed to meet and discuss any concerns.

14. Discussion and Possible Action: Attorney Bills (Council Member Chevella Young)

Ms. Young agreed with Mr. Sampson's recommendation of reviewing the attorney bills every month.

Mr. Jernigan suggested reviewing the bills after all actions on topics that are itemized on the bills are completed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren - Mayor Witt accepted Sylvester Warren's resignation of the Planning & Zoning Board, Board of Adjustments, and the Historic Preservation Agency; Glenel Bowden

Ms. Sikes confirmed with Mr. Dyal, placement for the attorney bills would be in the section of other items on the agenda.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

15. Discussion and Possible Action: Consider implementing a 3.5% convenience fee for all payments on Invoice Cloud and over the counter transactions using a credit/debit card (Customer Service Director Katrina Medearis)

Mrs. Medearis reported the City was spending \$77,000.00 in credit card fees and presented members with options on implementing conveniences fees.

Mr. Sampson made a motion to implement a 3.5% convenience fee for credit and debit card transactions at the \$2.50 minimum, and continue to have the e-check and ACH fee be paid by the biller. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Jernigan	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Ms. Young	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL

Mayor Witt inquired as to whether members would want to reschedule the upcoming July 3, 2023 Regular Session meeting due to the July 4th Holiday. Members concurred to meet on July 3, 2023.

Ms. Sikes read from a prepared statement thanking staff and the Council for their support.

Mayor Witt reminded members of the upcoming June 29, 2023 Workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sampson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 P.M. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Stephen M. Witt, Mayor/Council Member

Audrey Sikes, City Clerk