

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Regular Session, on May 20, 2024 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/Mayor Stephen Witt

ROLL CALL

Mayor/Council Member
City Council

Stephen M. Witt
Jake Hill, Jr.
Chevella Young
Ricky Jernigan
James Carter
Clay Martin
Dee Johnson – Absent
Chief Gerald Butler
Audrey Sikes

City Attorney
Interim City Manager
Sergeant-at-Arms
City Clerk

PROCLAMATIONS – None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

- Christina Stokes
- Ahaua Shoma Judah
- John Cole
- Creation Divine
- Carol O’Driscoll
- John Price
- Noah Walker

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval to re-allocate funds budgeted this fiscal year to purchase a used vac-con truck in the amount of \$378,000.00 and instead use part of the funds to purchase a bucket truck in the amount of \$225,577.09 from Nextran Truck Center for the Public Works Department.
2. City Council Resolution No. 2024-038 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving those certain applications for grant funding; making certain

findings of fact in support of the City approving said applications; providing for the implementation of the applications; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.

3. City Council Resolution No. 2024-040 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending that certain Grant Agreement Number WGO44 between the City and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection; making certain findings of fact in support of the City amending said Grant 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.
4. City Council Resolution No. 2024-041 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing Task Assignment Number Twelve pursuant to the continuing contract with Mittauer & Associates, Inc., a Florida Corporation; providing for professional construction, engineering, and inspection services to evaluate the aeration system failure of the Saint Margarets sludge digester and causes thereof; providing for a proposed cost of \$5,000.00; making certain findings of fact in support of the City approving said Task Assignment; recognizing the authority of the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said Task Assignment; authorizing the City Manager with the consent of the City Attorney to make minor changes to the scope of work of the Task Assignment provided such changes do not increase the quoted price in the Task Assignment; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date.
5. City Council Resolution No. 2024-042 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving that certain stipulation for substitution of counsel in that legal action styled John Myers Amusements, LLC, versus the City of Lake City, Florida, et al (Case No. 23-521-CA, Third Judicial Circuit, Columbia County, Florida); making certain findings of fact in support of the City approving said stipulation; recognizing the authority of the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said stipulation; directing the Mayor to execute and bind the City to said stipulation; 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 and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

PRESENTATIONS

6. Northeast Florida League of Cities donation of \$500.00 to North Florida Center of Excellence, Inc. (Council Member Jake Hill, Jr.)

Mr. Hill presented the Northeast Florida League of Cities \$500.00 donation to North Florida Center of Excellence, Inc.

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. 2024-2271. City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2271 was read by title. Mayor Witt asked if anyone wanted to be heard regarding City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2271. After hearing public comment from Glenel Bowden on City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2271, Mayor Witt closed the public hearing.

7. City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2271 - (final reading) An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, relating to compensation of the Mayor and members of the City Council; amending Article II Section 2-53 of the City Code of Ordinances; providing definitions; providing for compensation amounts; providing for procedures to adjust compensation amounts; providing direction for codification of this ordinance; repealing all ordinances in conflict; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

Mr. Hill spoke in opposition of the proposed ordinance.

Ms. Young spoke in opposition of the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Carter spoke in support of the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Jernigan spoke in opposition of the proposed ordinance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Erica Mayo

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2271 on final reading. Mayor Witt seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion failed.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinances

Open Quasi – Judicial Proceeding

At this time City 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. 2024-2284 - (first reading) An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, pursuant to petition No. ANX 24-03, relating to voluntary annexation; making findings; annexing certain real property located in Columbia County, Florida, which is reasonably compact, and contiguous to the boundaries of the City of Lake City, Florida, into the boundaries of the City of Lake City, Florida; providing severability; repealing all ordinances in conflict; and providing an effective date. (JCP-VYP, LLC)

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

Mr. Martin asked members individually if there had been any ex-parte communication, including site visits.

Ms. Young	No
Mr. Carter	No
Mayor Witt	No
Mr. Jernigan	No

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

Mr. Martin swore in Growth Management Director Dave Young.

Clerk should take custody of exhibits.

Mr. Young submitted Exhibit 1 via electronic copy (attached to minutes).

A. Brief introduction of ordinance by city staff.

B. Presentation of application by applicant.

C. Presentation of evidence by city staff.

D. Presentation of case by third party intervenors, if any.

E. Public comments.

F. Cross examination of parties by party participants.

G. Questions of parties by City Council.

H. Closing comments by parties.

I. Instruction on law by attorney.

J. Discussion and action by City Council.

Close Quasi-Judicial Hearing

Mr. Carter made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2284 on final reading. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

At this time, members adjourned for a recess from 6:57 PM until 7:11 PM.

Resolutions

9. City Council Resolution No. 2024-039 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving that certain agreement between the City and Donnie L. Rosenthal for City Manager Services; making certain findings of fact in support of the City approving said 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.

Mr. Martin highlighted changes made to the employment agreement distributed to members and the public for review.

Members concurred to revise the agreement so City equipment would be returned instead of Mr. Rosenthal keeping the equipment at the end of his tenure.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Glenel Bowden

Mr. Hill made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2024-039 with the one change, relating to City equipment, and subject to clearance of all requirements of law for the City's offer of employment. Mr. Carter seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion a carried.

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

10. City Council Resolution No. 2024-044 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida recognizing a need for the restoration and preservation of the City of Lake

City City Hall in the City of Lake City, Florida; recognizing a need for financial assistance through grant funding to complete the restoration and preservation of the City of Lake City City Hall; authorizing the City to apply for that certain State of Florida Department of State Historic Preservation Grant for grant funding in the amount of one million dollars in furtherance of restoration and preservation of the City of Lake City City Hall; recognizing said grant requires a twenty-five percent match from the City; directing the City's Finance Department to earmark and set aside funds in the amount of two hundred fifty thousand dollars as the City's required matching funds in the event the City is awarded said grant; making certain findings of fact in support of the City applying for said grant; recognizing the authority of the Mayor to execute such documents as are necessary to apply for said grant; directing the Mayor to execute said documents; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing and effective date.

Grant Program Specialist Dakota Braun presented the grant to members and reported the ARPA Funds would be a place holder until funds could be budgeted next year.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Glenel Bowden

Mr. Jernigan made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2024-044. Mr. Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

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

Other Items

- 11. Discussion and Possible Action: ARPA Funds (Council Member Jake Hill, Jr.)

Mr. Hill reported he would like to utilize ARPA Funds to get started on the Gwen Lake Project. These funds would supplement the \$400,000.00 already set aside.

Executive Director of Utilities Steve Brown provided a project summary.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Glenel Bowden

Members concurred for staff to obtain project costs and bring back at the next meeting.

- 12. Informational Purposes Only - March 2024 Invoice for Robinson, Kennon, & Kendron, P.A.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION – None

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Witt asked Mr. Martin for an update on the parking lot at Sally Mae Jerry Park.

Mr. Martin reported the case was dismissed due to deficiencies in filing for eminent domain, but that Bruce Humphries was in the process of drafting an engagement letter.

Ms. Young asked members to consider sponsoring organized summer camps.

Mr. Carter reported touring the Natural Gas Department and wanted to recognize City Staff: Executive Director of Utilities, Steve Brown, Jerome Carter, Mike Deloach, DJ Fridley, Diana Hunt, Chris Jackson, Daniel Jacobs, Darius Kimble, Jaquez Redic, Ronnie Little, Keith Richardson, Mike Scippio, Joe Sheldon, and Darrell Singleton.

Mr. Hill expressed concerns with City Attorney Clay Martin.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:15 PM and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Stephen M. Witt, Mayor/Council Member

Audrey Sikes, City Clerk