

**LAKE CITY, CITY COUNCIL
COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JOINT CITY/COUNTY MEETING
February 25, 2009 6:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

There was a Joint City/County Meeting of the Lake City, City Council and the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners, held on February 25, 2009, in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, located at 205 North Marion Avenue, Lake City, Florida, beginning at 6:00 P.M.

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER-MAYOR WITT**
Mayor Witt called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Commissioner Bailey called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M on behalf of the County.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **INVOCATION-MAYOR WITT**

4. **ROLL CALL**
City Clerk Audrey Sikes called roll for City members. Sandy Markham called the roll for County members.

City Members

Mayor/Councilman	Stephen M. Witt
Vice Mayor	George R. Ward
City Council	Eugene Jefferson
	Jake Hill, Jr.
	Melinda Moses
City Attorney	Blair Payne
Sergeant-at-Arms	Interim Chief Gary Laxton
Interim City Manager	Dave Clanton
City Clerk	Audrey E. Sikes

County Members

Board Chairman	Stephen Bailey
County Commissioners	Jody Dupree
	Scarlet Friscina
	Dewey Weaver – absent
	Ron Williams
County Attorney	Marlin Feagle
County Manager	Dale Williams
Assistant County Manager	Lisa Roberts
County Clerk	Sandy Markham

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Members concurred by general consent to approve the agenda.

6. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES (CHAIRMAN STEPHEN BAILEY)

Mr. Dale Williams expressed concerns about the Springs Bill (no concerns about protecting the water supply). Mr. Williams also stated he is unsure how the referendums on the ballot in 2010 will affect the City and the County. These referendums could further reduce property tax revenues. Mr. Williams discussed increased costs for Medicare being passed onto Counties. Mr. Williams discussed provisions on State Stimulus Funds. Mr. Ron Williams stated the two (2) main contributing factors for nitrates in the springs come from rainfall and farming.

7. BUDGETS (CHAIRMAN STEPHEN BAILEY)

Mr. Dale Williams provided members with a copy of the budget summary. Mr. Williams stated a copy of the full County budget could be obtained online or by hard copy if requested. Mr. Williams reported three (3) major revenue reductions from the state and stated an additional estimation will be conducted in April. Mr. Williams discussed exposures to the County budget and reported an expectation of 2-3 Million dollars in lost revenues for the next year. Mr. Williams discussed the Ellisville Utility, Completion of the Bascom Norris Connector Road Project and Legislative Issues. Mr. Williams stated the County will be conducting an energy review of all processes, internal study on merging fire and EMS, situational budgets, placing third party County fund recipients on notice, exploring Interlocal Agreement opportunities, and looking within other constitutional offices for areas to possible continue services. Mr. Williams believes the City and County should consider the consolidation/combination of certain services if they are services that can be combined. Mr. Williams expressed concerns with the City or the County suddenly deciding the same level of services and/or programs cannot be provided.

Mayor Witt asked for an update from City Finance Director Dorothy Tyre regarding revenues. Ms. Tyre reported there will be a \$146,000 shortfall in State Revenue Sharing. Mr. Ward stated he anticipates the next two (2) years will be financially worse for the City.

Mr. Clanton provided updates on the new Kicklighter Road Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Mr. Bailey proposed May and August as the months to hold the next Joint City/County meetings. All members concurred.

Mr. Ron Williams asked Ms. Tyre about a \$1.3 to \$1.7 shortfall in the budget. Ms. Tyre reported the City's shortfall for next fiscal year has not been evaluated yet. Mr. Dupree asked Ms. Tyre about core services and whether or not there would be any changes. Ms. Tyre stated the City is not that far in the process yet.

Mr. Dupree expressed concerns with the changes in the Florida Department of Corrections and the time of sentences for incarcerated persons.

8. UPDATE ON 911 CENTER INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT (MAYOR WITT)

Mr. Dale Williams reported the pension plans are an issue in the draft Interlocal Agreement provided by the City. Mr. Ron Williams stated he will not support the agreement as it is written due to the pension. Mr. Williams feels the City should continue to cover the pension of those employees. Mayor Witt reported staff will review. Mayor Witt asked City Council members to get with Mr. Clanton with their recommendation. Mr. Clanton and Ms. Tyre are to compile information and refer to the Budget and Finance Committee and to the Public Safety Committee.

9. OTHER ITEMS OF INTERST (MAYOR WITT)

Mr. Dale Williams discussed the Ellisville Utility and reported he would like for the City and County to work together to qualify Ellisville for grant funds. The next Utility Meeting will be held on March 10, 2009.

Mr. Bailey inquired about the Old Golden Age Center building located behind the Department of Transportation and asked if the space is available for use by the Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force. Sheriff Hunter stated this would be a very good location for the Task Force. The City reported there are roof and structural issues with the building. City staff are to evaluate the facility and report back to the county.

Mr. Bailey discussed parking for the Columbia County Courthouse and Annex Building. Mr. Bailey inquired about the Parking Enforcement Officer and stated there is no available parking for citizens. Mr. Ron Williams stated the Farmers Market held in the parking lot needs to be moved. Interim Police Chief Gary Laxton reported funds are available in the budget and he will advertise for a full-time Parking Enforcement Officer position.

Mr. Ron Williams discussed the cancellation of middle school sports by the School Board and is unsure of the affect it will have on the City and County recreational departments. Mr. Williams reported the County does not have any additional money available to provide to the City for recreational purposes. Mr. Williams suggested submitting a letter to the Columbia County School Board from the City and the County inquiring as to the intent of athletic programs at the middle school, whether or not these programs would be continued. Ms. Moses stated it was her understanding that all travel was eliminated and not the programs. **Members concur by general consent for Ms. Moses to write a letter on behalf of both governing bodies to gain knowledge on the intent of the School Board regarding middle school recreational programs. Mr. Clanton will have staff prepare the letter on behalf of Ms. Moses.**

Mr. Ron Williams stated the City and County still need to discuss EMS.

Ms. Friscina discussed the upcoming meeting dates and would like to see the time moved on the November meeting to 7:00 PM. Members concurred to meet the third (3rd) Tuesday of the quarter. The meetings are as follows:

May 19, 2009	6:00 PM
August 18, 2009	6:00 PM
November 18, 2009	7:00 PM

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stew Lilker, 247 SW Lander Court, Fort White, Florida. Mr. Lilker discussed several topics:

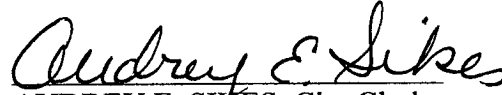
- A. City Clerks Office scanning of documents, very efficient.
- B. EMS and the subsidation for City/County.
- C. Old City Hall Building – is the offer still available for the County to utilize for offices.
- D. Ellisville – inquired about change orders to the project to date.
- E. Budget – asked about budget reductions

James Montgomery, 229 SE Old Mase Glen, Lake City, Florida Mr. Montgomery discussed the following:

- A. Commended staff for set-up of room. Stated great meeting and encouraged to continue meeting in this manner.
- B. Fiscal Shortfall – stated this is a great opportunity to consider consolidation.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the Joint City/County meeting adjourned on a motion duly made and seconded.


AUDREY E. SIKES, City Clerk