

**LAKE CITY, CITY COUNCIL
COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JOINT CITY/COUNTY MEETING
August 18, 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 August 18, 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	Herbert F. Darby
Sergeant-at-Arms	Captain Rudolph Davis
City Manager	Wendell Johnson
City Clerk	Audrey E. Sikes

County Members

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

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Witt declared the agenda approved as presented. Members concurred by general consent. At this time Mayor Witt introduced the new City Manager Wendell Johnson.

6. UPDATE ON 911 COMBINED DISPATCH (COUNTY MANAGER DALE WILLIAMS)

Mr. Dale Williams introduced Doug Brown the 911 Center Director and reported there is a committee meeting held once a week at the Emergency Operations Center with Sheriff Mark Hunter as the Chair. Mr. Williams reported the Interlocal Agreement has been approved and implementation has begun. Mr. Williams reported the County Human Resource Director has been meeting with the current City dispatchers in preparation for the October 1 conversion. Mr. Williams stated the current City employees will be left in the Public Safety Building until the new facility is ready. Mr. Williams reported Mr. Brown is working through some tower issues. Mr. Williams stated the County has selected an engineer for the building project and provided a brief overview of the scope of work. Mr. Williams reported the conversion to the Smart Cop Program is underway. Mr. Johnson inquired about the current leave entitlements of the City employees that will be becoming County employees. Mr. Johnson requested for their leave to be carried over with the City paying the County for the accrued leave. Mr. Ron Williams stated this should be an option for those employees.

7. COLUMBIA COUNTY UTILITY COMMITTEE (COUNTY MANAGER DALE WILLIAMS)

Mr. Dale Williams reported he met today with Commissioners Friscina, Bailey and Dupree to discuss where the County is at with the Ellisville Water/Sewer Project. Mr. Williams reported the County has been notified of \$1.9 Million in stimulus (ARIA) funds to be used to help build the utility. These funds are a loan and must be repaid. Mr. Williams stated it is the intent of the County to build a water line approximately 2.6 miles with no plans for looping at this time. Mr. Williams stated he will meet with Mr. Dave Clanton and Henry Sheldon prior to the next meeting. Mr. Williams stated the County does not plan on owning the utility and stated the City will be given the opportunity to provide Operation and Maintenance on the system. Mr. Williams stated the County will be negotiating the purchase of a small sewage package plant if approved by the Board. Mr. Williams discussed options available for extending the distribution and collection for sewer lines.

8. UPDATE ON NORTH FLORIDA BROADBAND AUTHORITY GRANT APPLICATION (CITY MANAGER WENDELL JOHNSON)

Mr. Johnson reported this is a new initiative between fourteen (14) counties in the region. Mr. Johnson reported the application deadline has been extended until August 30, 2009. Mr. Johnson stated \$32 Million is being requested. The award announcements will be made on November 7, 2009. Todd Manning is the representative for the County and Mr. Johnson is the representative for the City of Lake City.

9. OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST (MAYOR WITT)

Mr. Ron Williams asked about issues discussed during the last Joint City/County Meeting. Mayor Witt stated the City and Mr. Johnson is aware of the issues to be addressed. Mayor Witt stated Mr. Johnson has only been with the City for six (6) weeks but these issues will be discussed soon.

Mr. Dupree reported the County has prepared an Ordinance for a Regional Utility and inquired if the City would be interested in revisiting this concept. Mayor Witt stated the City would like to see a proposal. Mr. Dale Williams reported the proposal prepared by Bryant Armstrong was

sent over in 2006. Mr. Dale Williams reported at that time the City was not interested in a GUA. Mr. Ward stated the City is not opposed to a GUA and at the time the concept discussed was a partnership with the City and County.

Mr. Weaver reported the County needs utilities to achieve the twenty (20) year plan of the County. Members concurred to take the concept back to the respective Utility Boards for discussion. Mr. Dale Williams discussed the marketing plan and the visioning plan for the twenty (20) Year Plan. Mr. Williams stated the County needs to come up with a reasonable plan for the utility to move our community forward.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

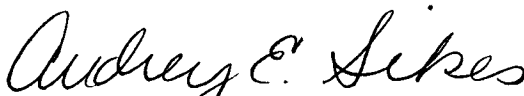
- A. Gallons of sewer capacity needed by the County.
- B. Welcomed the new City Manager Wendell Johnson and provided positive comments regarding Mr. Johnson, Ms. Sikes, and Mr. Ward.
- C. City and County budget processes. Mr. Lilker suggested for the City to put the annual salary by the positions identified in the budget.
- D. EMS funding. Mr. Lilker respectfully asked the City and County to sit down and discuss.
- E. Discussed the County moving out of the downtown area.
- F. Discussed subsidized fire services/protection.

Mr. Weaver inquired if the City ever obtained a legal opinion regarding the EMS payment. Mr. Darby reported the City did not get a legal opinion.

Mr. Ward reported a meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 1, 2009 at 2:00 PM to discuss the purchase of the Blanche Hotel.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the Joint City/County meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M.


AUDREY E. SIKES, City Clerk