

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Regular Session, on January 19, 2021 beginning at 6:00 P.M., at the Columbia County School Board Administrative Complex Auditorium located at 372 West Duval Street, Lake City, FL 32055, and, via Communications Media Technology.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Council Member Todd Sampson

ROLL CALL

Mayor/Council Member
Vice Mayor/Council Member
City Council

City Attorney
City Manager
Sergeant-at-Arms
City Clerk

Stephen M. Witt
Chris Greene
Jake Hill, Jr.
Eugene Jefferson
C. Todd Sampson
Frederick Koberlein, Sr.
Joseph Helfenberger
Chief Argatha Gilmore - Zoom
Audrey Sikes

PROCLAMATIONS - None

MINUTES - None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Greene made a motion to move item #3 (City Council Resolution No. 2021-005), to the top of New Business. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – None

PRESENTATIONS – None

1. City Council Resolution No. 2021-005 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of the First Amendment to the current Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Florida State Fraternal Order of Police, Inc., providing for a pay plan that affords automatic increases in pay to represented law enforcement officers. **Mr. Greene made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-005, authorizing the execution of the First Amendment to the current Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Florida State Fraternal Order of Police, Inc., providing for a pay plan that affords automatic increases in pay to represented law enforcement officers. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.**

Mr. Greene	Aye
Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Suzie Hall – 574 NW Harris Loop Dr, Lake City, with Happy House; would like to utilize Girls Club Buildings, and encouraged members to consider Happy House.

Ron Williams II – 352 NW Bellman Way, Lake City, discussed for profit organizations and the need for competitive bidding. He expressed an ethics concern with a council members wife serving on the Board of the George Warren Foundation. Mr. Williams discussed the filing of an official ethics complaint.

Members of the Our Community Cares Coalition asked for Council consideration of use of the Girls Club Buildings for their services.

Victoria Coker and Tara Williams – spoke on Ambassador Leadership Council.

Blondell Johnson – Executive Director Good Sheppard provided an overview of their purpose.

Beverly Jones – spoke on the 4H club and expressed the need for a place to develop mentorship.

Bea Coker – spoke on the concept to increasing public access to services and to focus on common goals, while providing a service for an underserved population.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinances

- City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2177 (first reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending the code of the City of Lake City, Florida to provide for lien amnesty and forgiveness of fines and liens associated with code enforcement proceedings. Public Comment: Stew Lilker addressed members and encouraged them to modify Page 7 (h) to reflect necessary changes to the effective date. **Mr. Greene made a motion adopt City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2177, on first reading, amending the code to provide for lien amnesty and forgiveness of fines and liens associated with code enforcement proceedings as amended. The motion amends the verbiage to reflect date rendered on page 7, section (h). Mr. Sampson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.**

Mr. Greene	Aye
Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

3. City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2179 (first reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending Section 22-3 of Chapter 22, Article I, of the Code of the City of Lake City, Florida; providing for the explicit adoption of appendices identified in the Florida Building Code; providing for severability; providing for repeal of ordinances in conflict; providing for codification; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to adopt City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2179, on first reading, amending Section 22-3 of Chapter 22, Article I, of the Code of the City of Lake City, Florida; providing for the explicit adoption of appendices identified in the Florida Building Code. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.**

Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mr. Greene	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

Resolutions

4. Resolution No. 2021-007 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida authorizing the execution of an agreement with Audrey E. Sikes, City Clerk, in accordance with Section 306, of the City Charter to establish the employment conditions, compensation, benefits, and such other terms as are appropriate with the City Clerk position, and providing an effective date. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-007, authorizing the execution of an agreement with Audrey E. Sikes, City Clerk, in accordance with Section 306, of the City Charter to establish the employment conditions, compensation, benefits, and such other terms as are appropriate with the City Clerk position. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.**

Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mr. Greene	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

5. City Council Resolution No. 2021-010 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, ratifying the Mayor's extension of the State of Emergency arising from the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency. **Mr. Greene made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-010, ratifying the Mayor's extension of the State of Emergency arising from the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.**

Mr. Greene	Aye
Mr. Jefferson	Aye
Mr. Hill	Aye
Mr. Sampson	Aye
Mayor Witt	Aye

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

6. Discussion and Possible Action - Basketball Courts Improvements - Summerset cul-de-sac. (Joe Helfenberger) Mr. Helfenberger stated currently 1 ½ of the courts are in poor condition. He proposed using \$105,000 left in the road fund, Summerset cul-de-sac funds \$45,000 and the Target \$10,000 grant, to make two full basketball courts. Mr. Helfenberger recommends reallocating the funds to refurbish the basketball courts as presented. **Mr. Greene made a motion to accept Mr. Helfenberger's recommendations of reallocating funds for refurbishing the basketball courts. The funding sources identified are road fund \$105,000, Summerset Cul-de-sac \$45,000 and Target \$10,000. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.**

Public Comment: Sylvester Warren spoke about funding for Sallie Mae Jerry Park improvements.

Mr. Greene stated he is committed to Sallie Mae Jerry Park and is in full support of improvements to the park. He reported council is waiting on a drawing from Mr. Helfenberger.

Mr. Helfenberger stated the plans are complete for Sallie Mae Jerry Park and the City is looking to go forward. A meeting is needed to discuss Community Redevelopment Agency funding.

Public Comment: Mr. Warren stated the community has met regarding the four different plans for Sallie Mae Jerry Park. He stated he has filed formal grievances on Officer Kosko and Officer Johns. Mr. Warren appealed to the members to create a citizen review board for the Police Department. Mr. Warren feels he needs a protection order.

Mr. Hill spoke about officers patrolling near his home. He shared a situation in which he was pulled over and given a ticket due to the officer not being able to see his license plate. Mr. Hill discussed the Girls Club and expressed concern with the hiring practice of the airport manager position.

Public Comment: Vanessa George addressed members about police patrolling north of town and feels she needs a protection order from Officer Kosko.

Chief Gilmore reminded there is a process when there is a complaint and briefly spoke on that process. She asked members to direct citizens to use the formal complaint process and referenced the Officer's Bill of Rights.

Mr. Sampson suggested to hold a workshop to explore the citizen review board concept. Mr. Hill concurred. The Mayor stated a workshop will be scheduled.

7. Cares Act Funding Update (Joe Helfenberger).
Mr. Helfenberger reported the County has less funding and the City is probably going to receive a prorated percentage.

8. Girls Club Building Leases Update (Joe Helfenberger).
Mr. Helfenberger reported he has more research to perform and once that is complete he can bring this item back to City Council.

Public Comment: Lavelle George & Jo-Ann George stated it was their understanding the Girls Club property was to come back with terms of lease, and verbiage regarding the appliances. Ms. George reminded the lease would be under the George Warren Foundation.

Mr. Koberlein stated he does not know what property is going to be leased. He indicated if the entity is for profit the lease would need to reflect fair market value.

Mr. Sampson stated the city does not have the liberty to rent to a for profit entity. He stated for profit entities require a different process and fair market value would be expressly considered in the lease.

Mr. Jefferson stated at the last meeting he was under the impression we were speaking with Lollipop and the lease would be for Lollipop. He clarified the request is not for Lollipop but for the George Warren Foundation with Lollipop occupying the facilities.

Public Comment: Mr. Warren stated nothing will be for profit and nothing will run through Lollipop. He stated everything will go through the George Warren Foundation.

Public Comment: Audre Washington addressed the members regarding the miscommunication on this issue. She encouraged members to consider nonprofit organizations for disposal of available surplus properties.

Chief Gilmore encouraged members to pursue a ride along with an officer prior to the workshop to consider the feasibility of a citizen review board. Mr. Hill declined a ride along. Mayor Witt, Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Sampson and Mr. Greene will schedule a ride along.

Mr. Greene discussed the needs for a new City Hall and stated he would like for the city to determine what the needs are before making any plans regarding the Girls Club facilities.

ADJOURNMENT

All matters having been handled, the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m. on a motion made and duly seconded.

Audrey Sikes, MMC City Clerk