

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Regular Session, on June 21, 2021 beginning at 6:00 P.M., in the City Council Chambers, located at City Hall 205 North Marion Avenue, Lake City, Florida. The meeting was also held via Communications Media Technology.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION – Council Member Jake Hill, Jr.

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, Jr.
Joseph Helfenberger
Chief Argatha Gilmore
Audrey Sikes

PROCLAMATIONS – None

MINUTES

1. Regular Session June 7, 2021

Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve the June 7, 2021 Regular Session minutes as presented. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended to include the emergency item of discussion and possible action, evaluation of City Manager performance. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

2. Permit application from the Lake City-Columbia County Chamber of Commerce to hold the 4th of July Fireworks Celebration on Saturday, July 3, 2021, from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. All supporting documents including certificate of insurance have been provided.

Mr. Jefferson made a motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of item #2 identified above. Mr. Hill seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Sylvester Warren addressed Council and spoke in support of Ami Fields. Spoke in support of a new City Manager.

Beafaitful Coker addressed Council on Section 303 of the Charter which speaks on the Interference of Administration by Council.

Glennel Bowden addressed Council and spoke in support of a new City Manager.

Julia Mae Page addressed Council and spoke in support of the City Manager.

Vanessa George addressed Council and expressed concern with the City Manager blocking calls.

Shawn Holgram addressed Council and spoke in support of City Manager Joe Helfenberger.

Ami Fields addressed Council and requested for them to encourage City Manager Helfenberger to reinstate her employment. She also asked for a copy of her statement to be in placed in her HR file.

EMERGENCY ITEM: Evaluation of the City Manager

Mr. Sampson read from prepared comments and spoke on what he felt was ineffective management provided by Mr. Helfenberger during his tenure at the City.

Mr. Helfenberger provided rebuttal comments on topics Mr. Sampson covered.

Mr. Jefferson stated he looks to the City Manager for leadership and managing internal controls for the City and this has not been accomplished to his satisfaction.

Mayor Witt stated he preferred to have assurances from Mr. Helfenberger that he will move forward, perform evaluations, have a plan and proceed the right way.

Mr. Sampson made a motion to remove Mr. Helfenberger immediately and place him on a 45 (forty-five) day suspension as called for in the City Charter. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.

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

Mr. Sampson made a motion to install Ami Fields as Interim City Manager with the Range Riders as backup, and to immediately open up a full search for a future City Manager. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.

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

Mr. Sampson suggested an expanded meeting schedule in August meeting weekly.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinances – None

Resolutions

- City Council Resolution No. 2021-079 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, accepting a bid from Slack Construction, Inc., related to the purchase and installation of a prefabricated metal building on an existing concrete foundation; providing for a contract price not to exceed \$84,173.00; providing for the execution of the contract; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Jefferson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-079, accepting a bid from Slack Construction, Inc., related to the purchase and installation of a prefabricated metal building on an existing concrete foundation; providing for a contract price not to exceed \$84,173.00, and providing for the execution of the contract. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinances – None

Resolutions

- City Council Resolution No. 2021-089 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of Task Assignment Number Seven to the Continuing Contract with Jones Edmunds & Associates, Inc., for professional consulting services that amends the scope of work related to the construction of modifications to the reclaimed water production facilities at the Sister's Welcome Road Wastewater Facility; providing for a not-to-exceed contract price of \$59,878.00; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-089, authorizing the execution of Task Assignment Number Seven to the Continuing Contract with Jones Edmunds & Associates, Inc., for professional consulting services that amends the**

scope of work related to the construction of modifications to the reclaimed water production facilities at the Sister's Welcome Road Wastewater Facility, and providing for a not-to-exceed contract price of \$59,878.00. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

5. City Council Resolution No. 2021-091 - 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-10 Public Health Emergency. **Mr. Jefferson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-091, ratifying the Mayor's extension of the State of Emergency arising from the COVID-10 Public Health Emergency. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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

6. City Council Resolution No. 2021-095 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute for Justice Research and Development at Florida State University and Meridian Behavioral Health to research methods to reduce repeated interaction between law enforcement and individuals who have severe mental health and substance abuse disorders, and to identify ways to optimize the use of crisis stabilization units and post-discharge supports. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to adopt City Council Resolution No. 2021-095, authorizing the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute for Justice Research and Development at Florida State University and Meridian Behavioral Health to research methods to reduce repeated interaction between law enforcement and individuals who have severe mental health and substance abuse disorders, and to identify ways to optimize the use of crisis stabilization units and post-discharge supports. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

7. Discussion and Possible Action - Amending the Code of Ordinances and the Land Development Regulations for the allowance of chickens within the City limits. (Dave Young, Growth Management Director)

Mr. Young discussed the draft he prepared concerning the amendment of Code Ordinances.

Public Comment: Bettye Jefferson spoke in opposition of amending the Code.

Public Comment: Glennel Bowden expressed concerns with the fencing that would be required and the lack of support from residents wanting chickens in the City limits.

At this time no motions were made to move forward with amending the code to allow for chickens in the City limits.

8. Discussion and Possible Action - Vending Machines and Automated Teller Machines on City owned properties (Dave Young, Growth Management Director)

Mr. Young suggested to put out for bid through the Procurement Process.

Mr. Hill expressed liability concerns.

Mr. Sampson suggested taking bids from private individuals and banks on possibly leasing space for atm machines downtown and the airport.

Mr. Jefferson expressed concern with placement and does not want vending machines or ATM's placed on the streets. He also shared ADA compliance concerns.

Members concurred to place this out to bid if properties are identified that need it.

9. Discussion and Possible Action - Volunteers of America request for the City to donate property for the construction of affordable housing project. (Dave Young, Growth Management Director)

Mr. Young discussed project and the property with Council. Members did not feel this was an appropriate use for this property.

Public Comment: Crystal Constance addressed Council on upcoming jobs that will be available for the low to moderate income residents. She would like to coordinate training opportunities to get persons prepared for these positions.

PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Zach Chalifour, CPA, James Moore & Company, Annual Audit for the Year Ended September 30, 2020

10. PowerPoint Presentation

11. Financial Statements

Mr. Chalifour reviewed the annual audit with the members. Mr. Chalifour reported the city received an unmodified opinion, the best opinion that can be issued.

Mr. Hill made a motion to approve the audit for Year Ended September 30, 2020 as published. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Koberlein provided an overview of the procedural timeline and asked Council to decide on the effective start date for Amy Fields as interim City Manager, the starting salary, and limitations on expenditures. He advised to enter into an interim agreement.

Council deliberated on a starting salary, start date, and meeting more often to offer guidance to Mrs. Fields. Members concurred for procurement to remain status quo with no limitations.

Mr. Sampson made a motion for Amy Fields to start as Interim City Manager, Tuesday, June 22, 2021, at 7:30 AM at a starting salary of \$120,000.00 with status quo procurement limitations. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

Public Comment: Glennel Bowden suggested for Directors to attend Council meetings.

Finance Director Donna Duncan addressed Council and asked if Mrs. Fields would be able to sign checks as Interim Director. Mr. Koberlein stated a resolution is needed to give permission.

Mr. Hill made a motion to allow Mayor Witt to execute a resolution authorizing Mrs. Fields to sign checks as Interim City Manager. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

Mr. Hill thanked everyone for their calls and messages regarding his son.

ADJOURNMENT

All matters having been handled, the meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m. on a motion made and duly seconded.

Stephen M. Witt, Mayor/Council Member

Audrey Sikes, MMC City Clerk