

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Special Session, on October 13, 2021 beginning at 5:00 P.M., in the City Council Chambers, located at City Hall 205 North Marion Avenue, Lake City, Florida. Members of the public also viewed the meeting live on our YouTube Channel.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION –Mayor Stephen Witt

#### ROLL CALL

Mayor/Council Member  
City Council

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

Stephen M. Witt  
Jake Hill, Jr.  
Eugene Jefferson  
C. Todd Sampson  
Frederick Koberlein, Jr.  
Michael Williams  
Chief Argatha Gilmore  
Audrey Sikes

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

#### PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Glenel Bowden suggested for candidates to be asked if they are in favor of moving/relocating the confederate monument.

Victoria Coker spoke in support of her mother, Bea Coker for City Council District 14.

Blondell Johnson spoke in support of Bea Coker for City Council District 14 and in support of removing the monument.

Mark Essing read a letter his son, Chris Essing, wrote in support of Bea Coker.

Kim Esterger spoke in support of Bea Coker for City Council District 14.

Annie Hopkins spoke in support of Bea Coker for City Council District 14.

#### DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY COUNCIL – None

#### CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 14 INTERVIEWS

At this time the candidates were interviewed in the following order:

1. Ken Bochette

During the interview process, Mr. Bochette withdrew due to ineligibility.

2. Abbie Chasteen
3. Bea Coker
4. Stephen A. Douglas
5. Ricky Jernigan

Candidates were asked the following questions that were provided in advance.

Asked by Mayor Stephen Witt

1. Have you resided in City Council District 14 for the past year?
2. Are you a qualified voter?
3. Do you meet the minimum requirement to be considered for the District 14 City Council vacancy?
4. Please take two minutes to tell us a little bit about yourself and why you are the best candidate for this position.

Asked by Council Member Eugene Jefferson

5. Please tell me about your education and/or skillset you would bring to the City Council.

Asked by Council Member Jake Hill, Jr.

6. Please share with us your knowledge of our community.

Asked by Council Member Todd Sampson

7. Please share what organizations and/or community involvement you are active in.

Asked by Mayor Witt

Are there any additional questions from any member of council on the information you have heard today or on the information provided in the letter of interest?

Do you have any questions of the City Council?

Each candidate was also asked their thoughts on relocating of the monument by Council Member Jake Hill.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY COUNCIL

**Mr. Hill made a motion to appoint Mr. Jernigan to the City Council District 14 seat. The motion died due to lack of second.**

**Mr. Jefferson made a motion to appoint Bea Coker to the City Council District 14 seat. The motion died due to lack of second.**

**Mr. Sampson made a motion to appoint Stephen Douglas, due to his finance background, to the City Council District 14 seat. The motion died due to lack of second.**

City Attorney Fred Koberlein provided guidance to the members.

Mayor Witt suggested to rank the candidates.

Mr. Sampson was not in favor of, or want to commit and be held to the ranking process. At this time Mr. Sampson asked members who their second choice would be. Mr. Hill stated Abbie Chasteen. Mr. Jefferson stated Mr. Jernigan. Mayor Witt stated Ms. Coker and Mr. Douglas were his first two choices. Mr. Sampson stated his was Abbie Chasteen.

Members concurred to perform the rankings to see if they could obtain a consensus and the ranking would be non-binding. The Council then ranked the candidates highest to lowest with the number 4 being the highest rank and the number 1 being the lowest rank. Mayor Witt asked Ms. Sikes and Mr. Williams to tabulate the rankings.

Ms. Sikes reported the following:

Chasteen	9 points
Coker	9 points
Douglas	12 points
Jernigan	10 points

**Mr. Sampson made a motion to appoint Stephen Douglas to the City Council District 14 seat based on the ranking. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

<b>Mr. Sampson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Jefferson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Hill</b>	<b>Nay</b>
<b>Mayor Witt</b>	<b>Aye</b>

Mayor Witt reminded Mr. Douglas he would be sworn in on Monday night.

ADJOURNMENT

**All matters having been handled, the meeting adjourned at 6:41PM on a motion made and duly seconded.**

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Stephen M. Witt, Mayor/Council Member

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Audrey Sikes, MMC City Clerk