

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Special Session, on October 26, 2021 beginning at 6:00 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. Jefferson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

- Ken Bochette encouraged members to ask more substantive questions of the candidates.
- Walter Douglas spoke in support of Ricky Jernigan.
- Kim Esterger spoke in support of Bea Coker.
- Ricky Jernigan spoke on behalf of his candidacy for the City Council District 14 vacancy.
- Sylvester Warren spoke on the selection process.
- Glenel Bowden spoke on the removal of the Confederate Monument from Olustee Park and in support of Ricky Jernigan.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY COUNCIL

1. Selecting a City Council Member for District 14, revisiting of October 13, 2021 previously filed applications.

At this time, City Attorney Fred Koberlein stated the purpose of the meeting is to perform a full re-evaluation of the applicants for the District 14 vacant seat. He reported, in the best interest of the City, on October 18th, it was decided to have a new meeting to conduct a re-evaluation of the applicants. Mr. Koberlein advised members to conduct a meaningful evaluation and meaningful discussion of the applicants. He stated members need to discuss and come up with a process and come to a final decision. Mr. Koberlein reminded members the rules of our meetings allow discussion before a motion is on the table.

Mr. Hill expressed his support for Mr. Jernigan for the City Council District 14 vacancy.

Mayor Witt reported Abbie Chasteen withdrew her name from consideration and commended all applicants for going through the process. He would like to discuss the applicants and make a decision.

Mr. Sampson made a motion for the process of selecting a City Council Member for District 14 to be discussion, nomination and then a vote on a candidate. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

Mr. Hill made a motion to nominate Ricky Jernigan for City Council Member District 14. The motion died due to lack of second.

Mr. Jefferson stated they were all good candidates, and he would work with whomever was selected.

Mr. Hill made a motion to appoint Ricky Jernigan for City Council Member District 14. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion failed.

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

Mr. Jefferson made a motion to appoint Befaihtful Coker for City Council Member District 14. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion failed.

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

Mr. Sampson made a motion to appoint Stephen Douglas for City Council Member District 14. Mayor Witt seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion failed.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: Stew Lilker inquired what rules the Council was following to allow the Mayor to second a motion; to which City Attorney Koberlein responded, City Council Ordinance No. 2021-2178 and Roberts Rules of Order.

Mr. Hill made a motion to appoint Ricky Jernigan for City Council District 14. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. Mr. Koberlein suggested before the members entertained a motion to reconsider a previously nominated individual, to suspend, or waive the rules in order to come to a decision.

Mr. Hill made a motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Sampson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

Mr. Hill made a motion to appoint Ricky Jernigan for City Council District 14. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion failed.

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

Mr. Sampson made a motion to appoint Stephen Douglas for City Council District 14. Mayor Witt seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion failed.

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

Mr. Jefferson made a motion to appoint Befaihtful Coker for City Council District 14. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

Mayor Witt stated Ms. Coker would be sworn in Monday, November 1, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

All matters having been handled, the meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM on a motion made and duly seconded.

Stephen M. Witt, Mayor/Council Member

Audrey Sikes, MMC City Clerk