

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Regular Session, on September 19, 2022 beginning at 6:00 PM, in the City Council Chambers, located at City Hall 205 North Marion Avenue, Lake City, Florida. Members of the public also viewed the meeting on our YouTube Channel.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION – Council Member Jake Hill, Jr.

ROLL CALL

Mayor/Council Member
City Council

City Attorney
City Manager
Sergeant-at-Arms
City Clerk

Stephen M. Witt
Jake Hill, Jr.
Eugene Jefferson
C. Todd Sampson
Frederick Koberlein, Jr.
Paul Dyal
Assistant Chief Andrew Miles
Audrey Sikes

PROCLAMATIONS – None

MINUTES

1. September 6, 2022 Regular Session City Council Meeting

Mr. Hill made a motion to approve the September 6, 2022 Regular Session minutes as presented. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

- Jerry Leszkiewicz

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

2. Request from Lake City Fire Department to utilize remaining funds from the PSAP Upgrade to purchase a Polaris UTV in the amount of \$23,006.27 for fire and medical response.

Mayor Witt clarified the amount was over \$20,000.00 but stated after confirming with staff, this will be purchased via state contract pricing.

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

PRESENTATIONS – None

At this time City Clerk, Audrey Sikes, announced the results from the Primary Election held on August 23, 2022 for the office of City Council Member District 10 and City Council Member District 14. The results are as follows:

City Council District 10

Anna Eversole	31	Representing (10.23%)
H. Shawn Holmgren	49	Representing (16.17%)
Chevella Reed Young	223	Representing (73.60%)

City Council District 14

Befaihtful Coker	91	Representing (25.63%)
Ricky Jernigan	264	Representing (74.37%)

Mr. Hill made a motion to approve the results as presented. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

3. City Council Resolution No. 2022-115 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, declaring Chevella Reed Young to have been elected City Council Member for District Ten in the August 23, 2022, Nonpartisan Election. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2022-115, declaring Chevella Reed Young to have been elected City Council Member for District Ten in the August 23, 2022, Nonpartisan Election. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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

4. City Council Resolution No. 2022-116 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, declaring Ricky Jernigan to have been elected City Council Member for District Fourteen in the August 23, 2022, Nonpartisan Election. **Mr. Jefferson made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2022-116, declaring Ricky Jernigan to have been elected City Council Member for District Fourteen in the August 23, 2022, Nonpartisan Election. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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

At this time Mayor Witt and members heard Public Comment from Julius Moreland, who submitted a speaker sheet late.

At this time Mayor Witt opened a public hearing to accept input from all interested parties relative to the discussion, consideration, and final approval of the City's 2022-2023 proposed millage rate and operating budget. Mayor Witt stated the City was offering the opportunity to all in attendance to speak in regard to the budget and ask that all speakers identify themselves by name and address. Mayor Witt stated the Finance Director would provide a summary of the budget process and address those items essential to compliance with the State of Florida Truth In Millage (TRIM) requirements.

Finance Director Donna Duncan reported the City Council proposes a final millage rate of 4.9000 mills and final capital and operating budget of \$77,974,561 for fiscal year 2022-2023. She stated Council action tonight constitutes the "Final" Budget Hearing as required by state TRIM criteria and was announced to the General Public by advertisement in the Lake City Reporter published September 16, 2022. Ms. Duncan reported during this hearing, the following agenda will be addressed:

- The Council will discuss the 2022-2023 millage and operating budget and allow citizen input as appropriate.
- The Council will direct announcement of the final millage rate proposed for adoption and of any increase, decrease, or no change.
- The City Attorney will read, by title, Millage Resolution No. 2022-095.
- The Council will adopt Millage Resolution No. 2022-095 on final reading.
- The City Attorney will read, by title, Budget Resolution No. 2022-096.
- The Council will adopt Budget Resolution No. 2022-096 on final reading.

Mayor Witt declared the "Final Budget Hearing" open for discussion for public input followed by discussion by the City Council. After hearing public comment from Sylvester Warren, there was no discussion by Council.

Mayor Witt asked the Finance Director to state for the record 1) the taxing authority, 2) the proposed millage rate to be adopted, 3) the rolled-back millage rate, and 4) any change the tentative millage rate represents to the current year's millage.

Finance Director Donna Duncan stated the City Council of the City of Lake City, as Taxing Authority, proposed a final tax on all property located within the City of Lake City, Florida, at the rate of 4.9000 mills for the fiscal year 2022-2023 operating budget. The current year proposed operating millage rate is an 8.44% increase from the 4.5185 rolled-back millage rate as defined by Florida Statutes and represents no change from the previous year's millage rate of 4.9000 mills.

5. City Council Resolution No. 2022-095 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, adopting a millage rate for the Levy of Ad Valorem Taxes for the City for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Jefferson made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2022-095 on final reading, adopting a millage rate for the Levy of Ad Valorem Taxes for the City for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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

6. City Council Resolution No. 2022-096 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, adopting the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Hill made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2022-096 on final reading, adopting the Budget for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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

Mayor Witt closed the final budget public hearing.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinances – None

Other Items

7. Discussion and Possible Action - Request to forgive Code Enforcement Liens in the amount of \$40,800.00 that occurred from February 12, 2021 to date (544 days) on Parcel #05884000, 1175 NW Ashley Street, Lake City, Florida 32055 for Jacqueline Espenship, Special Magistrate Order Case No. 2021-00000020 (Presenter: Mayor Stephen Witt)

Mayor Witt reported there was a miscommunication the last time this topic was presented to Council. The property had been corrected, there is a current tenant, and the City was notified. He recommended to grant their request.

Mr. Hill made a motion to forgive the total amount of the lien in the amount of \$40,800.00, with the recouping of administrative costs for the City. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinances – None

Resolutions

8. City Council Resolution No. 2022-103 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the Lake City Police Department to apply for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$113,942.00; providing for the procurement of equipment for the use and benefit of the Police Department; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2022-103, authorizing the Lake City Police Department to apply for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$113,942.00, and providing for the procurement of equipment for the use and benefit of the Police Department. 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

9. City Council Resolution No. 2022-110 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the acceptance of the staffing for adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant from the United States of America, Department of Instruments through the FEMA Grants Outcomes System; providing for the acceptance of \$717,693.60 in Federal Funding; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Hill made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2022-110, authorizing the acceptance of the staffing for adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant from the United States of America, Department of Instruments through the FEMA Grants Outcomes System, and providing for the acceptance of \$717,693.60 in Federal Funding. Mr. Jefferson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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

10. City Council Resolution No. 2022-112 - A resolution of the City of Lake City, Florida, initiating an inquiry and investigation into matters of the City; providing for an examination of the closing of certain City offices by the City Manager; and providing for an effective date.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren

Mr. Sampson read from a written script, which is attached as Exhibit A.

Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2022-112. The motion failed due to lack of second.

Mr. Hill stated he did not condone what went on at the last meeting.

11. City Council Resolution No. 2022-113 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City Florida, initiating an inquiry and investigation into matters of the City; providing for an examination of the implementation of the City's Personnel Manual; and providing for an effective date. **Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2022-113.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren

The motion failed due to lack of second.

12. City Council Resolution No. 2022-114 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, initiating an inquiry and investigation into matters of the City; providing for an examination of the treatment of employees within protected classes; and providing for an effective date.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren

Mr. Sampson made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2022-114. The motion failed due to lack of second.

Other Items – None

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION – None

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

ADJOURNMENT

All matters having been handled, the meeting adjourned at 6:33 PM on a motion made and duly seconded.

Stephen M. Witt, Mayor/Council Member

Audrey Sikes, City Clerk