

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Regular Session, on November 20, 2023 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 Ricky Jernigan

ROLL CALL

Mayor/Council Member
City Council

Stephen M. Witt
Jake Hill, Jr.
C. Todd Sampson – absent
Chevella Young
Ricky Jernigan
Todd Kennon
Dee Johnson
Chief Gerald Butler
Audrey Sikes

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

MINUTES

- 1. November 6, 2023 Regular Session

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

- Sylvester Warren

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – None

PRESENTATIONS – None

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinances – None

Resolutions – None

Other Items

2. Discussion and Possible Action: Salary for Interim City Manager Dee Johnson

Note: Item removed from 10/16/23 and 11/6/23 agenda until such time full council in attendance.

Mayor Witt verified with Mr. Johnson, and recommended a salary of \$135,000.00.

Mr. Hill spoke in support of this offer and **made a motion to offer Mr. Johnson a salary of \$135,000.00 in his position of Interim City Manager. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion.**

Mr. Jernigan spoke in support of this offer.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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| Mr. Hill | Aye |
| Mr. Jernigan | Aye |
| Ms. Young | Aye |
| Mayor Witt | Aye |

3. Discussion of September 11, 2023 vote regarding Section 2-53 of the Code of Ordinances relating to the compensation of Mayor and Council Members (City Attorney Todd Kennon)

Note: Item removed from 10/16/23 and 11/6/23 agenda until such time full council in attendance

Mayor Witt suggested voting on compensation during the budget process.

Mr. Hill spoke in agreement with Mayor Witt.

Mr. Jernigan spoke in support of option three presented by City Attorney Todd Kennon, which would leave the process as is.

Ms. Young stated she was fine either way.

Mr. Jernigan made a motion to use option three and to leave the pay raise method as currently written. Mr. Hill seconded the motion.

Ms. Sikes read into the record the motion and read the Section of Code (2-53) pertaining to compensation of Mayor and Council Members.

Sec. 2-53. - Compensation of mayor and councilmembers

- (a) The annual compensation paid to the mayor shall be \$9,540.00, and the annual compensation paid to each city councilmember shall be \$8,480.00. Such compensation shall be paid in 12 equal monthly payments.
- (b) Commencing fiscal year October 1, 1989, the annual compensation provided for herein shall be adjusted annually by that same percentage adjustment in annual compensation granted to general employees of the city.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren

A roll call vote was taken and the motion failed.

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| Mr. Jernigan | Aye |
| Mr. Hill | Aye |
| Ms. Young | Nay |
| Mayor Witt | Nay |

Ms. Young made a motion to use option one, commencing fiscal year October 1, 1989, the annual compensation provided for herein shall be addressed each fiscal year during the budget process to determine if council is to receive a raise for the next fiscal year. The percentage of any raise cannot exceed the percentage of raises awarded to other city employees. Mayor Witt seconded the motion.

Mr. Jernigan spoke in favor of option three.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion failed.

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| Ms. Young | Aye |
| Mayor Witt | Aye |
| Mr. Hill | Nay |
| Mr. Jernigan | Nay |

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT: Lester McKellum – Mayor Witt inadvertently overlooked Mr. McKellum during public comments earlier in the meeting.

Ordinances – None

Resolutions

- 4. City Council Resolution No. 2023-132 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, accepting a perpetual easement from Shekinah Baptist Church, Inc., for the purpose of relocating the Lake City Historic Downtown Sign and the continued maintenance of the Lake City Historic Downtown Sign.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Chris Lydick with the Planning and Zoning Board recommended acquiring easements prior to relocating, so legal boundaries with the Historic Preservation Agency, Board of Adjustment, and Planning and Zoning can be adjusted; Sylvester Warren

Mr. Hill made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2023-132, accepting a perpetual easement from Shekinah Baptist Church, Inc., for the purpose of relocating the Lake City Historic Downtown Sign and the continued maintenance of the Lake City Historic Downtown Sign. Ms. Young seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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| Mr. Hill | Aye |
| Ms. Young | Aye |
| Mr. Jernigan | Aye |
| Mayor Witt | Aye |

- 5. City Council Resolution No. 2023-134 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, authorizing the execution of a Union Employment Agreement with Local No. 2288 of the International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO. **Mr. Jernigan made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2023-134, authorizing the execution of a Union Employment Agreement with Local No. 2288 of the International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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| Mr. Jernigan | Aye |
| Mr. Hill | Aye |
| Ms. Young | Aye |
| Mayor Witt | Aye |

PUBLIC COMMENT: Willie Collins III – Mayor Witt allowed public comment at this time.

Other Items

- 6. Informational Purposes Only - City Attorney Robinson, Kennon, and Kendron, P.A. invoices for October 2023. Folds Walker, LLC invoice for October 2023.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

7. Approval of job descriptions for the Procurement, Vehicle Maintenance, Safety, and Public Works Departments. The Human Resources Department is in the process of reviewing all job descriptions for positions that were approved in the FY 23-24 Budget. In accordance with the City's Personnel Manual, the job descriptions will be presented for each department for council review over the next two agendas. (Interim City Manager Dee Johnson) **Mr. Jernigan made a motion to approve job descriptions for the Procurement, Vehicle Maintenance, Safety, and Public Works Departments. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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| Mr. Jernigan | Aye |
| Mr. Hill | Aye |
| Ms. Young | Aye |
| Mayor Witt | Aye |

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Witt reminded everyone of upcoming dates of interest: December 3, 2023 Tree Lighting Event in Olustee Park (4PM - 7PM); December 9, 2023 Holiday Market (9AM - 4PM); December 9, 2023 Christmas Parade 6PM; January 15, 2024 Martin Luther King Parade 10AM

Mr. Johnson thanked Terri Phillips for organizing a successful Food Truck Rally, which was held on November 18, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hill made a motion to adjourn at 6:30 PM. Mayor Witt seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Stephen M. Witt, Mayor/Council Member

Audrey Sikes, City Clerk