

The City Council in and for the citizens of the City of Lake City, Florida, met in Regular Session, on February 5, 2024 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 – Mayor/Council Member Stephen Witt

ROLL CALL

Mayor/Council Member
City Council

Stephen M. Witt

Jake Hill, Jr.

Chevella Young

Ricky Jernigan

City Attorney

Todd Kennon

Interim City Manager

Dee Johnson

Sergeant-at-Arms

Chief Gerard Butler

City Clerk

Audrey Sikes

After Mayor Witt read the rules of decorum aloud, Mr. Jernigan inquired about consequences should someone violate the rules. Mayor Witt reported it would be addressed at that time and reminded there is a decorum workshop coming up soon.

Mayor Witt read the following statement regarding the new Council Chambers layout:

Tonight, you may notice that the room has been arranged differently. This new layout is for the convenience of those who may be addressing the City Council, to accommodate those who may not be able to stand at the podium to address the Council and may find it easier to sit when speaking to the Council, and to maintain appropriate personal space between those speaking to the Council and those seated at the dais.

For the convenience of those who are addressing the Council, the tables placed to the left and right of the speaker's lectern provide a surface to place notes and other exhibits like posters, charts, and graphs that may be needed when you are describing a matter to the Council. We hope this avoids the awkwardness of trying to balance posters and charts on the lectern and helps make your comments to the Council more effective.

For those who may find it challenging to stand at the lectern to address the Council, the tables provide an accommodating place to sit or to pull up a wheelchair or scooter, while also having the convenience of a flat surface on which a person may place their notes, similar to the surface provided at the lectern when standing. Again, we hope this allows for more effective interactions between the public and the Council when the public is addressing the Council.

Finally, the tables help maintain an appropriate distance between those addressing the Council and those at the dais. If a speaker is too close to the Council, not everyone on the dais can see the speaker or any exhibits they may have to show. The tables are intended to create a comfortable space between those addressing the Council and those at the dais to enhance communications during public comment.

Everyone is asked to observe the limitations created by the placement of the tables to the left and right of the speaker's lectern. Those not observing these limitations and stepping in the prohibited area will be given a verbal reminder to adhere to the instructions provided on the table signage. Thereafter, a person who continues to enter into the prohibited area beyond the limitations created by the tables may be escorted from the room by law enforcement for repeated entry into a prohibited area.

MINUTES

1. January 16, 2024 Regular Session

Mr. Hill made a motion to approve the January 16, 2024 Regular Session minutes as presented. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

- Glenel Bowden
- Sylvester Warren

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – None

PRESENTATIONS – None

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinances

At this time Mayor Witt closed the regular session and opened a public hearing for the purpose of hearing comments on City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2275. City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2275 was read by title. Mayor Witt asked if anyone wanted to be heard regarding City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2275. No one asked to be heard on City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2275, therefore Mayor Witt closed the public hearing.

2. City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2275 (final reading) - An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending the City Code to add new Section Number 86-2 to Part III, Chapter 86, Article I; providing for the regulation of Public Parks, park hours, and penalties for violations; providing for severability; providing for the repeal of conflicts; providing for codification; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Hill made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2275 on final reading, amending the City Code to add new Section Number 86-2 to Part III, Chapter 86, Article I; providing for the regulation of Public Parks, park hours, and penalties for violations. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

Resolutions – None

Other Items

3. Discussion and Possible Action - Applicants for filling the vacancy of Council Member for City Council District 13. (Mayor Stephen Witt)

James Carter was the only applicant to submit paperwork.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Vanessa George

Ms. Young reported interested parties had reached out to her about applying for the District 13 Council seat, and suggested extending the application deadline an additional 30 days.

City Attorney Todd Kennon reminded members they have 60 days from the time of resignation to fill the seat per the City Charter.

Mayor Witt spoke in support of Mr. Carter.

Mr. Hill spoke in support of extending the deadline, but staying within the Charter.

Members concurred to extend the deadline for two weeks, and to discuss filling the vacant seat at a Special Called Meeting to be held on February 26, 2024 at 6:00 PM before the scheduled Workshop for that day.

4. City Council Resolution No. 2024-018 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, appointing _____ as Councilmember of District Thirteen in accordance with the City Charter; and providing an effective date.

This item was not voted on due to members extending the application deadline.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinances

5. City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2276 - (first reading) An ordinance of the City of Lake City, Florida, pursuant to Petition No. ANX 24-01, relating to voluntary annexation; making findings; annexing certain real property located in Columbia County, Florida, which is reasonably compact, and contiguous to the boundaries of the City of Lake City, Florida, into the boundaries of the City of Lake City, Florida; providing severability; repealing all ordinances in conflict; and providing an effective date. (Cecilia Davis)

City Attorney Todd Kennon recommended to handle Items #5 and #9 as a Quasi-Judicial Proceeding.

At this time Mayor Witt closed the regular session to conduct a public hearing and receive comments for City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2276.

Mayor Witt asked if members had any ex-parte communication regarding this ordinance. All members declined having any ex-parte communication.

Mayor Witt asked if anyone wanted to be sworn in and heard, regarding City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2276. No one asked to be heard on City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2276, therefore Mayor Witt closed the public hearing.

Mr. Johnson reported Ms. Davis is voluntarily asking to be annexed into the City in order to have City utilities for her upcoming restaurant.

Mr. Hill made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2276 on first reading, pursuant to Petition No. ANX 24-01, relating to voluntary annexation; making findings; annexing certain real property located in Columbia County, Florida, which is reasonably compact, and contiguous to the boundaries of the City of Lake City, Florida, into the boundaries of the City of Lake City, Florida. Mayor Witt seconded the motion.

During roll call, Mr. Hill withdrew his motion so discussion could take place.

Growth Management Director Dave Young gave further explanation on the annexation.

Mr. Johnson reported this annexation was supported by staff.

Mr. Hill made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2276 on first reading, pursuant to Petition No. ANX 24-01, relating to voluntary annexation; making findings; annexing certain real property located in Columbia County, Florida, which is reasonably compact, and contiguous to the boundaries of the City of Lake City, Florida, into the boundaries of the City of Lake City, Florida. Mayor Witt seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

6. City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2278 - (first reading) An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending the City Code to add a new Section Number 86-110.22 to Article III, Chapter 86, which provides for the permanent vacating of a right of way; finding that the right of way was abandoned by the City; finding that the closing of the right of way will not adversely affect the public health, safety, or welfare; finding that it is in the best interest of the City and for the general welfare of its citizens to close the right of way; providing for the repeal of conflicting ordinances; providing for severability; providing for inclusion into the City Code; and providing an effective date. (McCall) **Mr. Hill made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2278 on first reading, amending the City Code to add a new Section Number 86-110.22 to Article III, Chapter 86, which provides for the permanent vacating of a right of way; finding that the right of way was abandoned by the City; finding that the closing of the right of way will not adversely affect the public health, safety, or welfare; finding that it is in the best interest of the City and for the general welfare of its citizens to close the right of way, and providing for the repeal of conflicting ordinances. Ms. Young seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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

7. City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2279 - (first reading) An ordinance of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, amending Article I Section 70-2 of the City Code related to residency requirements; providing for severability; providing

for codification; and providing an effective date. **Mr. Hill made a motion to approve City Council Ordinance No. 2024-2279 on first reading, amending Article I Section 70-2 of the City Code related to residency requirements. Ms. Young seconded the motion.**

Members concurred to leave the ordinance as is, and to vote at the next meeting regarding specific positions listed in the ordinance.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

Resolutions

- 8. City Council Resolution No. 2024-008 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, adopting revisions to the City's Procurement Policy and Procedure to contribute to the strategic goals of achieving efficiency, transparency, cost savings, and fairness in the City's Procurement Procedures. **Mr. Hill made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2024-008, adopting revisions to the City's Procurement Policy and Procedure to contribute to the strategic goals of achieving efficiency, transparency, cost savings, and fairness in the City's Procurement Procedures. Ms. Young seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.**

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

- 9. City Council Resolution No. 2024-009 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, approving a replat filed by Gateway Development, LLC, for a major subdivision of real property within the City; providing for conflicts; providing for severability; providing an effective date.

At this time Mayor Witt closed the regular session to conduct a public hearing and receive comments for City Council Resolution No. 2024-009.

Mayor Witt asked if members had any ex-parte communication regarding this Resolution. All members declined having any ex-parte communication.

Mayor Witt asked if anyone wanted to be sworn in and heard, regarding City Council Resolution No. 2024-009. No one asked to be heard on City Council Resolution No. 2024-009, therefore Mayor Witt closed the public hearing.

Mr. Hill made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2024-009, approving a replat filed by Gateway Development, LLC, for a major subdivision of real property within the City. Mayor Witt seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

10. City Council Resolution No. 2024-014 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, appointing Ricky Jernigan to serve on the Columbia County Tourist Development Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren

Mr. Hill made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2024-014, appointing Ricky Jernigan to serve on the Columbia County Tourist Development Council. Ms. Young seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

11. City Council Resolution No. 2024-016 - A resolution of the City Council of the City of Lake City, Florida, appointing Sergeant Kevin Johns as an elected member of the Board of Trustees of the Lake City Municipal Police Officers Retirement Trust Fund.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren

Mr. Jernigan made a motion to approve City Council Resolution No. 2024-016, appointing Sergeant Kevin Johns as an elected member of the Board of Trustees of the Lake City Municipal Police Officers Retirement Trust Fund. Mr. Hill seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

Other Items

12. Discussion and Possible Action: Funding for Council members to hold Town Hall Meetings (Interim City Manager Dee Johnson)

Mr. Johnson reported there was \$6,000.00 in the City's budget (Undesignated Programs/Public Assistance) to work with for Town Hall meetings. He suggested \$1,000 per meeting and \$1,000 for advertising purposes.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren

Ms. Young spoke in support of a community meeting, and providing food at the event for the citizens.

Mr. Hill reported Town Hall meetings held in the past did not have much of a turnout, but was neither for or against providing refreshments.

Water Plant Director Mike Osborne suggested holding an Informational Meeting in the Districts, as this would be a way to get new Environmental Protection Agency regulations out to the public.

Mr. Hill made a motion to set aside \$1,000 in funding from Undesignated Programs/Public Assistance for advertisement purposes for community engagement meetings. Mayor Witt seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

13. Project Updates (Interim City Manager Dee Johnson)

Mr. Johnson reported on the following projects:

Annie Mattox Park: Cameras - Currently requesting quotes for electrical and pole installment.

Gwen Lake: We have submitted the funding applications, and expect they will soon issue a RAI to gather more specific details about the project.

Lake Montgomery Pier: Waiting for completion of construction to install camera and fencing.

Relocation of Welcome to Downtown Sign: The sign has been installed. Currently waiting for FPL approval to complete the lighting.

Downtown Parking: The pole has been installed for lighting. Currently waiting for the bulbs to be delivered and for FPL to install the meter.

Sally Jerry Park: The camera installation is complete. Eminent domain is still pending.

SR 47 RV Park Septic to Sewer: Currently waiting on the final construction documents from the engineer.

47/175 Extension: Engineers are completing surveying and more testing.

Bell Road: Plans are around 80% complete. Waiting for additional surveys for McFarland / St. Margaret's

Wilson Park Amphitheater: According to the "Specific Condition 1" of the FDEP permit, we have submitted the necessary documentation for approval to start construction. However, we are waiting for approval at this time.

Patterson Avenue Resurfacing: Asphalt is currently in the curing stages. Permanent striping will follow.

Grandview Resurfacing: Bids came in over budget. Additional funding of approximately \$126,605.00 (subject to change) is needed at this time. Engineers are reviewing the bid to ensure there are no unit of measurement discrepancies. In addition, we are currently working with the FOOT grant manager to seek additional funds to help cover some of the overage cost.

100A/Bascom Norris Septic to Sewer: We received the cost estimate from engineers; meeting scheduled to identify funding sources.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren

14. Discussion and Possible Action: Reschedule Council Workshop to discuss Council Meeting Decorum (Council Member Ricky Jernigan)

Mr. Jernigan stated the January 29, 2024 Meeting Decorum Workshop had to be cancelled due to members attending the Florida Legislative Action Days in Tallahassee. He recommended moving the February 26, 2024 Affordable

Housing Workshop to the following Monday, and holding the Decorum Workshop on the 26th.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sylvester Warren; Glenel Bowden

Mr. Jernigan made a motion to schedule the Decorum and Application and Policy for Grant Funding on February 26, 2024, and the Workshop for Affordable Housing on March 11, 2024. Ms. Young seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

15. Discussion and Possible Action: Approval to pay retainer fee in the amount of \$250,875.05 to CGC, Inc. for Taxiway C Realignment & Transient Apron Rehab Project (Airport Director Ed Bunnell)

Mr. Johnson reported the Taxiway C Realignment & Transient Apron Rehab Project had been completed.

Mr. Hill made a motion to release the retainer in the amount \$250,875.05 to CGC, Inc. for the Taxiway C Realignment & Transient Apron Rehab Project. Mr. Jernigan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

16. Discussion and Possible Action: Transition to County - Communication Officers (Chief Butler)

Mr. Jernigan made a motion authorizing the transfer of funds, at the time of transition, in the LCPD FY24 budget for Public Safety Communication Officers (PSCO) transferring to County's employment in the Columbia County Combined Communication Center. The motion also authorizes payment of 100% of the funds for sixty (60) days of COBRA to each PSCO employee transferring to the County's employment. Ms. Young seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

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

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Hill spoke in opposition of the new set up of the Council Chambers and reported not having any prior knowledge of the changes.

Mr. Jernigan announced there would be free services to Veterans on February 16, 2024 from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM at the Florida National Guard Armory.

Ms. Young reported she enjoyed the kickoff for Black History Month at Florida Gateway College.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hill made a motion to adjourn at 7:36 PM and the motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Stephen M. Witt, Mayor/Council Member

Audrey Sikes, City Clerk