



MEETING MINUTES
SWEARING IN OF THE CITY OF LAKE CITY COUNCILMEMBERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – JUDICIAL CENTER
202 KELLEY STREET
6:00 P.M.

MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT

Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr
Councilmember Nicole Singletary
Councilmember Richard Cook
Councilmember William Askins

Councilmember Yamekia Robinson
Councilmember Wilhelmena W. Scott
Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby

STAFF

Stephany Snowden
Curtis Fox-Mixon
Lt. John Stewart
Sgt. Desman Garner

Daniel Brown
Cynthia Mallette
Judge Taft Guiles
LaToya Miller

Teresa Benjamin
William Hall
Timothy Noah Hendricks

OTHERS

Press – None
Evangelist Willie Mae Anderson
Jimmy Robinson

TY Christian TV
Anne King
Margaret B. Robinson

Lorine D. Chandler

The City Council Meeting agenda was emailed on Friday, January 8, 2021 to members of the media and posted on the bulletin board at the Lake City Municipal Complex, as well on the city's Facebook page and official website.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr opened the meeting at 6 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – the Invocation was led by Councilmember Richard Cook and Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby led the Pledge of Allegiance.

THE SWEARING IN OF THE NEW CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

RECITAL OF THE COUNCIL OATH – The Honorable (late) Judge Taft Guile Jr explained the process of the Swearing-In of the Councilmembers and performed the swearing in for Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (Incumbent for District 2) and Councilmember William

Askins (District 5). Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby thanked everyone for coming out and showing their support. Ms. Lorine Chandler held the Bible for her during the ceremony. Councilmember William Askins thanked everyone and looks forward to working with community members to keep moving the City of Lake City forward.

Ms. Anne King read the Oath of Office for Councilwoman Yamekia Robinson (District 4). Councilmember Robinson was accompanied by her parents and children. Councilmember Robinson said a few words; she started by thanking her savior the Lord Jesus Christ. She stated this is much bigger than any of us; but this was an opportunity for this community to unify while becoming a stronger, healthier, beautiful, and prosperous place to live. Councilmember Robinson thanked her family for all of their love and support given to her. She recognized the late Ra'Shaud Graham, who was her Mayoral Race Campaign Manager. He worked hard to help reach higher heights and together, they captured 32% of the votes in that race.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM

After the swearing in our new Councilmembers, Mayor and Council were given paper ballots to elect Mayor Pro Tem. The paper ballots consisted of all the Councilmembers names; after they made their selection, the City Clerk Teresa K. Benjamin collected them. City Clerk Benjamin read the results out loud:

Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby	1 vote
Councilmember Yamekia Robinson	2 votes
Councilmember Nicole Singletary	4 votes.

Councilmember Nicole Singletary received the majority votes and according to City Ordinance (Part 1. – Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2 – Administration, Article II – Mayor, Division 1 – Generally, Sec. 2-32. – Devolution of powers and duties when mayor absent: mayor pro tem.) and State Statue (SC Code 5 -7-190 (2012); at the first meeting after inauguration, council shall elect one of its members as mayor pro tem of the City. The Mayor Pro Tem shall be vested with all the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the office of Mayor during the temporary absence or disability of the Mayor or when the office of Mayor shall be vacated by reason of death, resignation, removal or permanent disability of the Mayor, until such time as a new Mayor shall have been elected and qualified.

REMARKS – Councilmember Robinson gave homage to her parents, especially her mother. Councilmember Robinson expressed how she is excited about being elected and looks forward to assisting in moving the City of Lake City forward. Councilmember Robinson also stated that earlier that day, while she was getting her children ready for their day. Her daughter Taylor stated that if she had the power, she would make sure the homeless had somewhere to eat and sleep. Councilmember Robinson stated that she is making that request a directive for her.

Evangelist Willie Mae Anderson gave the Benediction

ADJOURNMENT – Adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

A motion to adjourn: Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary; Seconded: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Motion Carried: All Ayes.



MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – JUDICIAL CENTER
202 KELLEY STREET
7:00 P.M.

MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT

Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr	Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby
Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary	Councilmember Wilhelmena W. Scott
Councilmember Yamekia Robinson	Councilmember Richard Cook
Councilmember William Askins	

STAFF

Stephany Snowden	Daniel Brown	Teresa Benjamin
Curtis Fox-Mixon	Cynthia Mallette	William Hall
Lt. John Stewart	Fire Chief Randy Driggers	Timothy Noah Hendricks
Sgt. Desman Garner	LaToya Miller	

OTHERS

Press – None	TY Christian TV	
Mattie Thomas	Margaret Jones	Margaret B. Robinson
Lorine Chandler	Scott Strickland	Thomas Williams

The City Council Meeting agenda was emailed on Friday, January 8, 2021 to members of the media and posted on the bulletin board at the Lake City Municipal Complex, as well on the city's Facebook page and official website.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Anderson Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Anderson explained the protocol for the meeting with social-distancing measures in place.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Invocation was led by Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember William Askins.

POLLING OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS – A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

City Clerk Teresa K. Benjamin polled City Councilmember and found there to be a quorum present.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA - APPROVED AS AMENDED.

A motion to approve amending the Tuesday, January 12, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting Agenda tabling item Ordinance# 2020.553 on page 3: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Seconded: Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Councilmember Richard Cook, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember William Askins and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voted Aye).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APPROVED AS PRESENTED

Approval of the minutes for Tuesday, December 8, 2020 Regular City Council; and other matters related thereto – Approved as presented.

A motion for the approval of the minutes for Tuesday, December 8, 2020 City Council Meeting: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Seconded: Councilmember Richard Cook; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Councilmember Richard Cook, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember William Askins and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voted Aye).

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – Notes on Comment Period: Comments are limited to two minutes per person and no personal or verbal attacks will be entertained:

Mattie Thomas (100 Lattimore Street) – Ms. Thomas offered congratulatory thank you to the new and returning Councilmembers. Ms. Thomas recognized the retirees and thanked them for servicing the community for some 20+ years. Ms. Thomas gave a special congratulations to Councilmember Yamekia Robinson.

PRESENTATIONS – Administrator Snowden introduced

Recognition of the retirees: Bobbie Burgess and Rossie Green both retired on December 31, 2021. Between the both of them they had over 50+ years, the City recognized them at a luncheon for them.

Scott Strickland (South Lynches District Fire Chief Department) – Mr. Strickland came to the meeting to recognize two of the City of Lake City Police employees (Sergeant Desman Garner and Officer Timothy Noah Hendricks). These officers went above and beyond responding to a call for a 2-year old drowning victim. When the call was dispatched, these two officers stepped into action to assist South Lynches Fire Department in every effort to resuscitate the young victim. Their quick thinking and call

to action was something that has been missing in this line of work for a long time. District Fire Chief Strickland was emotional when describing how these officers assisted them with trying to get the young victim to the hospital. Both officers' quick response was greatly appreciated during this rescue. District #1 Fire Chief Strickland thanked City of Lake City Fire Chief Randy Driggers and his staff; he expressed how appreciative he was of the City of Lake City employees call to service, carrying nature and fast response to public safety. Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby responded giving the City of Lake City employees and Deputy City Administrator Daniel Brown outstanding work ethics. Councilmember Richard Cook stated that this is the kind of things we need to hear, because we are 1 Lake City and we need to be responsive to each other needs. We are one community. Mayor Anderson Jr echoed the sentiments of his fellow Councilmembers and stated that we achieve a lot when we work together.

LEGISLATIVE

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2020.551 – Second and Final Reading

An ordinance for the City of Lake City, South Carolina for approval to provide procedures for public meetings; and other matter related thereto - Approved as presented.

A motion to approve Ordinance 2020.551 of the City of Lake City, South Carolina for approval to provide procedures for public meetings; and other matters related thereto: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Seconded: Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary; Discussion: Administrator Snowden explained the premise of this Ordinance; that during the pandemic or emergency situation, we will have the capability to continue to have public meetings; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Councilmember Richard Cook, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember William Askins and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voted Aye).

Ordinance 2020.552 – Second and Final Reading

An ordinance for the City of Lake City, South Carolina for the approval based on a model developed by the Municipal Association of South Carolina to standardize business license practices and ensure business license ordinance and practices comply with state and federal law, as well as other best practices of business licensing; and other matters related thereto – Approved as presented.

A motion to approve Ordinance 2020.552 City of Lake City, South Carolina for the approval based on a model developed by the Municipal Association of South Carolina to standardize business license practices and ensure business license ordinance and practices comply with state and federal law, as well as other best practices of business licensing; and other matters related thereto: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Seconded: Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Councilmember Richard Cook, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember William Askins and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voted Aye).

Ordinance 2020.553 – Second and Final Reading

An Ordinance for the City of Lake City, South Carolina for the approval to purchase one (1) 2015 Freightliner from Amick Equipment Company, Columbia, South Carolina. This 2015 Freightliner would be a spare rear two (2) tipper solid waste truck. This unit would be utilized every other week or in emergency; and other matters related thereto – Approved to table this item.

A motion to approve tabling Ordinance 2020.553 the City of Lake City, South Carolina for the approval to purchase one (1) 2015 Freightliner from Amick Equipment Company, Columbia, South Carolina. This 2015 Freightliner would be a spare rear two (2) tipper solid waste truck. This unit would be utilized every other week or in emergency; and other matters related thereto: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Seconded: Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Councilmember Richard Cook, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember William Askins and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voted Aye).

Ordinance 2020.554 – First Reading

An Ordinance for the City of Lake City, South Carolina for the approval of the request submitted by Mr. Terry A. Blackmon to rezone Tax Map# 00167-31-080 located on Mercy/Marion Street from H-B (Highway Business) Zone to OIA (Office-Institutional-Apartment) Zone; and other matters related thereto – Approved as presented.

A motion to approve Ordinance 2020.554 the City of Lake City, South Carolina for the approval of the request submitted by Mr. Terry A. Blackmon to rezone Tax Map# 00167-31-080 located on Mercy/Marion Street from H-B (Highway Business) Zone to OIA (Office-Institutional-Apartment) Zone; and other matters related thereto: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Seconded: Councilmember Richard Cook; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Councilmember Richard Cook, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember William Askins and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voted Aye).

RESOLUTION

Resolution 2020.376 – Approved as Presented

A Resolution of the City of Lake City, South Carolina for the approval to adopt a revised Employee Handbook that addresses changes in legislative as well as other policies as recommended by the South Carolina Municipal Association and legal counsel; and other matters related thereto – Approved as Presented.

A motion to approve Resolution 2020.376 of the City of Lake City, South Carolina for the approval to adopt a revised Employee Handbook that addresses changes in legislative as well as other policies as recommended by the South Carolina Municipal Association and legal counsel; and other matters related thereto: Councilmember Richard Cook; Seconded: Councilmember Yamekia Robinson; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Councilmember Richard Cook, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember William Askins and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voted Aye).

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

POLICE UPDATE – Deputy Administrator Daniel Brown asked for prayers for the Marion County and North Myrtle Beach communities. Deputy Administrator Brown provided an update to Mayor and Council as to the status of the Lake City Police Department. Deputy Administrator Brown thanked several members of the City of Lake City staff, as well as the citizens in the community. He stated that we have had several Police Department employees who have tested positive for COVID-19, but we are able to maintain the safety and security of our community. The Lake City Police Department had one officer complete the Police Academy and will be recognized at a later date. He spoke about some of the issues, departmental-wise that he and his

staff are addressing. For the most part, they are moving forward and look for support from the community.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE – Fire Chief Randy Driggers provided an update on the number of COVID-19 cases in South Carolina and the City of Lake City. Fire Chief Driggers reminded that everyone should be diligent about wearing their masks and practice social distancing. Everyone can go to the DHEC website for information on getting tested and receiving a vaccination. Our hospitals are at full compacity.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – FISCAL YR 2020 PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 30, 2020 PAGE 92:

GENERAL FUND:

REVENUE - Budgeted: \$6,728,750; YTD Actual Collected = \$2,460,374, representing 36% of the current budget compared to the prior year actual collected = \$2,044,524.

EXPENSES – Budgeted: \$7,199,491; YTD Actual Collected = \$3,396,286, representing 55% of the budget compared to the prior year actual = \$3,178,491.

WATER FUND:

REVENUE – Budgeted: \$1,549,573; YTD Actual Collected: \$745,183 representing 48% of the budget compared to the prior year actual: \$887,020.

EXPENSES – Budgeted: \$1,549,573; YTD Actual Collected: \$662,508 representing 43% of the budget compared to the prior year actual: \$510,052.

SEWER FUND:

REVENUE – Budgeted: \$2,758,350; YTD Actual Collected: \$1,290,607 representing 47% of the budget compared to the prior year = \$1,401,610.

EXPENSES – Budgeted: \$2,758,350; YTD Actual Collected: \$1,229,874 compared to the prior year actual = \$339,908 representing 44%.

REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES – Budgeted: \$0; YTD Actual Collected: \$60,733 compared to the prior year actual = \$1,061,702.

Councilmember Richard Cook asked when was the last time there was an audit performed for Water and Sewer? Administrator Snowden responded that she does not recall an audit having been conducted for these areas during her tenure; but would follow up with him in reference to this information. Councilmember Cook showed some concern about citizens receiving services that they are not paying for. Administrator Snowden reassured him that we are working hard to

ensure the number of illegal access to our service is reduced. Finance Director Hall tracks this weekly and has reduced the number of people whose accounts are over 60-days passed their due date. Administrator Snowden discussed some of the options, future growth potential with the new hospital coming online and the new housing development projects. She stated that we are looking at having more Worksession to discuss these accounts. She recognized the Finance Department because of all their hard work; especially having the information for the audit.

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2021 (page 99) –
Approved Items 1 - 10 as presented.

Discussion: Finance Director William Hall presented the January 2021 Bill List consisting of items 1 – 10 for approval.

A motion to approve the January 2021 Bill List items 1 – 10: Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott; Seconded: Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary; Discussion: Councilmember Richard Cook asked about item # 8, and Finance Director William Hall responded that this line item pertains to ditch digging services. We had a list of streets that the ditches was cleaned by hand. Mayor Anderson Jr responded that these guys have done a great job, but in some areas we are still having problems with beavers; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Councilmember Richard Cook, Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Peggy Sebnick, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voted Aye): Motion Carried: Unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – NONE HELD

ACTION AS NEEDED WITH RESPECT TO MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION – NONE HELD

CITY COUNCILMEMBERS REPORTS

Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby – she congratulated her soror of Alpha Kappa Alpha Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary. She recognized District Fire Chief Scott Strickland for the heartfelt appreciation to our police officers. She stated that there are several streets that need repairs and need to be repaired with materials that will hold up. We need quality work. She thanked everyone for coming out and please contact her any time with issues of concerns. She encouraged everyone to please be diligent with wearing masks, washing their hands, and practicing social-distancing measures. Happy New Year!

Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary - she wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked everyone for voting her in as the new Mayor Pro Tem. She will continue to work hard for the City of Lake City. She welcomed the new Councilmembers Yamekia Robinson and Williams Askins. She also encouraged everyone to stay safe.

Councilmember Richard Cook – he welcomed everyone who came out to the meeting. He congratulated the incumbent Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby and welcomed the new Councilmember Yamekia Robinson and Williams Askins.

Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott - she congratulated Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary and welcomed the new/returning Councilmembers. She informed every one of the hospitalizations of her husband Reverend Franklin Scott and the passing of her brother-in-law Mr. Leroy Scott. She encouraged everyone to please get tested, vaccinated, and continue practicing those safety measures that have been put in place like wearing your mask, washing your hands and practice social distancing. Please keep the City of Lake City in prayer. Happy New Year!

Councilmember Yamekia Robinson – she wished everyone a Happy New Year! She thanked everyone for all the support, congratulations, prayers; and she is ready to get to work. Now she is on this side of this aisle after several years on the other side, she gave special thanks to her mother and Ms. Mattie Thomas. She recognized the Lake City Police and Fire Departments for their efforts in working together for the common good of the community. Councilmember Robinson announced the Dr. Martin L. King annual event that was led by Reverend Paula Morris (Dr. Hixson from Florence County School District 3). This event used the Zoom platform that began at 10 a.m. on January 18, 2021 (she provided flyers with the link information and the speaker was Mr. Charles Burgess). Everyone was invited to dial in.

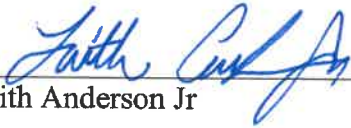
Councilmember William Askins – he stated he was glad to be a part of this team and thanked everyone for coming out.

MAYOR'S REPORT – he reiterated the sentiments of all his colleagues.

- He thanked everyone for coming out
- He welcomed the new Councilmembers: Councilmember Yamekia Robinson and Councilmember William Askins.
- He acknowledged that we still have a lot to do and we will continue to move forward. It is a team effort
- He thanked City staff members: Administrator, Fire Department, City Clerk, and Police Department. All is appreciated.
- He asked for continued prayers for our community.

ADJOURNMENT - Adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Having heard all matters presented and having no citizens input, a Motion to Adjourn was made by Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Seconded: Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Councilmember Richard Cook, Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember William Askins and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voted Aye): Motion Carried: Unanimously.



Lovith Anderson Jr
Mayor

Attest:



Teresa K. Benjamin
City Clerk