



MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2021
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – JUDICIAL CENTER
202 KELLEY STREET
7:00 P.M.

MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT

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

STAFF

Stephany Snowden	Teresa Benjamin	Curtis Fox-Mixon
Cynthia Mallette	William Hall	Police Chief Daniel Brown
Lt. John Stewart	Cindy T. Powell	Glen Bodenheimer
Diane Taylor	LaToya Miller	Fire Chief Randy Driggers
Charlie Ipock – City Attorney		

OTHERS

Press – None	TY Christian TV	
Roosevelt Bryant	Christopher Scott	Jessie Brown
Peggy Sebnick	Emma Cooper	Keyonta Bishaw
Thomas William	Margaret B. Robinson	

The City Council Meeting agenda was emailed on Friday, February 3, 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 Yamekia Robinson and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Singletary.

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 BY ADDING AN ADDITIONAL PRESENTATION UNDER THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT.

A motion to approve amending the agenda by adding an additional presentation under the City Administrator’s report: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Seconded: Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Singletary; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Richard Cook, 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:

Reverend Christopher Scott (son of Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, 133 Beauregard Street) – he came to thank Mayor and Council for their love, appreciation, and support during their bereavement of family members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APPROVED AS PRESENTED

Approval of the minutes for Tuesday, January 12, 2021 City Council Meeting; and other matters related thereto – Approved as presented.

A motion for the approval of the minutes for Tuesday, January 12, 2021 City Council Meeting: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Seconded: Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Richard Cook, Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember William Askins and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voted Aye).

PRESENTATIONS – Administrator Snowden introduced Mrs. Emily Sobczak (Greene Finney, LLP)

FY2020 Audit Results (a copy of the report is with these meeting minutes) – Mrs. Emily Sobczak presented an unmodified opinion with reasonable assurance that the financial statements presented to them are materially correct. It is not their job to address the financial condition of the City and not to detect fraud if it existed. Mrs. Sobczak provided the data from the three

financial statements: General, Water and Sewer Funds. Their audit shows that since the City of Lake City made changes, incorporated the recommended changes from previous years to present; the focus on improving financial conditions of the General Fund and planning for the future capital costs of the utility system has worked in getting the City of Lake City in better standing than what has been presented before. The City has made significant improvements to its financial processes in recent years; continue to review processes and procedures to ensure timely and accurate financial reporting. Mrs. Sobczak recognized all the hard work the City staff performed in achieving a successful audit. Mayor Anderson Jr. and Administrator Snowden thanked the Finance Department, especially the Finance Director William Hall. Finance Director Hall recognized his team who was present: Glen Bodenheimer (Deputy Finance Director), Cindy Powell (Business License Specialist/ Revenue Clerk), Diane Taylor (Human Resources Manager), Curtis Fox-Mixon (Human Resources Specialist), and Rhonda Housand (Accounts Payable/Receivable Specialist was not present). Administrator Snowden stated that it was her intent to leave the City of Lake City on a good, solid foundation from which it could move forward. Administrator Snowden also stated that this would mark the end of her three years tenure with the City. Administrator Snowden remarked that she felt she is leaving with good people in place and the finances in good standings.

Employee Recognition – Administrator Snowden and Mayor Anderson Jr. presented the former Human Resources Manager Diane Taylor with tokens of appreciation for the 28+ years of service with the City of Lake City. Ms. Taylor thanked the City for allowing her to serve in several different areas while being employed. We wish her much success in her future endeavors.

Administrator Snowden introduced two new business owners in the Lake City downtown area. These young men have opened up a gaming parlor, where you come out and game or just relax with friends. The Gaming Lounge allow gamer(s) the virtual experience with people across the globe. The facility is located at 119 West Main Street; Tuesday – Friday, they are opened from 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.; and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2020.554 – Second and Final 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 of the City of Lake City, South Carolina for the approval of a 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 Yamekia Robinson; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Richard Cook, Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember William Askins and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voted Aye).

Ordinance 2021.555 – First and Final Reading

An Ordinance for the City of Lake City, South Carolina pursuant to Section 6 of Ordinance 2020.546 and extending Ordinance 2020.550 so as to extend the emergency term and the application of said Ordinances by an additional sixty (60) days for approval; and other matters related thereto - Approved as presented.

A motion to approve Ordinance 2020.555 of the City of Lake City, South Carolina pursuant to Section 6 of Ordinance 2020.546 and extending Ordinance 2020.550 so as to extend the emergency term and the application of said Ordinances by an additional sixty 60 days for approval; and other matters related thereto: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Seconded: Mayor Pro-Tem Nicole Singletary; Discussion: Administrator Snowden explained that by extending the dates for an additional 60 days, will ensure that emergency measures are in place to keep the citizens and staff safe; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Richard Cook, Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember William Askins and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voted Aye).

Ordinance 2021.556 – First Reading

An Ordinance for the City of Lake City, South Carolina seeking the approving to purchase one (1) 2020 Peterbilt 348 from Amick Equipment Company, Columbia, South Carolina. This unit would be utilized every other week or in emergency; and other matters related thereto- Approved as presented.

A motion to approve Ordinance 2020.556 City of Lake City, South Carolina seeking the approving to purchase one (1) 2020 Peterbilt 348 from Amick Equipment Company, Columbia, South Carolina. This unit would be utilized every other week or in emergency; and other matters related thereto: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Seconded: Councilmember Richard Cook; Discussion: Councilmember Yamekia Robinson asked if the number showing the comparison of renting this type vehicle versus buying. What type of savings will the City gain month to month? The response was that there is a \$75,000 (Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars) savings and we would own this

vehicle; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Richard Cook, Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember William Askins and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voted Aye).

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATOR STEPHANY SNOWDEN recognized the former City Councilmember Ms. Peggy Sebnick and thanked her for being in attendance.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – FISCAL YR 2021 PERIOD ENDING JANUARY 30, 2021: The following summary reflects the City’s financial results for the major operating funds as of January 30, 2021 Fiscal year activity has been included as of February 5, 2021.

GENERAL FUND:

REVENUE - Budgeted: \$6,728,750; YTD Actual Collected = \$3,179,120, representing 47% of the current budget compared to the prior year actual collected = \$2,039,874.

EXPENSES – Budgeted: \$7,199,491; YTD Actual Collected = \$4,323,813 representing 60% of the budget compared to the prior year actual = \$3,921,257.

WATER FUND:

REVENUE – Budgeted: \$1,549,573; YTD Actual Collected: \$867,978 representing 56% of the budget compared to the prior year actual: \$997,576.

EXPENSES – Budgeted: \$1,549,573; YTD Actual Collected: \$761,042 representing 49% of the budget compared to the prior year actual: \$628,562.

SEWER FUND:

REVENUE – Budgeted: \$2,758,350; YTD Actual Collected: \$1,739,915 representing 63% of the budget compared to the prior year = \$2,378,707.

EXPENSES – Budgeted: \$2,758,350; YTD Actual Collected: \$1,401,631 compared to the prior year actual = \$1,774,027 representing 51%.

REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES – Budgeted: \$0; YTD Actual Collected: \$338,224 compared to the prior year actual = \$604,680.

REVIEW OF POLICY UPDATES - Administrator Snowden

A proposal was presented to update the City of Lake City, South Carolina Employees’ Grievance Committee process and procedures; as well as presenting the proposed committee members.

Since Mayor and Council did not object this item from moving forward, it will be on the Tuesday, March 9, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting.

A proposal was presented to update the City of Lake City, South Carolina Employees' Safety Committee Handbook to include guidelines from the Municipal Association of South Carolina. Since Mayor and Council did not object this item from moving forward, it will be on the Tuesday, March 9, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting.

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2021 (page 108) – Approved Items 1 - 9 as presented.

Discussion: Finance Director William Hall presented the February 2021 Bill List consisting of items 1 – 9 for approval.

A motion to approve the February 2021 Bill List items 1 – 9: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Seconded: Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Richard Cook, Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember William Askins and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voted Aye).

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Police Department – the former Interim Deputy Administrator Daniel Brown presented to Mayor and Council statistical data detailing the number of calls they responded, the number of incidents, and community outreach services.

Fire Department – Fire Department Randy Driggers presented the COVID-19 numbers provided by DHEC. Chief Driggers provided statistical data detailing the number of calls they responded to, training, the number of incidents they assisted with and community outreach services.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – ENTERED AT 7:58 P.M (Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby excused herself at this time returning 10 minutes later.

A motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act Section 30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss an employment, compensation or appointment: Councilmember Richard Cook; Second: Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Richard Cook, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember William Askins and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voted Aye).

ACTION AS NEEDED WITH RESPECT TO MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION – EXITED AT 8:40 P.M.

A motion to exit Executive Session pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act Section 30-4-70(a)(1) to discuss an employment, compensation or appointment: Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary; Second: Councilmember Richard Cook; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Richard Cook, Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember William Askins and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voted Aye).

CITY COUNCILMEMBERS REPORTS

Councilmember William Askins – he thanked everyone for coming out.

Councilmember Nicole Singletary - she recognized the former Councilmembers and also echoed the previous sentiments, that Councilmember Peggy Sebnick will be missed. Happy Holidays!

Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott - she thanked everyone for coming out and thanked the Administrative staff, especially the Finance Department for all of their hard work. She recognized the former Police Chief Daniel Brown on a job well done. Her family thanked everyone for their thought's deeds and prayers during their time of bereavement.

Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary – she thanked everyone for coming out and encouraged everyone to continue to be careful and safe. She expressed how much she was going to miss Administrator Snowden.

Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby – she thanked the Administration team and the City staff for a job well done. She stated that Administrator Snowden has done a good job and wished her well.

Councilmember Yamekia Robinson – she thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She expressed sincere condolences to Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott and her family during their time of loss. She stated that she would keep them in prayers. She expressed sincere condolences to the family the former Judge Taft Guiles and his family. She also expressed a concern about how Council is notified during an emergency. Some of her constituents was without water at Highland Pointe Apartment and she was not aware of it until everything was happening. Administrator Snowden responded that we would do better by informing them of emergency situations as they occur. She thanked Administrator Snowden for participating in their W.O.W. event, Women in Leadership. She thanked the Fire Department, Finance Director William Hall, and the former Police Chief Daniel Brown.

Councilmember Richard Cook – he thanked staff for all their hard work ensuring the audit went well. It is good to have the City books up-to-date, especially from behind 3 to 4 years. He thanked Administrator Snowden for her hard work during her time with the City.

MAYOR’S REPORT – he thanked everyone for coming out.


- He announced that on February 15 was a holiday, all local and federal business offices would be closed in observance of President’s Day.
- He expressed sincere condolences to Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott and family during their time of loss.
- He congratulated and wished the former Human Resources Manager Diane Taylor well in her retirement and future endeavors.
- He also thanked Administrator Snowden and wished her well also.
- He welcomed the new members.
- He thanked staff for all their hard work each and every day.

ADJOURNMENT - Adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

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



Lovith Anderson Jr
Mayor

Attest:


Teresa K. Benjamin
City Clerk