



MINUTES

**SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND
BUDGET OVERVIEW WORKSHOP
TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – JUDICIAL CENTER
202 KELLEY STREET
6:30 P.M.**

MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT

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

STAFF

William Hall	Teresa Benjamin	Judge Gloria Washington
Police Chief Joseph Cooper	Glen Bodenheimer	Police Major Patrick Miles

OTHERS

Press – None
Judge Robert Kirven

The City Council Meeting agenda was emailed on Friday, April 16, 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 6:30 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 Councilmember William Askins.

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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 with six members in attendance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA - APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

A motion to approve the Tuesday, April 20, 2021 Special-Called City Council agenda: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Seconded: Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Councilmember Richard Cook, 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

A motion for the approval of the minutes from the Tuesday, March 9, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting, and Budget Overview from March 27, 2021: Councilmember Yamekia Robinson; Seconded: Councilmember Richard Cook; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Councilmember Richard Cook, Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember William Askins and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voted Aye). Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary entered the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act Section 30-4-70 (a)(1) to discuss an employment matter pertaining to the reference department (Judicial) or division the individual will serve in; and other matter related thereto – Entered at 6:36 p.m.

A motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing South Carolina Freedom of Information Act Section 30-4-70 (a)(1) to discuss an employment matter pertaining to the reference department (Judicial) or division the individual will serve in: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Seconded: Councilmember Richard Cook; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Councilmember Richard Cook, Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, 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 6:40 p.m. after hearing all matters with no action taken place.

A motion to exit Executive Session for the purpose of discussing South Carolina Freedom of Information Act Section 30-4-70 (a)(1) to discuss an employment matter pertaining to the reference department (Judicial) or division the individual will serve in: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Seconded: Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Councilmember Richard Cook, Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, Councilmember

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Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember William Askins and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voted Aye).

ADJOURNMENT – Before adjourning, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson recognized Lake City Head Coach and Athletic Director Matt Apicella for joining with her efforts to remember Lake City native Ra'Shaud Graham. On April 28, 2021 everyone was encouraged to wear a pair of “chucks” and high-water pants in remembrance of this young man, who was a major part of our community. A program was sponsored Florence School District 3 at Lake City High School track field at 2 p.m. to recognize Ra'Shaud Graham.

A motion to adjourn the Special-Called Meeting after hearing all matters: 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).

BUDGET OVERVIEW WORKSHOP – Interim City Administrator William A. Hall presented the proposal for the upcoming budget pertaining to the following items:

CAPTIAL OPTIONS – Interim City Administrator William A. Hall informed Mayor and Council that he has provided them with two packets: one provided the slides of the presentation and the second are the supporting documents. For the 2021 – 2022 budget, what was proposed: a 3% Cost of Living Raise for all full-time employees, and those on or before October 30, 2021 who are actively working will receive 1% December annual payout. Employees who fall outside of this perimeter, which includes part-time, will receive \$100. The City of Lake City will pay 100% of insurance cost for employee coverage; holiday pay for public safety employees will be at 12 hours employees instead of 8-hours rate; the City was able to take back solid waste/sanitation since August 2020; and the City has reduced the use of fund balance, so we can start contributing to our fund balance and savings for emergency situations (6 months' worth of operating funds). Councilmember Askins do we know how much that will be, the amount we will be able to contribute back/save? Interim Administrator Hall responded that information received from the Auditor when they provided unmodified opinion after they review our numbers. Councilmember Cook asked if the Auditors are the ones who gives us this number? Interim Administrator Hall responded, no they provided an estimate a City our size should be able to save for emergency and not use funds from the fund balance. Assistant Finance Director Glen Bodenheimer was asked about a year-end estimate and he responded that we have to do a lot of accruals; so, it would be hard to give an estimate at that time because of the cash inflows throughout the year. There is a possibility that an estimate can be given the closer we get to the end of the year. Interim Administrator Hall stated that it would be a guest-a-mation.

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Headcount - Interim Administrator Hall stated that currently we have 97 fulltime and 12 part-time employees. All the departments were shown and shows the area where the headcount has been increased including the salaries.

Revenues – all the documents were provided to show how we account of the revenues for the City of Lake City. This shows all the listing for incoming revenue numbers.

Expenses – a budget summary was provided showing a synopsis of the budget for all departments. A listing of all departments along with the salary and fringe benefits was provided to Mayor and Council. The line items reflected the following and what has been provided for each line items: 30% Lake City Police Department, 12% Lake City Fire Department and 13% was allocated to grants and miscellaneous. Detailed information was provided. Councilmember Askins asked if more officers will be needed, and Interim Administrator Hall responded that he would say yes, because as our community grows more will be needed.

Millage – the proposal is to increase our mills to 177 mil; 36 mil to cover debts with a total mil of 213.34 that will be submitted to Florence County. This will be roughly \$89 for a household valued at \$75,000.

Five years revenue projections – detailed information was provided for Water and Sewer; Florence County mail these notices for the City of Lake City. The contracted amount is \$10,000, but they handle all the billing and collections including the penalties. We do not have the personnel to handle this function. A forecast or assumptions was provided by Assistant Finance Director Glen Bodenheimer, that will flow through but no guarantees.

Police Chief Cooper returned and responded to the question Councilmember Askins asked about the police department. Chief Cooper responded that we would need approximately 4 additional officers. Chief Cooper explained the transport of juveniles to the Columbia, South Carolina facility. This may balance out the shortage in our area. Councilmember Askins asked about a jail facility here, and Police Chief Cooper responded that you could do that, but you have to make sure you have the funding for this type of facility. Interim Administrator Hall reminded everyone of the cost of bringing the old jail back to code and staffing for a facility. Police Chief Cooper reiterated the process and the funding needed to bring a jail facility for adults or juveniles is a costly one. The facility for juveniles has always been located in Columbia, South Carolina. Councilmember Cook asked about the cost for labor and transportation of juveniles? Interim Administrator Hall responded that we have no way of tracking that and Police Chief Cooper stated that we can pull but it will take a little time to compile that information. Councilmember Crosby asked for an average per week? Chief Cooper stated that with COVID-19 in effect there is a different process in place for housing

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juveniles. Councilmember Cook stated that we need to know the cost of transporting juveniles and Mayor Anderson Jr stated that the numbers are there; it will need to be pulled out. Councilmember Cook stated that will give us something to look at and Councilmember Askins stated that maybe this could help free up some resources to handle other situations.

Rate Schedule - the items are what are charged on a daily basis; some are fairly new, and the others have been in place but needed to be updated. The ones in yellow are the ones that have been changed or added. Judicial has added an additional 3% to the cost fee for convenience charge. Councilmember Robinson asked about the first page and new charges; to which, Interim Administrator Hall responded that research has been conducted comparing the fee of the surrounding areas to our fees by Fire Chief Driggers. He found that our numbers are outdated and needed to increase them to cover some of the cost.

Councilmember Robinson asked about the Utility increases, and Interim Administrator Hall responded the Public Director Sims found that our dumping fees are lower than those in surrounding areas. These fees need to be increased to help cover the service charge.

Councilmember Scott asked about the fee for Zoning Board of Appeals process and filing services in the amount of \$100? It was explained by the City Clerk Teresa Benjamin, that Fire Chief Driggers stated that he has received several requests; have gone through the process of retrieving the materials; to only then have the person requesting the information say they do not need it. This results in a loss of time and materials to not start charging for this.

Capital Requests – the list showing all the upcoming items; we can finance at no interest to self, because in the coming years we will be paying some items off. The City can then look at other means of financing and investing. Slug removal is a cost in the amount of \$211,000. All the items in yellows the City can take care of, but the cost to Republic steadily increases. The City needs to look for other options for slug removal. Interim Administrator Hall will look for other options including rentals.

BUDGET OVERVIEW – the Interim Administrator Hall gave an overview for the fiscal 2021 -2022 of the proposed budgets. This was an information only meeting, no action items.

DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS/ANSWERS – have been posed during this session and responses noted. Mayor and Council will need to review the information for the First Reading on the 2021 – 2022 Budget on May 11, 2021.

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ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

A motion to adjourn after hearing all matters: 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).



Lovith Anderson Jr
Mayor

Attest:



Teresa K. Benjamin
City Clerk