



MEETING MINUTES
SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022
VIA TELECONFERENCE
6:00 P.M.

MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT

Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr
Councilmember Yamekia Robinson
Councilmember Richard Cook

Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary
Councilmember Wilhelmena W. Scott
Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (signed at 5:55
p.m. and left the meeting)

STAFF

William Hall Teresa Benjamin Jonathan Laster

OTHERS

A list of attendees provided by Free Conference Call

A Special-Called Meeting was held via Free Conference Call. The agenda was emailed on Friday, January 14, 2022, 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 6:00 p.m. Mayor Anderson explained the protocol for the meeting, encouraging citizens to silence their phones during the open session. Citizens could submit any comments/questions by emailing them to the Interim Administrator's attention: whall@cityoflakecity.org or administraton@cityoflakecity.org.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Invocation was led by Councilmember Richard Cook, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott.

POLLING OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS – A QUORUM WAS PRESENT

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA - APPROVED AS AMENDED

A motion to amend the Tuesday, January 18, 2022, Special-Called Meeting Agenda; III. Legislative; B. Resolutions; item# 2 Resolution 8 to postpone indefinitely that portion of the Resolution for the appointment of Terrie Gaskins-Bryant and Darlene Garrett but to move forward with the remainder of the Resolution as to rescinding Resolution 2022.005; and other matters related thereto: Councilmember Yamekia Robinson; Seconded: Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary; Discussion: Councilmember Scott asked if there was anything they needed to know pertaining to the appointments? Interim Administrator Hall responded that all the details pertaining to this item will be discussed later in the meeting with the exception that Mayor Anderson Jr noted. Councilmember Robinson inquired about the re-appointment of Ms. Darlene Garrett to the Housing Authority Board; she was asking for clarification, and to this Mayor Anderson Jr responded that this was some additional verbiage to be added to Resolution 2022.008. City Council Attorney Charlie Ipock constructed the wording and provided instructions for the placement of this correction; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Councilmember Richard Cook, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voted Aye).

LEGISLATIVE**ORDINANCE****Ordinance 2022.001 Second and Final Reading – Approved as presented**

An Ordinance for the City of Lake City, South Carolina, for the approval to purchase property located at 106 East Main Street, TM#80028-03-028 consisting of 1,200 square feet, in the amount of \$60,000 (Sixty Thousand Dollars); and other matters related thereto – Approved as presented.

A motion to approve Ordinance No# 2022.001 for the approval to purchase property located at 106 East Main Street, TM#80028-03-028 consisting of 1,200 square feet, in the amount of \$60,000 (Sixty Thousand Dollars); Discussion: Mayor Anderson Jr asked for an update pertaining to this project. Interim Administrator Hall provided the following information: the location of the office space is located on the left after you pass the railroad tracks heading toward East Main Street. The office space is located next door to the Greater Lake City Alliance office. He explained that there were some issues with the roof, but the repairs have been made. This area will consist of two offices for the Public Information Officers and an area for recreational / E-sports. He spoke with Fire Chief Driggers about the condition of the facility and if it would be able to house twelve units for a viable E-Sport events venue. Also, to ensure that the facility is ADA compliant, all these measures have been put into place for the safety of the citizens. Councilmember Yamekia Robinson stated that this is a great idea and inquired if there will be literature about programs that could help the citizens with

paying their utilities, rent, and assistance in repairing their homes. Interim Administrator Hall responded that this is what the Public Information Officers will be made available to assist all citizens with any requests they may have, by providing up-to-date information. This department is working on brochures to have available for the public. This department is to keep abreast all the details pertaining to the City and have resources readily available for the citizens of Lake City. Councilwoman Robinson asked who are the current personnel in this position? Interim Administrator Hall responded that Donna Tracy and Jonathan Laster are the two who are currently in these positions. Donna Tracy is a resident of this area and Jonathan Laster is from Hemingway, South Carolina. They are heading up work on the current website and working on another website for the Youth Intervention Programs. They have worked on the re-branding for the City; he stated he sent a proof for them to review. Also, Dashawn Miller is working to get the E-Sport up and going. Councilwoman Robinson stated that this is the area to go to for information, and Interim Administrator Hall responded that yes, but if anyone calls or come by City Hall, they are to be assisted no matter what. Councilmember Robinson asked, is there a point of contact at this location? Interim Administrator Hall no matter where anyone goes in the City, they will receive quality Customer Service; Motion Carried: All Ayes All Ayes (Councilmember Richard Cook, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voted Aye).

Resolution 2022.007 – Approved as presented

A Resolution for the City of Lake City, South Carolina for the approval to rescind Resolution 2022.004 due to a conflict of interest. The approval of this Resolution 2022.007 will appoint Harry Askins to the Architectural Review Board; and all other matters related thereto.

A motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Harry Askins to the Architectural Review Board after the rescission of Resolution 2022.004, that has been tabled indefinitely; Councilmember Yamekia Robinson; Seconded: Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott; Discussion – per the City Attorney Charlie Ipock, Interim Administrator Hall stated that this was in an effort to correct the previous Resolution 2022.004 due to a conflict in interest. Councilmember Robinson asked for the record what was the conflict? Interim Administrator Hall explained the protocol of recusing oneself from voting. Councilmember Robinson asked for clarification that if Mr. Askins is elected to this board, would his son Councilmember William Askins have to recuse himself? The answer to this question is yes, City Clerk Teresa K. Benjamin stated that ethically this should be

the protocol because it could be perceived that his vote was swayed to benefit someone they are affiliated with via personal or business; Motion Carried: All Ayes All Ayes (Councilmember Richard Cook, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voted Aye).

Resolution 2022.008 – Approved as presented

A Resolution for the City of Lake City, South Carolina for the approval to ~~rescind Resolution 2022.005 due to a conflict of interest and the restructuring of this board. The approval of this Resolution 2022.008 will appoint to the Housing Authority Board: Terrie Gaskins-Bryant and Darlena Garrett; to postpone indefinitely that portion of the Resolution for the appointment of Terrie Gaskins-Bryant and Darlena Garrett but to move forward with the remainder of the Resolution as to rescinding Resolution 2022.005; and all other matters related thereto~~ – Approved with revisions to Table Indefinitely.

A motion to approve Resolution 2022.008 *with the following revisions: to postpone indefinitely that portion of the Resolution for the appointment of Terrie Gaskins-Bryant and Darlene Garrett but to move forward with the remainder of the Resolution as to rescinding Resolution 2022.005; Councilmember Yamekia Robinson; Seconded: Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary; Discussion – several Councilmembers had questions pertaining to why this Resolution was handled in this manner. Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott there was some confusion, the information that has been presented, the action taken will be to rescind this item. Interim Administrator Hall stated that this will give the City an opportunity to start over. Councilmember Robinson asked with this action how will this affect Ms. Darlene Garrett re-appointment? Interim Administrator Hall stated that he was informed that there were four vacancies for this board; since this time, he was informed that there is only two vacancy which includes the re-appointment of Ms. Darlene Garrett. Mayor Anderson Jr tried to clear up the confusion as stating this gives Council a chance to vote on this item. Interim Administrator Hall stated that he has not spoken to Ms. Darlene Garrett before this item came to a vote, but he heard from her at 5 p.m. on this day. Councilmember Scott stated that this was very confusing, and she never heard anything or any complaints from anyone about her performance. The City Attorney Charlie Ipock transcribed the verbiage to amend this Resolution due to a conflict of interest and the restricting on the Housing Authority Board from seven members to five members. Interim Administrator Hall stated that by making these revisions it will clear the way so this item can be brought back to Council for a vote. City Clerk Teresa Benjamin tried explaining the process from the advertising of open positions for the City's Boards, Commissions, and Committees; to the review process of selecting the*

ideal candidate; to scheduling interviews for the top three candidates; to bringing the matter to City Council to vote on the appointment. After this process has been completed, the following month the candidate will become a full member of the board, commission, or committee. This allows time for a Welcome packet to be sent to the new or returning member. In this packet the candidate receives the following: the signed Resolution of appointment, By-Laws, a letter informing them of their appointment term from beginning to end, and a list of the board, commission, or committee members. A copy of this letter is sent to the board, commission or committee chairperson; this gives them an opportunity to reach out to the newly elected candidate. Councilmember Scott stated that Ms. Darlene Garrett expressed a verbal notice of wanting to continue to serve on the Housing Authority Board in October 2021. Councilmember Cook asked, with whom did Ms. Darlene Garrett express her desire to continue her serving on the Lake City Housing Authority Board, with a little reluctance, Councilmember Scott responded that she was told that Ms. Garrett spoke to Mayor Anderson Jr in reference to her interest in continuing to serve. Mayor Anderson Jr stated that this could have happened, but historically a written notice has to be submitted stating that the interest is there. Interim Administrator Hall reiterated that if this appointment does not take place, it could possibly prevent the Housing Authority from performing their duties. He suggested that another meeting will be held before the end of this month for the appointments to be established. Mayor Anderson Jr explained again, the selection process for the candidates that will be considered. Councilmember Robinson asked again if they move forward with this Resolution, it could possibly cause her name to be excluded? Councilmember Richard Cook asked why not just rescind Resolution 2022.005, so we can just throw out this item. Mayor Anderson Jr will include her name. Councilmember Robinson asked if there a follow up letter sent out to the member of the boards, commissions, and committees making them aware that their term is about to expire? City Clerk Benjamin responded that there are no follow up letters sent out and explained the process again; Motion Carried: Ayes (Councilmember Richard Cook, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, and Mayor Anderson Jr; Councilmember Yamekia Robinson and Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary voted Nay.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Discussion of the American Rescue Plan – Interim Administrator William Hall

Interim Administrator Hall explained that the last document in the packet detailed the proposed expenditures/projects that will be addressed with the remaining balance of the American Rescue funds. The list was shown as following:

	<u>October 29, 2021</u>	<u>October 29, 2022</u>
	\$1,617,246.10	\$1,617,246.10
Checkerboard Water Tank	(\$400,000.00)	
Matthews Water Tank	(\$400,000.00)	
Sewer Cave In -- Carver/Floyd	(\$180,000.00)	
Martha Law Sewer Replacement	(\$1,500,000.00)	
Premium Pay	(\$309,000.00)	
Sewer Vac	_____	<u>(\$350,000.00)</u>
Balance	(\$1,171,853.90)	\$1,267,246.10.

Interim Administrator Hall asked if there were any objections to using the remaining funds for these projects. Councilmember Richard Cook agreed with the list as did the other Councilmembers.

ADJOURNMENT - Adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

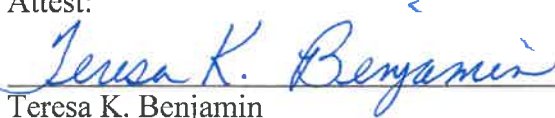
Having heard all matters presented and having no citizens input, a Motion to Adjourn was made by Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott; Seconded: Councilmember Richard Cook; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary,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

Interim Administrator Hall asked for the record to reflect that Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby signed into the meeting at 5:55 p.m.; and left the meeting shortly after. Thereby she was not present to vote on any of these matters.



Lovith Anderson Jr
Mayor

Attest:



Teresa K. Benjamin
City Clerk