



MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – JUDICIAL CENTER
202 KELLEY STREET
7:00 P.M.

<https://www.facebook.com/christiannewsty2/videos/1658777454501381>

MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT

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

STAFF

William Hall	Teresa Benjamin	Adrienne Thomas
Jonathan Laster	Patrick Miles	Cynthia Mallette
Glen Bodenheimer	Nekeycha Izzard	Ricky Sims
Charlie Ipock (City Attorney)	LaToya Miller	Rhonda Housand

OTHERS

Taylor Floyd (Morning News) Christian News-Ty

A list of attendees will accompany the minutes

The City Council Regular City Council Meeting agenda acknowledgment was made publicly on the City's Facebook and website on Friday, March 4, 2022. The agenda was emailed on Friday, March 4, 2022 to members of the media and posted on the bulletin board at the Lake City Municipal Complex, as well as 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. and explained the protocol for the meeting with social-distancing measures encouraged.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Invocation was led by Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott recognizing all the great Black Women who have led the way so for many others and to those who are continuing to fight the

good fight, during this month of March (International Women’s Month). 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 Councilmembers and found there to be a quorum present (a list of attendees has been included).

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA - APPROVED AS PRESENTED

A motion to approve the Tuesday, March 8, 2022, Regular City Council agenda: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Second: Councilmember Yamekia Robinson; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, Councilmember William Askins, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember Richard Cook, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voted Aye).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APPROVED AS PRESENTED

Approval of the minutes from the Tuesday, February 8, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Second: Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, Councilmember William Askins, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember Richard Cook, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voted Aye).

PRESENTATION

FY2021 Audit Results ending June 30, 2022 – presented by Emily Sobczak, who has been conducting the City’s audits for that the last two years. It is the duty of Greene – Finney to provide the following for the City of Lake City: 1). Unmodified opinion on the Financial Statements for GFCLLP, 2). focus on planning for future capital costs of the utility system, and lastly 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. A copy of the information that was presents has been included with the minutes. The presentation has been included detailing all items she covered. Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr thanked Mrs. Sobczak and her team who performed the audit.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – Notes on Comment Period: Comments are limited to two minutes per person and no personal or verbal attacks will be entertained; a sign-in sheet has been placed so that those who wish to speak can leave their personal information: There was no public input.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2022.002 Second and Final Reading

An Ordinance for the City of Lake City, South Carolina for the approval to enter into a Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Kingstree Police Department and the City of Lake City Police Department, South Carolina; and all other matters related thereto – Approved as presented.

A motion to approve Ordinance 2022.002 of the City of Lake City, South Carolina for the approval to enter into a Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Kingstree Police Department and the City of Lake City Police Department, South Carolina; and all other matters related thereto: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Second: Councilmember Yamekia Robinson; Discussion: Councilmember Yamekia Robinson asked for City Administrator William A. Hall to elaborate a little more as to what this ordinance is stating for the citizens can understand. Administrator Hall directed this item to the Police Chief Joseph Cooper to explain. Police Chief Cooper stated that this agreement allows for the City to receive assistance from other municipalities during times of emergency. This does not mean when an officer is off duty, that they are called in to cover a shift. This is a municipality or the City needs additional assistance during an emergency situation. It will be the responsibility of the other municipality to pay their officers in this type of situation; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, Councilmember William Askins, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember Richard Cook, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voted Aye).

Ordinance 2022.003 Second and Final Reading

An Ordinance for the City of Lake City, South Carolina for the approval of rezoning property located at 208 West Cole Road, TM#00169-31-258 consisting of 9.42 acres belonging to Signs Limited of Lake City, South Carolina: and all other matters related thereto – Approved as presented.

A motion to approve Ordinance 2022.003 of the City of Lake City, South Carolina for the approval of rezoning property located at 208 West Cole Road, TM#00169-31-258 consisting of 9.42 acres belonging to Signs Limited of Lake City, South Carolina; and all other matters related thereto: Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott; Second: Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary; Discussion: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby asked if there was an update on the former/volunteer Firefighter Kenny Sauls status with the City. City Administrator William A. Hall responded that Kenny Sauls is a volunteer firefighter. Councilmember Crosby asked the City Attorney Charlie Ipock to check into the matter of a possible conflict of interest pertaining to this matter. Attorney Ipock responded that he did not foresee any issues, but he would look into the matter; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Councilmember William Askins, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember Richard Cook, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr); Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby abstained from voting.

Ordinance 2022.004 Second and Final Reading

An Ordinance for the City of Lake City, South Carolina for the approval of rezoning property located at 278 West Cole Road, TM#00169-31-271 belonging to the City of Lake City, South Carolina: and all other matters related thereto – Approved as presented.

A motion to approve Ordinance 2022.004 of the City of Lake City, South Carolina for the approval of rezoning property located at 278 West Cole Road, TM#00169-31-271 belonging to the City of Lake City, South Carolina; and all other matters related thereto: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Second: Councilmember Yamekia Robinson; Discussion: None; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, Councilmember William Askins, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember Richard Cook, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr).

RESOLUTION**Resolution 2022.017 Approved as presented**

A Resolution for the City of Lake City, South Carolina seeking the approval of additional funding to the Capital Improvement Line Item from the approval of Ordinance 2021.559 on June 8, 2021. Ordinance 2021.559 was approved for the establishment of a municipal budget; and all other matters related thereto – Approved as presented.

A motion to approve Resolution 2022.017 of the City of Lake City, South Carolina seeking the approval of additional funding to the Capital Improvement Line Item from the approval of Ordinance 2021.559 on June 8, 2021. Ordinance 2021.559 was approved for the establishment of a municipal budget; and all other matters related thereto: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Second: Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary; Discussion: Administrator Hall explained the reason for this item because of the issues in today's economy to order new vehicles in the amount of \$279,000 (Two Hundred and Nine Thousand Dollars). Councilmember Yamekia Robinson asked if the amount was included in the packet? Administrator Hall responded yes, this amount included the upfitting of these vehicles; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, Councilmember William Askins, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember Richard Cook, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr).

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS – Administrator Hall

ADMINISTRATOR WILLIAM HALL: MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – FISCAL YR 2022 PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2022. The following is a summary of the City's financial results for the major operating funds as of February 28, 2022. Fiscal year activity has been included as of March 3, 2022.

GENERAL FUND:

REVENUE - Budgeted: \$7,566,989; YTD Actual Collected = \$5,197,334, representing 69% of the current budget compared to the prior year actual collected = \$4,272,465.

EXPENSES – Budgeted: \$7,566,989; YTD Actual Spent = \$5,367,590, representing 71% of the budget compared to the prior year actual = \$4,946,319.

REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES: YTD = (\$170,256); PRIOR YR ACTUAL = \$(673,854).

WATER FUND:

REVENUE – Budgeted: \$1,584,743; YTD Actual Collected: \$1,102,068 representing 70% of the budget compared to the prior year actual: \$1,079,144.

EXPENSES – Budgeted: \$1,584,743; YTD Actual Spent: \$1,040,766 representing 66% of the budget compared to the prior year actual: \$873,864.

REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES: YTD = \$61,302; PRIOR YR ACTUAL = \$205,280 surplus.

SEWER FUND:

REVENUE – Budgeted: \$2,910,554; YTD Actual Collected: \$2,076,769 representing 71% of the budget compared to the prior year = \$2,207,711.

EXPENSES – Budgeted: \$2,910,554; YTD Actual Spent: \$2,143,833 compared to the prior year actual = \$1,679,110 representing 74%.

REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES – Budgeted: \$0; YTD Actual Collected: (\$67,064) compared to the prior year actual = \$528,601.

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH (page 40) – Approved Items 1 - 7 as presented.

A motion to approve the March 2022 Bill List items 1 – 7: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Second: Councilmember Yamekia Robinson; Discussion: None;

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

Additional item: Administrator Hall explained to Mayor and Council about the new truck. This truck will be for the removal of the City of Lake City's sludge removal. He explained that they are currently in the process of getting the tags and title registered in Florence County. They are getting the sludge tested so it can be accepted by the landfill in Lee County. Also, they are looking out that working through cutting our cost of getting out of the current contract with AMICK within the next nine months. The agreement will be that Amick will continue to pick up once a week for the next nine months. The City will be responsible for the removal of the remainder.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS – PRESENTED BY LAKE CITY POLICE JOSEPH COOPER.

Lake City Police Chief Joseph Cooper presented to Mayor and Council February 2022 statistical data (data sheets has been included in the minutes and a copy was given to each member of Council). Chief Cooper explained the data that was presented. This data was broken down into their demographic makeup. He announced that as of February 17, 2022, the City of Lake City now has a Girl Scout Troop #2722, this program will be led by the Youth Intervention Coordinator Ms. Ashley Page and the Police Department Administrative Assistant Chelsea Rice. The age range is from 8 – 18 years old; the grades range from 2 – 12. They will have meetings in the Judicial Center. There will be a Law Enforcement Job Fair held on March 30, 2022. He thanked Mayor and Council about the approval of the new vehicles and added additional information.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Entered at 7:44 p.m.

A motion to enter Executive Session pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act Section 30-4-70 (a)(1) for the discussion of a personnel employment, compensation or appointments and other matters related thereto: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Second: Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, Councilmember William Askins, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember Richard Cook, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr).

ACTION AS NEEDED WITH RESPECT TO MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION – Exited at 8:08 p.m., there was no action taken during the Executive Session.

A motion to exit Executive Session pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act Section 30-4-70 (a)(1) for the discussion of a personnel employment, compensation or appointments and all matters related thereto: Councilmember Richard

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

Resolution 2022.018 – Approved as presented

A Resolution for the City of Lake City, South Carolina seeking the approval for the appointment of the City Administrator; and all other matters related thereto - Approved as presented.

A motion to approve Resolution 2022.018 of the City of Lake City, South Carolina seeking the approval for the appointment of the City Administrator William A. Hall for a two-year term; and all other matters related thereto – Approved as presented: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Seconded: Councilmember Yamekia Robinson; Discussion:; Motion Carried: All Ayes (Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby, Councilmember William Askins, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember Richard Cook, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr).

CITY COUNCILMEMBERS REPORTS

Councilmember Richard Cook – he thanked everyone for coming and congratulated William A. Hall is being assigned the position of City Administrator.

Councilmember Yamekia Robinson - she thanked everyone for coming out and expressing their concerns. She reminded everyone that the month of March is recognized as International Women’s Month, and she paid tribute to the women have paved the way for so many other women. She congratulated William A. Hall on his new role as the official City Administrator, and she recognized him for all his demanding work during the course of the year. She gave a very special thank you to the participants in the week of Read Across Lake City. Saint James on March 25 between the hours of 12 – 5 p.m. There was a free COVID testing and vaccination clinic at Wesley between the hours of 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. on March 12, 2022. She stated that there have been a number of meetings pertaining to the community, and these efforts will continue as to put forth an effort to make way for a better and safer community.

Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby – she thanked everyone for coming out to express their concerns. She congratulated William A. Hall on being appointed to his new position of City Administrator.

Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary – she thanked everyone for coming out and bringing their concerns. She also congratulated William A. Hall in being elected into his new role as City Administrator.

Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott – she thanked everyone for coming out to voice their concerns. She congratulated William A. Hall for being elected as the City Administrator.

Councilmember William Askins – no report, congratulations to William A. Hall.

MAYOR’S REPORT – he thanked everyone for coming out and stated how much he appreciated the City staff members for all of their challenging work.

ADJOURNMENT - Adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

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

Lovith Anderson Jr
Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk