



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 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 ( <b>via telephone</b> )
Councilmember Yamekia Robinson	Councilmember Wilhelmena W. Scott
Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary	Councilmember Richard Cook

**STAFF**

William A. Hall	Tonya S. Huell	LaToya Miller
Donna Tracy	Fire Chief Randy Driggers	Police Chief Joseph Cooper
Charlie Ipock (City Attorney)		

**OTHERS**

**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, May 6, 2022. The agenda was emailed on Friday, May 6, 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 Invocational Prayer was led by Councilmember Yamekia Robinson. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Richard Cook.

**POLLING OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS – A QUORUM WAS PRESENT**

Interim City Clerk Tonya S. Huell 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**

Councilmember Yamekia Robinson motioned to approve the Tuesday, April 12, 2022, Regular City Council Agenda. Motion seconded by Councilmember Richard Cook. Motion carried with Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone), Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember Richard Cook, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voting Aye.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott motioned to approve the minutes from Tuesday, April 12, 2022 Special Called City Council Meeting and Regular Council Meeting. Motion seconded Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary. Motion carried with Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone), Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember Richard Cook, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voting Aye.

## **PRESENTATION**

Don Strickland, PDRTA, appeared before Council to provide a report on services provided to the citizens of Lake City with fixed-routes, paratransit services, commuters, and demand response services to ensure that no one is excluded from utilizing the transit system. Pee Dee Regional Transit Authority is currently looking at expanding and modifying plans; adding a marketing feature to buses for further resources; averaging 1200-1700 trips; implementing a MUSC-Cades connection and summer beach bus riders are up. Mr. Strickland wanted to thank Council for its continued local support.

**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:

**Emma Martin**, 355 Moore Street, expressed concern about gun violence and the deterioration of certain parts of Lake City. She questioned how the guns are getting into the hands of children and what can be done about it. She also wanted to know why grant monies are not being used in the areas that have been neglected for so many years. She really wanted to know when these issues will be addressed.

**Rev. Amiri Booker**, 617 Hendricks Street, stated that Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church of Lake City members committed to being present at City Council meetings concerning issues surrounding poverty, justice, and jobs. He shared a scripture (Micah 3). He stated he wanted continued community discussion and involvement and that he and the church members are part of the community and want to see and help justice be mediated to everyone.

**Mattie Thomas**, 610 Davis Street, appeared before Council to give thanks for improved lighting in some areas because the City is too dark and asked that they continue to work on that. She stated that three years ago she held a community meeting, and the topic then was gun violence and drugs. We have been struggling with this for years. Elected officials, pastors, and community leaders, we must form a group or committee to fix Lake City. We are a village, and every child is important no matter where they live or where they come from. We need to hear from our representatives on this matter.

**Margret Jones**, 713 South Ron McNair Blvd, stated that a lot of these issues and concerns in Lake City can be stopped by investing some of the 3.2 million dollars that the City received in the community. She questioned what is being done with this money to better the community. She requested more information on the purchase of property in the proposed Ordinance 2022.005 and 2022.006.

## **ORDINANCES**

City Administrator William A. Hall presented the following legislative agenda items for review and consideration.

### **Ordinance 2022.005 Second and Final Reading**

Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott motioned to approve an ordinance for the City of Lake City, South Carolina authorizing the purchase of property located at 420 James Street Tax ID# 80004-14-01; and all other matters related thereto. Motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary. Motion carried with Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone), Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember Richard Cook, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voting Aye.

The purpose of this ordinance is to build two (2) affordable homes in the community.

### **Ordinance 2022.006 Second and Final Reading**

Councilmember Yamekia Robinson motioned to approve an ordinance for the City of Lake City, South Carolina authorizing the purchase of property located at 106 Lake Street Tax ID# 80015-05-024; and all other matters related thereto. Motion seconded by Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott. Motion carried with Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone), Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember Richard Cook, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voting Aye.

The purpose of this ordinance is to commence with enforcing the rules with authorized ordinances for semi-trucks parking in communities.

Councilmember Yamekia Robinson asked for clarification on the \$25 fee that will be charged for parking at this designated site. City Administrator William Hall presented the plan for the property and why.

Councilmember Richard Cook asked if there were streets in the City that trucks could not park on. City Administrator William Hall stated that the City has an ordinance in place that does not allow parking in communities and if this ordinance is enforced, there is no other parking option.

Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby questioned if more consideration was given to personal vehicles being allowed to park on the lot. She questioned the reasoning on why personal vehicles are not being considered. The City should meet with community semi-truck owners/operators and get their input. Mayor Lovith Anderson, Jr presented several reasons involving a danger or risk that was taken into consideration for safety purposes.

Police Chief Joseph Cooper provided additional clarification on the matter and explained that the parking of personal vehicles will be addressed further in this process.

City Administrator William Hall stated that once the purchase of the property is approved than policy and procedures can be discussed and brought back to Council for approval. The parking of personal vehicles will be addressed at that time.

Discussion continued on alternatives and other options.

## **Ordinance 2022.007 First Reading**

Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott motioned to approve an ordinance for the City of Lake City, South Carolina to approve levying taxes and establish a municipal budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 and other matters related thereto. Motion seconded by Councilmember Yamekia Robinson. Motion carried with Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone), Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember Richard Cook, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voting Aye.

## **RESOLUTION**

### **Resolution 2022.028 Final Reading**

Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott motioned to approve a resolution establishing approval for the acceptance of grant funds from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Grant. Motion seconded by Councilmember Richard Cook. Motion carried with Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone), Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember Richard Cook, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voting Aye.

The Lake City Fire Department has been awarded the 2022 South Carolina Volunteer Strategic Assistance and Fire Equipment (V-Safe) Grant. The Lake City Fire Department is one of 70 fire

departments representing 29 counties across the state that receive more than \$2 million in funding. The Lake City Fire Department will receive \$30,000 to purchase five (5) Motorola APX 6000 portable radios. These radios will be used to update some of our old obsolete radios we currently have.

Fire Chief Randy Driggers stated that these radios are required and are 100% in compliance once they come online.

**Resolution 2022.029 Final Reading**

Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary motioned to approve a resolution establishing approval for the acceptance of a Summer Internship for the Wastewater Treatment Plant and extending financial assistance for implementation. Motion seconded by Councilmember Richard Cook. Motion carried with Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone), Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember Richard Cook, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voting Aye.

As a proactive and positive method to encourage youth development, the City of Lake City wants to focus on building a positive relationship that will introduce soft and technical skills in opportunities that will allow them to succeed in meaningful ways. The program will employ/support two (2) high school students, ages 16-19 during an eight-week, paid summer internship program at \$10.00 per hour.

**Resolution 2022.030 Final Reading**

Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott motioned to approve a resolution for the acceptance of funding from the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Development Fund and other matters related thereto. Motion seconded by Councilmember Yamekia Robinson. Motion carried with Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone), Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, Councilmember Richard Cook, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voting Aye.

The Lake City Recreation and Tourism Department was approved to receive funding in the amount of \$19,242.69 for the Blanding Street Park to purchase and install new playground structure to include border, ramp, and mulch.

**Resolution 2022.031 Final Reading**

City Administrator William A. Hall requested to table a resolution for the City of Lake City, South Carolina authorizing the appointment of the Clerk to Council and other matters related thereto until after Executive Session.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS PRESENTED CITY ADMINISTRATOR WILLIAM A. HALL**

City Administrator William A. Hall presented pictures and informed Council that water tower at the new MUSC hospital site has been constructed along service lines being installed down Highway 52. The City's Media Log was presented from the Public Information Office which tracks news articles, advertisements, media platforms and various projects the City is working on along with status. The City is now hauling its own sludge from the wastewater treatment plant and showing a savings from that effort. Council approved \$400,000 to invest in Affordable Housing from the 3.2 million dollars the City received from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funds. Construction builds and the market, currently have the houses at \$90,000 with a credit score of 580. Progress is moving slowly on acquiring rights to abandon or dilapidated homes. A letter was sent to all property owners or heirs with little to no response. Consideration is being given to rewording the letter to make it more enticing in resolving the abandoned and blighted property issues. The Family Field Trip is in the works. Dr. Hickson from FSD3 is providing a list of families that will be taking this trip to Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia, South Carolina. Some of the eSport equipment has arrived.

Councilmember Richard Cook asked what could be legally done to move the process along. City Attorney Charlie Ipock stated that there is a process laid out by the State in the steps that must be taken regarding property owner rights. We are still in the infancy stage of the process. This process will not happen overnight, it will take time.

Discussions continued about the specifics, alternatives and other options regarding the acquisition of personal property.

**MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – FISCAL YR 2022 PERIOD ENDING APRIL 30, 2022.** The following is a summary of the City's financial results for the major operating funds as of April 30, 2022. Fiscal year activity has been included as of May 6, 2022.

**GENERAL FUND:**

**REVENUE** - Budgeted: \$7,566,989; YTD Actual Collected = \$6,407,188, representing 85% of the current budget compared to the prior year actual collected = \$5,319,167.

**EXPENSES** – Budgeted: \$7,566,989; YTD Actual Spent = \$6,989,268, representing 92% of the budget compared to the prior year actual = \$6,081,368.

**REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES:** YTD = (\$582,080); PRIOR YR ACTUAL = \$(762,201).

**WATER FUND:**

**REVENUE** – Budgeted: \$1,584,743; YTD Actual Collected: \$1,420,338 representing 90% of the budget compared to the prior year actual: \$1,243,427.

**EXPENSES** – Budgeted: \$1,584,743; YTD Actual Spent: \$1,267,296 representing 80% of the budget compared to the prior year actual: \$1,071,648.

**REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES:** YTD = \$153,042; PRIOR YR ACTUAL = \$171,779 surplus.

**SEWER FUND:**

**REVENUE** – Budgeted: \$2,910,554; YTD Actual Collected: \$2,545,380 representing 87% of the budget compared to the prior year = \$2,487,034.

**EXPENSES** – Budgeted: \$2,910,554; YTD Actual Spent: \$2,666,553 compared to the prior year actual = \$2,181,100 representing 92%.

**REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES** – YTD Actual Collected: (\$121,173) compared to the prior year actual = \$305,934.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF MAYRE (page 64)** – Approved Items 1 - 8 as presented.

A motion was made by Councilmember Yamekia Robinson and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary to approve the May 2022 Bill List items 1 – 8: Councilmember Richard Cook, Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone), Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr voted Aye.

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

Lake City Police Chief Joseph Cooper presented to Mayor and Council April 2022 statistical data (data sheets have been included in the minutes and a copy was given to each member of Council except those not present). Chief Cooper explained the data in detail. This data was broken down into their demographic makeup. He announced for the month of April 2022 there was a total of 1009 service calls with 197 traffic stops, 63 burglar alarms, 214 property checks within the city limits, 35 vehicle accidents, 32 warrants served, 10 assaults, 14 shootings (gun shots fired) with one at an unauthorized local bar, 11 break ins, 11 DUS with total incident report count of 161 and 24 arrests. We have one officer at the Academy and three getting ready to go.

Councilmember Yamekia Robinson questioned if there is any way to have law enforcement or security present at youth recreational games after expressing her concern about individuals or parents who get angry and speed away, make threats and act out on site.

Police Chief Joseph Cooper stated that due to a shortage of police officers, officers on duty, will drive through to show presence or respond as soon as they can in between calls to any incidents.



We are unable to assign a ratio of officers at every game currently due to proper coverage of shifts. LCPD and Florence County Sheriff Department do work together to provide coverage to incidents and accidents, but it does lead to a lack of coverage for other events. Please call 911 to make reports so the closest law enforcement entity can be dispatched.

Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott stated that at the end of McGregor Circle, a group of people go out there and be unloading their weapons. They are sometimes walking around with the guns in their hands. Can lighting or cameras be placed in this area?

Chief Cooper stated that the City has no jurisdiction in this area, but when reported the appropriate agency will be contacted due to property mapping. The area could be a part of Florence County or within the city limits of Lake City. If the appropriate agency is tied up, then the supporting law enforcement agency will be contacted. He went on to say that when individuals who know who is committing the crimes refuse to provide names it hinders the process of resolving the issue. If you don't want to talk to someone from LCPD directly, call Crime Stoppers, you don't have to leave your name to provide information.

Councilmember Richard Cook stated that legislation must be looked at because you can arrest someone for a crime, and they are out in an hour. It gives the appearance that there are no consequences for certain actions.

Several citizens from the audience expressed concern about some of the laws upheld by the Justice System along with requesting more Diversity and Sensitivity Training for officers. It was stated that we all care about the same thing, but we must come together and form a committee to address these issues because all communities in Lake City is being affected.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – Entered at 8:25p.m.**

A motion was made by Councilmember Yamekia Robinson and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary 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 the receipt of legal advice relating to pending, threatened, or potential claims and matters covered by the attorney-client privilege as well as the settlement of legal claims and other matters related thereto. Motion carried with Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone), Councilmember Richard Cook, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voting Aye.

**ACTION AS NEEDED WITH RESPECT TO MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION – Exited at 8:50p.m.,** there was no action taken during the Executive Session.



A motion was made by Councilmember Yamekia Robinson and seconded Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary 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 the receipt of legal advice relating to pending, threatened, or potential claims and matters covered by the attorney-client privilege as well as the settlement of legal claims and other matters related thereto. Motion carried with Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone), Councilmember Richard Cook, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voting Aye.

### **Resolution 2022.031 Final Reading**

A motion was made by Councilmember Richard Cook and seconded by Councilmember Yamekia Robinson to table a resolution for the City of Lake City, South Carolina authorizing the appointment of the Clerk to Council and other matters related thereto. Motion carried with Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone), Councilmember Richard Cook, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voting Aye.

### **CITY COUNCILMEMBERS REPORTS**

**Councilmember Richard Cook** – thanked Administration and staff for a great job with the Food Truck Rodeo and participation with Artifields. Everything was kept cleaned with no overflow of trash. He reiterated moving forward with the process for the abandon houses and requested information on the completion on paving of Main Street.

**Councilmember Yamekia Robinson** - thanked everyone for coming out and expressing their concerns about better the community. She applauded the community members, Council, and staff on working toward common goals of keeping our streets safe, streets clean, and beautifying our neighborhoods and communities. We must work together and not point fingers to make this happen. She thanked Artifields staff and the City staff who participated in this years collaboration. It went well. She encouraged everyone to stay safe, especially during the coming holiday.

**Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary** – stated that she agrees with everything Councilmember Yamekia Robinson said in her close out remarks and thanked everyone for coming out and expressing their concerns.

**Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott** – stated that she echoes the praises given so far on everything that has been happening in Lake City. As an elected or appointed official for the City, we stand for the right things. We work to serve the people, but we must work together to make a difference.

**Mayor Lovith Anderson, Jr.** – thanked everyone for coming out. He stated that all families go through difficult times, and they don't always agree with each other. They learn how to get beyond that to be successful. This is a strong town with a strong history. We must continue to strengthen our communities and how our people live by improving infrastructural needs for the next generation.

**Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via phone)** – expressed to everyone that their concerns are being heard. She stated that together, we can make things happen. Her wish would be for things to go back to when it was okay to leave your doors unlocked, but she knows times have changed. She thanked everyone for coming out and to be blessed.

**ADJOURNMENT** - Adjourned at 9:01p.m.

Having heard all matters presented and having no citizens input, a motion was made by Councilmember Richard Cook and seconded by Councilmember Yamekia Robinson to Adjourn. Motion carried with Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone), Councilmember Richard Cook, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voting Aye. Motion Carried: Unanimously.

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Lovith Anderson Jr  
Mayor

Attest:

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Interim City Clerk