



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 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
Councilmember William Askins	Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary

**STAFF**

William A. Hall	Tonya S. Huell	LaToya Miller
Donna Tracy	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 Monday, April 11, 2022. The agenda was emailed on Monday, April 11, 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 Nicole Singletary.

**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 Wilhelmena W. Scott. Motion carried with Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone), Councilmember William Askins, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voting Aye.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone) motioned to approve the minutes from the Tuesday, March 8, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting and the Saturday, March 26, 2022 Special-Called Meeting Minutes, and Tuesday, March 22, 2022 Community Involvement Report. Motion seconded Councilmember Yamekia Robinson. Motion carried with Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone), Councilmember William Askins, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voting Aye.

**PRESENTATION**

**Ellen Hamilton**, Pee Dee Coalition, thanked Lake City Council for 35 years of support in providing office space for 24-hour crisis support dedicated to the reduction of sexual assault, family violence and child abuse prevention. Harriet Rose and Asia McFadden presented an agenda of events in the month of April for Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr read into record a Proclamation proclaiming the month of April 2022 as Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse Prevention Month. He thanked the agency members for all that they do to help in the community.

**Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr** read into record a Proclamation proclaiming the month of April 2022 in Lake City, South Carolina as “Fair Housing Month”. The Mayor and Council will continue to look for ways to broaden our city limits by allowing diversity to enter with no prejudice or unfair treatment to anyone.

**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:

**Rev. Amiri Booker**, 112 Deep River Street; **Emma Martin**, 355 Moore Street; and **Alfred Graham**, 201 North Blanding Street, of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church of Lake City presented Council with a letter of community issues and concerns in regards to getting rid of abandon houses; more basketball courts; pedestrian crosswalks, sidewalks, and walking trails; movie theaters; bowling and skating rinks; bingo halls and more; community concerts and movies; job training; business incubators; Summer jobs; Summer Internships; grant information; Neighborhood Watch; less random gun fire; more

police presence; more Senior Citizens Wellness Check Programs; more interaction with FSD3; more community workshop services; more information on community events; training on young adult investing; a real focus on African American Community; and real focus on racism in our town and racial healing.

**Rachel Singletary**, 404 Patty Ave, appeared before Council to express concerns about gun violence. She stated on the morning of January 7, she had to run into her bathroom for safety because two bullets entered home with one just missing her head. She said something has to be done about this because she and other Seniors don't feel safe.

**Steve Altman**, Morris Street, stated that there wasn't anything that was said that didn't generate possibilities in his mind. He reminisced about projects that was done years ago that came about from a discussion and now most of the projects are done. He recommended organizing a committee to meet once a month to discuss and compile ideas of ways to improve Lake City. He had an idea that would help with future City projects that would help with a recreation place for young people, drainage issues, establishing new parks, and tourism all with one project.

## **ORDINANCES**

### **Ordinance 2022.005 First Reading**

A motion was made by Council member Yamekia Robinson and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary 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 carried with Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone), Councilmember William Askins, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voting Aye.

Councilmember Yamekia Robinson asked City Administrator William A. Hall to elaborate on the purchase for the public.

City Administrator William A. Hall stated that the owner of the property contacted the City about purchasing the property at \$6000. The property was evaluated and deemed ready to build for two homes. The tax value on this property is in price range and is acceptable. The City will own a piece of property ready for development.

Councilmember Yamekia Robinson questioned if the \$6000 would be coming from the American Recuse Plan (ARP) funds provided by the federal government because of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

City Administrator William A. Hall stated that was correct.

### **Ordinance 2022.006 First Reading**

A motion was made by Council member Wilhelmena Scott and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary 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 carried with Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone), Councilmember William Askins, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voting Aye.

Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby questioned who owned the property, what was the tax value of the property and what was the purchase value.

City Administrator William A. Hall stated that Charles L. Hodge owns the property, the tax value is \$24,000, but the purchase price was \$25,000.

Council member Sondra Fleming-Crosby then asked why the City was paying more for the property.

City Administrator William A. Hall stated that the asking price was \$60,000 but was negotiated down to \$25,000. The City is in the process of addressing its tracker trailer parking issues by providing a place for operators to park them out of residential areas for a monthly fee.

Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby asked what the lot size was and how many trucks could be parked there.

City Administrator William A. Hall stated that it was 1.74 acres with a capacity for about 20 tracker trailers.

Councilmember Yamekia Robinson asked if the area would be secured area will personal vehicles be able to be left in the lot.

City Administrator William A. Hall stated that cameras would be monitored in the area, but parking is at the risk of the owner/operator.

Lake City of Police Chief Joseph Cooper stated due to size and weight, operators will be encouraged to park the truck and trailer on the lot.

Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby asked again if personal vehicles can be parked on the lot.

City Administrator William A. Hall stated no.

Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott stated that the main concern is to make sure that the trucks have a place to park and get them off streets in front of homes. Cars can park somewhere else.

Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr stated that we are just starting with this project, and this is an initial move to address some issues. At this point personal vehicles will not be considered for this area.

Discussion on this matter will take place later along with the Police Chief, Fire Chief, and other members of Public Safety.

Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby stated that Council should be involved in in the discussion along with some tracker trailer operators seeking input.

## **RESOLUTION**

### **Resolution 2022.020 Final Reading**

A motion was made by Council member Yamekia Robinson and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary to approve a resolution for the City of Lake City, South Carolina authorizing submission of an application by the City of Lake City to the Division of Community Grant Programs of the South Carolina Department of Commerce; and other matter related thereto. Motion carried with Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone), Councilmember William Askins, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voting Aye.

Councilmember Yamekia Robinson asked City Administrator William A. Hall to elaborate on this grant for the public.

City Administrator William A. Hall stated that this is grant related to the repositioning of the Graham Road Sewer Pump. The estimated cost is \$845,000 with a CDBG application of \$750,00 with the City match of \$95,000 from ARP funds.

### **Resolution 2022.021 Final Reading**

A motion was made by Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone) and seconded by Council member Yamekia Robinson to approve a resolution for the City of Lake City, South Carolina seeking the approval of the new branding proposal; and all other matter related thereto. Motion carried with Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone), Councilmember William Askins, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voting Aye.

City Administrator William A. Hall stated that in February after discussions about branding for the water tower out at the new hospital this logo was created.

### **Resolution 2022.022 Final Reading**

A motion was made by Councilmember Yamekia Robinson and seconded by Councilmember William Askins to approve a resolution for the City of Lake City, South Carolina seeking the approval of extending the contract between Green Finney Audit Team and the City of Lake City for three years; and all other matter related thereto. Motion carried with Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via

Phone), Councilmember William Askins, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voting Aye.

City Administrator William A. Hall recommended extending the contract for the next 3 years at the stated terms.

Councilmember Yamekia Robinson asked that the financial impact be explained.

City Administrator William A. Hall stated that the price listed is for a 5-year term from \$28,400 up to \$32,000.

Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby questioned why the fee would increase every year by \$1000 and what happens if the auditors decide the increase each year is not enough.

City Administrator William A. Hall explained if our books are in order, the contract cannot be broken if we have followed the procedures to stay in compliance.

## **Resolution 2022.023 Final Reading**

A motion was made by Council member Yamekia Robinson and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary to approve a resolution for the City of Lake City, South Carolina seeking the approval of the housing program initiative in the amount of \$400,000 (Four Hundred Thousand Dollars) from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) rolling; and all other matter related thereto. Motion carried with Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone), Councilmember William Askins, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voting Aye.

## **Resolution 2022.024 Final Reading**

A motion was made by Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone) and seconded by Council member Yamekia Robinson to approve a resolution for the City of Lake City, South Carolina seeking the approval of the RFQ insurance bid proposal awarding Rick Woodard Employee Insurance Company to provide services to the City of Lake City employees for two years; and all other matter related thereto. Motion carried with Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone), Councilmember William Askins, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voting Aye.

Councilmember Yamekia Robinson questioned why the City did not chose a different insurance vendor.

City Administrator William A. Hall explained after having insurance providers present their product and services at the Budget Workshop, the consensus was to stay with the current local provider and educate staff on how their insurance works.

**Resolution 2022.025 Final Reading**

A motion was made by Councilmember Yamekia Robinson and seconded by Councilmember William Askins to approve a resolution for the City of Lake City, South Carolina seeking the approval to fund the Esports equipment; and all other matter related thereto. Councilmember William Askins, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr voted Aye. Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone) opposed the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 to 1.

Councilmember William Askins questioned the purchase of computers instead of Xbox and PlayStation consoles.

City Administrator William A. Hall explained that the computers are designed for competitive video games and the Xbox and PlayStation consoles are designed to only play their games.

Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby questioned if bids were acquired for this purchase.

City Administrator William A. Hall explained that a formal bid process was not conducted and that this is an isolated or unique situation that can only be handle by this type of equipment. Three bids from providers in the industry was secured by request which meets the procurement policy.

Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby recommended tabling this request until formal bids could be obtained.

**Resolution 2022.026 Final Reading**

A motion was made by Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott and seconded by Councilmember William Askins to approve a resolution for the City of Lake City, South Carolina seeking approval to re-appoint Mr. Jamie Daniels to the Lake City Board of Zoning Appeals, to serve another term ending in 2026; and all other matters related thereto. Motion carried with Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone), Councilmember William Askins, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voting Aye.

Councilmember Yamekia Robinson questioned if the necessary paperwork (application) was completed.

City Administrator William A. Hall stated that the candidate did complete an application.

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

City Administrator William A. Hall presented information for review to Council on the City's Media Log 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 with

no service fees but still have to pay dump fees. Over a 20-year period the City paid out \$2,000,000 but the equipment purchased to haul its own sludge will alleviate this expense.

**MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – FISCAL YR 2022 PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2022.**

The following is a summary of the City's financial results for the major operating funds as of March 31, 2022. Fiscal year activity has been included as of April 6, 2022.

**GENERAL FUND:**

**REVENUE** - Budgeted: \$7,566,989; YTD Actual Collected = \$5,760,234, representing 76% of the current budget compared to the prior year actual collected = \$4,741,591.

**EXPENSES** – Budgeted: \$7,566,989; YTD Actual Spent = \$6,143,505, representing 81% of the budget compared to the prior year actual = \$5,535,628.

**REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES:** YTD = (\$383,271); PRIOR YR ACTUAL = \$(794,037).

**WATER FUND:**

**REVENUE** – Budgeted: \$1,584,743; YTD Actual Collected: \$1,277,756 representing 81% of the budget compared to the prior year actual: \$1,115,801.

**EXPENSES** – Budgeted: \$1,584,743; YTD Actual Spent: \$1,093,142 representing 69% of the budget compared to the prior year actual: \$970,299.

**REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES:** YTD = \$184,6142; PRIOR YR ACTUAL = \$145,502 surplus.

**SEWER FUND:**

**REVENUE** – Budgeted: \$2,910,554; YTD Actual Collected: \$2,287,771 representing 79% of the budget compared to the prior year = \$2,248,709.

**EXPENSES** – Budgeted: \$2,910,554; YTD Actual Spent: \$2,403,046 compared to the prior year actual = \$1,850,433 representing 83%.

**REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES** – YTD Actual Collected: (\$115,275) compared to the prior year actual = \$398,276.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH (page 50)** – Approved Items 1 - 10 as presented.

A motion was made by Councilmember Yamekia Robinson and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary to approve the April 2022 Bill List items 1 – 10: Councilmember William Askins,



Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr voted Aye. Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone) opposed the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 to 1.

Councilmember Yamekia Robinson requested an explanation on item #8.

City Administrator William A. Hall stated item #8 is for the repair and maintenance of unit #935, a bull dozier, hydraulic system at a cost of \$9,164.73.

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

Lake City Police Chief Joseph Cooper presented to Mayor and Council March 2022 statistical data (data sheets has been included in the minutes and a copy was given to each member of Council except those not present). Chief Cooper explained the data that was presented. This data was broken down into their demographic makeup. He announced for the month of March 2022 there was a total of 862 service calls with 158 traffic stops, 67 burglar alarms, 37 domestic calls, 30 vehicle accidents, 27 disorderly conduct, 92 citations, 12 possession of marijuana, 9 DUS, and 9 service calls for discharge of firearms. Of the 9 shooting calls, only one person was shot with a lose of life. The shooting was deemed to be justifiable by the Solicitor’s Office with no arrest made and no charges filed. Total incident report count is 143 with 52 warrants issued. LCPD personnel new hirers are Britany Hood and Jiles Williams. There are 25 full-time employees with 6 open positions this budget year. There are 5 candidates currently going through a vetting process before hirer. The City is trying build a better police force, but it takes a little time. School Resource Officer (SRO) is still unassigned at Main Street Elementary. LCPD is seeking interested boys and girls to join Boys Scouts Troop #500 and Girl Scouts Troop #2722 (ages 7-12). Lake City is very active right now with many events and activities. Just show up to have fun. There are still ongoing investigations involving gun violence, but support is needed from those who may have knowledge about the incident. Be vigilant when you are out and about. Be aware of your surroundings. LCPD can only enforce the laws on the books, they cannot create the laws as they go along. It is easy to blame the police when something goes wrong, but please contact your elected officials and law makers with your concerns on violence, criminal behavior, probation, and bonds.

Councilmember Yamekia Robinson inquired about reestablishing the Neighborhood Watch and requested a breakdown of the crime data by district.

Police Chief Cooper stated that he would be happy to provide that information once he has discussions with the City Administrator, Mayor, and the City Attorney Charlie Ippock to make sure no lines are crossed with giving out information that may negatively affect population growth.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – Entered at 8:19p.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 William Askins, 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 8:57p.m.,** there was no action taken during the Executive Session.

A motion was made by Councilmember Yamekia Robinson and seconded by Wilhelmena Scott 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 William Askins, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr all voting Aye.

**Resolution 2022.027 Final Reading**

A motion was made by Councilmember Yamekia Robinson and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary to approve a resolution authorizing the approval, ratification, execution, and settlement of claims in the Florence County Civil Action Number 2020-CP-21-705 and the necessary documents incident thereto. Councilmember William Askins, Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott, Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Singletary, Councilmember Yamekia Robinson, and Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr voted Aye. Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via Phone) opposed the motion. Motion carried with a vote of 5 to 1.

**CITY COUNCILMEMBERS REPORTS**

**Councilmember Yamekia Robinson** - thanked everyone for coming out and expressing their concerns. She wished everyone a happy Easter.

**Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby (via phone)** – she thanked everyone for coming out and applauded the presentation made by Rev. Hooker and members of the congregation of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church voicing their concerns. She invited all from other districts to meet and discussed issues seeking solutions. She asked that everyone be blessed.

**ADJOURNMENT** - Adjourned at 9:03p.m.

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

---

Lovith Anderson Jr  
Mayor

Attest:

---

Interim City Clerk