



**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2016
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – JUDICIAL CENTER
202 KELLEY STREET
7:00 P.M.**

MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT

Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby
Mayor Pro Tem Billy Brown, Jr
Mayor Lovith Anderson, Jr.
Councilmember Nicole Singletary

Councilmember Wilhelmena W. Scott
Councilmember Richard Cook
Councilmember Tony Whitlock

STAFF

Shawn Bell	Lenessa Hawkins	C.D. Rhodes	Tonya Huell
Demeatree Major	Cynthia Mallette	Thomas Black	Teresa K. Benjamin

OTHERS

Press – Shamira McCray

Lois Edwards	Gloria Gaskins	Michelle Daniels	Peg Sebnick
Emmz Cooper	Julia Mims	Kathleen Dickson	Anne Marcengill
Dr. Sam Marcengill	Someela Jones	Freda McCutcheon	Gayle Garla
Neomia Watson	Edna B. Rivera	Richie McCutcheon	David Cook
Ronnie Cook	Beckie Cook	Carolyn Turner	Marilyn Foster
Gregory Foster	Laronda Hurd		

The City Council Meeting agenda was emailed on Friday, November 4, 2016 to members of the media and posted on the bulletin board at the Lake City Municipal Complex.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lovith Anderson, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Billy Brown, Jr. gave the Invocation. Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

City Clerk Teresa K. Benjamin polled the Council and found a quorum present.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA

Mayor Lovith Anderson requested a motion to adopt the Agenda as published.

A motion was made by Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby and seconded by Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott to adopt the agenda as published. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2016 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2016 EMERGENCY SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - APPROVED.

A motion was made by Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby to approve the Meeting Minutes from the Regular City Council Meeting held on Tuesday, October 11, 2016 and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Billy Brown, Jr.; Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mayor Lovith Anderson, Jr. stated that the next item is Citizens Comments which are limited to two minutes per person and no personal or verbal attacks will be entertained. The Council is interested in hearing your concerns, but speakers should not expect Council action or deliberation on subject matter brought up during the Public Comment Period. Topics requiring further investigation will be referred to the City Administrator and may be scheduled for a future agenda:

Doctor Sam Marcengill – He wanted to thank Duke-Energy, Santee Electric Co-Op and other companies that came and assisted with the clean-up after Hurricane Matthew. He thanked Mayor and Council in their handling of the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. He appreciated the hard work and dedication from Mayor and Council, the City Administrator Shawn Bell and the City of Lake City Staff ensuring our community was safe and kept operating during and after the storm.

Avery M. Prosser (the owner of the Long Branch Salon for about twenty-two years)– He came to address Mayor and Council about concerns of flooding at his establishment which is located along the railroad tracks. He stated that when he opened his business, they never experienced the flooding that has taken place within the past five years. In this time-frame his business has flooded an estimate of five feet of water, and these damages have cost him several thousand dollars each time to get it back up and operating. He stated he spoke to Mr. Ed Elmore (Representative of the State of South Carolina), Ricky Sims (Public Works Director) and Greg Poston for some type solution to this problem. The drainage problem is a serious situation. He is losing money and feels that if there is no solution to the flooding he will have to leave.

Freda McCutcheon (owner of Libby's Florist) – She presented to Mayor and Council a petition from John and Thomas Streets about the drainage systems. She stated the flooding issue is not only from storm water but also, a regular rain can cause flooding in this area. They have lost in the thousands of dollars in antique furniture. They do not qualify for flood insurance because it is not classified as a flood zone. Residents and business owners have signed the petition in hopes of getting some help or look for a solution to this problem. The areas of concern are John, Thomas, McAllister, Lee, Jackson and Wilbur Streets; these areas are affected the worst with this drainage issue.

Michelle Daniels – the Third Annual Christmas Toy Drive Sponsored by Winky's Task Force Cancer Support Group, Lake City have asked the Lake City Police Department, Lake City Fire Department, and several other local vendors and civic groups to partner with them in a Toy Drive for families in our community. The final deadline to drop off toys at these locations will be Monday, December 19, 2016. A flyer with this information was provided by this representative. The families will be given these items on Thursday, December 22, 2016. She stated that last year, they were able to help over fifty families during the holidays.

Gloria Gaskins – She addressed Mayor and Council with an issue concerning her utilities billing. She stated that in July, 2016, she received a water bill that showed a water usage of 47,800 (Forty-Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred Dollars) gallons; the amount for her water bill in July, 2016 was \$381.49 (Three Hundred, Eighty-One Dollars and Forty-Nine Cents). She asked the city to come out and check for leaks; they did and the bill was re-adjusted. Since this time, her bill continues to reflect that she is being billed for two meters when only one is present and in use. There are two structures on the property currently but no one occupies the other structure; and the trailer was there when she brought this property. She asked if there is a way this issue can be looked at again and she be billed for one meter instead of two.

Ronnie Cook (204 West Thomas Street) – He thanked Mayor and Council for allowing him this time to speak and has resided at his current residence for over forty years. He voiced his concern about the flooding issue here in Lake City, and he feels over time the problem has gotten worse. This area has been a wet area, but recently when a heavy rain comes it floods. He has come with the right attitude and is only asking for help.

Neomia Watson (resides at 114 Williamsburg Avenue) – She stated she is experiencing some of the same issues as others have stated. She brought her home in 2000 and moved in 2004. When a hard rain comes it's like a lake from Main Street to Thomas Street. She's been complaining about this issue since 2004 and now is asking for Mayor and Council to actively look for some solutions to solve this problem.

Someela Jones (218 Wilbur Street) – Addressed Mayor and Council with the same issue of flooding in this area; she asked them to seek solution to this problem. She has lived in this

area for twenty-two years. A hard rain causes flooding in this area and she keeps her boots in her car to be able to enter her home.

Richard McCutcheon – He is a local banker and owner of properties on McAllister and Williamsburg Streets; the storm water issue is a significant concern for residents and business owners in this area. He is a fifty-one years' native of this area and Lake City has made some major changes but if the storm water issues are not addressed the City of Lake City could experience a significant loss in revenue. They have walked the streets with State, County and Local officials to look at these issues.

David Cook (owner and manager of Lake City Electric - Motor Repair that opened in 1979) – He stated he just wanted to reiterate the issue of flooding and how it effects the residents and business owners in this area. They started their business with four employees and have seen their business grow to twenty-two employees. The flood last year they had four inches of water in his office, and with Hurricane Matthew, they had twelve inches of water in their office. They have lost over a half million dollars and he feels that the railroad tracks acts like a dike. They cannot survive with these kinds of lost in revenue and looking to move because of the flooding issues.

Mayor Anderson, thanked all who came and stated they will be looking into finding solutions to this problem. A house divided cannot stand. Councilmember Richard Cook stated we have talked about it and have local Representative come and look at this problem; but he feels something needs to be done, because we cannot afford to lose citizens and businesses to this issue.

PRESENTATION

- Presentation of Tree City USA Award to the Lake City Tree Board - Lois Edwards, SC Forestry Commission presented this award to the City of Lake City, South Carolina for the fifth consecutive year. She stated that a municipality has to meet certain criteria to receive this award: 1. There has to be an established Tree Board, 2. Public Tree Ordinance has to be in place, 3. Spend Two Dollars per capita in the maintenance of these trees, and 4. To have an Arbor Day Celebration, which in South Carolina is the first Friday in December. December 2, 2016 has been designated for the Arbor Day Celebration for the City of Lake City.
- A. Presentation of proposed Theater Park enhancements - Katie Dickson, Senior Horticulturist for Moore Farms Botanical Garden presented to Mayor and Council the proposed enhancements for the Theater Park. Randy Wilson, Community Development has provided the information of the enhancements for the Park but could not be in attendance because of a personal matter; she is presenting the proposed enhancements to the Theater Park. Construction and landscaping plans were included, along with other

proposed elements to add to this area. Councilmember Cook asked if they changed the façade would that effect the message board? She stated that the marquee would just be changed out. The proposed start date would be in December, 2016 so it could be completed for the beginning of 2017 Artsfield.

- B. Introduction of new Customer Service Clerk, Demeatree Major - Tonya Huell, Utilities Director, introduced Ms. Demeatree Major to Mayor and Council. She comes to the City of Lake City with several years of Customer Service experience.

LEGISLATIVE

ORDINANCES

Ordinance 2016.439 – Second and Final Reading

An Ordinance amending and restating Section 8-24 of the City of Lake City Code of Ordinances to classify certain lessors of small numbers of properties within the City as not operating a business within the meaning of the City's Business License Code; and other matters related thereto - Approved.

Councilmember Sondra Crosby-Fleming made the motion to approve Ordinance 2016.438 amending and restating Section 8-24 of the City of Lake City Code of Ordinances to classify certain lessors of small numbers of properties within the City as not operating a business within the meaning of the City's Business License Code; and other matters related thereto; Second: Councilmember Richard Cook; Motion Carried; All Ayes.

Ordinance 2016.440 – Second and Final Reading

An Ordinance of the City of Lake City, South Carolina amending and replacing Article II of Chapter 20 of the City of Lake City Code of Ordinances pertaining to the collection and disposal of solid waste, and other matters relating thereto - Approved.

Councilmember Richard Cook made the motion to approve Ordinance 2016.440 as presented amending and replacing Article II of Chapter 20 of the City of Lake City Code of Ordinances pertaining to the collection and disposal of solid waste, and other matters relating thereto; Second: Mayor Pro Tem Billy Brown, Jr.; Motion Carried; All Ayes.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

FORMAL REPORTS TO CITY COUNCIL

Report 24~2016: Action Approved

Approval of Green, Finney & Horton, LLP to Perform Auditing Services for the City's Fiscal Years 2016, 2017, and 2018 – Approved.

Motion to Approve Report 24~2016 as presented: Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott; Seconded: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Motion Carried; All Ayes.

Report 25~2016: Action Approved

Approval of Theater Park Plan and Façade Enhancements – Approved.

Motion to Approve Report 25~2016: Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby; Seconded: Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott; Motion Carried; All Ayes.

INFORMAL REPORTS TO CITY COUNCIL

No Report.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

November 2016 Bill List items 1 thru 12 – Approved

A motion to approve items 1-12 as presented was made by Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott; Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Billy Brown, Jr.; Motion Carried; Councilmembers Wilhelmena Scott, Richard Cook, Nicole Singletary, Tony Whitlock and Mayor Pro Tem Billy Brown, Jr. voting Ayes and Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby voting Nay referencing Item #3.

CITY COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS

Councilmember Richard Cook – He stated he was glad to see everyone, especially those who wanted to voice their concerns about the flooding in this area. He stated that Mayor and Council need to address the flooding issues and help our local residents and business owners.

Councilmember Nicole Singletary – She thanked all for coming out and voicing their concerns pertaining to the flooding situation in this area. Hopefully we, as a city, can find some solutions to this issue.

Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby – She thanked everyone for coming out to address the flooding issues. She stated that considering the number of people in attendance tonight. They need to look for funding from our State Legislators for assistance in tackling this issue. As for the issue Ms. Gaskins utilities, she apologized about it and hopefully this will put an end to that matter. She welcomed the new employee Ms. Demeatree Majors and invited others to come to future meetings. She extended an invitation to attend Minister Adrian Nesbitt Thanksgiving Concert with the New Vision Corral Choir and various artists. It will be at the Wesley United Methodist Church on November 25, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Billy H. Brown, Jr. – He thanked everyone for coming out and stated the first step in finding a solution to any problem is coming together.

Councilmember Wilhelmina Scott – She thanked everyone for coming out and in her District #3 is ninety percent of the flooding issues and drainage problems occur in this area, especially after the storm. She stated that there is some concern pertaining to utility billing and is requesting that someone check to see why the bills are so high. Especially for those families that consist of one or two members, why are their bills so high. She will be celebrating 20th years of marriage anniversary on Saturday, November 26, 2016.

Councilmember Tony Whitlock – He thanked everyone for coming attending the meeting.

Mayor's Report – He thanked everyone for coming out and recognized receipt of the petition pertaining to the flooding issues. He stated that the City of Lake City is located in a low-lying area and that will happen from time to time, but they are looking at solutions. He stated that finding solutions to any problem takes time and are looking at long term solution, not just an over-night fix. He stated he would like to see more interest in the Neighborhood Watch meetings.

- He stated the Carver Street Project will begin soon. City Administrator Bell stated that the permit process has begun already. They will have to do sections at a time.
- Congratulations to the Lake City High School Football Team for making the Playoffs and there are some Homecoming activities that will take place on Friday, November 11, 2016.
- The Grill Masters Challenge was held on Friday, November 11, 2016, Village on the Green at 6 p.m.
- Veterans' Breakfast was held on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at the Bean Market between 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. sponsored by American Medical Systems.
- He congratulated the Elks Lodge for their first initial parade here in Lake City; and thanked the Lake City Fire and Police Department for their assistance with this event.

- On Sunday, November 5, 2016 a new mentoring program started; there some issues the local school system face and the community is trying to get ahead of some of these issues by getting the men in the community involved.
- He thanked the group from Greenville that came in to help collect the storm debris.
- Coat Drive is taking place, a box has been placed in the lobby of the City Administration Building. They will be picked up Wednesday, November 23, 2016 to be distributed to families in need.
- He thanked Public Works, Lake City Fire, Senior Citizen Group, Recreation, Cynthia Mallette and Police Departments for assisting with the Annual Fall Halloween Festival.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(2) Discussion to receive legal advice regarding the Lake City Housing Authority.

A motion was made by Councilmember Richard Cook and seconded by Councilmember Nicole Singletary to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(2) Discussion to receive legal advice regarding the Lake City Housing Authority. The motion was carried unanimously – Entered at 8:16 p.m.

An Executive Session was held.

Mayor Anderson stated that no decisions were made during Executive Session and no votes were taken.

A motion was made by Councilmember Richard Cook and seconded by Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby to come out of Executive Session. The motion was carried unanimously. Exited at 8:54 p.m.

ACTION AS NEEDED WITH RESPECT TO MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION – No Action Taken

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to Adjourn was made by Councilmember Tony Whitlock and seconded by Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby. With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Lovith Anderson Jr.
Mayor