



**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, April 12, 2016**  
**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – JUDICIAL CENTER**  
**202 KELLEY STREET**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**MAYOR/CITY COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT**

Councilmember Nicole Singletary      Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby  
Mayor Pro Tem Billy Brown, Jr      Councilmember Wilhelmena W. Scott  
Mayor Lovith Anderson, Jr.      Councilmember Tony Whitlock  
Councilmember Richard Cook

**STAFF**

Shawn Bell      Lenessa Hawkins      Ricky Sims      Tonya Huell      Cynthia Mallette

**OTHERS**

Press – Dianne Owens      Ellen Hamilton      Melissa Singletary      Yvonne Scott  
Vickie D. Henbury      Lamar Graham      DeEtte Young      Emma Cooper  
Peg Sebnick      John W. Kelley, Jr.      Janice Singletary      Michael Nero, Sr.  
Margaret B. Robinson      Shawn F. Gibbs      Donna Singletary      LaRue Alford  
Frank Burgess      Bernard McIntosh

The City Council Meeting agenda was mailed or emailed to members of the media and posted on the bulletin board at the Lake City Municipal Complex.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Anderson, Jr. called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Pro Tem Billy Brown, Jr gave the Invocation. Councilmember Nicole Singletary led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Lenessa Hawkins polled the Council and found a quorum present.

**I. MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA**

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

A motion was made by Councilmember Richard Cook and seconded by Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott to adopt the agenda as published. The motion carried unanimously.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MARCH 1, 2016 AND THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MARCH 8, 2016**

Mayor Anderson stated that Item II is for approval of the Special City Council Meeting held on March 1, 2016 and the Regular City Council Meeting held on March 8, 2016.

A motion was made by Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby and seconded by Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott to approve Minutes from the Special City Council Meeting held on March 1, 2016 and the Regular City Council Meeting held on March 8, 2016.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Mayor Anderson 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.

Ms. Yvonne Scott came to Council to address concerns pertaining the Coins for Care program. After her church received a letter from the City Administrator office, there was some confusion. She stated that the way this program was explained to her, when she came to the City complex, was confusing especially as it pertains to the rounding up the amount of the utility bill. She stated that it's her opinion another type of terminology should be used for the rounding up process. After she reviewed the bill, she noticed each line item was rounded up, this exceeded the \$0.98 limit that was stated in the correspondence. Finance Director Hawkins responded that this is how the software calculates the bill. To this Ms. Scott responded, how do the citizens of this community know if their bills are correct? They assume that what is printed is correct. It's not until they speak with other citizens do they even look at what is printed. Her opinion is that this could have been communicated better even though it was in the local newspaper, posted at the City of Lake City Water Department and correspondence was sent out to the citizens of Lake City. Instead of an Opting Out, she feels each citizen should have the choice to Opt In the Coins for Care program. Mayor Anderson thanked Ms. Scott for her input.

Micheal Nero, Sr. thanked Mayor and Council for coming out and supporting the Baseball Jamboree, that was held on Saturday, April 8, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at Lions Park. The children really enjoyed meeting them and having Mayor Anderson throw the first pitch of the season. He asked when will the issues and questions from the Sanitation Workers that was to brought to Mayor and Council be addressed? Mayor Anderson stated that this is not the forum he likes to address these issues but one of the items on the agenda pertaining to the contract with the new company that will be handling this service for the City of Lake City. The Sanitation Workers will be updated after items have been finalized. Mr. Nero also stated that the roads conditions are another concern, and Mayor Anderson responded that this is a concern for the entire state. There have been several article addressing this issue. He feels that since we are in a rural area that funding may not readily available. Correspondence have been sent to the CTC and there is a Road Bill in effect, but he's not sure how much The City of Lake City will receive from it.

Shawn Gills came to voice his concern about the Coins for Care Programs as well and the Opting-Out choice. He feels that this was not communicated well to the citizens and made a suggestion, that if citizens are having problems paying their bill; maybe the City could excuse their bill for that month instead of rounding up the amounts on their bills to place those funds in an account to help those who apply for this assistance. Mr. Gills stated that he was not sure as to where to send his letter opting-out of the program, and Mayor Anderson stated he could send it to the City and put it to his attention. Mayor Anderson expressed that he was pleased to see him at this meeting and stated that he would like to see him at other meetings.

Lamar Graham, 337 Graham Road, stated that the Zika Virus may be here in South Carolina, and he wanted to know what is the City of Lake City doing to combat the problem of areas that have standing water. He is concerned about the infrastructure at the ballfield, because there could be a pregnant mother at the field to watch her child play ball and could be bitten by an infected mosquito; since we've had so much rainfall standing water is a nesting ground for mosquitos to breed in. Mayor Anderson stated that the County is aware of this problem and will be spraying and placing larvae bars in areas with standing water. Graham Road, is another concern because there is a school in this area. Councilmember Scott stated that she has brought this issue to Mayor and Council, as this area is in her district. He stated that speeding is a problem and asked are we setting our children up to live to die?

Janice Singletary, Cash Avenue, stated that she was not aware of the Coins for Care programs and agreed with Ms. Yvonne Scott. She asked since the City is doing away with the Sanitation Department, when will she be notified as to when her trash will be picked up? Mayor Anderson and City Administrator assured her that once all the details have been finalized; the citizens will be informed as to what day their trash will be picked up.

Margaret Robinson, 435 Wedgefield, stated that her area needs more patrolling because of the increase in crime there. Her home was broken into and vandalized. She found out there have

been other homes that been broken into in her area as well. Councilmember Crosby expressed how sorry she was that this happened to her but she stated that people in the community need to tell when these crimes take place. Mayor Anderson agreed with that and stated that each Councilmember conducts Crime Watch meetings and the attendance at these meetings are very low. The community need to come out and work together to combat this problem. Councilmember Nicole Singletary stated that she, her mother and brother go out taking flyers notifying citizens in this area of the Crime Watch meetings. Even with these efforts, the turnout is very low. She will be having other meetings and asked for more citizens to come out attend them. Councilmember Crosby stated that she and Councilmember Scott (District 5 & 6) will be having a Crime Watch meeting on Monday, April 18, 2016. She stated other citizens are welcome to attend this meeting.

#### **IV. PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Proclaiming the month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse Prevention Month (*Ellen Hamilton, Executive Director for Pee Dee Coalition and Mayor Lovith Anderson, Jr.*).

Mayor Anderson introduced Ms. Ellen Hamilton, Executive Director for the Pee Dee Coalition and gave her the opportunity to say a few words. Ms. Hamilton gave a brief summary of the importance of the Pee Dee Coalition and the humble start of their office in the City of Lake City; that was based out of the Lake City Fire Department. She then introduced the local coordinator for this area, Ms. Melissa Singletary, who is a native of the City of Lake City. Ms. Singletary also emphasized the importance of this organization and stressed how the community, as a whole, should look and work towards ways to help prevent and detecting sexual assaults, domestic and child abuse.

Mayor Anderson presented to Ms. Ellen Hamilton a proclamation declaring the month of April 2016, Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse Prevention Month.

#### **V. LEGISLATIVE**

##### **A. ORDINANCES**

1. Ordinance 2016.420 – First Reading

Shawn read aloud Ordinance 2016.420 an Ordinance of the City of Lake City, South Carolina, authorizing the execution and delivery of an agreement by and between the City and American Waste Systems, Inc. for the provision of solid waste and recycling management, collection, hauling, and disposal services within the City; and other matters related thereto.

This Ordinance establishes the agreement between the City of Lake City and American Waste Systems.

A motion was made by Councilmember Richard Cook and seconded by Councilmember Tony Whitlock to approve First Reading of Ordinance 2016.420 authorizing the execution and delivery of an agreement by and between the City and American Waste Systems, Inc. for the provision of solid waste and recycling management, collection, hauling, and disposal services within the City; and other matters related thereto. The motion was carried with 4 Ayes, Councilmember Scott, Crosby and Singletary voting Nay.

2. Ordinance 2016.421 – First Reading

Shawn read aloud Ordinance 2016.421 an Ordinance to convey real property.

This Ordinance pertains to the City Sewer Pump Station at the new lake project site and the access road or right of way. There is an access road (that the City owns) located beside cemetery that goes into the Public Work pump station. The engineers changed the design of the new pump station, which changed the access road to the pump station. This change shifted a few feet and by doing this we have to create a new access road along with a new easement. We have to deed the property back over to Florence County. This Ordinance will allow for a new easement or right-away access for the City of Lake City.

Discussion: Councilmember Richard Cook asked how many roads? Who will be responsible for maintaining these roads, the City or the County? Who is paying for the change? Shawn stated that there will only be one access road, that will be for the City of Lake City. The easement is for the City but it's on the County property. Florence County and the City of Lake City will both be responsible for the maintenance of this road. The City have paid for the changes but Florence County will pay for the grading and other changes that will be needed.

A motion was made by Councilmember Wilhelmina Scott and seconded by Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby to approve First Reading of Ordinance 2016.421 an Ordinance to convey real property. The motion was carried unanimously.

**VI. CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS**

**A. FORMAL REPORTS TO CITY COUNCIL**

1. Report No. 9~2016: Action Requested

Shawn stated that Report No. 9-2016 is for the approval to consolidate and re-finance our current debts and Bonds at a better or lower interest rate. Compass Municipal Advisors is a municipal financial advisory firm; they work primarily with local government entities for the issuance of Bonds and other debt instruments. They come highly recommended from our bond counsel Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A.; we work with Ben Zeigler. Also by our local counsel Pope-Flynn, we work with CD Rhodes. Compass has come to the City of Lake City with the proposition of re-financing or re-funding some of our USDA loans that have really high interest rates; they stated there is an opportunity to re-fund these loans at a lower interest rate. This could have the potential of saving our municipality up to \$1,000,000.00 over the course of these bonds. In order to do this, Compass stated it is a requirement to hire a Municipal Financial Advisor. Because of the situation that happened on Wall-Street, the Federal Government developed new guidelines making this a requirement. Also when a municipality is looking to re-finance their bonds, they have to go out on the open market and this process is fairly complex. Expert advice is necessary in securing new loans and we need to get a Triple A bond rating which is the best. This person will assist in achieving a good bond rating. This position will not be on a monthly retainer; they will re-coup their money at the end when they have secure a bond deal. Mayor Pro Tem Brown asked, what is the estimated amount in doing this? The initial estimate of re-financing two bonds is over the course of the two is estimated to be up to \$1,000,000.00. There some other additional costs associated with this that will have to be factored in calculating the completion of these transactions. Councilmember Crosby asked what type of qualification will the candidate need to have to fill this position? Any type of certification? City Administrator Bell stated that the candidate would need to be certified and this is a different type of financial consultant that mainly deal with municipal bonds. Councilmember Cook asked is this necessary and how would we re-finance? City Administrator Bell stated that our ability to re-pay our debts is good and that is why we did not qualify for the USDA loan. By re-financing our debts we stand to see savings up to \$1,000,000.00; this would be very beneficial since we did not receive the USDA funding for the meter reader system. Councilmember Brown asked what other type of problems have there been? City Administrator stated that there have been minimal issues, that the City of Lake City is more than capable to re-pay our debt.

A motion was made by Councilmember Richard Cook and seconded by Councilmember Tony Whitlock to approve Report No. 9-2016 is for approval to consolidate and re-finance our current debts and Bonds at a better or lower interest rate. The motion was carried 6 Ayes, Councilmember Crosby voting Nay.

2. Report No. 10-2016 – Action Required

Shawn explained this is approval of NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System), this a permit for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This has to be done once every 5 years. This a Federal permitting system to regulate discharges, to receiving water bodies and falls under the Clean Water Act. This is regulated by South Carolina DHEC. This renewal applies specifically to discharges from our Wastewater Treatment plant. This renewal process is handled by our engineers because of the complexities and regulatory guidelines. This fee will be paid out of the Water and Sewer budget and is budgeted for \$7,500.00 (Seven Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars).

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Billy Brown, Jr and seconded by Councilmember Richard Cook to approve Report No. 10-2016 approval of NPDES Permit Renewal. The motion was carried unanimously.

3. Report No. 11-2016 – Action Requested

This report is for the approval of Landscaped Island Improvements Engineering in the amount of \$10,000.00 for work performed by AECOM to be reimbursed by a grant from the Lake City Partnership Council. At the February Regular City Council Meeting Mayor and Council authorized City Administrator Bell to approve the lowest and most responsive bidder for the Landscape Island Improvement Project up to \$80,000 to be funded from a grant from LCPC or LCCF. He stated he did and received a great bid from a qualified contractor that was under budget. This project is almost complete. All of the concrete work is finished on Main Street for the curb and gutter. Moore Farms is putting the finishing touches for the planting, and the project should be complete for ArtFields festivities. There were some additional costs with this project, such as: engineering drawings, building permits and site inspections. These costs were paid by a private entity, no cost to the City.

A motion was made by Councilmember Wilhelmena Scott and seconded by Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby to approve Report No. 11-2016 approval of Landscaped Island Improvements Engineering in the amount of \$10,000.00 for work performed by AECOM to be reimbursed by a grant from the Lake City Partnership Council. The motion was carried unanimously.

4. Report No. 12 -2016 – Action Requested

This is for approval of East Main/Church Street Intersection Improvements Engineering. In the December 8, 2015 Regular City Council Meeting, City Administrator Bell informed Mayor and Council the City was awarded the CDBG grant in the amount of \$500,000.00 for a round-about at the intersection of East Main and Church Street. This project is also being funded by a generous grant from the Lake



City Partnership Council and Lake City Community Foundation. The purpose for this project is to make needed roadways, put in sidewalks upgrades and provide alternate routes for tractor trailers; by doing this will a more pedestrian friendly and beautiful downtown area. It will improve intersection safety, provide traffic calming effect for traffic in the area and studies have shown this to be an effective alternate to prevent traffic fatalities. For the engineers to start the designs for this project, approval is needed. The amount of this project is \$129,000.00 by AECOM and will be reimbursed by the CDBG grant or LCDC / LCDF.

A motion was made by Councilmember Richard Cook and seconded by Councilmember Nicole Singletary to approve Report No. 12-2016 approval of East Main/Church Street Intersection Improvements Engineering. The motion was carried unanimously

5. Report No. 13-2016 – Information Only

City Administrator Bell stated this report is for information pertaining to the Florence County Nuisance Complaint Process. Ordinance 2015.415 was adopted January 12, 2016 authorizing Florence County to perform certain nuisance enforcement services within the City of Lake City. He wanted to offer some clarification of this process especially to the public. This process is complaint driven and all complaints should be directed to City Hall or the City Building/Code Enforcement Officer, which in turn, will be forwarded to Florence County Planning. Any city official can receive the complaint and forward to the Florence County Planning department. The information that is needed when submitting a complaint: name of person submitting the complaint and their contact information, the location of the occurrence along with a brief description as to what type of nuisance. This process has been put in place to improve the City of Lake City safety concerns and tracking purposes until the end of June 2016. Florence County handle this for the City of Lake City for free. The Florence County Planning department contact information is shown in this report. Mayor Anderson asked if this information can and will be posted at the Water Department and City Administrator Bell stated he would post it there.

## **B. INFORMAL REPORTS TO CITY COUNCIL**

Shawn said there is one, previously Mayor and Council approved the selling of Lake City Police vehicle. Per the Procurement Code, he is informing Mayor and Council when an item(s) sells over \$1000.00. The 2008 Dodge Charger that had several repair costs; sold on govdeals.com for \$4,120.00 (Four Thousand, One Hundred Twenty Dollars).

## **C. APPROVAL OF BILLS**



**1. April 2016 Bill List**

Shawn asked Mayor and Council to approve the April Bill List items 1 – 17. Anytime you see SEGAL, they brought in money for the City of Lake City. We made almost \$16,000.00 (Sixteen Thousand Dollars) and in return we have to pay them 50% of that.

A motion was made by Councilmember Richard Cook and seconded by Councilmember Wilhelmina Scott to approve bills 1 – 17. The motion was carried unanimously. A copy of the bills is enclosed and made part of the minutes.

**VII. APPOINTMENTS**

A motion was made by Councilmember Wilhelmina Scott and seconded by Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby to re-appoint Edward McKnight to the Board of Zoning Appeals. The motion was carried unanimously.

**A. Board of Zoning Appeals**

1. Edward McKnight's term will expire April 12, 2020

A motion was made by Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby and seconded by Councilmember Nicole Singletary to re-appoint Kent Daniels and Randy Pierce to the Architectural Review Board. The motion was carried unanimously.

**B. Board of Architectural Review**

1. Kent Daniels' term will expire April 12, 2018
2. Randy Pierce's term will expire April 12, 2018

**VIII. CITY COUNCILMEMBERS' REPORTS**

**Councilmember Richard Cook** – He thanked everyone for coming out and apologize to the citizens about the confusion for the Coins for Care program.

- He said that district 5 and 6 Crime Watch meeting will be Monday, May 9, 2016 and they will meet at the Lake City Fire Department at 6:30 p.m. The community involvement is needed as we cannot put officers on every street. The public attendance is needed. He hates to see something happened to anyone and then the participation picks up. The citizens need to show up and are welcome to attend any of these meetings.

**Councilmember Nicole Singletary** – She addressed Ms. Robinson concerns and expressed how sorry she was about this occurrence. This incident was brought to her attention and stated we can prevent things from happening but we can work to try to reduce it. She stated

she tried to take an active effort toward getting the citizens in her district to attend the Crime Watch meeting and how disappointing it is when no one showed up.

- She said District #1 will have their Crime Watch meeting on Monday, May 9, 2016 at Oak Grove Circle in the Apartment Complex. The meeting will start at 6:30. She asked everyone to mark their calendars. Thanked everyone for coming out.

**Councilmember Sondra Fleming-Crosby** – She thanked everyone for coming out.

- She thanked Ms. Robinson for coming out and making everyone aware of the growing crime situation in her area and encouraged others to voice their concerns as well. She stated if you see her downtown please let her know and provided her telephone (843)598-4067; she is available any time. Flyers for their upcoming Crime Watch meeting was made available to the citizens.

**Mayor Pro Tem Billy H. Brown, Jr.** – He thanked everyone for coming out and also expressed his concern about Ms. Robinson situation.

- He hadn't set a date for his district Crime Watch meeting but it will be in May 2016.

**Councilmember Wilhelmina Scott** – She welcomed everyone who came out to the meeting.

- District 5 and 6 will conduct their Crime Watch meeting on Monday, April 18, 2016 and all are invited.
- She stated that crime is a growing problem. She was at an event and she spoke to a Senior Citizen who expressed how crime has increased and how people in the community will stand out in the open with alcoholic beverages in their hands. The language they use does not fit the area where she lives. She hopes that cameras will be placed in some of these areas to catch some of these offenders. It has been reported. As issues are brought to her attention, she tries to bring it back to Mayor and Council, so it can be addressed.
- Graham Road, she reported some of the issues faced at that location especially the corner of Church Street after flooding issue due to this area receiving increase rainfall. She stated that it was reported about the access getting in and out of this area. This area is in her district and she is very concerned about her area and the community as a whole. She welcomed everyone for coming out tonight and invited everyone to attend the Crime Watch meeting on Monday, April 18, 2016.

**Councilmember Tony Whitlock** – He thanked everyone for coming out and for staying through the entire meeting. He said he appreciates the input from the citizens about their concerns. He stated we need to know how the citizens feel, what the concerns are, and welcome recommendations on how to make things better.

**IX. Mayor's Report** –He thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting. He stated to Ms. Robinson that they are aware of her concerns and will look for solutions to help in that area. He stressed the importance in attending the Crime Watch meetings and community involvement. As the weather warms up, people tend to be out more and we have to be aware of what is going around us.

- He thanked the Park and Recreation department, especially Cynthia Mallette and her staff, for a successful Baseball Jamboree. He asked her how many children participated with this event? Her response 19 teams participated in the Baseball Jamboree. The weather was really nice it was a great day for some baseball and the children looked good.
- Mayor Anderson asked those who can and will to sponsor a team. Sponsors are always needed and welcomed.
- He stated we need more events and activities for our children to be involved in, keeping them active. Mayor and Council need the community focused on actively working with them to find things to enhance our community.
- This weekend, Saturday, April 19, 2016 between 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., the Annual Community-Wide Clean-Up is scheduled for this day. If your area form groups and need trash picked up, just contact our staff will be available to pick these items up, as well as tires. Tires can be dropped off at Moore and Carver in the vacant lot. City staff will pick them.
- Florence County has already begun working on the mosquito problem as reported in the newspaper. He stated that larvae bar will be placed in areas with standing water and they will be spraying as well. Last year there was a day and half lag time but they came quickly. They will utilize the larvae bars more because the spraying only reach about 100 yards and dissipate faster. We have to be carefully this season, because this year our area received an exceptional amount of rain; the ground is saturated.
- Introduced the new City Clerk Teresa K. Benjamin.

**X. MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**, pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(2), to discuss negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements with respect to the City Administrator: Mayor Pro Tem Brown; Seconded: Councilmember Scott; Carried: All Ayes.

**XI. ACTION AS NEEDED WITH RESPECT TO MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion to approve extend the employment agreement with the City of Lake City Administrator effective July 1, 2016 for two years as presented: Councilmember Cook; Seconded: Councilmember Whitlock; Motion carried 6 Ayes, Councilmember Crosby voting Nay.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Billy Brown, Jr. and seconded by Councilmember Nicole Singletary there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.