

# LAKE CITY NEWSLETTER BRIEFING

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## **“A Diamond in the Rough” A Human Interest Story**

By  
Joel Lanken, City Manager

Little is known about Lake City, Georgia and perhaps the citizens like it that way.

It sits quietly south of the airport as a place for its approximate 2,800 residents to reside. There are few places which have the intrinsic values that this city demonstrates.

That is because of its Mayor and City Council. Over the years there have never been scandals or controversies for the media to attach itself too in this city.

The backgrounds and experiences of the Mayor and each member of the City Council have found a means by which this city has almost zero turnover in its workforce. There are few if any organizations, public or private which can make such a claim. One can look high and low and not find a more stable workforce.

The average tenure of its workforce is over ten years, but if you include only its departmental and management personnel it is over 13 years. This is indicative of a satisfied highly performing employee population which takes a great deal of pride

in serving the citizens in this wonderful little city.

Mayor Willie Oswalt has been in his capacity for 40 years. He graduated with advanced degrees from Mississippi State University. Before becoming Mayor he served local high schools as their Industrial Arts Teacher in combination with being their football and track coach before becoming Athletic Director and Head Football Coach at Morrow Senior High School. He served as City Councilman beginning in 1972 and became Mayor in 1976 where he continues in that capacity today. His leadership qualities have been felt in this city and in the numerous civic organizations he belongs to for four decades and it's a pleasant history to read.

Councilman Bobby Williams has served on the City Council for 35 years. He spent the better part of his career with Western Electric as a Supervisor and later retired from Bell South in 1987 as a Maintenance Engineer Supervisor. He has held officer level positions in an array of local civic organizations for the last 40 years.

Councilman J.B. Sowell has been on the Council for 18 years come January 2012 having first been elected in 1994. He retired from the position of General Electrical

Technician with the Ford Motor Company in 1987. Furthermore, he has served on the Board of Directors of the Ford Credit Union for the last 18 years in addition to being a Door Keeper with the Georgia General Assembly for the last 16 years.

Councilwoman Yvonne Kelly has been on the City Council 6 years having first been elected in 2005. Prior to that she was employed by the U.S. Treasury Department from 1962 to 2006 when she retired from the position of Management Analyst in the Treasury Inspector General's Office for Tax Administration.

Councilman Dwight Ginn began his career in Atlanta after completing his education in Franklin County, Georgia. In 1952 he was hired by the famous Varsity Inn and almost immediately became its Day Manager. Twenty years later he retired in 1972. He immediately formed his own company in Forest Park, Georgia. He purchased the

land and building for the G&G Salvage Company which he operated successfully until 2008 when he retired once again. Dwight was elected to the City Council in 2002 and has served in that capacity for the last 9 years having just been re-elected to another 4 year term in November 2011.

The average tenure of the governing body of Lake City, Georgia is 22 years.

Taking the tenure of its employees and tenure of the City Council together with what must be one of the lowest turnover rates recorded by any organization (private or public) makes Lake City "A Diamond in the Rough" and one that stands tall in demonstrating the excellent leadership of its City Council in producing a winning team of highly tenured employees dedicated to serving the common good in this quaint little city south of the airport.....

## ***The Annual Clean Up Day***

***Remember to bring you driver's license with a Lake City address on it.***

*Scheduled for April 21*

*8:00 AM to 4:30PM*

*You can bring all items( tires, oils,household trash, ect.).*

*The Shred Dr. will be there from 9:00am till 1:00 pm to shred all documents for free*

## ***Garbage Bill***

### ***Notification.....***

*Effective 2012,*

*the City will not send quarterly utility*

*garbage bills. Instead the yearly garbage*

*bill of \$204.00 will be shown on your 2012*

*ad valorem tax notice in October.*

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**Code Enforcement of Abandoned Commercial Buildings:** The City Council approved a Vacant Building Registry Ordinance: This will require owners to register vacant buildings with the City in addition to developing a concerted effort in code enforcement in resolving the blighted conditions of these properties.

## ***City of Lake City, GA.***

### **Why is there a Vacant Building Registration Ordinance?**



The Vacant Building Registration Ordinance was adopted in March 2012. The purpose of the ordinance is to assist the City in monitoring the number of vacant buildings and to assess the effects of the condition of those buildings on nearby businesses and the neighborhoods in which they are located. This is particularly the case in light of fire safety hazards and unlawfulness of properties and to promote substantial efforts to rehabilitate such vacant buildings.

### **When is it necessary to register a vacant building?**

Any building that has been vacant for more than **60 days** must be registered with the City. This is a simple one page form and currently requires payment of a \$50.00 dollar filing fee. The penalties

for not filing range from \$500 for the first offense up to \$1,000 for third offense. Each day a building is vacant can be a separate offense, so it is much cheaper to file a simple registration form

### **Other News....**

The City is in the process of updating and codifying all of its ordinances for the first time since 1994.

The annual audit was just completed and illustrates a healthy financial picture for the City despite the recession.

In keeping with past tradition, cost containment and productivity initiatives will be high priorities of the Administration.

Georgia Municipal Association will be providing Medical Health Insurance for City employees at a substantial savings.

The City will be using MBA Candidates from Clayton State University as Interns in the pursuit of Special Projects such as feasibility studies for updating our website; Grant & Revenue Sharing; and other cost saving initiatives.

