

# **REGULAR SESSION OF THE LAKE CITY COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES**

**MARCH 11th, 2024**

**Attendees:** Mayor Ron Dodson, Mayor Pro-Tem Craven, Councilmember Hoover, Councilmember Kyles, Councilmember Brown, Supervisor Rusty Bishop, Police Chief Stanelle, City Attorney Michael Huening, City Manager Chris Leighty

**6:00 PM:** Zoning Hearing 1777 Ivey Street rezoning from Residential to commercial.

Mr. Robledo, the property owner asked the Mayor and Council to rezone from residential to commercial. Mayor Pro-Tem Craven asked him what the hours of operation would be, and he stated primarily 8AM – 5PM. A motion to approve the request pending the applicant’s ability to meet zoning requirements by having a structure built on the property and to meet all other zoning requirements was approved with Councilmembers Brown, Craven and Hoover voting to approve and one Councilmember not present to vote.

The mayor stated he wanted to have a work session in the next couple of weeks to discuss rezoning issues in the city as well as no longer participating in the gateway Zoning. He would like to have the work session before the next regular meeting of the council.

**6:30 PM Work Session:**

Shakir Radeef the Director of Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE) addressed the council to inform them of his organization and the opportunity to partner for the betterment of the community. His organization provides at no cost, health fairs, vaccinations and community health information. The organization is funded by the Department of Public Health.

Public Works Supervisor Rusty Bishop briefed the Mayor and Council on the projects in the city. Phase II of the nature preserve is having an issue completing the fountains and water on the pavilion due to electrical issues and the weather.

He also, advised public works will be purchasing a new mower, and are working to repair or replace a door for the Police Department. The city has an intern working with them, a student from Forest Park High School. In addition, a meeting has been scheduled with Whitley Engineering to discuss the park design for the area in front of city hall.

The Pillars Luncheon in support of the Good Shepherd Clinic will be held on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Dodson will be recognized for his Public Service by receiving the Pillar Award for Public Service. Georgia Cities Week will be April 21<sup>st</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> and the city will participate by having an Open house and a weekend event for the community to come out and enjoy the updated Nature Preserve.

Georgia Municipal Association will hold the Small Cities Conference May 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> in Carrollton, Ga.

The Georgia Municipal Association will hold its annual convention in Savannah June 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>. Registration for the conference will open on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

**7:00 PM City Council Session:**

**Call to order:**

Mayor Dodson called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Invocation:**

Mayor Dodson gave the invocation.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Approval of Minutes:**

Approval of the minutes by consensus.

**Old Business:**

The City Manager advised the council that the person conducting the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Audit was not able to attend. However, he gave them a copy of the letter from the Georgia Department of Audits saying the City of Lake City was in compliance with state standards. Councilmember Hoover asked if there were any issues. The City Manager advised Council the sanitation collection was losing

money, and the sanitation fees would need to be increased or the city would lose additional funding from that fund.

The City Manager advised the council of the need to finalize the project or projects they wanted to use the ARPA Funding for. The money must be committed by the end of 2024 and expended by the end of 2025.

The Mayor and Council gave final approval of the employee pension updates. The Sworn Officers will now have a Rule of 75 for retirement which means if their age and years of service equals 75 they will have no penalty of their pension, and all other city employees will have a 60/20 rule for retirement. 60 years of age and 20 years of service with Lake City and they will have no penalty of their pension.

**New Business:**

Council approved the Ordinance for the metro water district water efficiency code requirements, Mayor Pro-Tem Craven made the motion to approve, seconded by Councilmember Kyles and passed unanimously.

**Police Report:**

Chief Stanelle reported that Part I crime year to date comparison with 2023 data shows a decline of 13%. However, the month-to-month comparison had an increase of 28%.

**Public Comment:**

A resident spoke again about the issue their neighborhood is having with homeless cats. The resident is asking for door hangers and signs telling their neighbors to quit feeding the cats. The city manager asked the police chief to research the topic and be prepared to discuss it at the next council meeting.

**Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Hoover seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Craven and passed unanimously. Council adjourned at 7:55 PM.