
SPECIAL CALLED COUNCIL MEETING

CITY OF LAKE CITY

October 26, 2021 at 6:00 PM

Venue: City Hall

AGENDA

The meeting will be held in the City Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall located at 205 North Marion Avenue, Lake City, FL 32055. Members of the public may also view the meeting live on our YouTube channel. YouTube channel information is located at the end of this Agenda

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation - Mayor Stephen M. Witt

Ladies and Gentlemen; The Lake City Council has opened its public meeting. Since 1968, the City Code has prohibited any person from making personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks or becoming boisterous while addressing the City Council. Yelling or making audible comments from the audience constitutes boisterous conduct. Such conduct will not be tolerated. There is only one approved manner of addressing the City Council. That is, to be recognized and then speak from the podium.

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Persons Wishing to Address Council

Citizens are encouraged to participate in City of Lake City meetings. The City of Lake City encourages civility in public discourse and requests that speakers direct their comments to the Chair. Those attendees wishing to share a document and or comments in writing for inclusion into the public record must email the item to submissions@lcfla.com no later than noon on the day of the meeting. Citizens may also provide input to individual council members via office visits, phone calls, letters and e-mail that will become public record.

Discussion and Action by Council

- 1. Selecting a City Council Member for District 14, revisiting of October 13, 2021 previously filed applications**

Adjournment

YouTube Chanel Information

Members of the public may also view the meeting live on our YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/CityofLakeCity>

Pursuant to 286.0105, Florida Statutes, *the City hereby advises the public if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City with respect to any matter considered at its meetings or hearings, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.*

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: *Pursuant to 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons needing special accommodations to participate in these meetings should contact the **City Manager's Office at (386) 719-5768.***

File Attachments for Item:

- 1. Selecting a City Council Member for District 14, revisiting of October 13, 2021 previously filed applications**

Rec'd 10/6/2021
11:06am
als

Honorable Mayor Witt and City Council:

My name is Abbie Chasteen and I am honored to submit my name as a candidate for the District 14 City Council seat. I am a native and lifelong resident of Columbia County and have resided in District 14 since 2008. I am community minded and strongly believe that in order for Lake City to remain a functional municipality it is going to take unity and inclusion to move forward. I have a track record of being fair, trustworthy, and having a voice of reason. I believe one of my greatest attributes is the love that I have for Lake City and my desire to do all that I can to help make it a great place to live, work, and play.

I am a graduate of Columbia High School, Lake City Community College, and Saint Leo University where I earned my Bachelors degree in Elementary Education. My family has owned and operated a restaurant business in Lake City my entire life which has provided me with the opportunity to build and foster relationships, as well as establish and maintain a strong work ethic, drive, and sense of community.

I was employed with the Columbia County School System from 2006-2012 where I taught 1st grade at Westside Elementary. As an educator, my desire for continuous improvement thrived and it is where I learned to be an excellent listener and problem solver. During my time as a teacher, I served on various committees within the school, planned school wide events, and served as team leader for my grade level.

In July 2012, I was hired as the Marketing Director for The Lake City – Columbia County Chamber of Commerce and the coordinator for The Ichetucknee Partnership. During my time at the Chamber, I worked alongside many leaders in our community and helped to promote our city, our county, our local businesses, and our Chamber. As Marketing Director, I was involved in all aspects of the Chamber. My duties included planning community events alongside the City of Lake City, such as Trunk or Treat, Snow Day and 4th of July Fireworks, creating sponsorship opportunities for additional revenue, organizing volunteer opportunities, working closely with business owners to promote their companies through networking opportunities, and assisting with programs such as Dale Carnegie and Leadership Lake City (both of which I completed). While at the Chamber I was fortunate to fill the Chamber seat on the CRA board, which much like I expect of the City Council, required me to work closely with diverse individuals with a common goal of making Lake City a better place. The Chamber allowed me to learn, grow and have a new appreciation for the place that I always called home, while developing many of the

Rec'd 10/6/2021
11:06am
aes

skills that I believe would serve me well on the Council, including planning for growth and the future, educating myself and becoming knowledgeable on issues that were previously unfamiliar to me, and familiarity with parliamentary procedure.

Currently I serve as the Marketing and Public Relations director for a local law firm. My duties include working with our attorneys and staff to develop ideas to generate new business opportunities, build and foster relationships with clients, maintain a positive brand reputation, and support the overall growth and success of the firm. Our firm was founded by Lake City natives and we strive to maintain a strong connection to our community in all that we do.

My experiences of being raised in the restaurant business, teaching school, and marketing for the Chamber and law firm have all afforded me with a variety of opportunities that I feel would benefit me in this position. I have built lasting relationships with all types of people, taught the future leaders of our great city, and worked with and learned from the sharpest business minds in our community. I am not a lifelong politician or someone who is looking to add to my resume. I am a concerned citizen who feels she can make a difference in the lives and businesses in Lake City, Florida. Admittedly, I do not know everything there is to know about City government, but I am willing to work hard and learn while listening to my constituents to also act in the best interest of the City and its residents. I can't promise I will be able to fix all of the problems that we are experiencing. What I will promise is that I will give it 100%.

I am confident that I have the ability, temperament, and desire to serve the City of Lake City with excellence. I am excited about the possibility to serve my community. Whoever is selected for this role has the chance to make a difference in the future of Lake City that will be felt for years to come. I look forward to speaking with the Council about this opportunity to serve our great city.

Sincerely,



Abbie E. Chasteen

636 SE Baya Drive
Lake City, FL 32025

Blue

*Rec'd 10/4/21
2:13
me*

October 4, 2021

Audrey Sikes
Lake City Clerk
City of Lake City
205 N. Marion Street
Lake City, FL 32025

RE: District 14 Vacancy

Statement of Interest

Please provide this Statement of Interest and Residency Application to the Council members for their review and consideration of appointment in the recently vacated seat in District 14.

Thank you in advance.

Kind regards,

Bea Coker

Bea Coker

Rec'd 10/4/21
2:13 mc

Statement of Interest

Background

I have spent three of nearly five decades in Lake City and continuously since 2009 in District 14. My two oldest children became adults in this community and my two youngest continue growing up alongside yours and other young people in our neighborhoods, our schools, and our churches. Most of my time is spent planning, organizing, and recruiting people to create and develop opportunities to help young people find their way. I work tirelessly in collaboration with others; businesses, and officials alike to help form lasting memories to young and elderly citizens, proof of the heart of Lake City. Within our community my effort has and continues to demonstrate diligent work for common goals that don't uplift our differences but highlight the bright futures we pave when removing obstacles and focusing on shared needs for our children and all citizens to be safe, grow healthy, and cherish happiness.

Experience

I hold a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Mercer University, with special designation from Stetson School of Business. I have time remaining to complete both a law degree and PhD in Occupational Psychology. I thoroughly enjoy the legal field and the motivations of people. I live satisfied with my career choices. As a Senior Paralegal for Georgia-Pacific I received the distinguished honor of being named "The State of Georgia's Corporate Paralegal of the Year". My responsibilities at Georgia-Pacific included managing \$3 billion in contracts as the sole paralegal for the packaging division. I managed this task while completing a college degree, giving birth to Victoria, and being very active in the community. The knowledge and experience I gained is shared in my local community through my small business consultancy, the community engagements of my charitable organization, and while raising my pretty active children, in this place called home.

https://gaparalegal.org/images/downloads/Newsletters_2006/april2006.pdf



In This Issue

Pages 1 & 10
Three Paralegals of the Year
Recognized

April 2006

THREE PARALEGALS OF THE YEAR RECOGNIZED

By: Maureen Cullen, Member

It's About My Efforts, Inc. - 2004 - Present
Executive Director

My Business Consultants - 2012 - Present
Consultant

EarthLink, Inc. - 2007 - 2008
Senior Manager - Contracts

Georgia-Pacific, Inc. - 2002 - 2007
Senior Paralegal

I have a proven track record of collaboration with intergovernmental agencies in the public and private sectors, and residents throughout the city and county.

PARALEGALS RECOGNIZED

continued from cover

Befaihtful ("Bea") Coker received the award in the corporate category. According to the submission on her behalf, she holds all the attributes giving her name appropriate meaning. She has outstanding skills combined with an excellent work ethic and attitude, allowing her to be considered an invaluable member of the Georgia-Pacific Corporation's packaging division team. The estimated annual sales of this division of Georgia-Pacific are over 3 billion dollars and Coker is the sole paralegal support. Her accomplishments include maintaining relationships with personnel at all levels of the company, delivering service related to the 800 active open matters, and management of all associated relevant deadlines. All in all, this makes her an exceptional paralegal! She was able to perform with such excellence in addition to managing a busy personal life that included, in 2005, earning a Bachelor's degree in business by attending evening classes and giving birth to a daughter, her third child. Coker is very active in local charitable activities within her church community and in her children's schools, in addition to activities in other organizations. She also still found time to be an active member of GAP.

Working in our Community

Helping in other communities refreshed memories created right here in Lake City and fueled my strong desire to return and share with our local community. I have learned it isn't the quantity but the quality of the effort we exert as individuals that make a difference. It isn't a "Hollywood " dreamer that we necessarily need in Lake City but an unselfish desire to be part of the solution. I am proud to raise my children in Lake City beside many of you. I am passionate about maintaining safety, preserving their childhood, and protecting their future. Our efforts have been great, yet there is much house cleaning needed and more growth to come. I am proud to share these accomplishments made in our community:

- Professional
 - Serves as Exec. Director of It's About My Efforts, Inc.
 - Organized Our Community Cares Coalition
 - Created My Business Consultants
- Community
 - Art & Culture in the community and schools.
 - 10 years of contribution to the Lake City Reporter highlighting residents within our community (Come Meet an American),
 - Established Ambassador Leadership Council,
 - Beautification Project - debris removal and minor home repairs for elderly citizens
 - Reading programs provided to pre-kindergarten students.
 - Year round camps and programs for young people to reinforce art and culture, reading, career development, community service.
 - Organized, prepared and delivered over 750 meals to elderly households and connected 100 households to the internet and technology resulting from Covid-19.
 - Organization of recognition programs for academic achievement of students
 - 2014 recognized over 50 pre-k students for learning to read
 - 2017 recognized over 200 high achieving students at Lifestyle Enrichment Center
 - 2021 Annual Youth Leadership connected over 200 students with business for activities and scholarships valued at \$12,000,
 - Served as a Community Representative
 - Florida Department of Education Faith Based and Community Outreach Committee
 - Florida? On the Social Status of Black Men and Boys

Why me?

I hold a strong desire to represent the citizens as a member of the city council. Our city is changing rapidly and we need to remain focused not just on building household income, sustaining and creating infrastructure to accommodate growth, but in maintaining safety in communities, upholding values, and restoring order and decorum and public communication. We need direction and demonstrated commitment to the future of our city through proven efforts and appreciation for all citizens. Working together requires understanding, experience, and outlook. I strive to help others and help this community. I have no problem maintaining decorum while making the tough decisions and upholding accountability. If Georgia-Pacific was satisfied enough with my management of \$3billion, to extend statewide recognition, I believe I can do right for the citizens of Lake City in protecting and growing our \$60million budget. I am the best person for this seat because I want the best for all of us, recognizing and appreciating the significance of our laws and rules. I fully understand improvement is necessary; however, I also believe pursuing needed change must occur in decency and order, and requires the efforts of us all to accomplish that goal. Let me help us get on the right track.

Rec'd 9/28/2021
2:48pm als

Stephen A. Douglas
205 SE Butler Glen
Lake City, FL 32025

September 27, 2021

City Council
City of Lake City
205 North Marion Avenue
Lake City, FL 32055-3918

Dear Lake City Council,

With this letter, I am formally indicating my interest in being appointed to fill the remainder of the City Council District 14 seat.

After graduating from Columbia High School in 1984, I have lived in multiple cities throughout Florida including time in the state of Mississippi.

Working for First Union Bank in Finance and Accounting which was the sixth largest bank in the United States at that time was my livelihood from 1990 thru 1998.

I moved back to Lake City, FL in 1998 to pursue my goal of being an entrepreneur. I have owned and operated Mini-Storage & Record Storage of Lake City, Inc. since 1998.

The business started with 12,000 square feet of self-storage space and has grown to 275,000 square feet of self-storage space with six facilities and three offices throughout Lake City and Columbia County.

Having established a successful business with this community has afforded me the luxury of also giving back to this community.

I have been fortunate enough to serve on the following board(s):

Lake City / Columbia County Chamber of Commerce
2004 – 2009
Member Appointed

Rec'd 9/28/2021
2:48 PM als

Lake Shore Hospital Authority Board
2010 – 2014
Florida Governor Appointed

Columbia County Economic Development Advisory Board
2010 – Current
Columbia County Commissioners Appointed

Columbia County Charter Review Commission
2019 – 2020
Columbia County Commissioners Appointed

Operating a business in today's environment requires dedication, vision, budget acuteness and the ability to get plans and tasks accomplished.

I have taken these twenty plus years of skills from operating in the private sector and used them on the aforementioned boards that I have served on. Having served on these boards have also enhanced and broadened my knowledge base and people skills.

I am a big believer in Pay It Forward and Giving Back to the Community that has been very good to me and my business.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to working with each and everyone of you in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen A. Douglas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" being the most prominent.

Stephen A. Douglas
Mini-Storage & Record Storage of Lake City, Inc.
442 SW Saint Margaret Street
Lake City, FL 32025
Stephen@LakeCityStorage.com
Office: 386-752-7092
Mobile: 386-961-6587

Rec'd 9/27/2021
3:19 pm aes

1723 SW LESLIE GLN • LAKE CITY, FLORIDA 32025

RICKY JERNIGAN

September 27, 2021

Stephen M. Witt, Mayor
618 E Duval Street
Lake City, Florida 32055

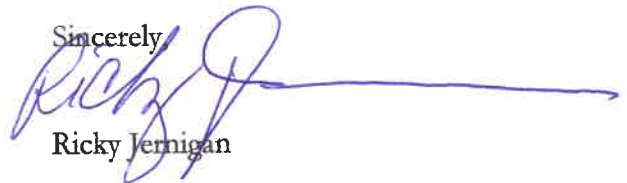
Mr. Witt:

I am applying for City Council District 14. My qualifications include: 1) I am a registered voter. 2) I love my country, state, and city. 3) I worked for Florida Department of Corrections for 38 ½ years. I retired on August 27, 2021. 4) I am passionate about serving the community in my district. In fact, I ran for city council a few years ago.

I look forward to representing District 14 with integrity. Please contact me at (386) 365-1150. I greatly appreciate your time and attention to this matter.

Let's make Lake City great again!

Sincerely



Ricky Jernigan