

**CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
SENIOR CITIZEN BUILDING
314 N 3rd STREET
REGULAR MEETING
February 23, 2023
6:00 PM**

The City Commission met on this date, February 23, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. at the Senior Citizens/Community Building, 314 N. 3rd St, Wewahitchka, Florida. **Mayor Gaskin** called the meeting to order, asked **Sheriff Harrison** to lead a prayer and everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

Mayor Phillip Gaskin
Commissioner Charlie Pettis
Commissioner Johnny Paul
Commissioner Brian Cox

Attorney

Michelle Jordan (Via Phone)

Sheriff

Mike Harrison

City Manager

Michael Gortman

City Finance Director

Brittney Proctor

City Parks & Rec Director

David Paul

City Finance Clerk

Misty Robbins

Public

Royce Watkins
Chuck Johnson
Gene Hanlon
David Brown
Pam Palmer
Gary Atkinson
Wendy Weitzel
Jack Husband (SCE)
Hunter Baumgardner (SCE)
County Commissioner David Rich
County Administrator Michael Hammond

Approval of Agenda – **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve the agenda. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Minutes – **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve the minutes for Regular Commission Meeting 1/26/23 and **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Recognition

Mayor Gaskin asked if anyone from the public had anything to discuss. **Royce Watkins** stated that he would like to discuss Corn Griffin St. **Mayor Gaskin** stated that **Commissioner Rich** and **County Administrator Hammond** were here to help answer questions related to Corn Griffin St. **Mr. Watkins** said the residents on Corn Griffin would like to see the road paved and wanted to know if the county had any type of funding available to pave it. **Mr. Watkins** discussed the road condition and drainage issues.

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Public Recognition cont'd....

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Mayor Gaskin asked **Mr. Hammond** how much does the City get per year on average from the county on the road bond money. **Mr. Hammond** stated it is committed until 2030 and that the City gets 10% of the pot. Right now that would roughly be \$35,000.00 - \$40,000.00 a year.

Mayor Gaskin stated we are talking about a half million dollar road. **Gary Atkinson** stated that he talked to **Jason White** and he said that it would be about \$300,000 not \$500,000. **Mayor Gaskin** said you can't just give that to Jason White, the project would have to be bid out. **Mr. Atkinson** stated they just want the same treatment that everyone else in the City got. **Mayor Gaskin** stated other people in the City bought on paved streets and that all the city has done is re-surfaced, not re-paving.

Mr. Watkins said that he didn't know where the money was going to come from, but they expected at some point that it would get paved. **Mayor Gaskin** stated that the residents had all bought property on an unpaved road and now they are expecting all of the city tax payers to foot the bill.

Discussion followed regarding about the subdivision of the property and whether the road had been accepted by the city. **Mr. Hammond** explained that it was illegally subdivided from what he remembered. Then about 27 years ago the county said no more subdivisions without the developer going in and paving roads before the county would accept them and the county stuck to that. **Mayor Gaskin** explained that the Jim Rish subdivision had been subdivided and sold before he came to the board to request the city accept it. **Mr. Hammond** said although the subdivision was improper, at some point the County agreed to pave the roads because the school bus was getting stuck trying to pick up and drop off students.

Mr. Hammond explained what was allowed back then in the 2001 road bond would not be allowed now. He stated the county could not accept the road because it would not follow the proper procedures and county policies, but they would assist with looking into extending the road bond and for grants that the city could apply for to help.

Mr. Hammond and **Engineer Jack Husband** also discussed the stormwater issues on the road. **Mayor Gaskin** stated he just didn't see where the revenue would come from to fund it.

Mr. Watkins discussed the issues with the road grating and pulling the ditches. **County Commissioner Rich** stated that he would help as best as he can and explained that the county will get the grating and ditches taken care of, however they can not pave the road.

Gene Hanlon asked **Mr. Hammond** about how the road bond worked, **Mr. Hammond** explained the bond process.

Commissioner Paul asked **Mr. Hammond** if there are any other grants that the City could get? **Mr. Hammond** explained that the city could apply for grants, however since

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Public Recognition cont'd....

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Corn Griffin is a dead end road so it wouldn't rank high and chances of getting awarded would be lower because the state wants to fund roads that would take stress off of the county and state road system.

Commissioner Rich and **Mr. Hammond** said that they will coordinate with the city to do the grating and maintenance.

Mayor Gaskin thanked **Mr. Hammond** and **Commissioner Rich** for coming.

Agenda

1. Retention of Special Counsel for Winterfell Bankruptcy Proceedings – Attorney Michelle Jordan stated that Tommy Hamm went into personal bankruptcy and Winterfell went into Chapter 11 bankruptcy. This is problematic for the city because the bankruptcy court will take jurisdiction over our litigation. Attorney Jordan stated that neither she or Jeremy practice in bankruptcy, so the City will need to retain specialized counsel for that. She recommended that the city retain Clark Partington to represent the City in the case.

Following further discussion and review of an informational packet from Clark Partington, **Commissioner Cox** motioned to retain Clark Partington as special counsel for the bankruptcy proceedings. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Bills

1. Fisher's – Moved to regular bills

2. Charlie Pettis Pest Services – Commissioner Paul made a motion to approve payment of Charlie Pettis Pest Services invoice (\$90.00) **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0, with **Commissioner Pettis** abstaining due to conflict of interest.

3. Wewa Outdoors – Commissioner Pettis made a motion to approve payment of Wewa Outdoors bills (\$586.37) **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0, with **Commissioner Paul** abstaining due to conflict of interest.

4. Regular Bills – Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the regular (\$102,914.17), Fisher's Building Supply (\$874.02) recurring (\$59,566.66), and additional bills (\$38,093.07). **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

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Old Business/Open Items

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Old Business/Open Items

1. Fire station/old City Hall

(Original Substantial Completion Date 9/4/21, Original Work Completion Date 10/11/21)
(Change Order #3-7/29/21-Changed Substantial Comp. Date 11/17/21, Work Completion Date 12/25/21)

CHANGE ORDER #4-10/28/21 – SUBST. COMPLETION DATE 12/9/21, WORK COMPLETION DATE 1/15/22

None

2. Delinquent Utility Bills – None

3. Water Losses – None

4. SEWER INFILTRATION AND INFLOW – None

5. Ray Dickens Fish Fry for the Sr. Citizens (October 6, 2023) – None

6. Lift Stations – Engineer Hunter Baumgardner stated that on lift station 3 there are some drainage issues. They were a problem before and are a problem now. While we have them torn apart we would like to address those issues. Engineer Baumgardner presented and explained the change order too address the drainage and erosion issues. He also presented the certificate of substantial completion for lift station #3.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve change order #1 for Lift Station #3 and substantial completion certificate for lift station #3. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Engineer Hunter Baumgardner presented North Florida Construction's pay request #3 for lift station #3. After review and discussion, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve payment of North Florida Construction pay request (\$246,895.00). **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.0

7. Overtime Report broken down by pay periods – None

8. County LDR – Engineer Jack Husband said he has a draft of the comp plan for review and suggested that we hold a workshop to discuss. The board agreed to schedule a workshop on March 14, 2023 at 6:00

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9. Employee Water/Sewer License Testing – City Manager Michael Gortman stated David is supposed to be taking his test on the 15th and he is still working on a computer for Blake.

10. Senior Building – City Parks and Rec Director David Paul stated Millers will take the units out and replace them when the floors are finished.

11. Cemetery Committee & Buckhorn Decorative Fencing – None

Other Comments

City Attorney Michelle Jordan – None

City Manager Michael Gortman – Requested a pay increase for Dan Calareso. Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to increase Dan Calareso's pay to \$20.00 per hour. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

City Parks & Rec Director David Paul – None

Sheriff Mike Harrison – None

City Engineer Jack Husband – None

City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner – Presented the preliminary plans and discussed the water line project on Jehu Rd, East River Rd, and Lake Ave for review before submitting for permitting.

Engineer Baumgardner presented and discussed a task order for the DEO CDBG-DR Round III Storm Sewer Repair Project. Following review, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve City of Wewahitchka DEO CDBG-DR Round III GIP City-Wide Storm Sewer Repair Project Task Order. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

City Finance Director Brittney Proctor – None

City Finance Clerk Misty Robbins – None

Commission Comments

Commissioner Cox – None

Commissioner Paul – None

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Commission Comments cont'd....
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Commissioner Pettis – None

Mayor Gaskin – None

Adjournment


Commissioner Paul made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 pm. Commissioner Pettis seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA



Phillip Gaskin, Mayor

ATTEST:


Rachel Jackson, City Clerk