

**CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
SENIOR CITIZEN BUILDING
314 N 3rd STREET
REGULAR MEETING
July 30, 2024
6:00 PM**

The City Commission met on this date July 30, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at the Senior Citizen 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 Ralph Fisher
Commissioner Charlie Pettis
Commissioner Johnny Paul

Public

Chris Karagiannis
Chuck Johnson
Tom Wynn
Gene Hanlon
Terri Norris
Patty Fisher
Hunter Baumgardner
Eddie Fields

City Manager

Michael Gortman

City Clerk

Rachel Jackson (VIA VIDEO CONF)

City Attorney

Michelle Jordan (VIA VIDEO CONF)

City Superintendent

Chipper Wade

City Parks & Rec Director

David Paul

City Finance Director

Brittney Proctor (VIA VIDEO CONF)

City Finance Clerk

Misty Robbins

Sheriff

Mike Harrison

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Paul made a motion to approve the agenda. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Minutes

After review, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve 6.27.24 Regular Meeting minutes, **Commissioner Fisher** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Recognition

Mrs. Patty Fisher – spoke about the National Day of Service which will be held on September 28, 2024. Last year they did an International Day of Service helping to fight food insecurity. They fed over 400 people and collected over \$1,900. The Women's club are partnering with Second Harvest of Big Bend and will be distributing food. **Mrs. Fisher** requested the board to allow them to distribute the food at Lake Alice. The board approved the request.

Agenda

1. **Planning Board Members** – City Manager Michael Gortman stated that **Mr. Gene Hanlon** stated he would stay on it. **Mrs. Sue Dickens** brought a letter stating that she would like to resign her position on the planning board.

City Manager Michael Gortman stated **Betty Jo Cooper** expressed interest in the position. Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to offer the planning board position to Betty Jo Cooper. **Commissioner Fisher** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

2. **2024-2025 Millage** – **Commissioner Fisher** stated did not want it to increase, he would like for it to remain the same at 6.1133.

Following discussion, regarding advertisement of the milage rate and the value of property, **Commissioner Fisher** made a motion to keep the millage rate the same at 6.1133 mils. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Bills

1. **Fisher's Building Supply** – Following review, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve payment of Fisher's Building Supply bills (\$365.80) **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0, with **Commissioner Fisher** abstaining due to conflict of interest.

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

3. **Wewa Outdoors** – Following review, **Commissioner Fisher** made a motion to approve payment of Wewa Outdoors bills (\$320.43) **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0, with **Commissioner Paul** abstaining due to conflict of interest.

4. **Regular Bills** – Following review and discussion, **Commissioner Fisher** made a motion to approve payment of the regular bills (\$27,182.85), re-occurring bills (\$87,804.10) and additional bills, including payment of the pay request (131,644.08) for Monolith Construction of the Fire Station project, (\$210,188.72) **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

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)

REGULAR MEETING
July 30, 2024 @ 6:00 pm
Old Business/Open Items cont'd....
Page 3

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

Engineer Hunter Baumgardner presented and discussed the pay request for Monolith Construction on the fire station project.

Chris Karagiannis with **Monolith Construction** provided an update on the progress of the fire department. **Mr. Karagiannis** stated the interior concrete demolition is complete and the exterior rear porch concrete demolition is complete, compaction tests for interior slab is complete, bug treatment is done, started on rebar, and have set a tentative date of this Friday (8.2.24) to pour pending a passing inspection on Thursday. **Mr. Karagiannis** stated once the concrete is poured there will be about a week stall while the concrete cures. He discussed the utilities that were under the slab and stated they ended up replacing all of it. The drainage pond was also discussed.

2. **Delinquent Utility Bills – Mayor Gaskin** stated they are up about \$690.00. **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** stated that there were more extensions which was the cause of the increase.
3. **Water Losses – City Superintendent Chipper Wade** stated they are working on it
4. **SEWER INFILTRATION AND INFLOW – City Superintendent Chipper Wade** stated they are working on it.
5. **Ray Dickens Fish Fry for the Sr. Citizens (October 4, 2024) – None**
6. **Lift Station – Engineer Hunter Baumgardner** presented a notice of completion on lift station #4 and stated we are still waiting on as built surveys, so we won't bring a pay request until we receive them.
7. **Overtime Report broken down by pay periods – None**
8. **LDR's – Engineer Hunter Baumgardner** stated they are approved, they will send them over to Rachel to post on the website. **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** asked if they would like to remove the LDR from the open items list. The board stated to remove them.
9. **Employee Water/Sewer License Testing – City Manager Michael Gortman** provided an update:
 - Kyle Whitfield – Kyle is done with all except math portion of test
 - Blake Gilmore – has one more test and then he will be ready to sit for the state test.

REGULAR MEETING
July 30, 2024 @ 6:00 pm
Old Business/Open Items cont'd....
Page 4

10. Senior Building – City Parks and Rec Director David Paul stated we are still working on the upgrades and want to update the kitchen some.

11. Gulf County Senior Citizen Program Operations and Funding – City Clerk Rachel Jackson stated that the information that was requested regarding the program operations and the budget had been provided. The board and **Mr. Fields** discussed the senior citizen program and the utility bills that the board agreed to take over, **the** electricity bills are approximately \$15,000.

12. Cemetery Committee & Buckhorn Decorative Fencing – Commissioner Fisher said that David Rich and Michael Hammond are going to see to it that we get some money to help with the cemetery.

Other Comments

City Attorney Michelle Jordan - None

City Manager Michael Gortman – stated he met with the co-op on the TL James lights, it seems like the best avenue will be to do it all at one time due to the different types of voltages. Received a quote to change to LED lights it will be \$90,000. **City Manager Gortman** stated we will still have to buy poles and pay labor to install, if we can do it all at once they will be able to do all one voltage.

City Manager Michael Gortman requested permission to purchase 4 sets of bleachers for TL James football field. He stated we have money in budget for it.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to allow the purchase of the 4 sets of bleachers. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

City Manager Michael Gortman stated that since Tommy has retired, we have advertised the position, so far we have had 36 applications, about 25 local ones.

City Superintendent Chipper Wade – requested to buy 2 mowers with budgeted funds.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2 mowers. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

City Parks & Rec Director David Paul - None

Sheriff Mike Harrison – provided an update on call volume, 91 calls in Wewa, 19% of total calls in county 48% in county.

Discussed a program for people who would like to become deputies. The Deputy Sheriff's Association received an appropriation that will allow employees to receive pay while they

REGULAR MEETING
July 30, 2024 @ 6:00 pm
Other Comments cont'd....
Page 5

are in school training. The program will allow the GSCO to hire employees and send them to school for certification.

City Engineers – Engineer Hunter Baumgardner discussed the water line project, stating we are waiting on approval from Florida Commerce on the bid package so that we can get that out for bid.

On both the waste water and storm sewer projects Florida Commerce has gotten their comments back on the environmental reviews and we are getting those worked out this week and next week.

City Finance Director Brittney Proctor – None

City Finance Clerk Misty Robbins – None

City Clerk Rachel Jackson – None

Mayor/Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Paul – discussed finding a way to purchase 13 acres at the back of TL James park for future use

Commissioner Pettis – None

Commissioner Fisher – None

Mayor Gaskin – None

Adjournment

Commissioner Pettis made a motion to adjourn at 7:13 pm. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA



Phillip Gaskin, Mayor

ATTEST:


Rachel Jackson, City Clerk