

**CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
SENIOR CITIZEN BUILDING
314 N 3rd STREET
REGULAR MEETING
January 4, 2024
6:00 PM**

The City Commission met on this date January 4, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at the Senior Citizen Building, 314 N. 3rd St, Wewahitchka, Florida. **Mayor Pro Tem Fisher** called the meeting to order, and asked **Sheriff Harrison** to lead a prayer and everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher
Commissioner Cox
Commissioner Paul
Commissioner Pettis

Public

Justin Barnes
Hunter Baumgardner
Buddy Cooper
Hunter Bailey

City Clerk

Rachel Jackson

City Finance Clerk

Misty Robbins

City Parks & Rec Director

David Paul

Sheriff

Mike Harrison

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve Regular Meeting 11/30/23 and Workshop 12/12/23 minutes. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Recognition

Justin Barnes with Gulf Coast Electric Co-Op discussed their purchase of the Dixie Dandy building that borders Homewood Drive and the Co-op property. **Mr. Barnes** stated the Co-op will be using it for warehousing. Currently Homewood drive separates those 2 parcels, their head quarter property and the property that they just purchased. The Co-Op would like to propose that they acquire that portion of Homewood Drive to increase operation efficiency. The Co-op would propose that in return for acquiring that portion of Homewood Dr. they would deed an easement to City for a future road at the border of the property and the post office property.

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher asked if they planned to build the new road. **Mr. Barnes** said they would build the road if that is the direction the board wants to go. **Mayor Pro-Tem Fisher** said that the board probably would not have any problem with doing that if the adjoining land owners were agreeable to it.

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Public Recognition cont'd....

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Commissioner Pettis suggested as an alternative to having them build a new road the board could have Gulf Coast Electric help with the TL James ball field lights. **Mayor Pro-Tem Fisher** stated that he felt that there would need to be another road built in the event that landowners needed access to their property in the future and taking into account access for emergency vehicles.

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher explained that the board could not vote on the matter tonight because more information is needed, and the Co-Op would need to contact the adjoining landowners and have them provide in writing that they would be agreeable to it.

Mrs. Ann Johnson stated the historical society is still working on bricks, but they are almost done.

Agenda

1. **2022-2023 Budget Amendment** – Following discussion of the budget amendment, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Budget Amendment. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Bills

1. **Fisher's** – **Mayor Pro-Tem Fisher** passed the gavel to **Commissioner Pettis**, following review of the bills, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve payment of Fisher's Building Supply invoices (\$972.20) **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0, with **Mayor Pro-Tem Fisher** abstaining due to conflict of interest.
2. **Charlie Pettis Pest Services** – **Commissioner Pettis** passed the gavel back to **Mayor Pro-Tem Fisher**. Following review, **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. **Regular Bills** – Following review of the bills, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve payment of the regular (\$206,391.23), re-occurring (\$95,210.17), and additional bills (\$55,749.77) **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Old Business/Open Items

1. **Fire station/old City Hall - None**

(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

2. **Delinquent Utility Bills** – **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** stated that along with the delinquency list, there was a spreadsheet that contained the bad debts for 2022-

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2023. The bad debts were under \$1,700.00 compared to the prior year of approximately \$5,000.00

3. Water Losses – None

4. SEWER INFILTRATION AND INFLOW – City Parks and Rec Director David Paul stated that they have been making repairs and contacting owners about the smoke tests.

5. Ray Dickens Fish Fry for the Sr. Citizens (October 4, 2024) – None

6. Lift Station – Engineer Hunter Baumgardner stated the parts, panels, ad pumps for lift station #4 have been delivered to the city yard. **Engineer Baumgardner** presented a notice to proceed for lift station #4.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve the notice to proceed. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

7. Overtime Report broken down by pay periods – None

8. LDR's – City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner stated we are still waiting on state approval.

9. Employee Water/Sewer License Testing – None, in City Manager Michael Gortman's absence

- Kyle Whitfield –
- David Paul –
- Blake Gilmore –.

10. Senior Building –. None

11. Cemetery Committee & Buckhorn Decorative Fencing – None

Other Comments

City Parks & Rec Director David Paul – None

Sheriff Harrison – None

City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner – Stated Engineer Jack Husband asked that he bring a letter to the board confirming SCE will not be pursuing any claims against Winterfell Construction.

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Other Comments cont'd....

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Following discussion of the letter, **Mayor Pro-Tem Fisher** requested a motion for SCE to take over handling the fire station project. **Commissioner Cox** made a motion for SCE to take over the fire station project. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

City Finance Clerk Misty Robbins – None

City Clerk Rachel Jackson – Discussed new requirements for Elected Officials Financial Disclosures beginning this year and presented Form 6 resources, filing instructions, and examples.

Mayor/Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Cox – requested that someone follow up about the getting screen replaced at gas pumps.

Commissioner Paul- discussed the recent smoke tests, and requested that city staff make sure we have a list of homeowners and addresses with Sewer I & I issues.

Commissioner Pettis – None

Mayor Pro-Tem Fisher – None

Adjournment

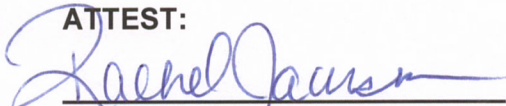
Commissioner Paul made a motion to adjourn at 6:37 pm. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA



Phillip Gaskin, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rachel Jackson, City Clerk

