CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
Senior/Community Building
REGULAR MEETING
December 22, 2025
6:00 PM

The City Commission met on this date December 22, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. at the Wewahitchka Senior/Community Building, 314 N. 3rd St, Wewahitchka, Florida. **Mayor Pro Tem Fisher** called the meeting to order, asked **Commissioner Pettis** to lead a prayer, and everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance
Mayor Pro Tem Fisher
Commissioner Charlie Pettis
Commissioner Johnny Paul
Commissioner Brian Cox

Public
Ann Johnson
Amanda Lake

City Manager
Michael Gortman
City Clerk
Rachel Jackson
City Finance Director
Brittney Proctor (via video conf)
City Finance Clerk
Misty Robbins
City Engineer-SCE
Jack Husband

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

Approval of Minutes
After review, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve Regular Meeting 11.20.25 minutes. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Recognition
Ann Johnson thanked the city and county for letting them set up at the courthouse. She stated everything turned out really good. **Mrs. Johnson** said the Historical Society did the cemetery tour and had about 40 people that attended, she felt it was a big success and would like to have it again next year.

Mrs. Johnson also presented and discussed a form for membership to the Historical Society. Additionally, she discussed purchasing a historical marker for the Presbyterian Church.

Amanda Lake with ARC performance Horses stated they got together with the 4-H extension agent, David Paul and Commissioner Pettis about getting more activities going as well setting up a committee and a calendar for scheduling events. They are planning to meet again on January 6, 2026 at 1:00pm ct with more people representing baseball

in order to be a little more organized and to be informed of the planned activities so that everyone can be more successful.

Mrs. Lake also discussed holding a barrel race on January 24, 2026 at TL James park. She said there won't be tickets for that it will be an open event. She stated it is being sponsored by Miranda Rollins and ARC Performance Horses will be putting up the other half of the money for the insurance. **Mrs. Lake** said they are also planning to start putting money up from each event to assist in making improvements to the park.

Mrs. Lake stated she felt there is a little confusion about the use of the horse arena building and requested a meeting to clear up the issue.

After discussion, the board agreed to set a special meeting for January 6, 2026, at 10:00 am, held at the City of Wewahitchka Volunteer Fire Department, 109 S 2nd Street, to discuss the matter further.

Mrs. Lake said she would be sponsoring a $1,500.00 scholarship through rodeo attendance income to benefit the community.

Mrs. Lake requested approval to hold the barrel race on January 24, 2026 at TL James Park.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve holding the barrel race at TL James Park on January 24, 2026. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Agenda

1. **Ordinance 2025-1235L – Gulf Coast Electric Franchise Agreement** ***(Final Reading)*** –

   City Manager Michael Gortman read the ordinance by title:

   Ordinance 2025-1235L

   AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY TO THE CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA AND THE INHABITANTS THEREOF AND TO GRANT A FRANCHISE TO GULF COAST ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., A CORPORATION ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "COMPANY," AND SUCH TERMS SHALL INCLUDE THOSE HAVING AN INTEREST THEREIN, TO OWN, CONSTRUCT, BUILD, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE THE ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WITHIN THE CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA, GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA FOR A PERIOD OF FIFTEEN (15) YEARS.

   Following the reading, **Commissioner Paul made** a motion to accept Ordinance 2025-1235L. **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

2. **2025 Florida Division of Forestry VFA Grant – City Clerk Rachel Jackson** stated that the Florida Division of Forestry awarded the fire department a 50/50 match grant

for $17,004.00 total and asked the board to accept the grant and give **Commissioner Cox** permission to purchase the equipment on the quotes provided for the board to review.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Paul made** a motion to accept the 2025 Florida Division of Forestry VFA Grant (50/50 Match) award and for **Commissioner Cox** to purchase the equipment from the quotes. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

3. **Florida DEP Resiliency Grant Award – City Engineer Jack** Husband discussed the Florida DEP Resiliency Grant that the City has been awarded. The grant is $350,000 and will allow for a vulnerability assessment and plan so that the City will be eligible to receive additional grants in the future. **Engineer Husband** recommended the City accept the grant.

   Following discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to accept the Florida DEP Resiliency Planning Grant Award of $350,000. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

4. **Sewer Loans Payoff – City Clerk Rachel Jackson** presented and discussed payoff letters for sewer loans CW-76404P and CW-230210.

   Following discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to pay off sewer loans CW-76404P ($142,138.97) and CW-230210 ($69,541.27) and allow the remaining funds in the bank accounts associated with those loans to be moved to the bank account associated with the other sewer loans in order to be able to pay those loans off more quickly. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Bills

1. **Fisher's Building Supply** – Following review, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve Fisher's Building Supply Bills ($2,426.84) **Commissioner Paul** 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 Charlie Pettis Pest Services bill ($90.00) **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0, with **Commissioner Pettis** abstaining due to conflict of interest.

3. **Wewa Outdoors** – Following review, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve Wewa Outdoors Bills ($167.89) **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0, with **Commissioner Paul** abstaining due to conflict of interest.

4. **Regular Bills** – Following review and discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve payment of the December 2025 regular bills ($32,104.85), re-occuring bills ($119,764.62), additional bills ($62,704.57). **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Old Business/Open Items

1. **Monthly Budget Update** – None

2. **Delinquent Utility Bills** – None

3. **Extension List** – None

4. **Bad Debts** ***(Reminder for: Dec 2026 – Jan 2027)*** – None

5. **Water Losses** – None

6. **SEWER INFILTRATION AND INFLOW** – None

7. **Ray Dickens Fish Fry for the Sr. Citizens (October 3, 2026)** – None

8. **Overtime Report broken down by pay periods** – None

9. **Employee Water/Sewer License Testing**
   - Blake Gilmore – Water – working on it

10. **Senior Building – City Manager Michael Gortman** stated they have finished the two air rooms, and the next project will be enclosing the porch area.

11. **Cemetery Committee & Buckhorn Decorative Fencing – City Engineer Jack Husband** presented a drawing for the board to review and approve.

    Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** voted to approve the drawing and begin working on the project. **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

12. **TL James Ballfield Lights – City Manager Michael Gortman stated the Co-op** has lights up, Kenny has the lights up and in place.
    City Manger Michael Gortman presented and discussed an invoice from Gulf Coast Electric for the parts and material only. He stated that once it is paid we will send proof of payment to the county for reimbursement.

    Following discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve payment of the Gulf Coast Electric invoice for $145,935.40. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

    City Manager Michael Gortman presented and discussed Kenny Strange Electric's invoice for ½ of the work performed.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve payment for Kenny Strange Electric invoice # 22587 ($55,259.00), ½ of the entire project, and approval for a loan to be taken from CD 800048889 for the entire amount for Kenny Strange's work on the TL James Ballfield lights of $110,518.00. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Other Comments

City Manager Michael Gortman – stated Teal Timber got back about the land for TL James and are only willing to sell in 18 acres tracts. They are asking 6,000-8,000 per acre.

Commissioner Paul he is not for buying that much, because a majority of it is unusable because of it being so wet. He requested **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** write a certified letter to property owner on the West side of the park to see if they would be billing to sell any property.

Engineer Jack Husband – stated they are working on a cost estimate to get to DEP for the grants and that is going pretty well so far.

Engineer Husband stated 850 Construction did not have a pay request this month for the waterline project, but were still expected to finish the project by the deadline.

Commissioner Pettis and **Engineer Husband** discussed the condition of the paving that had been done following the water line replacement.

City Finance Director Brittney Proctor – None

City Finance Clerk Misty Robbins – discussed a letter received from tax collector about us reimbursing a property owner due to being overcharged property taxes in error by the property appraiser/property tax collector.

Following discussion, the board directed **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** to obtain additional information regarding the property taxes and trailer tag prior to approving payment of the requested refund.

City Clerk Rachel Jackson – discussed the water line project M0018 amendment 4, she stated that the leftover funds from tasks 1 and 2 needed to be moved to task 3 to pay the contractor and engineering inspections had to be added into task 3.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve Amendment 4 for the water line project M0018. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor/Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Cox – discussed moving public recognition to follow agenda items beginning at the February Regular Commission Meeting.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to move public recognition to follow the agenda items beginning in February. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Paul – None

Commissioner Pettis – stated the parade went well and discussed **Mrs. Ann Johnson's** request for a sign at Jehu Cemetery.

Adjournment

Commissioner Paul made a motion to adjourn 7:20pm. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA

By Phillip Gaskin, Mayor / Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Rachel Jackson, City Clerk

CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA
EST. 1959
SEAL
GULF CO. FLORIDA