

**CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
SENIOR CITIZEN BUILDING
314 N 3rd STREET
REGULAR MEETING
May 26, 2022
6:00 PM**

The City Commission met on this date, May 26, 2022 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 Gaskin
Commissioner Pettis
Commissioner Paul
Commissioner Cox

Public

Tom Wynn
Chuck Johnson
Jack Husband
Jerry Pridgeon
Wendy Weitzel
Cory Ash

Sheriff

Mike Harrison

City Attorney

Michelle Jordan

City Manager

Michael Gortman

City Superintendent

Chipper Wade

City Clerk

Rachel Jackson

City Finance Director

Brittney Proctor

City Utility Billing Clerk

Misty Robbins

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

Approval of Minutes – **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve regular meeting minutes 4/28/22 and special meeting minutes 5/5/2022. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Recognition – Mayor Gaskin asked if anyone in the public had anything to discuss that was not on the agenda. Tom Wynn stated he has been doing some research about fire station found company and would like to present it. Mr. Wynn presented a packet of information and stated that he had been speaking to an expert in building fire stations that was willing to help Wewa or the bonding company if interested. Mayor gave information packet to City Attorney Michelle Jordan.

Mayor Gaskin asked **City Attorney Michelle Jordan** how things were going on the fire station. **City Attorney Michelle Jordan** stated that the Bonding Company asked for earlier mediation with all of the parties to discuss resolving all outstanding issues with the fire station. It is currently scheduled for June 17th.

Agenda

1. Ordinance No 2022-1218L Ward III and Ward IV Elections (final reading) – Mayor Gaskin asked **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** to read Ordinance 2022-1218L. **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** read by title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-1218L

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA PROVIDING FOR A CITY ELECTION, PROVIDING FOR QUALIFYING DATES AND A QUALIFYING FEE, DESIGNATING POLLING PLACE(S), AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION OFFICERS, STATING WHO MAY VOTE, PROVIDING FOR VOTE BY MAIL BALLOTS, PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A CANVASSING BOARD AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Following reading **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve Ordinance No 2022-1218L Ward III and Ward IV Elections. **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Ordinance No 2022-1219L-Noise Ordinance (first reading, approval to advertise) – Following discussion of Noise Ordinance 2022-1219L **Mayor Gaskin** asked **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** to read Ordinance 2022-1219L. **City Clerk Rachel** read by title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-1219L

AN ORDINANCE OF CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEWAHTICHKA, FLORIDA, TO REGULATE NOISE WITHIN THE CITY, SETTING FORTH STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES, PROHIBITING THE MAKING OF LOUD, UNREASONABLE, UNNATURAL OR UNUSUAL NOISES AS SET FORTH HEREIN; PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; PROVIDING FOR THE ENFORCEMENT HEREOF; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR MODIFICATIONS THAT MAY ARISE FROM CONSIDERATION AT PUBLIC HEARINGS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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Following discussion and reading **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve the first reading and advertisement of Ordinance No 2022-1219L. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

3. COVID-19 – The board directed **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** take COVID-19 off of following agendas.

Approval of Bills

1. Fisher's – Due to **Commissioner Fisher's** absence Fisher's Building Supply invoices were moved to regular bills for review and approval.

2. Charlie Pettis Pest Services – After 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 to due conflict of interest.

3. Wewa Outdoors – **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve payment of Wewa Outdoors invoice (\$29.00) **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0 with **Commissioner Paul** abstaining due to conflict of interest.

4. Regular Bills – After review, Commissioner Paul made a motion to approve payment of Fisher's Building Supply invoices (\$1,784.05), regular bills (\$54,416.32), recurring bills (\$52,482.23) and additional bills (\$26,594.40) Commissioner Pettis seconded the motion. Motion carried Paul 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 – **Mayor Gaskin** said it looked like delinquencies were down about \$700.00.

3. Water Losses – **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** stated they are working on it.

4. SEWER INFILTRATION AND INFLOW – **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** stated they haven't had time to work on I & I.

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Old Business/Open Items cont'd....

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5. Ray Dickens Fish Fry for the Sr. Citizens (October 7, 2022) – None

6. Lift Station – City Engineer Jack Husband stated they have started construction on lift station #5, got lid poured, bypass valve and force main. As soon as they get more supplies they will continue on working.

7. Overtime Report broken down by pay periods – None

8. Buckhorn Decorative Fencing – Commissioner Cox stated he is still working on it.

9. County LDR – City Engineer Jack Husband stated met with Ray Greer and he is willing to help. He wanted to know if the board wanted it in GIS or AutoCAD format. Following discussion, the board directed **City Engineer Jack Husband** to have him move forward with AutoCAD format.

10. Employee Water/Sewer License Testing – City Manager Michael Gortman stated that **David Paul's** account has been made and is just waiting on date for test.

11. Senior Building – Mayor Gaskin asked about the progress with the repairs to the Senior Building. **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated that they think the area in the ceiling was from an old leak that has been repaired, so they will replace the ceiling tile.

Tom Wynn said that the County has not given their half of the money for the stove. **Mayor Gaskin** directed **City Manager Gortman** to contact the County and see what their plans are for helping with the cost of the stove.

Additional discussion followed regarding the repairs still needed to the Senior Building.

Other Comments

Utility Billing Clerk Misty Robbins – None

Finance Director Brittney Proctor – Discussed budget request that is due to County by June 1, 2022. Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** stated he would talk to Kelli at TDC about the lights and poles needed at T.L James Park.

City Clerk Rachel Jackson – Provided an update regarding the DEO lift station project extension request.

City Superintendent Chipper Wade – None

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City Manager Michael Gortman – Stated that Mr. Cory Ash contacted him about some property on Hand Circle that they are trying to develop. **City Manager Gortman** stated that **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** stated that the sewer line is too deep for the City employees to dig. **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated he contacted a contractor, and the contractor came back with an estimate of \$30,000.00 to do the work. Mr. Ash requested that he be allowed to do the work himself since he is a developer.

Mr. Ash was in the audience and discussed what he was trying to accomplish. Following discussion, the board advised Mr. Ash to work with an engineer to find a solution to the issue and bring back for consideration at a later date.

City Manager Michael Gortman stated that the consent order generator has been scheduled for delivery between June – August.

City Manager Gortman stated that we have run into issues with applying for some grants because we don't have a Parks & Recs department. **City Manager Gortman** recommended creating Parks & Rec department and having David Paul be the department head. He would answer to the City Manager and the Board. Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** motioned to create a Parks & Recreations department and have David Paul be the department head. **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. **Commissioner Johnny Paul** stated that he had to abstain due to conflict of interest. Motion carried 3-0.

City Manager Michael Gortman stated that Mr. Rish contacted him about the condition of Jehu Cemetery and asked about getting debris removed, roads, coping, and graves repaired.

Following discussion, the board agreed to begin working on repairs and instructed **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** to add Cemetery Committee to the open items list.

City Attorney Michelle Jordan – Requested to move the June regular meeting from June 30, 2022 to the 4th Thursday, June 23, 2022 due to a scheduling conflict. The board agreed to move the meeting to June 23, 2022 @ 6:00 pm.

City Engineer Jack Husband - Stated that they have been conducting fire flow tests, have done about 20 so far this month.

Sheriff - None

Mayor/Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Cox – None

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Commissioner Paul- asked about summer employees, **City Manager Michael Gortman** said that we have received one application. Following discussion, the board directed **City Manager Michael Gortman and City Clerk Rachel Jackson** to advertise on the electronic sign and the City Facebook page.

Commissioner Paul asked about SCOP funding for roads. **City Engineer Jack Husband** said SCOP should be available to apply for around the first of next year.

Commissioner Pettis – He talked with David Paul and they would like to wait and have the fish fry in October as normal.

Sheriff Harrison stated that he had forgotten to discuss had two engineers with FDOT meet with him on Friday regarding a no parking area in front of Mr. Pridgeon's property on Hwy 22. They are coming up with a couple of ideas to find a solution to the issue.

Commissioner Pettis stated that Dawn Whitfield asked him about working on additional road patching on Mary Drive. **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** said we have some milled asphalt. Board directed to put some more patching in there.

Mayor Gaskin – None

Adjournment

Commissioner Pettis made a motion to adjourn at 7:18 pm. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA



Phillip Gaskin, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rachel Jackson, City Clerk

