

**CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
SENIOR CITIZEN BUILDING
314 N 3rd STREET
REGULAR MEETING
February 29, 2024
6:00 PM**

The City Commission met on this date February 29, 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 **Bro. Derrick Gerber** to lead a prayer, and everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

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

City Manager

Michael Gortman

City Attorney

Michelle Jordan

City Superintendent

Chipper Wade

City Clerk

Rachel Jackson

City Parks & Rec Director

David Paul

City Finance Director

Brittney Proctor (via phone)

City Finance Clerk

Misty Robbins

Sheriff

Mike Harrison

Public

Catherine Lee
David Lee
Marlin Taylor
Chuck Johnson
Sandy Partridge
Tom Wynn
Chris Wynn
Carol Childers
Billy Childers
Justin Barnes
Angie Kilbourn
Derrick Gerber
Tom Kilbourn
Marcy Townsend
Tyler Marsh
Jack Husband
Hunter Baumgardner
Eddie Fields

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Paul made a motion to approve the agenda. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Minutes

Following review, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve Regular Meeting 1/25/24 and Workshop 2/15/24 minutes. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Recognition

Mayor Gaskin asked if anyone who was not on the agenda had anything they would like to discuss. **Catherine Lee**, President of Friends of the Library, provided a monthly update on the library programs including the total number of patrons for the month of January

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Public Recognition cont'd....

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and the literacy initiative. Following the update, **Mayor Gaskin** thanked the friends of the library on behalf of the board for all the work they are doing in the community.

Eddie Fields, Executive Director of Senior Center, thanked the Mayor, Board, and staff for the work they have been doing on the Senior building and gave update on the status of the senior citizen program including the grants that they are applying for and receiving in order to assist the seniors in the community.

Agenda

1. **Development Order – Car Wash - 547 N Hwy 71 - Parcel # 01920-000R – Engineer Tyler Marsh with Southeastern Consulting Engineers** stated they were seeking approval for the car wash development.

City Manager Michael Gortman explained that there was a planning board meeting the previous week in which the planning board voted to recommend the commission approve the development order. **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated that there was one neighboring property owner who opposed the development and asked if she had anything she would like to say.

Marcy Townsend stated she would like to know if the contractor had answered any of the questions that they asked during the planning board meeting. **Engineer Tyler Marsh** stated they are supposed to be meeting next week with **Mr. Townsend**. Discussion followed regarding issues with the easement and the Townsend's house being across the property line. Additionally, the level of noise that the car wash vacuum's could create was discussed.

Marlin Taylor the caretaker of car wash in Port St. Joe, stated that in his experience the noise from the road traffic is louder than the noise of the vacuums.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Fisher** made a motion to approve the development order for the car wash to be located at 547 N Hwy 71, Parcel # 01920-000R. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

2. **Ordinance 2024-1228L – Homewood Dr. Operational & Maintenance Abandonment** (1st reading) – **City Manager Michael Gortman and City Clerk Rachel Jackson** discussed the area proposed area of abandonment on Homewood Drive, explaining that it would go from Hwy 22 to the area behind what would have been the store.

Justin Barnes with Gulf Coast Electric Co-Op stated that if the City wanted the Co-Op to do the ball field lights in lieu of putting in a new road. GCEC would give a 50' easement and do the DOT connections in the event that the City wanted to put another road in at a later time. **Mayor Gaskin** stated that we need everything in writing. **Mr. Barnes** stated that they are working on it and will get it in writing.

Following discussion, **Mayor Gaskin** asked **Commissioner Fisher** to read Ordinance 2024-1228L by title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-1228L

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA, FLORIDA, VACATING A PORTION OF HOMEWOOD DRIVE; PROVIDING FOR CESSATION OF OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES; PROVIDING FOR REVERSION OF VACATED REAL PROPERTY TO THE ADJOINING PROPERTY OWNER; PROVIDING FOR CORRECTION TO PUBLIC RECORDS OF THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR FILING OF THE ORDINANCE WITH GULF COUNTY CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Following reading, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve the advertisement and first reading of **Ordinance 2024-1228L**. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Resolution 2024-1204R - State Wide Mutual Aid Agreement – City Clerk Rachel Jackson stated that the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement needed to be renewed. She explained that the agreement allows for the use of statewide resources in the event of a disaster.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement Resolution 2021-1204R. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Bills

1. Fisher's Building Supply – Following review, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve payment of Fisher's Building Supply bills (\$1,693.06). **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 , 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 Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0, with **Commissioner Pettis** abstaining due to conflict of interest.

3. Regular Bills – Following review and discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve payment of the regular bills (\$78,514.45) re-occurring bills (\$50,408.92) and additional bills (\$38,768.67) **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Old Business/Open Items

1. Fire station/old City Hall -

(Original Substantial Completion Date 9/4/21, Original Work Completion Date 10/11/21)

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(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

Engineer Hunter Baumgardner presented and discussed bid specifications on the fire station repair/re-construction, including advertisement, pre-bid meeting dates and requirements, bid due date, bid opening meeting date, and liquidated damages requirements.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve the advertisement for bids on fire station repair/re-construction. **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

2. **Delinquent Utility Bills** – None
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.

Commissioner Paul asked if they had noticed any difference during the last rain. **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** said it wasn't as bad, but they are still getting a lot.
5. **Ray Dickens Fish Fry for the Sr. Citizens (October 4, 2024)** – None
6. **Lift Station** – **Engineer Hunter Baumgardner** provided an update on Lift Station #4 wet well, stated that everything is going good.
7. **Overtime Report broken down by pay periods** – None
8. **LDR's** – **Engineer Jack Husband** stated they are working on LDR ordinance and will have it by next meeting.
9. **Employee Water/Sewer License Testing** – **City Manager Michael Gortman** provided updates on the employee water/sewer license testing:
 - Kyle Whitfield – Working on them, doing all tests and then will send off tests
 - David Paul – Scheduling next test
 - Blake Gilmore – Finished 1st book

10. **Senior Building** – None

11. **Cemetery Committee & Buckhorn Decorative Fencing** – **Bro. Derrick Gerber**

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discussed an estimate for the gazebo and benches. Additional discussion included of the size, location, benches, and cost to build the gazebo.

Mayor Gaskin asked how much was budgeted, **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** stated there was \$10,000 budgeted. The board agreed to get started on a 20 x 30 pole barn for the gazebo.

Other Comments

City Attorney Michelle Jordan – None

City Manager Michael Gortman – Discussed the fire works show, **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated the owner said they will only continue to shoot with 3 inch shells at Lake Alice. Otherwise, the show will have to be moved to T.L. James Park. **City Manager Gortman** also stated the prices will be going up and discussed the future costs.

Following discussion, the Board agreed to change to 3" shells in order to continue having the show at Lake Alice.

City Superintendent Chipper Wade – None

City Parks & Rec Director – None

Sheriff Mike Harrison – None

City Engineers – None

City Finance Director Brittney Proctor – None

City Finance Clerk Misty Robbins – None

City Clerk Rachel Jackson – None

Mayor/Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Cox – None

Commissioner Paul – None

Commissioner Pettis – None

Commissioner Fisher – None

Mayor Gaskin – Asked **County Commissioner Jack Husband** about BP money. **Commissioner Husband** stated they haven't gotten any since the 1st round. **Commissioner Husband** stated they were in Washington a few weeks ago and that was one of the main objectives, they are working on it. **Mayor Gaskin** asked **Commissioner Husband** to provide a report on how much the County got and what it was spent on.

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Mayor Gaskin also said Burger King pond is flooding neighborhood property and needs to be addressed. **Commissioner Husband** said he will discuss with **Brad Bailey** next week.

Adjournment

Commissioner Pettis made a motion to adjourn at 7:15 pm. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA



Phillip Gaskin, Mayor

ATTEST:


Rachel Jackson, City Clerk