

**CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA  
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS  
Senior/Community Building  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 27, 2025  
6:00 PM**

The City Commission met on this date February 27, 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 **Sheriff Harrison** to lead a prayer, and everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Attendance**

Mayor Pro-Tem Ralph Fisher  
Commissioner Charlie Pettis  
Commissioner Johnny Paul  
Commissioner Brian Cox

**City Manager**

Michael Gortman

**City Clerk**

Rachel Jackson

**City Superintendent**

Chipper Wade

**City Parks & Rec Director**

David Paul

**City Finance Director**

Brittney Proctor (VIA PHONE)

**City Finance Clerk**

Misty Robbins

**City Engineer-SCE**

Hunter Baumgardner

Jack Husband

**Sheriff's Office**

Mike Harrison

**Public**

Chris Karagiannis  
Ann Johnson  
Debbie Suber  
Rhie Pierce  
Ida Porter  
Bjorn Gumenius  
David Smith  
Nancy Smith  
Sammy Bailey  
Eddie Fields  
Renece Gainer  
Mark Bean  
Jo Ellen Campbell  
Harvey Campbell  
Nathan Rish  
Amanda Lake  
James Rish  
Chase Lake  
Teresa Howard  
Vonette Daniels

**Approval of Agenda**

**Commissioner Pettis** 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 1.30.25 Regular Meeting minutes and 2.13.25 Special Meeting minutes. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**Public Recognition**

**Nathan Rish** - 429 Old Transfer Road stated he is in line for grant from USDA for a green house approximately 4,000 sq ft. He is hoping to have it in front yard area.

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**Public Recognition cont'd...**  
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Following discussion, the board advised Mr. Rish the first steps were to do a site plan and check zoning.

**Amanda Lake** – stated she and her husband live in Dalkeith at the old Norton farm. The would love to bring the rodeo to Wewa again. Mrs. Lake heard there was one in the past and they would like to start one again. They went by T.L. James Park and it looks like their arena would fit inside the arena there. Mrs. Lake stated they would coordinate with whatever agencies they need to in order to bring the rodeo to Wewa. She stated it wouldn't be a full rodeo it would be approximately 1 ½ to 2 hours. They would like to kick it off around the same time as the 100 year celebration.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Fisher** stated he had a couple of questions, he asked if it was a business? Mrs. Lake stated yes they have their own business, they normally partner with PCA but since this wouldn't be a full rodeo, they would put it on. **Mayor Pro-Tem Fisher** asked if they had insurance and could furnish that to the City? Mrs. Lake stated yes, they can provide insurance. Additionally, she stated they would bring their arena, and haul additional bleachers. She said they would bring everything necessary.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Fisher** asked about the start time and if it would interfere with the 100 year celebration? Mrs. Lake stated it would be held after the celebration, the performance would start around 7:30. **Sammy Bailey**, with the Cattleman's Association, stated it would be a good idea to start a committee and coordinate everything. Following further discussion, the Board instructed Mrs. Lake to get with **City Manager Michael Gortman** regarding insurance requirements and to start a committee.

**Renece Gainer** - Site Manager for Gulf County Senior Citizens, stated they have about 30-32 people attending the senior program activities and would like the building once a month for the seniors to have karaoke, games, and food.

**Teresa Howard** pastor for Methodist church, stated they would like to reserve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month from 4:00-7:00 on an ongoing basis. She explained the activities would be beneficial for the seniors and the whole community.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to allow the Senior Program to reserve the building on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month from 4:00-7:00 pm, provided there are no conflicting events or reservations. If there are other reservations, the Gulf County Senior Citizens Program will change their activity date. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**Vonette Daniels** – stated we need a sign for Old Transfer Road. **Commissioner Paul** stated **City Manager Michael Gortman** has already ordered the sign and is waiting for it to come in.

Mrs. Daniels stated there was a couch on the side of the road on Old Transfer that needs to be picked up. Following discussion, regarding whether the couch was on the City or County side of road, it was discovered that the couch has already been removed.



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Public Recognition cont'd...

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**David Smith** - stated he and his wife Nancy Smith lives on Sealy Drive in White City. He asked about city limits and area of the Commissioners authority. **Mayor Pro-Tem Fisher** clarified the board's area was only to city limits and does not extend to White City, that is Gulf County jurisdiction.

Mr. Smith discussed the proposed airport, stating that there would be indirect effects for the City of Wewa. Following discussion, **Mayor Pro-Tem Fisher** stated the airport would be a county project and if the County requests the City's input, the City will weigh it out provide input at that time.

### Agenda

**1. Mark Bean-Live Stock Issue-414 E Church St** – Mr. Bean stated he has a complaint against his neighbors because they have built a hog pen on their property across from his house.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Fisher** stated he rode by today and couldn't hear or smell hogs. He explained that there is nothing in the ordinance that says people can't have hogs unless there is a smell or they are running loose.

**2. RFP-2025-0108 –GRANT WRITING SERVICES-Triumph Funds - City Manager Michael Gortman** stated we had two proposals turned in, and read the names of the proposing Companies, North Florida Professional Services Inc. and Gouras & Associates. **City Manager Gortman** opened the sealed proposals and verified that the correct number of proposals and electronic copies had been supplied by each company. Following opening, of the proposals, **City Manager Gortman** recommended the board table a decision until staff has time to review the proposals and schedule a special meeting for further discussion.

**Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to allow city staff to review the proposals and schedule a special meeting for further review of the proposals. **Commissioners' Paul and Cox** simultaneously seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**3. City of Wewahitchka 150 Year Anniversary** – **Commissioner Pettis** said we need to schedule a workshop. **Mayor Pro-Tem Fisher** stated we need to research commemorative items and then schedule a workshop.

**City Manager Michael Gortman** presented a letter from Librarian, Joyelle Linton about the Library's and Historical Society's plans for celebration. **Mayor Pro-Tem Fisher** asked if during the Historical Society's meeting there was discussion regarding the Veteran's park across the road because he didn't see it in the letter? **Commissioner Pettis** said there had been discussion about moving the stone from the courthouse to the Veteran's Memorial area. They will work with the Women's Club about it and write a letter to the County about moving it. **Commissioner Fisher** asked if they could also ask about getting some help with putting a sidewalk around the memorial bricks. **County Commissioner Husband** stated they could certainly ask and suggested that the board request to be able to use remaining funds from TL James Park ballfield lights to go towards the sidewalk.

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Approval of Bills....

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### Approval of Bills

1. **Fisher's Building Supply** – Following review, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve Fisher's Building Supply bills (\$2,041.77) **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 Cox** made a motion to approve Charlie Pettis Pest Services bill (\$90.00) **Commissioner Paul** 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 payment of Wewa Outdoors bills (\$100.72) **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 regular bills (\$228,715.28) re-occurring bills (\$33,232.83) and additional bills (\$31,859.41) with removal of the fire station electric bill, which is to be paid by the contractor. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
5. **Monthly Budget Update** – **Commissioner Paul** asked if we've received code enforcement money. **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated they were paid up for now. Following discussion, the board instructed **City Finance Director Brittney Proctor** to add a detailed quarterly sheet about code enforcement expenses and receivables to the budget update. **City Finance Director Brittney Proctor** stated yes we can do that.

### Other Comments

**City Manager Michael Gortman** – presented a Ten-8 bill for the fire truck repairs for approval to pay out of contingency funds.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve payment of the Ten-8 invoice for \$9,538.88 to be paid out of contingency funds. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**City Superintendent Chipper Wade** – None

**City Parks & Rec Director David Paul** – stated the State baseball tournament is in July. One of the major projects is to get batting cage roof and turf, and asked for approval to order it out of budgeted funds.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve ordering the material for the batting cage roof and turf from budgeted funds. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.



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**Other Comments....**

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**City Parks and Rec Director David Paul** stated we talked about getting round tables for senior building, we will order 6 tables and chairs for them and will order more at a later time.

**Sheriff Harrison** – Provided stats for January, stated there were 112 calls in City of Wewa which makes up 27% of county calls. There were 94 traffic stops.

**Sheriff Harrison** stated that for the 150 year anniversary, the City might consider a challenge coin for the commemorative item, they have one for Sheriff's office. The price is based on the quantity ordered. **Sheriff Harrison** provided the company name, Symbol Arts, to **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** for reference.

**Engineer Hunter Baumgardner** – presented the final pay request # 8 for Monolith Construction. The request is for \$20,400 and **Engineer Baumgardner** recommended to pay the request and accept the building. **Engineer Baumgardner** stated that there was a contingency amount left in the contract for \$48,769.37. If the board approves the pay request and accepts the building, he will come back with a deductive change order next month to close out project.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Cox** stated he was well satisfied and made a motion to approve Monolith Construction's final pay request #8 for \$20,400.00 and accept the building. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**Chris Karagianis** with Monolith Construction stated it was a pleasure working with everyone and that they will be sending out invitations for the dedication to be held on March 10, 2025 at 10:00 cst if that is good for everyone. The board agreed.

**Engineer Hunter Baumgardner** provided updates on the grant projects: stated the final comments from Florida Commerce have been addressed on the waterlines, so we are ready to bid that project out.

Waste water permits are being submitted to the state next week and drawings are being finalized they are 99% complete.

Storm sewer drawings are about 85% complete and should fall in line with bidding out around the same time as the waste water project.

**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

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**Commissioner Comments cont'd....**  
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**Commissioner Pettis – None**

**Commissioner Fisher – None**

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

**MONOLITH CONSTRUCTION:**

**SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION DATE-2.26.2025 FINAL PAYMENT DATE-4.2.2025**

**Commissioner Cox** asked if can remove #1. The board agreed. **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** stated she would remove it from next month's list also.

**2. Delinquent Utility Bills – City Clerk Rachel Jackson** stated they are up by about \$179.00, most of which are extensions to be paid by the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**3. Extension List – None**

**4. Bad Debts – Commissioner Brian Cox** asked if that is what has been collected? **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** confirmed that is the amount that has been collected.

**5. Water Losses – City Superintendent Chipper Wade** stated they are working on them.

**6. SEWER INFILTRATION AND INFLOW – City Superintendent Chipper Wade** stated they will be working on that.

**7. Ray Dickens Fish Fry for the Sr. Citizens (October 3, 2025) - None**

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

**9. Employee Water/Sewer License Testing – City Manager Michael Gortman** provided and update:

- Kyle Whitfield – Water – Kyle filed extension
- Blake Gilmore – Sewer – had to send another picture size and add social security number to schedule test.

**10. Senior Building – None**

**11. Cemetery Committee & Buckhorn Decorative Fencing – None**

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**Open Items cont'd....**

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**12. TL James Ballfield Lights-FRDAP grant** – **Engineer Hunter Baumgardner** said that city sent a letter requesting \$200,000.00 from Gulf County, and at the last meeting the County approved it. The FRDAP grant application period is in October and it would probably be about 2 years before the money was received, so FRDAP would not a good fit for lights. It would be better to apply for playground equipment or park improvements. He will bring it forward again for the board to discuss closer to the application period.


**Mayor Pro-Tem Fisher**, asked if the other Commissioners' had received a letter from regarding the 100 and 150 year celebration? The other commissioners stated they had received it. **Mayor Pro-Tem Fisher** stated he would like a letter sent back to her to let her know that most of the items that she was suggesting are already being done.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Fisher** asked about plans for banners? **County Commissioner Jack Husband** stated they have been working with the TDC and Historical Society to make combined banners with both the City and County logos on them.

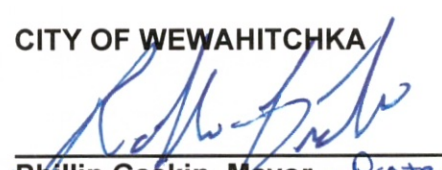
**Adjournment**

**Commissioner Paul** made a motion to adjourn at 7:31. **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**ATTEST:**

  
Rachel Jackson, City Clerk

**CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA**

  
Phillip Gaskin, Mayor - Protem  
Ralph Fisher

