

**CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
Senior/Community Building
REGULAR MEETING
March 26, 2026
6:00 PM**

The City Commission met on this date March 26, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. at the Wewahitchka Senior/Community 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 Charlie Pettis
Commissioner Johnny Paul
Commissioner Brian Cox

Public

GC Commissioner McLemore
Bro. Derrick Gerber
Tom Wynn
Chris Wynn
Amanda Lake
James Randall
Elsie Taylor
Renece Gainer
Nancy Marble
Steve Marble
Kirby Strickland
Rev. Theresa Howard

City Manager

Michael Gortman

City Attorney

Michelle Jordan

City Superintendent

Chipper Wade

City Clerk

Rachel Jackson

City Finance Director

Brittney Proctor *(via video conf)*

City Finance Clerk

Misty Robbins

City Utility Billing Clerk

Jennifer Wright

City Engineers-SCE

Jack Husband

Hunter Baumgardner

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Pettis made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of TL James Park and Ordinance 2026-1237L. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Minutes

After review, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve Regular Meeting 2.26.26 and workshop 3.6.26 minutes. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Agenda Items

- 1. Resolution 2026-1226R Rodeo Variance Request – Mayor Gaskin** read
Resolution 2026-1226R by title only:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA, FLORIDA, APPROVING A ONE-TIME LIMITED VARIANCE FROM ORDINANCE 8-25-97, SECTION 1(A)(1), TO PERMIT THE LIMITED SERVICE AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON CITY PARK PROPERTY DURING PERMITTED RODEO EVENTS HOSTED BY A-C PERFORMANCE HORSES ON MAY 1-2, 2026 AND OCTOBER 9-10, 2026; ESTABLISHING CONDITIONS FOR SUCH VARIANCE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Pettis said he'd received a lot of feedback against the variance request and he doesn't believe we should allow alcohol at the parks. It could set a precedence and open a door that we don't want open.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to deny approval of **Resolution 2026-1226R**. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

- 2. RFP 2026-0211 Professional Audit Services – Mayor Gaskin** stated we will opening the requests for proposals for auditing services and asked **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** to come and assist.

Mayor Gaskin opened the first submission from Grimsley and Associates, and verified that it contained the appropriate number of copies, electronic copy and original with the base cost of \$22,000.00.

Mayor Gaskin opened the second submission from Powell & Jones, stating that they are our current auditors. He confirmed they submitted the correct documentation and stated their base cost of \$23,000.00 and increasing by \$1,000 each year thereafter.

Mayor Gaskin stated the final submission from James Moore & Co. had two envelopes, one containing the technical proposal and one containing the cost proposal. He confirmed that all documentation was received and stated their base cost was \$27,000.

Following discussion, the board tabled the RFP's until city staff can review and make a recommendation at the April regular commission meeting.

- 3. Resolution 2026-1225R Local Mitigation Strategy – City Clerk Rachel Jackson** discussed the Local Mitigation Strategy update and stated that we have to review and adopt the LMS plan every few years and that is what this resolution will do. She explained that we adopt the Gulf County Local Mitigation Strategy plan so that if there is a disaster and mitigation opportunities are available we would be able to apply for that funding.

Mayor Gaskin read **Resolution 2026-1225R** by title only:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA, FLORIDA ADOPTING
THE GULF COUNTY LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY IN ORDER TO
MITIGATE THE VULNERABILITIES OF WEWAHITCHKA TO THE IMPACTS OF
FUTURE DISASTERS

Following discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve **Resolution 2026-1225R**. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

4. **TL James Ballfield – Mayor Gaskin** opened a discussion up regarding a situation that occurred at T L James Ballfield that resulted in law enforcement being called and an investigation being opened. As a result of the incidence, Ordinance 2026-1237L – Trespass Warrants on City Owned Property was introduced. **City Attorney Michelle Jordan** explained that it would allow the mayor and/or city manager to trespass anybody from city owned property, with exception to public meetings, unless they get out of order and the Sheriff would handle that.

Following discussion **Mayor Gaskin** read by title only **Ordinance 2026-1237L**:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF
WEWAHITCHKA, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER
AND/OR THE MAYOR TO ISSUE TRESPASS WARNINGS ON CITY-
OWNED PROPERTY, INCLUDING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES;
DESIGNATING THE GULF COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AS THE
NOTIFYING AUTHORITY; ESTABLISHING AN APPEAL PROCEDURE
TO THE CITY COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS,
SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Following reading, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve the first reading of **Ordinance 2026-1237L** and to advertise it for a final public hearing/reading. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Logan Pippin, President of the baseball league thanked the board for the work that had been done at the fields and for the new lights. He stated he's been there for 12 years and had never seen anything like this happen before. **Mr. Pippin** said he appreciated the quick response to this issue and felt that by adding cameras, adopting the trespass ordinance, and having law enforcement presence it would prevent anything like that from happening again.

Public Recognition

Mayor Gaskin asked if anyone from the public had anything to discuss and also asked **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** to add **Ms. Renece Gainer** into the comments section of the future meeting agendas.

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Mayor Gaskin and **Ms. Gainer** discussed the senior program stating that it was going very well, daily attendance was up to about 40 or more a day and that they are having a yard sale fund raiser and have been getting a lot of support from the community.

Mayor Gaskin stated that a board had been formed for the senior program and that the board members that were voted in were Lisa Reneau, Tom Wynn, Bill Daniels, Theresa Howard, and Renece Gainer.

Approval of Bills

1. **Fisher's Building Supply** – Following review, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve Fisher's Building Supply bills (\$2,314.66). **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
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 Cox** made a motion to approve Wewa Outdoors bills (\$365.98) **Commissioner Pettis** 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 (\$207,291.60), re-occurring bills (\$42,090.44), additional bills (\$109,579.47) **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Old Business/Open Items

1. **Monthly Budget Update** – **Mayor Gaskin** asked **City Finance Director** how things were looking, she stated everything was looking good so far, other than some minor things in sewer.
2. **Delinquent Utility Bills** – **Mayor Gaskin** stated they were down.
3. **Extension List** – None
4. **Bad Debts** (*Reminder for: Dec 2026 – Jan 2027*) – None
5. **Water Losses** – **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** stated they are working on them.
6. **SEWER INFILTRATION AND INFLOW** – **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** stated that haven't been working on it too much right now.
7. **Ray Dickens Fish Fry for the Sr. Citizens (October 3, 2026)** – None

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8. **Overtime Report broken down by pay periods** – Reviewed and discussed callouts

9. **Employee Water/Sewer License Testing**

- Blake Gilmore – Water – **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated Blake's 2nd book came in and is waiting on test booklet for it.

10. **Senior Building** – **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated since they are doing yard sales and have a lot of items that need to be stored it, the seniors need a storage building. Jodi Rustin with Wewa Building Sales has a 12 x 24 for \$5,000 +\$300 for anchors and requested permission to purchase it.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve the purchase of the 12 x 24 storage building for \$5,300.00 to be paid out of contingency funds. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

11. **Cemetery Committee & Buckhorn Decorative Fencing** – **Bro. Derrick Gerber** said the plans have been approved by county. **County Commissioner Jack Husband** said the County and David Paul's crew will build it. The board asked for a materials/take off list prior to starting work.

Other Comments

City Attorney Michelle Jordan – None

City Manager Michael Gortman – Discussed the senior program and requested to hire Renece Gainer to run the program.

Following discussion **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to hire Renece Gainer to run the senior program. Her pay to be \$1,000 per month as a part time position, along with vacation time based on city policy and retroactive pay and vacation to time of the City taking over senior program on February 27, 2026. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

City Manager Michael Gortman discussed the fire works proposal from Pyro Works stating that the same show as last year would be \$19,950 this year.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve Pyro Works proposal for \$19,950.00 for the 4th of July Fireworks show. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

City Superintendent Chipper Wade – None

Gulf County Sheriff Mike Harrison – None

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City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner – Provided and update on the progress of the waste water project and presented Pay Request 3 from Extreme Land Clearing for \$ 473,726.60.

Following discussion **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve Pay Request 3 from Extreme Land Clearing for Waste Water Project M0118 for \$473,726.60. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

City Engineer Baumgardner stated they are working with Chapel Branch & Laginappe on contract submittals for the storm sewer project and they will be starting construction very soon.

City Engineer Baumgardner stated we are finalizing the punch list with 850 to close out the water line project. **Mayor Gaskin** asked about the liquidated damages since they are passed the work deadline? **Engineer Baumgardner** stated they are \$750.00 each day and that 850 is aware.

City Finance Director Brittney Proctor - None

City Finance Clerk Misty Robbins – None

City Clerk Rachel Jackson – None

City Utility Billing Clerk Jennifer Wright – None

Mayor/Commissioners' Comments

Gulf County Commissioner McLemore – asked if the city has started figuring for a budget for senior program so that the County can assist? **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** stated that she and the finance staff are working to put something together, but it will take a couple of months of expense tracking to get an accurate amount.

Gulf County Commissioner Jack Husband – mentioned that in the senior budget to include on estimates for food costs not accounting for donations

Gulf County Commissioner Jack Husband also discussed Amnesty day and asked if it could be advertised on the City sign? **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated, yes we will advertise it.

Senior Program Board Member Teresa Howard stated they are also working to help with creating a budget for the program.

Commissioner Cox – None

Commissioner Paul – Asked **Gulf County Commissioner McLemore** if he had gotten any contact information on the land by the park. **GC Commissioner McLemore** stated he gave **City Manager Michael Gortman** a number. **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated he has called twice and left messages. **Commissioner Paul** asked him to continue to contact them.

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Commissioner Pettis – Stated Mrs. Taylor at 410 Chipola has a tree that is coming over her property from the ditch there and wants to see if the city can do anything to remove it.


City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner stated that should be included in the storm sewer project and could address it with that. He stated they will look at it tomorrow to see how quickly it can be taken care of.

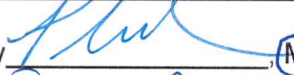

Mayor Gaskin – None


Adjournment

Commissioner Pettis made a motion to adjourn 7:16 pm. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA



By  (Mayor) / Pro Tem


ATTEST:


Rachel Jackson, City Clerk

