

**CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
Senior/Community Building
REGULAR MEETING
October 30, 2025
6:00 PM**

The City Commission met on this date October 30, 2025 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 **Commissioner Pettis** to lead a prayer, and everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

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

City Manager

Michael Gortman

City Attorney

Michelle Jordan

City Clerk

Rachel Jackson

City Superintendent

Chipper Wade

City Parks & Rec Director

David Paul

City Finance Director

Brittney Proctor (via video conf)

City Finance Clerk

Misty Robbins

City Engineer-SCE

Jack Husband

Hunter Baumgardner

Sheriff's Office

Chris Buchanan

Public

Sasha Pagano
LeAnne Coulter
Harvey Campbell
Royce Watkins
Tom Wynn
Chris Wynn
Gene Hanlon
GC Commissioner Spike McLemore
David Brown
Amanda Lake

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Pettis made a motion to approve the agenda. **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0. At the request of **City Clerk Rachel Jackson**, agenda item 1 was prior to approval of minutes due to time constraints for **City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner**.

Agenda Item 1 M0118 Waste Water Project Bid# 2025-0908 – City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner presented the bids and a detailed bid tab and stated that after review of the bids, he recommended the low bidder, Extreme Land Clearing & Excavation LLC, DBA, CBC Construction.

Following review, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to accept the bid from Extreme Land Clearing & Excavation, DBA CBC Construction for Waste Water Project M0118, Bid

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2025-0908 for \$4,398,166.27, contingent on bid review and approval from Florida Commerce. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner stated there is quite a bit of funding left in the waste water project after the bids came in and discussed adding lift stations #2 and #6 to the project. He spoke to a Florida Commerce representative who approved adding them on because they are the same type of project and would be eligible. He stated the costs would be approximately \$1,500,000 plus design and permitting.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to add lift stations #2 and #6 onto Waste Water Project M0118 and to approve Task Order 2 for Southeastern Consulting Engineers (SCE) for design, permitting, and construction engineering inspections. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner presented and discussed Pay Request 4 for 850 Construction on the water line project M0018 for \$74,009.45

Following discussion regarding the work on Lake Avenue timeline for repaving and milling materials, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve Pay Request 4 for 850 Construction on the water line project M0018 for \$74,009.45. **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner stated that we are waiting to hear about the score and award status next week on the Florida Commerce 23-24 storm grants that we applied for.

Approval of Minutes

After review, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve, Regular Meeting 9.25.25, Special Meeting 10.6.25, Special Meeting 10.9.25 minutes. **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Recognition

David Brown – 547 Corn Griffin Street – **Mr. Brown** asked a question about Corn Griffin Street being one of the roads that were on the prioritized paving list. **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated it's on the list, but there is not enough money in the road bond to to fix Corn Griffin Street. **City Engineer Jack Husband** explained that it would cost around \$1.5 million to get that road paved.

Mr. Brown asked is there an intermediate step like lime rock base that can be done. **Mayor Gaskin** explained that it was big expense unless your able to pave within 6 months. **City Engineer Jack Husband** explained that the expense of lime rock is also high and unless it can be paved shortly after putting it in, it would have to be done again and the cost would be as much as paving.

Mr. Brown requested that we get ditches re-pulled. **Engineer Jack Husband** said we can get the grater down there more often and try to help that way and discussed the county's new road grating contractor.

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Mr. Brown also discussed culverts being stopped up at 208 Corn Griffin Street creating drainage issues. **Gulf County Commissioner McLemore** said they will take care of that.

Sasha Pagano stated she owns the Hitch and thanked the city for helping their business with safety and security issues. **Ms. Pagano** discussed speaking with **Mrs. Ann Johnson** about volunteering for beautification in the downtown area. She also invited everyone to a luncheon on November 10th to show appreciation and commitment to the beautification of Wewa.

Mayor Gaskin cleared up an issue about a statement regarding loud music being played at **Ms. Pagano's** business, clarifying that he follows the rules of the City Noise Ordinance.

Leann Coulter with the GFWC Wewahitchka Woman's Club stated they have installed a reflection bench at memorial site and are relocating the dedication monuments from the courthouse and one at the Y over to the memorial site location. **Ms. Coulter** stated the Woman's Club will be holding a luncheon and dedication ceremony for the reflection bench on Veteran's Day November 11th at the high school library following the Veteran's Day program.

Leann Coulter also stated that Wewahitchka Medical Center in conjunction with Gulf County EMS would be having a Halloween walk thru at the same time as the 2nd Street Trick or Treat and invited everyone to attend.

Royce Watkins stated he understands Gulf County is doing a shooting range would love to volunteer. **Mayor Gaskin** explained that's a county project and he will need to discuss at county meeting.

Gene Hanlon asked how many roads are on the paving list? **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated there are 8 or 9 and about 8 would be resurfaced.

Agenda

1. **Rodeo – Amanda Lake** discussed holding 2 rodeos next year. She stated she would like to have one the 1st weekend in October Friday and Saturday.

Following discussion of the success of the last rodeo, insurance requirements, and the condition of the horse arena, the board agreed to hold allow **Ms. Lake** to hold 2 rodeos next year and directed her to coordinate scheduling dates with **City Manager Michael Gortman**.

Approval of Bills

1. **Fisher's Building Supply** – Moved to regular bills in **Commissioner Fisher's** absence.
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.

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3. **Wewa Outdoors** –Following review, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve payment of Wewa Outdoors bills (\$55.98) **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 Paul** made a motion to approve payment of the September 2025 YE Bills (\$58,436.56) October 2025 regular bills (\$201,042.96), re-occurring bills (\$80,849.03), additional bills (\$33,292.90) with exception of Clark Partington (\$670.00) being disallowed until more information can be provided, Fisher's Building Supply September 2025 YE (\$228.92) and Fisher's Building Supply bills October 2025 (\$1,457.00). **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Old Business/Open Items

1. **Monthly Budget Update** – **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** discussed the monthly budget update and stated that **City Finance Director Brittney Proctor** would discuss the upcoming budget line item adjustments.
2. **Delinquent Utility Bills** – **Commissioner Paul** asked if the yellow highlighted ones were disconnected? **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** stated yes, the other ones had paid and were reconnected.
3. **Extension List** – **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** stated that the extensions were highlighted in pink on the delinquency list and there were some that had already paid.
4. **Bad Debts** – **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** stated that she would have them ready in within the next month or two and present them.
5. **Water Losses** – **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** stated they are working on them regularly.
6. **SEWER INFILTRATION AND INFLOW** – None
7. **Ray Dickens Fish Fry for the Sr. Citizens (October 3, 2026)** – **Mayor Gaskin** stated the did a good job and the next one would be held October 3, 2026.
8. **Overtime Report broken down by pay periods** – None
9. **Employee Water/Sewer License Testing**
 - **Blake Gilmore** – Water – **Mayor Gaskin** stated Blake is working on his water license
 - **Kyle Whitfield** – Water – **Mayor Gaskin** stated that Kyle got his water license and can be taken off of the list.

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Mayor Gaskin said we probably need to rescind the \$5.00 per hour raise for future water/sewer licensing since we are set for now and with the new county/city interlocal on sewer, we will probably have less need for sewer.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to rescind the \$5.00 pay increase for future water/sewer operating licensing. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

10. Senior Building – City Parks & Rec Director David Paul stated the air conditioner room floors repaired, but not completely finished, one unit in is and he hopes to have the other in tomorrow or Monday.

11. Cemetery Committee & Buckhorn Decorative Fencing – None

12. TL James Ballfield Lights – City Manager Michael Gortman stated all old poles are down and new poles are set where they are going to be, we are waiting on brackets. Kenny will then wire them up and Power South will come stand them up. We hope to be finished by December.

Other Comments

City Attorney Michelle Jordan – None

City Manager Michael Gortman – presented a picture of the play ground and discussed the safety features of the new playground equipment.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve the playground payment to Game Time for \$74,380.72 out of budgeted funds. **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

City Manager Michael Gortman stated that installation of the equipment was \$26,470.00 and stated that **Gulf County Commissioners' Spike McLemore** and **Jack Husband** helped get it approved for the county to pay for installation. Everyone thanked them for their assistance.

City Manager Michael Gortman presented a quote for a new sewer camera, he stated that we need a better one. **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** confirmed that he thought that would be a better one.

Following discussion **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve the sewer camera purchase for \$11,048.00. **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Paul asked if **City Manager Michael Gortman** had heard any more about the property near TL James that Teal Timber owns. **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated he emailed back and said that he would be bringing it up to them again, but he hasn't heard anymore back since then.

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City Superintendent Chipper Wade – None

City Parks & Rec Director David Paul – None

GCSO Chief Deputy Chris Buchanan – provided the September stats, he stated there were 85 calls in city, which is 18% of the overall county calls, 37% were from the north end, and there were 49 traffic stops in Wewa in September.

GCSO Chief Deputy Chris Buchanan also discussed an active shooter training and shutting down one block around the area.

Engineer Jack Husband – None

City Finance Director Brittney Proctor – discussed the budget analysis and upcoming budget line item adjustments. She explained that the only areas that would need an amendment would be for the fire department for the bunker gear and for the revenue from the senior building rental, since we have taken that over a budget would have to be created. All other items would just be adjustments within the line items and not affect the overall budget.

City Finance Director Brittney Proctor explained that the numbers are close, but will change slightly because we do still have revenue that we will be receiving for September and possibly a few more bills. She stated that she wanted to go ahead and get this to everyone for review so that if they had any questions, they could let her know before she presents the final draft for approval at the November meeting.

City Clerk Rachel Jackson – City Clerk Rachel Jackson stated that the November meeting needs to be rescheduled due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

The board agreed to move the regular meeting to November 20, 2025 @ 6:00 pm.

Gulf County Commissioner Jack Husband – None

Gulf County Commissioner Spike McLemore – None

Mayor/Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Cox – None

Commissioner Paul – asked if there were any grants for striping roads, **City Engineer Jack Husband** stated not any that he knew of, but suggested requesting it on next SCOP grant.

Mayor Gaskin stated the main concern he hears about the striping on Lake Grove Road. He asked **Gulf County Commissioner Jack Husband** if he knew who decided Lake Grove Road is a county/city road instead on state road? **Gulf County Commissioner Jack Husband** said he didn't know who decided that.

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Commissioner Pettis – stated he wanted to remind everyone about getting to work on the pavilion at the cemetery.

Mayor Gaskin stated that since **Commissioner Fisher** is out due to surgery, he would like for the board to approve **Commissioner Pettis** to take over getting the pavilion built. The other board members agreed for **Commissioner Pettis** to take over the cemetery pavilion in **Commissioner Fisher's** absence.

Adjournment

Commissioner Pettis made a motion to adjourn 7:37pm **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

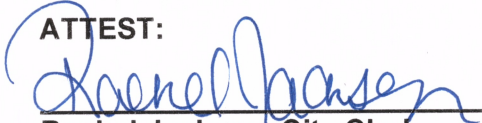
CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA



By , Mayor Pro Tem

Phillip Gaskin, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rachel Jackson, City Clerk