

**CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
Senior/Community Building
REGULAR MEETING
January 29, 2026
6:00 PM**

The City Commission met on this date January 29, 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 Ralph Fisher
Commissioner Charlie Pettis
Commissioner Johnny Paul
Commissioner Brian Cox

City Manager

Michael Gortman

City Attorney

Michelle Jordan

City Superintendent

Chipper Wade

City Parks & Rec Director

David Paul

City Clerk

Rachel Jackson

City Finance Clerk

Misty Robbins

City Utility Billing Clerk

Jennifer Wright

City Engineers-SCE

Jack Husband

Hunter Baumgardner

Public

Faye Davis
Renece Gainer
Ann Johnson
Tiffany Kjerson
James Randall
Russ Ramsburgh
Spike McLemore
Chris Wynn
Tom Wynn
Patty Fisher
Tonya Claycomb
Matthew Claycomb
Maylon Palmer
Catherine Lee
Dallas Jones
Shane Ferrell
Travis Piercy
Gene Hanlon
Derrick Gerber
Angie Kilbourn
Sasha Pagano
Bill Quaranta

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

After review, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve Regular Meeting 12.22.25 and special meeting 1.6.26 minutes. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Recognition

Mayor Gaskin asked if anyone from the public had anything? **City Clerk Rachel Jackson**, stated she would like to remind everyone that beginning in February, public recognition would follow the agenda items. If anyone would like to be added to the agenda, they can call or email the City Clerk.

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Catherine Lee presented quarterly updates from Friends of the Library, she stated the library will now be open Saturdays beginning February 1st. **Ms. Lee** discussed total cardholders patron visits, items borrowed, and attendance. Additionally, she discussed the children's program and the notary service.

Ms. Lee addressed the fire alarm system that they are having issues with at the Library. **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated he is looking into it and trying to get it resolved. **Commissioner Fisher** explained that the system was put in through Jacksonville Sound, and that **City Manager Michael Gortman** can contact them about it.

Mayor Gaskin thanked **Ms. Lee** and stated they are doing a great job at the library.

Dallas Jones asked about status of open air building at Buckhorn Cemetery? **City Engineer Jack Husband** said it's all laid out and are getting the final designs. He stated it's a county-city joint venture.

Mr. Jones asked about putting in a restroom at the cemetery. **Mayor Gaskin** stated there are no plans for a restroom.

Matthew Claycomb asked about the water project completion. **City Engineer Hunter Baumgarner** said it is on the punch list and will be completed by February 25th pending the decision of the board.

Mr. Russ Ramsburgh stated he wanted to thank the water department for fixing his water. Additionally, he stated he lives on Tupelo Street and discussed an issue with people running stop signs at night and stated the stop sign is leaning and needs to be fixed. **Mayor Gaskin** instructed **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** to get the stop sign repaired.

Mr. Ramsburgh asked about speed bumps because of people going too fast, which is a safety concern for children playing and riding bikes. **Mayor Gaskin** asked Sheriff's Office representative **Sgt. Shane Ferrell** if they could look at that? **Sgt. Ferrell** stated they would.

Renece Gainer stated she is the Site Manager at the Senior Building and just wanted to thank everyone for the Christmas lunch for the seniors, especially the city, the women's club, and cattleman's association.

Agenda

1. **Ordinance 2026-1236L – Wards III & IV Election** (1st Reading/Approval to advertise) – **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** read by title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-1236L

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA PROVIDING FOR A CITY ELECTION, PROVIDING FOR QUALIFYING DATES AND A QUALIFYING FEE,

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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 the reading, **Commissioner Fisher** made a motion to accept the 1st reading and approval to advertise Ordinance 2026-1236L. **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0

Approval of Bills

- 1. Fisher's Building Supply** – Following review, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve Fisher's Building Supply Bills (\$1,060.30) **Commissioner Pettis** 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 Charlie Pettis Pest Services bill (\$90.00) **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0, with **Commissioner Pettis** abstaining due to conflict of interest.
- 3. Wewa Outdoors** – No bills for approval this month.
- 4. Regular Bills** – Following review and discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve payment of the January 2026 regular bills (\$174,612.29), re-occurring bills (\$242,241.99), additional bills (\$36,398.06) including Gulf County Tax Collector invoice for refund of property taxes collected in error due to mobile home tag registration fee. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Old Business/Open Items

- 1. Monthly Budget Update** – **Mayor Gaskin** asked **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** and **City Finance Clerk Misty Robbins** how things were looking? Both stated it appears everything is about where it should be for this point in the year.
- 2. Delinquent Utility Bills** – **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** stated they are about normal for January, since we don't do shutoff's at the holidays as a courtesy.
- 3. Extension List** – **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** stated we have about one or two more than usual.
- 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** – None

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7. **Ray Dickens Fish Fry for the Sr. Citizens (October 3, 2026)** – None

8. **Overtime Report broken down by pay periods** – **Mayor Gaskin** discussed call outs and having **City Manager Michael Gortman** adding caller phone number to the callout form and having a monthly report for the board.

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

- Blake Gilmore – Water – **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated Blake has 2 more tests in book one

10. **Senior Building** – None

11. **Cemetery Committee & Buckhorn Decorative Fencing** – **City Engineer Jack Husband** said they have the design together and are finalizing that. They just need the area mapped out and make sure everything fits. **Mayor Gaskin** instructed **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** to get everything marked off.

12. **TL James Ballfield Lights** – None

Other Comments

City Attorney Michelle Jordan – None

City Manager Michael Gortman – We got the playground equipment last week for Lake Alice Park. The county is paying for installation, but we need to pay the invoice and they will reimburse us. **City Manager Michael Gortman** said as soon as the check clears, they will schedule installation and we will start taking the old equipment down.

Commissioner Fisher asked about the new equipment being covered properly. **City Manager Michael Gortman** said it is all packed in crates what should prevent any rusting.

City Superintendent Chipper Wade – None

City Parks & Recreation Director David Paul – Horse arena barrel race had 30 riders and went well. **City Parks & Rec Director David Paul** stated he has a meeting with someone from Santa Rosa county coming to look at arena and explain how to get ours into shape and help with find grant.

Gulf County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Shane Ferrell - None

City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner – Presented water lines pay request 6 from November for 850 construction \$16,117.97, leaving \$118,615.85 left in contract

Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve pay request 6 from 850 Construction for \$16,117.97. **Commissioner Fisher** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

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City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner presented and discussed Change Order 1 for 850 Construction. He explained it is a time extension only change order, they are requesting 20 days for additional work and punch list items.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Fisher** made a motion to approve Change Order 1 for 850 Construction. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner presented a notice to proceed, and change order 1 for the Wastewater project adding 2 additional lift stations #'s 2 & 6. The designs are complete and we have permits in hand. The change order will increase the contract price by \$1,186,037.75; the new contract price will be \$5,584,204.02.

Following discussion **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve the notice to proceed and change order 1 for Extreme Land Clearing & Excavation LLC (DBA) CBC Construction on the wastewater project for an increase to the contract price by \$1,186,037.75, new contract price \$5,584,204.02. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner stated he and **City Engineer Jack Husband** met with Florida Commerce and discussed the 23-24 storm grant applications, since the City was not seriously affected by those storms we were not awarded grants this round, they were awarded to areas with the most impacts.

City Finance Clerk Misty Robbins – None

City Clerk Rachel Jackson – None

City Utility Billing Clerk Jennifer Wright – None

Mayor/Commissioners' Comments

Gulf County Commissioner Jack Husband – stated the joint county city workshop went really well and have good project ideas for the year. He also stated that they were able to get Lake Grove Road on the paving list.

Gulf County Commissioner McLemore – None

Commissioner Cox – None

Commissioner Paul – discussed wanting to keep trying to contact INGKA about the property by TL James park. **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** stated she would keep trying to find a contact to reach out to.

Commissioner Pettis – None

Commissioner Fisher – None

Mayor Gaskin – None

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Adjournment

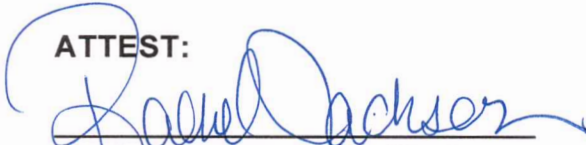
Commissioner Pettis made a motion to adjourn 6:52. Commissioner Paul seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA



By Phillip Gaskin, Mayor / Pro Tem

ATTEST:


Rachel Jackson
Rachel Jackson, City Clerk