

**CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
Senior/Community Building
REGULAR MEETING
August 27, 2026
6:00 PM**

The City Commission met on this date August 27, 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. Joey Smith** 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 Attorney

Michelle Jordan *(via video conf)*

City Manager

Michael Gortman

City Superintendent

Chipper Wade

City Clerk

Rachel Jackson

City Finance Director

Brittney Proctor *(via video conf)*

City Finance Clerk

Misty Robbins

City Engineers-SCE

Hunter Baumgardner

Gulf County Sheriff's Office

Sergeant Sikes

Senior Program Representative

Renée Gainer

Public

GC Commissioner Spike McLemore
GC Commissioner Jack Husband
Charles Johnson
Tom Wynn
Chris Wynn
Bro. Joey Smith
Bro. Derrick Gerber
Elizabeth Gunn
Amanda Lake
Mary Jones

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

After review, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve Regular Meeting 7.30.26 and Budget Workshop 8.4.26 and Budget Workshop 8.6.26. **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

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Agenda Items...

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Agenda Items

1. RV Permit Fees – Commissioner Cox discussed possible need for RV permit fees to be implemented, he suggested a fee of \$250.00 per 6 months for those RV's being used for camping or living.

Following discussion, the board instructed **City Manager Michael Gortman** to have the meter readers collect the addresses and number of RV's in the city and instructed City **Clerk Rachel Jackson** to place RV permit fees on the open items list.

2. Fire Department Electricity – Commissioner Cox stated we are only there once a month and have minimal usage, but we have an average electric bill of \$450 to \$600 a month. **Commissioner Cox** stated he believes the issue is due to the size of the transfer switch to the generator, the electric meter doesn't read in kilowatts, it is in single digits and then is multiplied by 100.

Following discussion, the board instructed **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** to put the fire department electricity on the open items list. **City Engineer Jack Husband** stated he will contact the electrical engineer to find out more about what is there and what can be done.

3. Resolution 2026-1229R – 2026 Water/Sewer Rates – City Clerk Rachel Jackson and City Manager Michael Gortman discussed the proposed water and sewer rates water increasing by 2% and sewer by 6%. Additional discussion followed regarding an upcoming water and sewer rate study to assess if there is need to increase the rates again next year or if they can remain the same.

Following discussion, **Mayor Gaskin** read **Resolution 2026-1229R** by title and read the proposed rates. **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve **Resolution 2026-1229R**. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Recognition

Amanda Lake – Thanked everyone at the city and provided updates on the rodeo coming up on October 10th, stating we are still taking sponsors and asked if there was any feedback from the community about any improvements that could be made. The board stated they had only heard good things about the last rodeo.

Mrs. Lake stated that there is a spot open for concessions since Glad Tidings is not going to do it this time. There are also opportunities for students to volunteer and get hours.

Mrs. Lake also stated that she is planning for cowboy church and a Hurricane Michael tribute for first responders, since the rodeo will be held on the anniversary of the storm.

Mary Jones – stated the Friends of the Library will be putting on a car, truck, and dune buggy show and there will be a historical event inside library on October 10th. She requested a couple of garbage cans and the grass cut at library be cut. She also asked if David Paul can help with putting numbers on grass. The board said that would not be a problem, and it would be taken care of.

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Approval of Bills

- 1. Fisher's Building Supply** – Following review, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve Fisher's Building Supply bills (\$586.39) **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 Cox** made a motion to approve Charlie Pettis Pest Services bill (\$90.00) **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0, with **Commissioner Pettis** abstaining due to conflict of interest.
- 3. Wewa Outdoors** – No Bills
- 4. Regular Bills** – Following review and discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve payment of the regular bills (\$217,062.77), reoccurring bills (\$23,615.56), additional bills, which included SCE Invoices 12274, 12275, 12276 contingent on receiving reimbursement from Florida Commerce, (total additional bills \$173,771.38), **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Old Business/Open Items

- 1. Monthly Budget Update** – **Mayor Gaskin** asked **Finance Director Brittney Proctor** how we are doing on budget? **Finance Director Brittney Proctor** stated we are doing good on everything in this fiscal year. However, the state revenue numbers did come in lower than expected for the next fiscal year. She stated she wanted to make sure the board is ok with the difference of about 12,000.00. **Mayor Gaskin** asked how the difference was accounted for? **Finance Director Brittney Proctor** stated she increased the reserves.
- 2. Delinquent Utility Bills** – None
- 3. Extension List** – None
- 4. Bad Debts** (*Reminder for: Dec 2026 – Jan 2027*) – None
- 5. Water Losses** – None
- 6. SEWER INFILTRATION AND INFLOW** – None
- 7. Ray Dickens Fish Fry for the Sr. Citizens (October 3, 2026)** – None
- 8. Overtime Report broken down by pay periods** – None
- 9. Employee Water/Sewer License Testing**
 - **Blake Gilmore** – Water – **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated he finished his tests and is waiting on the certificates so he can take the water test.

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10. Senior Building – None

11. Cemetery Committee & Buckhorn Decorative Fencing – Mayor Gaskins said he looked at the building and the county has done a good job, it looks really good and the city appreciates the county.

12. Waste Water Consent Order 26-1501 – City Manager Michael Gortman discussed the consent order for the nitrogen and late permit. He stated that they are not going to give us a fine this year, we will have to pay the administration fee of \$500.00. If all steps are not followed there is a \$70,000.00 fine, but we will follow all of the steps.

Mayor Gaskin asked **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** to create a checklist to follow. **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** stated she will create a list and will work with **City Manager Michael Gortman** to make sure everything is completed.

City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner stated that the City and County put in a grant application today for the sewer transmission line and he feels it will be beneficial to sit down with DEP and go over our plan, since there are plans already in progress to correct the issues and if the board is ok with it he and **City Manager Michael Gortman** would like to discuss what is already in place with DEP to see if it would satisfy the consent order tasks. The board agreed for **City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner** and **City Manager Michael Gortman** to schedule a meeting with DEP.

Other Comments

City Attorney Michelle Jordan – stated there will be no increase in legal fees for the upcoming year.

City Manager Michael Gortman – requested a 2.5 foot carport variance for Mrs. Carolyn Husband at 628 S 3rd Street for the carport.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve the 2.5 foot carport variance for 628 S 3rd Street. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

City Manager Michael Gortman stated a company bought lots behind Moss Creek on Ernie Drive and are going to be putting in affordable housing duplexes. They need a 5 foot variance on the back of lots 1,2,3,and 4.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion for the approve the 5 foot variance request for lots 1,2,3 and 4 on Ernie Drive. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

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City Manager Michael Gortman stated in the same subdivision the 1st lot was designated as a park, and was accepted by the city according to plat. They can't build on property that they do not own with the grant funds. They would like to know if the City will deed it back to them so that they can put in playground equipment. The Board requested that **City Attorney Michelle Jordan** check into it and if it can be they would agree to deed it back to them.

City Manager Michael Gortman discussed getting a portable pitching mound for pony league field at TL James Park. He stated the City would pay upfront and County will reimburse the City for it.

Following discussion **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve purchasing the portable pitching mound for the pony league field at TL James Park with the County reimbursing the City. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

City Superintendent Chipper Wade – None

Senior Program Coordinator – Tom Wynn stated she is ill, but everything is good with the program and we are very happy.

GC Sheriff's Office Sgt. Sikes– None

Engineer Hunter Baumgardner – presented and discussed Pay Request 8 (\$1,048,112.14) for CBC/Extreme Land Clearing and recommended approval.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve payment of CBC/Extreme Land Clearing Pay Request 8 for \$1,048,112.14 on wastewater project M0118. **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Engineer Hunter Baumgardner presented and discussed CB&L Pay Request 4 (\$247,059.82) on storm sewer project M0163 and recommended approval.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve payment of CB&L Pay Request 4 for \$247,059.82 on storm sewer project M0163. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Engineer Hunter Baumgardner stated the board would see some change orders coming on these projects because they are both under budget and we want to do as much as possible throughout the city while the funding is available.

Finance Director Brittney Proctor – None

Finance Clerk Misty Robbins – None

City Clerk Rachel Jackson – None

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Mayor/Commissioners' Comments...

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Mayor/Commissioners' Comments

GC Commissioner Husband – None

GC Commissioner McLemore – None

Commissioner Cox – None

Commissioner Paul – asked if there has been any reduction in electric bills at TL James Park with the new LED lights? **City Manager Michael Gortman** said we should notice it this year since we've only had one month.

Commissioner Pettis – None

Commissioner Fisher – None

Mayor Gaskin – stated he talked with **City Manager Michael Gortman** about the old easements between Main Street and 2nd street, we need to give it back to the residents.

Mayor Gaskin stated that **City Manager Michael Gortman** is getting a No Soliciting sign at the senior center because there have been some issues with that.

Adjournment

Commissioner Pettis made a motion to adjourn 7:14 pm. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA



By: Phillip Gaskin, Mayor

ATTEST:


Rachel Jackson, City Clerk