

**CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
Senior/Community Building
REGULAR MEETING
July 30, 2026
6:00 PM**

The City Commission met on this date July 30, 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

City Attorney

Michelle Jordan

City Manager

Michael Gortman

City Superintendent

Chipper Wade

City Parks & Rec Director

David Paul

City Clerk

Rachel Jackson

City Finance Director

Brittney Proctor (*via video conf*)

City Finance Clerk

Misty Robbins

City Engineers-SCE

Hunter Baumgardner

Jack Husband

Gulf County Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Mike Harrison

Senior Program Representative

Lynn Lanier

Public

Ann Johnson
Tiffany Kjersen
Kirby Strickland
Lisa Reneau
Lynn Lanier
Clint Lanier
Matthew Claycomb
Tonya Claycomb
Elizabeth Gunn
Derrick Gerber

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 Paul** made a motion to approve Regular Meeting 6.25.26 and Workshop 7.23.26. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Special Recognition

Mayor Gaskin stated we have employee who has been with the City of Wewa since July 4, 1976. **Mayor Gaskin** recognized **Mr. Chipper Wade** and presented him with a 50 years' service award for his dedicated and exceptional service to the community.

Agenda Items

1. **Ordinance 2026-1238L – Sex Offender Residency Restrictions (Final Reading) –**
Mayor Gaskin stated this is the final reading of the sex offender residency restrictions ordinance and asked **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** to read it by title.

City Clerk Rachel Jackson read by title only:

Ordinance 2026-1238L

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING SEX OFFENDER AND SEXUAL PREDATOR RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS; PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR PROHIBITED CONDUCT; PROVIDING FOR EXEMPTIONS; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve **Ordinance 2026-1238L**. **Commissioner Fisher** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

2. **Resolution 2026-1226R – 2026 Wewahitchka High School Homecoming Parade -**
City Clerk Rachel Jackson stated the high school sent over a letter requesting to hold the Homecoming Parade on Friday October 9, 2026 from 2:00 – 3:00 pm. She requested **Resolution 2026-1226R** be approved in order to apply for and obtain the road closure permit.

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

3. **RV Permit Fees -** **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** stated that was added to the agenda per a request from **Commissioner Cox**. She stated she called and researched RV permit fees in the surrounding cities and counties and discussed the information that she gathered.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to table the agenda item until the next meeting when **Commissioner Cox** would be there to discuss the topic further. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

4. **FY 26-27 Millage –** **City Finance Director** discussed the millage rate worksheet that as included in the agenda package.

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Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to stay at the current millage rate of 6.1133. **Commissioner Fisher** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

- 5. FY 26-27 State Appropriations – Mayor Gaskin** stated we received an award of \$2,227,814 from the State of Florida to build a new and much needed City Hall to be built within 2 years.

Discussion followed regarding location of the proposed City Hall. **City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner** presented a preliminary design from a few years back that was to be originally located near Lake Alice but stated it can be tailored to whichever location the board chooses. **Engineer Baumgardner** discussed new storm water retention pond requirements.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to accept the state appropriations of \$2,227,814.00 to build the new City Hall, to allow **Mayor Gaskin** to sign the agreement and for the new City Hall to be located beside the library. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Paul asked about the material that the proposed new city hall would be built out of. **Mayor Gaskin** asked **City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner** to explain the options for the building. **City Engineer Baumgardner** discussed a task order and ICF, insulated concrete form, stating it was a modern version of CMU and will be designed to risk category 4, which is the highest standard to build to, essentially to the standards of an Emergency Operations Center and would allow for up to 180 mph wind speeds. It can be finished on the outside with whatever material you like. Another benefit is how well insulated it is, which will make it very energy efficient.

Following discussion, the board agreed to table the task order in order to have time to review it and allow for signature later next week once everyone has time to look over it.

- 6. Fire Department Electricity –** The board tabled discussion of the fire department electricity until the next meeting when **Commissioner Cox** is back.

Public Recognition

Lynn Lanier, President of the Silver Hearts Senior Program Planning Board, thanked the community, the board, and staff for the support for the program. **Mrs. Lanier** provided updates on the fund-raising efforts stating that the quarterly yard sale raised over \$1,800.00 and was very successful. **Mrs. Lanier** praised the volunteers and staff for their hard work in making the program a success.

Mrs. Lanier stated that since the policies and procedures are still being worked on she wanted to request permission to purchase 200 cookbooks for a fundraising project that would be a legacy project for the seniors who attend the program. The cost of the books is \$1,200.00 and the potential profit from sales would be about 200%, they would make a profit of about \$2,800.00 on the 200 books.

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Following further discussion of the purchasing guidelines and policies to be set up for the Senior Program, the board approved for the books to be purchased.

Lisa Reneau asked about getting a copy of the plans for the new City Hall because she lives right beside the library. The board stated she could get a copy and **Engineer Baumgardner** stated there would be noise reducing barriers in place and all set back requirements would be followed.

Approval of Bills

1. **Fisher's Building Supply** – Following review, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve Fisher's Building Supply bills (\$322.42) **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 Paul** made a motion to approve Charlie Pettis Pest Services bill (\$90.00) **Commissioner Fisher** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0, with **Commissioner Pettis** abstaining due to conflict of interest.
3. **Wewa Outdoors** – Following review, **Commissioner Fisher** made a motion to approve Wewa Outdoors bills (\$293.95) **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 Paul** made a motion to approve payment of the regular bills (\$68,291.62), reoccurring bills (\$95,993.92), additional bills (\$42,070.31), **Commissioner Fisher** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Old Business/Open Items

1. **Monthly Budget Update** – **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** explained that since we are in the middle of budget meetings we didn't provide a packet this month because they would be the same as the budget worksheets.
2. **Delinquent Utility Bills** – **Mayor Gaskin** stated they are down about \$500.00
3. **Extension List** – None
4. **Bad Debts** (*Reminder for: Dec 2026 – Jan 2027*) – None
5. **Water Losses** – **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** said they are working on them as they find them.
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 **Blake** is still working on his books and has a couple more months. **Mayor Gaskin** stated **Blake** is doing a great job and is keeping everything clean and organized at the sewer plant.

10. Senior Building – **City Parks and Rec Director David Paul**, stated we have all of the stainless-steel items in and will begin replacing everything soon.

11. Cemetery Committee & Buckhorn Decorative Fencing – **Mayor Gaskin** stated they have part of the shed up and it is looking good. **Bro. Derrick Gerber** said it will serve us well.

Other Comments

City Attorney Michelle Jordan – None

City Manager Michael Gortman – stated he spoke to FWC about the grass in Lake Alice, so the carp that was put in back in the 90's are no longer working. Once **City Manager Michael Gortman** explained that there is a boat ramp with public access the FWC representative said that he would add the city to the program and they would begin stocking the lake.

City Superintendent Chipper Wade – requested to purchase one skag and one walk behind mower from budgeted funds.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve the purchase of the mowers. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

City Parks & Rec Director David Paul – discussed the trees and roof at the pavilion at Lake Alice Park. **Mayor Gaskin** stated we need to have a workshop over there for the board to look at it.

Gulf County Sheriff Mike Harrison – stated there were 129 calls for the month which is about 15% of all the calls.

Engineer Hunter Baumgardner – Asked if the board would like to designate a board member to make decisions about the construction of City Hall to help reduce delays. **Mayor Gaskin** stated he would like to be involved and wanted to know what is going on with it. No member was designated at the time.

Engineer Baumgardner presented and discussed pay request 7 from Extreme Land Clearing on waste water project M0118 in the amount of \$283,263.28 and recommended approval.

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Following discussion, **Commissioner Fisher** made a motion to approve Extreme Land Clearing's pay request 7 for \$283,263.28. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion 4-0.

Engineer Baumgardner presented and discussed pay request 3 from Chapel Branch & Lagniappe on storm sewer project M0163 in the amount of \$141,964.75 and recommended approval.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve pay request 3 from Chapel Branch & Lagniappe for \$141,964.75. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Finance Director Brittney Proctor – None
Finance Clerk Misty Robbins – None

City Clerk Rachel Jackson – stated the solid waste contract with Coastal will be up for renewal in March and asked if the board preferred to extend their agreement for another year or go out to bid.

Following discussion, the board agreed to extend the contract with Coastal Waste for another year and re-assess the contract on a yearly basis.

Mayor/Commissioners' Comments

Gulf County Commissioner Jack Husband – None

Commissioner Paul – discussed the issue with the road at Jehu Road and Oliver Drive, which **Engineer Baumgardner** will be working on.

Commissioner Pettis - thanked **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** again for all of his service.

City Manager Michael Gortman discussed getting a portable pitcher's mound stating he spoke to Clay at the county about it and **Commissioner Husband**, **Commissioner McLemore** and **Commissioner McCroan** are going to split it three ways to buy it. The city will purchase it and then the county will reimburse us for it. **City Manager Gortman** stated it is about \$5,900.00 and requested approval to purchase.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Fisher** made a motion to approve purchase of the portable pitcher's mound for \$5,900.00. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Fisher – None

Mayor Gaskin – expressed his appreciation to **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** for his service to the City.

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Adjournment

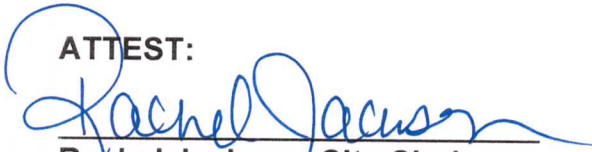
Commissioner Paul made a motion to adjourn 7:06 pm. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA



By: Phillip Gaskin, Mayor

ATTEST:


Rachel Jackson, City Clerk