

**CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA  
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS  
Senior/Community Building  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 27, 2025  
6:00 PM**

The City Commission met on this date March 27, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. at the Wewahitchka Senior/Community Building, 314 N. 3rd St, Wewahitchka, Florida. **Mayor Pro Tem Fisher** called the meeting to order, asked **Tom Wynn** to lead a prayer, and everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Attendance**

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher  
Commissioner Cox  
Commissioner Paul

**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 PHONE)

**City Finance Clerk**

Misty Robbins

**City Engineer-SCE**

Hunter Baumgardner

Jack Husband

**Sheriff's Office**

Mike Harrison

**Public**

LeAnne Coulter  
Terri Norris  
Ann Johnson  
Sheila Williams  
Tom Wynn  
Gene Hanlon  
William Daniels  
Vonnnette Daniels  
Margaret Brogdon  
Pat Hartley  
Pat Hutchinson  
Sammy Bailey  
Rev. Theresa Howard  
Jo Ellen Campbell  
Debbie Suber  
Renece Gainer  
Eddie Fields  
Amanda Lake

**Approval of Agenda**

**Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve the agenda. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Approval of Minutes**

After review, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve 2.27.25 Regular Meeting minutes and 3.17.25 Special Meeting minutes. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Public Recognition**

**Sammy Bailey** discussed the rodeo committee and thanked the board for having the roof repaired at the horse arena. He stated the Lake's have contacted him several times and would like to move forward with the rodeo, but were unable to get the arena for June, so they would like to have the rodeo during Labor Day weekend.

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**Lee Ann Coulter**, Civic Lead of the GWFC Women's Club – discussed the Big Top Bunny Hop Easter Egg Gathering being planned for April 12, 2025. **Mrs. Coulter** requested permission to use Lake Alice for the event and asked the public for help with carnival games.

Following discussion, the Board approved the use of Lake Alice for the event.

**Royce Watkins** residing at 593 Corn Griffin Street, asked about any progress toward getting grants or funding for Corn Griffin Street to be paved. **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** stated she spoke with the grant writer from Gulf County, she sent a list of grant opportunities, but they were ones that we have already tried to get.

**Tom Wynn**, 529 Chipola Avenue, has been researching for city and veterans, research shows they the city can get help with maintaining the cemeteries because of the veteran's buried would assist with clean up of property and maintenance of grave sites.

Following discussion, the Board agreed for **Mr. Wynn** to continue to research those opportunities.

**Ann Johnson**, 480 Rish Farm Road, provided an informational sheet and discussed plans for anniversary celebration. **Mrs. Johnson** encouraged everyone to wear period style clothing asked the public and businesses to clean up main street buildings, yards, and streets, so that everything would look nice for the celebration.

**Debbie Suber & Renece Gainer** thanked the Board for allowing them to use the Senior/Community Building. They stated 56 people attended and it was a success. The next event will be Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Vonette Daniels** gave support for the senior program event and requested a mattress on Old Transfer Road be removed.

**Gene Hanlon** re-addressed the board about cemetery lots in Jehu. Following discussion, the board instructed **City Attorney Michelle Jordan** to prepare a cemetery deed for Mr. Hanlon's plots.

**Amanda Lake** provided additional information about the rodeo and requested the board approve use of the TL James Park for holding the rodeo on Saturday August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to allow the rodeo to be held at TL James Park Horse Arena on August 30, 2025. **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

## Agenda

1. **Gaskin Saw Mill Phase II** – **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated they are proposing to start phase II of Gaskin Sawmill, they want to build on 7 lots of the proposed area.



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Following discussion and review of the plans, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve Gaskin Sawmill Phase II development, based on the recommendation of the planning board. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

2. **Laurel Drive – Red Bull Island – Commissioner Cox** stated there has been a code enforcement issue with a gentleman living down there that has parked equipment in the road blocking it. They were called to a fire recently and the road was blocked by a conex container, rebar, and metal . Code enforcement went and talked with him and he has moved the equipment and clearing the road, but the road is in bad shape. What process will he need to do to restore road back?

**County Commissioner McLemore** stated he will get that taken care of once the road has been cleared.

2. **Fracking** - Move to next meeting due to **Mayor Gaskin's** absence.

### Approval of Bills

1. **Fisher's Building Supply** – Following review, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve Fisher's Building Supply bills (\$1,454.66) **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0, with **Mayor Pro Tem Fisher** abstaining due to conflict of interest.
2. **Charlie Pettis Pest Services** - Moved to regular bills due to **Commissioner Pettis'** absence.
3. **Wewa Outdoors** – **Mayor Pro Tem Fisher** passed the gavel to **Commissioner Paul**. Following review, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve payment of Wewa Outdoors bills (\$139.98) **Mayor Pro Tem Fisher** seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0, with **Commissioner Paul** abstaining due to conflict of interest. **Commissioner Paul** passed the gavel back to **Mayor Pro Tem Fisher** to continue the meeting.
4. **Regular Bills** – Following review and discussion, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve payment of the regular bills (\$182,979.03) re-occurring bills (\$33,452.80) and additional bills (\$71,436.05). **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0. Charlie Pettis
5. **Monthly Budget Update** – The board reviewed the budget update and had No questions this meeting

### Old Business/Open Items

1. **Delinquent Utility Bills** – **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** stated they were up due to an extension request for account # 4017 because of a leak.

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2. **Extension List** – None

3. **Bad Debts** – None

4. **Water Losses** – **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** stated they are working on it

5. **SEWER INFILTRATION AND INFLOW** – **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** stated they will be starting smoke testing again to find issues.

6. **Ray Dickens Fish Fry for the Sr. Citizens (October 3, 2025)** – None

7. **Overtime Report broken down by pay periods** – None

8. **Employee Water/Sewer License Testing** – **City Manager Michael Gortman** provided and update:

- Kyle Whitfield – Water – working on booklet
- Blake Gilmore – Sewer – test scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup>

9. **Senior Building** – Discussed the air conditioners being moved and floor replacement in closets, **Mayor Pro Tem Fisher** directed **City Parks & Rec Director David Paul** and **City Manager Michael Gortman** to get quotes and get it done.

10. **Cemetery Committee & Buckhorn Decorative Fencing** – Discussed the fire station completion. Following discussion, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to change **Mayor Pro-Tem Fisher** back to handling water and sewer, and **Commissioner Cox** back to fire and cemeteries. **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

11. **TL James Ballfield Lights** – No updates, **Mayor Pro Tem Fisher** stated he appreciated the county commissioners for help with ball field lights.

### Other Comments

**City Attorney Michelle Jordan** – None

**City Manager Michael Gortman** – discussed the issues with waste water because of nitrogen. Further discussion followed regarding the proposed County sewer plant and the city possibly joining their plant in the future. **Mayor Pro-Tem Fisher** discussed additional lift stations that would be needed and **County Commissioner Jack Husband** discussed plans for the County sewer system and the alternative, spray field, to the city joining the county sewer system.



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Following discussion, the board agreed to hold a joint workshop with the county to discuss the plan in more detail and possibly an interlocal agreement.

**City Superintendent Chipper Wade – None**

**City Parks & Rec Director David Paul – None**

**Sheriff Harrison** – Provided monthly stats for February stating there were 88 calls in city, 21% of calls within county and discussed the progress associated with the LEAP program which allows the Sheriff's office to hire deputy trainee's and send them to school while employed.

**Engineer Hunter Baumgardner** – provided an update on the grant projects, he stated we have approval of our bid docs and advertisement for water lines, so the advertisement will be going on soon on that and asked if a pre-bid conference could be held at fire station. The board agreed to allow the pre-bid conference to be held at the fire station.

Wastewater permits are back and we are working on bid documents on that to send to FI Commerce.

Storm Sewer should fall about 30 days or so after the waste water project.

**City Finance Director Brittney Proctor – None**

**City Finance Clerk Misty Robbins – None**

**City Clerk Rachel Jackson** – discussed the challenge coin for the anniversary celebration and stated that she would provide additional information once the logo had been finalized.

Additionally, **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** discussed **City Finance Director Brittney Proctor** traveling for budget meetings in August. Requested the board allow her to go ahead and purchase her plane ticket and car rental rather than her having to front the costs and be reimbursed.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to allow **Finance Director Proctor** to purchase her plane ticket and car rental from the travel budget prior to the budget meetings. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion, Motion carried 3-0.

### **Mayor/Commissioners' Comments**

**Commissioner Cox** – Discussed ISO letter and fire departments rating have went from 6x to 5x will help peoples insurance rate when they renew. Starting fire hydrant maintenance program will help even more next year. Requested **City Manager Michael Gortman** provide a report next month on the progress.

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**Commissioner Paul** – asked if there had been any additional information about the 13 acres at TL James park. **City Manager Michael Gortman** hasn't been able to reach anyone, but will continue to try to reach someone.

**Mayor Pro Tem Fisher** – None

**Adjournment**


**Commissioner Paul** made a motion to adjourn at 7:23 **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA**



Phillip Gaskin, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Rachel Jackson, City Clerk