

**CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
Senior/Community Building
REGULAR MEETING
June 25, 2026
6:00 PM**

The City Commission met on this date June 25, 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 **Sheriff Harrison** 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 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

Senior Program Coordinator

Renece Gainer

Public

Tom Wynn
Chris Wynn
Faye Davis
Tony Randall
Ricky Taylor
Kaitlan Taylor
Elizabeth Gunn
Tiffany Kjersem
Viola Mitchell
Rich Mitchell
Glenda Armstrong Duke
Gene Hanlon
Sasha Pagano

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

After review, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve Regular Meeting 5.28.26 **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Agenda Items

1. **Ordinance 2026-1238L – Sex Offender Residency Restrictions (1st Reading) –**
Mayor Gaskin 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.

Sheriff Mike Harrison stated it is a really good ordinance and is really restrictive. He stated that he likes for the county and city ordinances to all reflect the same language and he doesn't know if Port St. Joe or the Gulf County will pick this up or not, but this is a good ordinance.

Sheriff Harrison said the only thing he picked up that needed to be included was that state statute defines residency as temporary, permanent, or transient residency. He didn't see that in the ordinance and asked that it be added.

City Attorney Michelle Jordan stated that she could add that into the final draft of the ordinance.

Sheriff Harrison stated that there had been a lot of discussion about sex offenders in the county lately, but there are the same number now as there were in 2021. She stated they their office goes beyond state requirements in notifying and educating the public. State requires that he notifies the public when a predator changes addresses, but he notifies the public when offenders change addresses as well, so he is actually doing more than the state requires, but then people think that new offenders are moving in. To help with that communication issue lately they have being very specific about putting information states whether it is a new offender or if it is a current residing offender that is changing addresses. In the City of Wewa there are 4 currently residing in the city.

Commissioner Fisher asked about our ordinance being city wide only and that it wouldn't affect anything outside of city limits. **Sheriff Harrison** stated that is correct it's only for city limits. The county's would only change if they changed the county ordinance.

Commissioner Fisher asked if that would affect offenders living outside of the city that are traveling to pick their kids up from school. **Sheriff Harrison** said no, this only effects residency, nothing else is affected.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve the first reading of **Ordinance 2026-1238L**, incorporating **Sheriff Harrison's** recommendations per **City Attorney Michelle Jordan**. **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Recognition

Jo Ellen Campbell thanked the board for the senior program, stating they have had a great experience since the City has taken it over.

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Tom Wynn thanked the City for the improvements at Lake Alice park. **Mayor Gaskin** added his thanks to Gulf County for their support with the improvements as well.

Tiffany Kjersem stated she lives on Catalpa Avenue and needs clarification on animal control. She stated she feels like the City of Wewa has a lot of stray animal control issues and we should have our own program or more people in the Gulf County animal control.

Mayor Gaskin asked if she was addressing the City or the County? Explaining that she would need to address county issues at the county meeting. **Ms. Kjersem** stated she was addressing both county and city. She explained that since she moved in, there are about 15 stray cats that she is now feeding. She stated that she has called numerous times about the strays and about a neighbor who has emaciated dogs. She stated that at night the dogs won't stop barking because they are starving and she has called the Sheriff's office referencing the city's noise ordinance, and she hasn't received any help about the issues. She stated she feels that there is animal abuse and neglect in our town and there are no programs to help with it.

Mayor Gaskin stated we are contracted with the county for animal control and he feels they do a good job, this is the first we have heard about this, but we will look into it and he suggested she stop feeding the stray animals.

Glenda Armstrong stated she had questions about parking her 5th wheel on a lot her grandson owns. She stated she came to the city asking about parking it there and was told she couldn't.

City Clerk Rachel Jackson clarified that the office staff explained that the ordinance prohibits full time/permanent living in an RV, but that storing an RV on the lot was fine.

Ms. Armstrong stated she and her brother have been riding around town and people are living in them permanently and she feels that if she can't live in hers, they shouldn't be able to either. She stated she wants to do things legally and she wants to live in the City limits.

Approval of Bills

- 1. Fisher's Building Supply** – Following review, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve Fisher's Building Supply bills (\$1,181.42) **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** – Following review, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve Wewa Outdoors bills (\$27.98) **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0, with **Commissioner Paul** abstaining due to conflict of interest.

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4. **Regular Bills** – Following review and discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve payment of the regular bills (\$617,189.47), reoccurring bills (\$37,055.06), additional bills (\$33,923.08), **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Old Business/Open Items

1. **Monthly Budget Update** – **Mayor Gaskin** asked **City Finance Director Brittney Proctor** how everything was looking? She explained that the only thing she noticed that we have went a little bit over on the vehicle repair and maintenance in water. She stated we will have to move some of them when we do the amendment at the end of the year.

Mayor Gaskin what caused it to go over? **City Finance Director Brittney Proctor** stated that one bigger thing was a tool box that had rusted out and had to be replaced. Most of the rest were basic things like tires.

2. **Delinquent Utility Bills** – **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** stated they were up a little due to the number of extensions.

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** – None

10. **Senior Building** – None

11. **Cemetery Committee & Buckhorn Decorative Fencing** – **Commissioner Fisher** stated the trusses have been delivered and are on the ground down there. **Commissioner Husband** stated he will get it taken care of Monday and make sure they get started on it.

Other Comments

City Attorney Michelle Jordan – None

City Parks & Rec Director David Paul – None

Senior Program Coordinator Renece Gainer – provided an update stating there are 28 – 30 attending each day.

Sheriff Mike Harrison – provided stats for May 2026, he stated there were 150 calls in City limits, which was 23% of calls for all of Gulf County. There were 65 traffic stops in City limits.

Additionally, **Sheriff Harrison** provided statistical information on the number of sex offenders in Gulf County stating there are 35, 2 of which are in county jail, as a comparison he provided information on the surrounding counties stating Calhoun County has 53, Franklin County has 42, Liberty County, which has half the population of Gulf County has 33, and Bay County has 440.

City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner – provided updates on grant project M0163 stating the waste water project is moving along well, and they will be starting on the lift stations next week.

Engineer Baumgardner presented pay request 6 for Extreme Land Clearing for \$708,550.00. Following review, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve payment of Extreme Land Clearing pay request 6 for \$708,550.00. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Engineer Baumgardner provided updates on grant project M0118 stating CBL (Chapel Branch & Lagniappe) is doing a good job and the storm sewer project is going well.

Engineer Baumgardner presented Chapel Branch & Lagniappe's pay request 2 for \$339,472.79. Following review, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve payment of Chapel Branch & Lagniappe's pay request 2 for \$339,472.79. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Engineer Baumgardner presented and discussed a task order for the DEP vulnerability assessment grant. He explained that to tap into DEP resilience funds for future construction projects, you have to have a vulnerability assessment. We applied for a grant to have the vulnerability assessment done, and received an award for \$350,000.00 a few months back. He stated that he and **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** attended a teams meeting with DEP and they explained that the agreements were generally handled through continuing service agreements to save tax payer money that would use additional funds to advertise and procure multiple firms to perform the services needed for the assessment.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve the FDEP Resilient Florida Program SCE Project 2670603 task order for the vulnerability assessment. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

City Clerk Rachel Jackson – stated that we need a new water meter in the well room at the water plant. She said **City Manager Michael Gortman** and **Kyle Whitfield** got quotes

for it, two of them were around \$5,200.00 and one was for \$4,028.64 and requested the board approve the purchase of the meter for \$4,028.64.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve the purchase of the water meter for the well room at the water plant for \$4,028.64 to be purchased from the machine and equipment line item in the water budget. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion, motion carried 5-0.

City Finance Clerk Misty Robbins – None

City Finance Director Brittney Proctor– stated there is a packet that contains information about the millage rates and special assessments. The board could not locate the packet, City Clerk Rachel Jackson stated she inadvertently left it at the office. **City Finance Director Brittney Proctor** explained that we have been following the property tax bill that has been proposed and have been looking at different ways to make up the income if it goes through, because the county sent out an estimate that if it passes the ad-valorem tax revenue would decrease by between \$170,000 – \$180,000 per year in the beginning stages of it. She stated that she, **City Clerk Rachel Jackson**, and **City Attorney Michelle Jordan** had brainstormed ideas to help make up the income. Next month we have to vote on millage, so there was a millage schedule in the packet to show different scenarios at different millage rates. **Mayor Gaskin** stated no we are not going up on millage we will just need to cut \$170,000 out of the budget.

Finance Director Brittney Proctor said another way would be through franchise fees to the utility companies. We don't currently do those, so that is one potential avenue we could introduce. **Mayor Gaskin** stated that puts those fees back to the taxpayer. **Finance Director Brittney Proctor** agreed and said there are a few other ways, but they would also eventually go back to the taxpayer. **Mayor Gaskin** said we are just going to have to find a way to cut the budget. **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** explained that was why we wanted to present this so that we would know what direction the board wants us to head as we go into budget workshops.

Mayor Gaskin stated he wants to get started on the budget earlier, so we don't have to do budget amendments. **City Finance Director Brittney Proctor** stated that the budget amendments would still have to be done if things are being done properly regardless. The amendments should have been done in the past, but were not being done correctly. The auditors recommended that we do them each year to make sure all line items are budgeted correctly. She explained that the amendments are not changing the amount of the overall budget, they are simply adjusting any line items that were over budget, the funds are taken from other line items that are under budget within the same budget fund.

Mayor/Commissioners' Comments

Gulf Co Commissioner Jack Husband – stated he will see if they can get a crew out Monday morning to get started on the pavilion at Jehu and he will see if he can get a schedule on when everything will be completed.

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Commissioner Cox – stated he got a call from a gentleman on Parker Street about the 4wheelers out there tearing up the ditches. He would like to see if he can get a little help from the Sheriff about these kids riding UTV's without helmets that are tearing up the streets and ditches. **Sheriff Harrison** stated he will look into it.

Commissioner Paul – asked about the contractors that were supposed to be working on getting the BP (Triumph Funds) **Mayor Gaskin** stated **City Manager Michael Gortman** is supposed to be handling that.

Commissioner Paul asked about what was going on with the Parker Street flooding. **Mayor Gaskin** said that **City Manager Michael Gortman** thought he had found an easement. **City Engineer Jack Husband** stated that it ended up not being in the right place. They had Mr. Roddenberry draw out the legal and it wasn't the correct place.

Commissioner Pettis – stated he had also received a call about Parker street, and **Deputy Ferrell** went over and talked with the kids about the Parker Street 4wheeler situation and hopefully that is resolved.

Commissioner Fisher – stated he appreciates the Engineers and the Sheriff for all of their work for the city.

Mayor Gaskin – discussed never receiving a deed for 1 acre at Honeyville Park for a wellsite that was promised years ago after the City ran water lines for the county. **Gulf County Commissioner Jack** stated he would check on it and see about getting it.

Mayor Gaskin stated that on July 4, 2026 **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** will have worked for the City for 50 years and we will have a plaque to present to him at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Commissioner Paul made a motion to adjourn 7:08 pm. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA

[Signature]

By *[Signature]* Mayor Pro Tem
[Signature] Phillip Gaskin

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Rachel Jackson, City Clerk

