

**CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
SENIOR CITIZEN BUILDING
314 N 3rd STREET
REGULAR MEETING
June 23, 2022
6:00 PM**

The City Commission met on this date, June 23, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. at the Senior Citizens/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 Gaskin
Commissioner Fisher
Commissioner Pettis
Commissioner Paul
Commissioner Cox

Sheriff

Mike Harrison

City Attorney

Michelle Jordan

City Manager

Michael Gortman

City Superintendent

Chipper Wade

City Parks & Rec Director

David Paul

City Finance Director

Brittney Proctor

City Finance Director Trainee

Misty Robbins

Public

Ann Johnson
John Strzalke
Tom Wynn
Carol Ann Childress
Amy Campbell
Jo Ellen Campbell
Fay Davis
Gene Hanlon
Chuck Johnson
Jack Husband (SCE)
Hunter Baumgardner (SCE)
Wendy Weitzel
Tom Semmes
Patty Fisher
Jamie Lester
Thomas Evans
Earnest Williams

Approval of Agenda – **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve the agenda. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Minutes – **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve regular meeting minutes 5/26/22 **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Recognition – **Mayor Gaskin** asked if there was anyone who was not on the regular agenda who would like to speak. **Tom Semmes** representing the Friends of the Wewa Library presented a handout regarding the initiatives funded through grants and donations. Mr. Semmes discussed the mobile library service, early learning literacy, head start outreach, senior center visits, a seed library, free tax preparation services, art, history, and cultural programs, free notary service, and a gardening partnership with UF/IAS.

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Mr. Semmes discussed the City's contribution to the library. **Mayor Gaskin** explained that in addition to the money budgeted for the library, the City owns and maintains the building that the library is housed in, so the amount of funding provided by the City to the library far exceeds the budgeted amount. Following discussion, **Mr. Semmes** asked for an increase to the budget that the City contributes in the upcoming budget year.

Mayor Gaskin stated that the board is supportive of the library and he would like to see what Gulf County is going to contribute because although the building belongs to the City, the City of Wewa is within Gulf County and serves both City and County residents. **Mr. Semmes** stated that they are broke away from the Friends of the Port St. Joe Library and have not received any portion of the money earmarked for Gulf County. **Mr. Semmes** stated Port St. Joe receives 60% of the \$100,000.00 that Gulf County provides, but Wewahitchka hasn't received the other 40%.

Mr. Semmes then discussed obtaining grants for library expansion and began to discuss saving/restoring Wewa Courthouse and that they are trying to get a townhall meeting with the county set up. **Mr. Semmes** asked if the City board would come to a townhall meeting if they could get the county to agree to come up for one. The board stated yes they would come and would help with advertising the meeting if one is set up.

Jo Ellen Campbell stated that she would like to show her appreciation for the work that the City is doing to the Senior Building.

Tomm Semmes asked when will the military stone memorial in front of the courthouse be moved over with the Veteran's Memorial flags. **Mayor Gaskin** explained that the women's club was in charge of that project and asked **Patty Fisher** if she could provide information regarding that. **Mrs. Fisher** stated that they are hoping to have it moved and they are going to talk to Joe Paul to be sure that was the agreement, and if so they are hoping to have it moved by Veteran's day.

Jamie Lester stated that he wanted to introduce **Thomas Evans** who he is training as an appraiser. **Mr. Lester** then stated that he is here to discuss his project on Jehu Road. He stated that the code enforcement officer has sent his 9 or 10 letters, and he has been waiting on contractors, materials, labor, etc to get the property cleaned up. He stated that has been making progress, but it can't be done overnight. **Mr. Lester** asked why does he have to go before the magistrate even though he is showing progress on the clean up?

Following discussion, **Mayor Gaskin** and the board offered to give him 90 more days to show further progress. **Mayor Gaskin** asked for a motion to give **Mr. Lester** 90 days. **Commissioner Fisher** stated that he would go along with it, however he feels like it will not be the end of it. **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to allow **Mr. Lester** 90 days to clean up the property and not go to before the Magistrate. The Board directed **City Manager Michael Gortman** to contact County Code Enforcement personnel regarding

Mr. Lester's code enforcement. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Tom Wynn stated he doesn't feel like the City is stepping up to make sure the ordinances are being enforced. **City Manager Michael Gortman**, explained that we piggy backed on the county ordinance and the county provides our code enforcement services.

John Strzalke owner of the Family Dollar submitted a revised variance request. He stated that they removed the loading area in the back from the request. Discussed the setback and expansion portion of the variance request. **Mr. Strzalke** and **City Engineer Jack Husband** presented plans for the board's review and discussed the plans.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Fisher** made a motion to approve the variance. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Earnest Williams asked for the status of the light poles at TL James Park. **Commissioner Pettis** stated that he and **City Manager Michael Gortman** have been working on it and were getting prices on the lights. **Commissioner Pettis** explained that they are trying to combine doing the lighting at the football field and the baseball fields to save money.

Agenda

1. **Ordinance No 2022-1219L-Noise Ordinance** (final reading) - **City Manager Michael Gortman** read by title only Ordinance No 2022-1219L

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-1219L

AN ORDINANCE OF CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEWAHTICHKA, FLORIDA, TO REGULATE NOISE WITHIN THE CITY, SETTING FORTH STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES, PROHIBITING THE MAKING OF LOUD, UNREASONABLE, UNNATURAL OR UNUSUAL NOISES AS SET FORTH HEREIN; PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; PROVIDING FOR THE ENFORCEMENT HEREOF; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR MODIFICATIONS THAT MAY ARISE FROM CONSIDERATION AT PUBLIC HEARINGS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Following reading, **Commissioner Fisher** made a motion to approve Ordinance No 2022-1219L. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

2. **New Employee/s-** **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated that there have been several applications turned in after reviewing, **City Manager Gortman** recommended

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hiring Dan Calareso to fill the position. **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to hire Dan Calareso at \$17.00 per hour. **Commissioner Fisher** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Bills

1. Fisher's – Following review, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve payment of Fisher's Building Supply invoices (\$498.12) **Commissioner Cox** 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 payment of Charlie Pettis Pest Services invoice (\$90.00) **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0, with **Commissioner Pettis** abstaining due to conflict of interest.

3. Wewa Outdoors – After review, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve payment of Wewa Outdoors invoices (\$158.98). **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0, with **Commissioner Paul** abstaining due to conflict of interest.

4. Regular Bills – Following review, **Commissioner Cox** motion to approve payment of the regular, re-occurring, and additional bills. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Old Business/Open Items

1. Fire station/old City Hall

(Original Substantial Completion Date 9/4/21, Original Work Completion Date 10/11/21)
(Change Order #3-7/29/21-Changed Substantial Comp. Date 11/17/21, Work Completion Date 12/25/21)
CHANGE ORDER #4-10/28/21 – SUBST. COMPLETION DATE 12/9/21, WORK COMPLETION DATE 1/15/22

City Attorney Michelle Jordan stated there are no public updates at this time.

2. Delinquent Utility Bills – **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated they were a little higher than last month, however the meeting is earlier than usual, so there were still payments coming in.

3. Water Losses - **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** stated that they are working on it.

4. SEWER INFILTRATION AND INFLOW – None

5. **Ray Dickens Fish Fry for the Sr. Citizens (October 7, 2022) – None**
6. **Lift Station – City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner** presented and discussed pay request #1 for lift station #3 for \$57,163.81. **Engineer Baumgardner** stated that the pay request was for bonds, insurance, and stored material.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Fisher** made a motion to approve North Florida Construction's Pay Request #1 for Lift Station #3 (\$57,163.81).
Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Engineer Baumgardner presented pay request #2 for lift stations 5 & 11 for \$109,761.30. **Engineer Baumgardner** stated that there were some changes since the meeting was earlier than normal. The surveys were not complete, so his recommendation was to remove the \$1,200.00 for the surveys. The bypass pumping is now complete, so **Engineer Baumgardner** recommended adding the \$17,000.00 for the completed bypass pumping. **Engineer Baumgardner** asked for approval contingent on the revisions. Following discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve North Florida Construction's pay request # 2 for Lift Stations 5 & 11 contingent upon revision for removing \$1,200.00 for the surveys and adding \$17,000.00 for the completed bypass pumping, for a total of \$115,206.30. **Commissioner Fisher** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

7. **Overtime Report broken down by pay periods – None**
8. **Buckhorn Decorative Fencing – Commissioner Cox** stated he is still working on getting some pictures
9. **County LDR – Engineer Jack Husband** stated there had been some more progress this month, in talking to a planning company. There is going to have to be a land use map amendment and a comprehensive plan amendment to progress the LDR's, the company will work on it hourly in \$5,000.00 increments. The fee is \$150.00 per hour rate.

Engineer Jack Husband stated that since we are an area of economic concern we can change up to 50 acres at a time as a small scale land use change and not have to go to a large scale land use change, which will save about \$100,000-\$125,000. We may need to do this in 2 steps, one land use change this year and one next year to save money.

Mayor Gaskin asked where were things progressing on the comprehensive plan? **Engineer Jack Husband** stated that as long as the board approved the rates to move forward with it, the planning company would begin working on the comprehensive plan. The board agreed to go ahead with the comprehensive plan.

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10. Employee Water/Sewer License Testing – City Manager Michael Gortman

stated that DEP has approved David Paul's application for testing so we are working to get a test date set up for him.

11. Senior Building – City Manager Michael Gortman

gave an update on the progress of the work on the building, including the doors, roof, and an update on the stove purchase.

12. Cemetery Committee – City Manager Michael Gortman

stated that he met with Bro. Joey and Bro. Derek. and looked at graves that were damaged and did estimates to repair the graves at \$250 per grave. Estimate about 15-20 graves need to be repaired.

Other Comments

City Superintendent Chipper Wade – None

City Parks and Rec Director David Paul – Requested a full time assistant to help out.

Commissioner Pettis stated that he felt like Cory should be moved as David Paul's assistant, and made a motion to move Cory to Parks & Recreation. **Commissioner Fisher** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

City Manager Michael Gortman – Requested that the board approve Amendment 4 to the DEO lift station project (DL010) to extend the project deadline to June 30, 2023. The board approved the amendment.

City Manager Michael Gortman discussed pay raises that were done at a prior meeting and requested that Kyle be given a raise to \$21.00 per hour and requested Johnna receive a raise to \$18.00 per hour. Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve the raises for Kyle Whitfield and Johnna Roberts.

Commissioner Paul seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

City Finance Director Brittney Proctor – None

City Finance Director Trainee Misty Robbins – None

City Attorney Michelle Jordan – None

Sheriff Harrison – None

City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner – Stated they have applied for storm shelter grant. On the water line project, there has been some progress with getting the fire flow tests done.

Mayor/Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Cox – Stated that the County is supposed to provide updates on Code Enforcement on monthly basis and asked that **City Manager Gortman** get with the County to start getting those updates.

Commissioner Cox also asked if the Parks & Recreation department should be titled as Parks & Leisure Services. **City Manager Gortman** stated that is could affect the grants if it was changed.

Commissioner Paul – Stated that Harold Dorman contacted him and asked if the if the speed sign could be moved from 2nd street to W River Rd. **Sheriff Harrison** stated that they would move it.

Commissioner Paul discussed the road patching status and road bond.

Commissioner Pettis – Discussed a pay raise for David Paul. Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to increase David Paul's pay rate to \$21.00 per hour. **Commissioner Fisher** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0, with **Commissioner Paul** abstaining due to conflict of interest.

Commissioner Fisher - Believes we need to contact code enforcement and get them to send an email to **City Manager Michael Gortman** and **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** when they send out code enforcements letters. **Commissioner Fisher** stated he would like to set up a workshop with code enforcement and building department to discuss code enforcement process and procedures.

Mayor Gaskin – Wants to revisit cemetery fees, wants it added to the open items list.

Adjournment

Commissioner Fisher made a motion to adjourn at 7:56 pm. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA



Phillip Gaskin, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rachel Jackson, City Clerk

