

**CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA  
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS  
SENIOR CITIZEN BUILDING  
314 N 3<sup>rd</sup> STREET  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 27, 2022  
6:00 PM**

The City Commission met on this date, October 27, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. at the Senior Citizens/Community Building, 314 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Wewahitchka, Florida. **Mayor Gaskin** called the meeting to order, asked **Bro Derek Gerber** to lead a prayer and everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Attendance**

Commissioner Cox  
Commissioner Paul  
Mayor Gaskin

**Sheriff**

Mike Harrison

**City Attorney**

Michelle Jordan

**City Manager**

Michael Gortman

**City Clerk**

Rachel Jackson

**City Superintendent**

Chipper Wade

**City Parks & Rec Director**

David Paul

**City Finance Clerk**

Misty Robbins

**Public**

Tom Semmes  
Derek Gerber  
Ann Johnson  
Jack Husband  
Wendy Weitzel  
James Watkins  
David Buzier  
Penny Buzier  
Christopher Bryan  
David Brown  
Tom Wynn  
Chuck Johnson  
Gene Hanlon  
Ray Greer

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

**Approval of Minutes** – **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve Regular Commission Meeting 9/29/22. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0.

**Public Recognition** – **Mayor Gaskin** asked if anyone in the public would like to speak.

**Engineer Jack Husband** stated **Ray Greer** would like to present the Comprehensive plan draft. **Ray Greer (Comprehensive Planning Associates)** introduced himself and discussed the draft of the comprehensive plan and future land use maps. **Mr. Greer** stated that he would be leaving a draft for the commissioners to review; once the draft is approved it will be ready to go to the planning commission.

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Public Recognition cont'd....

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**Mayor Gaskin** asked if anyone else had anything they would like to discuss. **Tom Wynn** stated that he appreciated the work that has been done on the senior building and stated that there were 50 people who attended the senior luncheon today. He requested that the walk in freezer be replaced for the senior program.

**City Parks & Rec Director David Paul** suggested getting a large chest freezer because a walk in freezer is not needed. Following discussion, the board agreed to replace the walk in freezer with a chest freezer.

**Tom Wynn** asked if they could get some help moving the monument from in front of the courthouse to the Veteran's Park area. The board said they would need to look into that more.

**Commissioner Pettis** entered the meeting at 6:03 pm.

**Mayor Gaskin** asked if there was anyone else in the public that had anything to discuss? Several residents residing on Corn Griffin St. expressed concerns about the portion of the road that is unpaved. **James (Royce) Watkins** 593 Corn Griffin Street discussed road conditions and requested that the road be paved.

**David Brown**, 547 Corn Griffin Street stated that the reason that the road is so bad is due to the poor grating and the road is functioning as a ditch. He stated that the ditches need to be pulled to help the problem.

**David Buzier**, 539 Corn Griffin Street said that garbage is being dumped at the end of the street also. The board instructed **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** to check on it and see what he can do.

**Christopher Bryan** 581 Corn Griffin Street stated another problem is four wheelers doing do-nuts causing ruts to the road.

Following discussion, the board instructed **City Manager Michael Gortman** to contact County Commissioner Ward McDaniel and see if the county can help.

## Agenda

**1. Resolution 2022-1195R-Water & Sewer Rate Increases-** **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** discussed the water and sewer rate increase resolution explaining that the rates needed to increase as required by the water and sewer sustainability plans that were adopted last year in order to be able to qualify for grants in the future and to be able to maintain the water and sewer system in the future. **Mayor Gaskin** asked **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** to read by title only **Resolution 2022-1195R**. **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** read

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-1195R**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF**  
**WEWAHITCHKA, GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA INCREASING WATER**  
**AND SEWER UTILITY RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2023, IN**  
**ACCORDANCE WITH ORDINANCE NO. 2020-1209L; PROVIDING FOR**  
**AUTHORITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Following reading, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-1195R. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**Approval of Bills**

1. **Fisher's** – In **Commissioner Fisher's** absence, Fisher's Building Supplies invoices were moved to regular bills for approval.
2. **Charlie Pettis Pest Services** – **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve payment of Charlie Pettis Pest Services invoice (\$90.00) **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0 with **Commissioner Pettis** abstaining due to conflict of interest.
3. **Wewa Outdoors** – **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve payment of Wewa Outdoors September and October bills (\$1,108.61). **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 Pettis** made a motion to approve payment of Fisher's Building Supply invoices for September and October (\$2,029.99), FY21-22 year ending bills (\$18,489.06), October 2022 regular (\$43,299.07), recurring (\$64,680.39), and additional bills (\$26,126.54). **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**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 that we have reached an impasse with the bond company and requested permission to send a demand letter for their breach of their obligations under the bond. **Attorney Jordan** stated the bond company has not made any concrete proposals as to how they are going to fix the building or tear down and replace it and it has been almost a year. Once the demand letter is sent,

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**Open Items cont'd....**

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they have 10 days to respond. If they don't **Attorney Jordan** stated she will proceed with filing a suit against them in Gulf County.

**Mayor Gaskin** asked if he could get a motion to that effect. **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to allow **City Attorney Michelle Jordan** to send a demand letter to the bond company. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

2. **Delinquent Utility Bills** – **Mayor Gaskin** stated they are down about \$800.00, **Commissioner Paul** asked that we look into a name change for Joey Stephens account as Mr. Stephens is deceased.

3. **Water Losses - City Superintendent Chipper Wade** stated they are working on water Leaks

4. **SEWER INFILTRATION AND INFLOW** – **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** stated they have shot some grade where they tore those houses down.

5. **Ray Dickens Fish Fry for the Sr. Citizens (October 6, 2023)** – **Mayor Gaskin** stated the fish fry went well

6. **Lift Station** – **Engineer Jack Husband** presented a substantial completion for #5 & #11 lift stations and asked if the board approves requested Mayor sign the substantial completion. **Engineer Husband** stated the final completion date is the second week of November. They are substantially complete and are working on a few punch list items.

**Engineer Husband** stated they have started construction on lift station #3.

The board approved the substantial completion for lift stations #5 & #11.

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

8. **County LDR** – **Engineer Jack Husband** stated that the comp plan was the first step to approving the LDR's. Once the board reviews the draft plan a planning board meeting will need to be scheduled.

9. **Employee Water/Sewer License Testing** – **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated that Kyle working on his book work and David Paul is rescheduling his.

10. **Senior Building** – **City Parks and Rec Director David Paul** said they are working on replacing windows and now the freezer.

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**Open Items cont'd....**

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**Mayor Gaskin** asked **Commissioner Cox** what he thought about enclosing the porch. **Commissioner Cox** said it would be a good idea and to replace the exhaust fan where the ice machine is. **Commissioner Cox** stated that the dumpster needs to be moved.

- 11. Cemetery Committee & Buckhorn Decorative Fencing – Bro. Derek Gerber** said they've got a call in to a company and are waiting to hear back about fencing pricing and they have a meeting scheduled with Mr. Peavy about the pavilion and fund raising ideas.

**Other Comments**

**City Attorney Michelle Jordan - None**

**City Finance Clerk Misty Robbins – None**

**City Clerk Rachel Jackson** – Requested that the November regular meeting be moved to November 29, 2022 due to Thanksgiving Holidays. **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to move the regular meeting from November 24, 2022 to November 29, 2022. **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**City Clerk Rachel Jackson** stated that the December meeting is scheduled for December 29, 2022 and should be fine to hold on the date. The board agreed to keep the December meeting scheduled for the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Sheriff Mike Harrison – None**

**City Engineer Jack Husband** – On the waterlines project the surveys are being completed and utility locates are done.

**Engineer Husband** discussed the Waste Water grant (M0118) for \$8.5 million that was awarded to the City. He presented a task order for board to review and stated that we left the scope of work open and there are a couple of items that need to be reviewed. This will be a multi-stage project and each man hole will have to be inspected. **Engineer Husband** stated that he felt some of the funds should be used to help capture the I & I problem. He and **City Manager Michael Gortman** have discussed the Church Street line and possibly re-routing lift station #5. **Engineer Husband** stated we also have 2 lift stations in the ground #6 & #8 that need to come out of the ground and lift station #1 is going to need some work. He stated all that coupled together would be our tasks.

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**Other Comments cont'd....**

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Discussion followed regarding replacing terracotta lines and the costs of engineering and construction of the project. Mayor Gaskin stated he would like to review the task order further before approving.

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

**City Superintendent Chipper Wade – None**

**City Manager Michael Gortman - None**

**Mayor/Commissioner Comments**

**Commissioner Cox – None**

**Commissioner Paul –** Stated he noticed code enforcement is moving along and cleaning up areas.

**Commissioner Pettis – None**

**Mayor Gaskin – None**

Following Commissioner/Mayor comments, **Tom Wynn** asked he if could say one more thing? **Mayor Gaskin** said yes. **Mr. Wynn** thanked the City Employees for putting on the fish fry.

**Adjournment**


**Commissioner Paul** made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm. **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA**



**Phillip Gaskin, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

  
**Rachel Jackson, City Clerk**