

**CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
Senior/Community Building
REGULAR MEETING
September 25, 2025
6:00 PM**

The City Commission met on this date September 25, 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 **Bro Derek Gerber** to lead a prayer, and everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

Mayor Pro Tem Ralph Fisher
Commissioner Charlie Pettis
Commissioner Brian Cox
Commissioner Johnny Paul

Public

Jo Ellen Campbell
Harvey Campbell
Tom Wynn
Derek Gerber
Ann Johnson
Amanda Lake

City Manager

Michael Gortman

City Attorney

Michelle Jordan

City Clerk

Rachel Jackson (via video conf)

City Superintendent

Chipper Wade

City Finance Director

Brittney Proctor (via video conf)

City Engineer-SCE

Jack Husband

Sheriff's Office

Mike Harrison

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 Cox** made a motion to approve Budget work shop 8.25.25, Budget work shop 8.27.25, Regular Meeting 8.28.25, Tentative Budget Hearing 9.9.25, Public Hearing 9.9.25, and Final Budget Hearing 9.22.25 minutes. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Recognition

Agenda

1. **Resolution 2025-1223R – 2025 Christmas Parade – City Clerk Rachel Jackson** stated this is the resolution for holding the Christmas parade, we need it in order to get

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the road closure permit. The parade will be held on December 20, 2025 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-1223R. **Commissioner Paul** seconded motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Bills

1. **Fisher's Building Supply** –Following review, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve Fisher's Building Supply bills (\$588.66). **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 Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0, with **Commissioner Pettis** abstaining due to conflict of interest.
3. **Wewa Outdoors** –Following review, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve payment of Wewa Outdoors bills (\$315.99) **Commissioner Cox** 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 the regular bills (\$54,532.68), re-occurring bills (\$65,216.80) and additional bills (\$100,736.05). **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
5. **Monthly Budget Update** – **Mayor Pro Tem Fisher** asked that the monthly budget update be moved to old business/open items.

Old Business/Open Items

1. **Delinquent Utility Bills** – **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** stated they were up a few hundred dollars this time because we had more extensions than normal.
2. **Extension List** – None
3. **Bad Debts** – None
4. **Water Losses** – **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** said they are working on it.
5. **SEWER INFILTRATION AND INFLOW** – **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** said they've fixed several of them but haven't run any smoke tests lately.
6. **Ray Dickens Fish Fry for the Sr. Citizens (October 3, 2025)** – **Commissioner Pettis** asked how it would be advertised, **City Manager Michael Gortman** said it

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would be advertised on Facebook and by flyers. Tom Wynn said he would advertise it in the Wewa News as week.

7. Overtime Report broken down by pay periods – None

8. Employee Water/Sewer License Testing – City Manager Michael Gortman provided updates:

- Blake Gilmore – Water working on water
- Kyle Whitfield – Water – passed his water test, recommended pay increase.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** made motion to approve a \$5.00 per hour pay increase for Kyle Whitfield. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Paul asked if we give \$5 per hour increases for each license? **City Manager Michael Gortman** explained that the first one was \$5.00 and any additional ones were \$1.00 per hour more.

9. Senior Building – City Parks and Rec Director David Paul stated the first week of October they will be starting on the air conditioning rooms. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher asked if they have what they need from the contractors? City Parks and Rec Director David Paul said yes.

Commissioner Paul stated that Sammy Bailey mentioned that when they were coming in and out of the back room it was dark and asked **City Parks and Rec Director David Paul** if there were lights out there? **City Parks and Rec Director David Paul** stated there are lights but they might be blown, so he will have them checked.

10. Cemetery Committee & Buckhorn Decorative Fencing – Bro. Derek discussed a letter that he is drafting to help raise money that he'd like to send out to businesses, churches, and funeral homes in our area.

11. TL James Ballfield Lights – City Manager Michael Gortman stated demo will be starting October 13th, the park will be closed from the pickle balls courts back. The t-ball will still be open. Lights should start going up in November.

Other Comments

City Attorney Michelle Jordan – None

City Manager Michael Gortman – **City Manager Michael Gortman** presented the county interlocal agreement for road bond. **Mayor Pro Tem Fisher** asked **City Attorney**

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Michelle Jordan if she had reviewed it. She stated that she hadn't received it yet. **City Manager Michael Gortman** provided her a copy for review.

While **City Attorney Michelle Jordan** reviewed the agreement, **City Manager Michael Gortman** discussed the playground equipment grant application for Lake Alice Park.

He presented a picture of the proposed equipment and stated that playground is \$123,000.00. The guy with the company is working on quote for the playground and shipping, and that if there is any money left over he can add free standing monkey bars. Grant money can't used for installation. We're going to have to put it up or get extra money to put it up. Installation is about 30% of the cost of project. **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated if we do the installation it will probably take a year.

Commissioner Pettis stated he thought we should let them install it, it would only take them a couple of weeks versus it taking us months to a year.

City Clerk Rachel Jackson stated that it might be possible to borrow the necessary money for installation of the playground along with the money to pay Kenny Strange Electric for the work on the ballfield lights at T.L. James Park. **Commissioner Pettis** and **Commissioner Paul** both expressed support for that idea.

Mayor Pro Tem Fisher stated that it would not be an easy task for the city to install it. Additionally, he asked for further explanation of the match funding. **City Manager Michael Gortman** explained that we budgeted \$75,000 and they will match with a grant of \$75,000, giving us a total of \$150,000 to spend for equipment and shipping.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fisher asked if a decision was needed tonight about installation? **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated no not tonight, we would not be able to do anything until after October 1st. He explained he just wanted to show them proposed playground and go over the process. He stated he will have numbers by next month.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fisher asked City Manager Michael Gortman what else he needed to discuss? **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated that he only needed to go back to the road bond for discussion.

City Attorney Michelle Jordan asked **Gulf County Commissioner Jack Husband** if they had gotten an opinion from their bond council? **Gulf County Commissioner Jack Husband** stated yes, they had gotten an opinion from the bond council. **City Attorney Michelle Jordan** also stated the interlocal agreement shows that the county pledged to spend the equivalent of 10% of the new money, will that be coming from the bond money or would that be pulled from somewhere else in the county budget? **Gulf County Commissioner Jacks Husband** stated he was not sure about that, but this is about the 7th or 8th time we have done this with the city and it's the same interlocal agreement.

Gulf County Commissioner Jack Husband stated that the City of Port St. Joe didn't join road bond, he stated he would love for the City of Wewa to join the road bond with Gulf County, so if you don't vote to approve this interlocal agreement, please go ahead

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and vote to join road bond with the County. Since the City of Port St. Joe voted not to join and unless they vote again in the next few days to join, the county will have to send a different interlocal agreement to the City of Wewa anyway.

Commissioner Husband went on to explain that everything will remain the same through 2031, in 2032 about \$40,000 a year will start coming in monthly installments directly to the City of Wewa, the City can hold the money in an account until the end of the year and then pay it to Gulf County and we will put it in the bond.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fisher asked **City Attorney Michelle Jordan** for her opinion. She stated either way is fine, you can vote to join the road bond, or you can go ahead and approve this interlocal and just do an amendment later if necessary.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** voted to approve the interlocal road bond agreement, and amend it at a later date if needed. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Gulf County Commissioner Jack Husband asked about the waste water interlocal agreement. **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated that everyone wanted the whole board to be there to vote on that, but we will try to get a special meeting scheduled for next week.

City Superintendent Chipper Wade – None

City Parks & Rec Director David Paul - None

Sheriff Mike Harrison – provided a monthly update stating there were 482 calls county wide, 82 in city, which is 18% of all calls. There were 60 traffic stops.

Sheriff Harrison discussed the cost to the sheriff's office for new deputies and explained the increase to the budget request for 2025 – 2026, he also and thanked the board for approving the increase.

Commissioner Cox asked **Sheriff Harrison** to be listening out for those vehicles with loud exhausts. **Sheriff Harrison** stated between those and the loud motorcycles they are a challenge. **Commissioner Cox** stated if the sheriff could put someone out to listen when the school traffic comes out, they could catch them.

Sheriff Harrison also discussed the LEAP program and stated that starting October 1, 2025 there would be 3 attending that are from Wewa.

Engineer Jack Husband – discussed the grant projects stating that waste water is out to bid and so far has had good response, storm sewer plans are at 98% completion, and presented pay request 3 from 850 Construction for the waterline project for \$99,892.38.

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City Superintendent Chipper Wade, stated that they are going to owe the city back for parts and a pump, because they don't have them. **City Engineer Jack Husband** asked him to keep a list, and he will make sure the city is paid back for it.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve 850 Constructions Pay Request 3 for 99,892.38 on the water line project. **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Engineer Husband also stated that the 3 grant applications that had been discussed previously had been submitted. They were for about \$9,000,000 total so we will wait to see if we get any of them.

City Manager Michael Gortman stated that he saw that we did not get awarded the SCOP grant. **City Engineer Jack Husband** stated they are really hard to get because there are so little funds available, but we will keep applying and it might help if the county can help by submitting some of the City's roads.

City Finance Director Brittney Proctor – stated that we just finished budget and will have a line item budget adjustment or slight amendment next month.

City Finance Clerk Misty Robbins – None

City Clerk Rachel Jackson – discussed the upcoming CD's maturity date of October 12th and the interest rates and asked what the board would like to do? **City Finance Director Brittney Proctor** also discussed a suggestion from the auditors to look into that is available for investment only by municipalities as an option. **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** suggested going ahead and renewing the CD's for now for 3 months, other than 1 for 12 months to borrow against if necessary, and that would allow time for **Finance Director Brittney Proctor** to find out if the investment opportunity would be better for the city than the CD's.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to renew 1-\$250,000 CD for 12 months, at 2.75% in case the city needs to borrow against it, 2-\$250,000 CD's for 3 months at 3.5%, and 1-\$100,000 CD for 3 months at 3.5%. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Gulf County Commissioners – None

Mayor/Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Cox presented and discussed 3 equipment quotes for the fire truck, two from NAFECO (Quotes Q5925082522846 & Q990825082703167) and one from Ten-8 Fire (Quote 231056599). He stated this would come from the 2025-2026 appropriations and he would like to request approval of them to purchase the equipment for the new fire truck.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve purchase of the equipment for the new fire truck from the two NAFECO quotes (Quotes Q5925082522846

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& Q990825082703167) and the quote from Ten-8 Fire (Quote 231056599) through the 2025-2026 appropriations. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Cox stated that he has the new fire truck outside and will let everyone look at it after the meeting.

Commissioner Paul – stated he would like Amanda speak first because she had to step out during the public recognition.

Amanda Lake thanked the board for the opportunity put on the rodeo, she stated it was a huge success and also thanked **City Parks & Rec Director David Paul** for all of his and the crews work and assistance.

She stated that were 572 tickets pre-sold online and that there were about 1,800 purchased at the gate.

She asked for permission to do it again in the future and to be added to the agenda for next month to discuss having another rodeo. **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** stated she would add that to the agenda items for October's meeting.

Commissioner Paul asked **City Manager Michael Gortman** if he had spoke with Teal Timber about the property for additional parking at TL James Park. City Manager Gortman stated he got an initial call from the Teal representative, and he stated they would be interested in selling property to the city. **City Manager Gortman** stated he has sent two follow-up emails, but hasn't heard anything yet. He will try to reach out again.

Commissioner Pettis – None

Mayor Pro-Tem Fisher – None

Adjournment

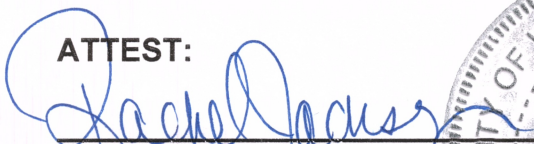
Commissioner Pettis made a motion to adjourn at 6:55pm. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA



By Phillip Gaslin, Mayor / Pro Tem

ATTEST:


Rachel Jackson, City Clerk