

**CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA  
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS  
SENIOR CITIZEN BUILDING  
314 N 3<sup>rd</sup> STREET  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 30, 2023  
6:00 PM**

The City Commission met on this date, March 30, 2023 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, 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

**Public**

Tom Wynn  
Chris Wynn  
Royce Watkins  
Jack Husband  
Hunter Baumgardner  
David Buzier  
Eddie Fields  
Desiree Wiley  
David Brown  
Wendy Weitzel

**Attorney**

Michelle Jordan (Via Phone)

**City Manager**

Michael Gortman

**City Clerk**

Rachel Jackson

**City Finance Director**

Brittney Proctor

**City Superintendent**

Chipper Wade

**City Parks & Rec Director**

David Paul

**City Finance Clerk**

Misty Robbins

**City Utility Billing Clerk**

Jennifer Wright

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

**Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve Regular Commission Meeting 2/23/2023 and Special Meeting 3/14/2023 minutes. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

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Public Recognition

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### Public Recognition

**Royce Watkins** resident on Corn Griffin St. stated the ditches were graded as they were supposed to be, the grader uncovered a drain that had been covered up previously. Stated the city may need to get it repaired so that it will continue to drain properly.

**Mayor Gaskin** instructed **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** to check on it.

**Mr. Watkins** then stated that he and **Commissioner Fisher** were talking a couple of weeks ago and had an idea about getting milled asphalt on Corn Griffin St a little along. Discussion followed regarding getting the road paved eventually, head walls, drainage pipes into the river.

**Mayor Gaskin** asked if there was anyone else in the public that would like to speak.

**Desiree Wiley** spoke about vehicles speeding where there is no stop sign at Pine Ave and River Rd. **Commissioner Fisher** said that we need to put flashing signs up to help slow them down. **Commissioner Paul** requested that **City Manager Michael Gortman** pass the word onto the Sheriff as well.

**Mayor Gaskin** asked if there was anyone else that would like to speak.

**Eddie Fields**, director of the Gulf County Senior Citizen Center, provided an update on the senior citizen program and thanked everyone for all of the work the city has been done to the senior center.

**Tom Wynn** asked if the Friends of the Library could hire someone to clean the library. Following discussion, the board instructed **City Attorney Michelle Jordan** to draft a contract to allow them to hire someone to clean it.

### Agenda

**1. Comprehensive Plan** – **City Engineer Jack Husband** stated **Mayor Gaskin** had two changes, the first on page 21 on the housing element objective #7, and on page 55 regarding the county versus the city, additionally the drainage requirements on page 57 were changed.

**Engineer Husband** stated the next steps are to advertise a planning board meeting to review the comp plan. **Ray Greer** will provide the noticing requirements to advertise to **City Manager Michael Gortman**.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Fisher** made a motion to allow **City Manager Michael Gortman** to advertise the notice for the comprehensive plan review meeting. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

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**Approval of Bills**  
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**Approval of Bills**

**1. Fisher's** – Following review, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve payment of Fisher's Building Supply invoices (\$1,498.02) **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0, with **Commissioner Fisher** abstaining, due to conflict of interest.

**2. Charlie Pettis Pest Services** – **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve payment of Charlie Pettis Pest Services invoice (\$90.00) **Commissioners Paul & Fisher** simultaneously seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0, with **Commissioner Pettis** abstaining due to conflict of interest.

**3. Wewa Outdoors** – **Commissioner Fisher** made a motion to approve payment of Wewa Outdoors bills (\$385.81) **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0, with **Commissioner Paul** abstaining due to conflict of interest.

**4. Regular Bills** – Following review, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve payment of the regular (\$63,365.37), reoccurring (\$63,180.69), and additional bills (\$41,303.80), **Commissioner Cox** 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 she had no update at this time.

**City Clerk Rachel Jackson** requested permission to draft an extension letter to FEMA due to the ongoing litigation, as it does not appear that construction will be completed by the upcoming October 2023 deadline. Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to allow **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** to submit an extension request for an additional 3 years. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**2. Delinquent Utility Bills - None**

**3. Water Losses - None**

**4. SEWER INFILTRATION AND INFLOW - None**

**5. Ray Dickens Fish Fry for the Sr. Citizens (October 6, 2023) – None**

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Old Business/Open Items cont'd...

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6. **Lift Station – City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner** stated they are making more progress on LS# 3 and are working on punch list items to finalize, the final completion deadline is May 1, 2023 and there should be no issues meeting deadline as it is already substantially complete.
7. **Overtime Report broken down by pay periods - None**
8. **County LDR – City Engineer Jack Husband** stated once the comprehensive plan is completed we can move forward with LDR's.
9. **Employee Water/Sewer License Testing – City Manager Michael Gortman** stated Kyle just got his books, waiting on Blakes, and David Paul is waiting on the test to be scheduled.
10. **Senior Building – Eddie Fields** asked about the sign that they were going to get replaced. **Mr. Fields** asked about getting a storage shed and also stated that **Gene Hanlon** is now on their board.
11. **Cemetery Committee & Buckhorn Decorative Fencing – None**

### Other Comments

**City Attorney Michelle Jordan** - None

**City Manager Michael Gortman – City Manager Michael Gortman** stated the transfer switch at the sewer plant was hit by lightning, the generator company came to replace it and found that the wires were burnt and they need to replace entire switch. Insurance should cover it, but it is \$26,195.00. Following discussion **Mayor Gaskin** asked **Commissioner Fisher** to look at it before they approve it.

**City Manager Gortman** stated that fireworks went up from \$15,500 to \$16,500. The county will pay \$10,000. **Commissioner Fisher** stated he will talk to a county commissioner to see if we can get another \$1,000.00.

Following discussion **Commissioner Fisher** made a motion to pay the deposit and sign the contract for the fireworks. **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**City Manager Michael Gortman** stated that **City Finance Director Brittney Proctor** is having to leave us, we would like her to stay on remotely until at least the end of budget. Following discussion **Commissioner Fisher** made a motion to allow her to go remote

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Other Comments cont'd...

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until the end of budget, September 30, 2023. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**City Superintendent Chipper Wade** - None

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

**City Engineer Jack Husband** – Stated the SCOP road grant has been submitted.

**City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner** – stated the permits are back for the waterline project, the preliminary bid documents and bid tab are finished and will be ready for review. DEO will require an environmental review prior to bidding project.

On the waste water grant, 95% of report of the report is complete, there are about 24 manholes that were sealed, **Engineer Baumgardner** stated he sent a list over to **City Manager Michael Gortman** to see if they can get them unsealed to see inside.

On the storm water grant they are trying to narrow down problem areas during the rain events, and **Engineer Jack Husband** contacted DOT to see if there was someone who has plans on the stormwater system.

**Finance Director Brittney Proctor** – None

**Finance Clerk Misty Robbins** – None

**City Clerk Rachel Jackson** – None

**Utility Billing Clerk Jennifer Wright** – None

### Mayor/Commissioners' Comments

**Commissioner Cox** – Asked if the first travel trailer on left on Canning drive has water and sewer? **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated it has water not sewer and he has contacted the Dept of Health regarding the sewer. **Commissioner Cox** also stated there is a van parked on city right of way. **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated he will take care of it.

**Commissioner Cox** stated the Laurel Drive right of way is filled with camper, vehicle, and junk that need to be removed. **City Manager Michael Gortman** will take care of it.

**Commissioner Paul** – Stated the Apalachee regional planning council met and discussed the regional rural transportation plan and they are wanting to move it to counties over here. **Commissioner Paul** asked **Engineer Jack Husband** if he was

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**Mayor/Commissioners' Comments cont'd...**

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familiar with the plan? **Engineer Husband** said he knew a little about it and as their board grows they are trying to move over toward the panhandle.

**Commissioner Pettis** – None

**Commissioner Fisher** – Requested **City Manager Michael Gortman** call the state and get them to move city limits sign at the West Arm Bridge.

**Commissioner Fisher** stated he had an employee come to him about a pay raise. **Commissioner Fisher** feels that employees need to go through **City Manager Michael Gortman** or **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** if they need to come to the board.

**Mayor Gaskin** – None

**Adjournment**

**Commissioner Paul** made a motion to adjourn at 7:05 pm. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA**

  
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**Ralph Fisher, Mayor Pro-Tem**

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Rachel Jackson, City Clerk**

