

**CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
SENIOR CITIZEN BUILDING
314 N 3rd STREET
REGULAR MEETING
January 25, 2024
6:00 PM**

The City Commission met on this date January 25, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at the Senior Citizen Building, 314 N. 3rd 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 Brian Cox
Commissioner Johnny Paul
Commissioners Charlie Pettis

City Manager

Michael Gortman

City Attorney

Michelle Jordan (via phone)

City Superintendent

Chipper Wade

City Clerk

Rachel Jackson

City Finance Director

Brittney Proctor (via phone)

City Finance Clerk

Misty Robbins

Sheriff

Chris Buchanan

Public

Ann Johnson
Mary Jones
Jack Husband
Hunter Baumgardner
Tom Wynn
Christine Parr
Ada McLawhon
Justin Barnes
Carol Childers
Billy Childers
Chris Wynn
Catherine Lee
David Lee
Betty Jo Cooper
Cindy Dunn

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 Paul made a motion to approve Regular Meeting 1/4/24, Special Meeting 1/9/24, and Workshop 1/9/24 minutes. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0

Public Recognition

Mayor Gaskin asked if there was anyone if the public who would like to speak. **Mary Jones** introduced herself and stated she was here on behalf of Friends of the Library to report on 2023. **Ms. Jones** gave an update of the statistics during October 2023 at the library including 9 children's library programs that were offered, the increases in items borrowed (17%), patron visits (19%), and cardholders (22%), and additional services provided such as notary services and tax preparation services. Following the update, **Ms.**

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Public Recognition cont'd....

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Jones requested the city donate \$500.00 to the library to assist with expenses such as cleaning and maintaining the building. Following discussion **Commissioner Fisher** made a motion to donate the \$500.00 to the library, to be funded through the repair and maintenance health budget. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Gaskin asked if anyone else had anything. **Mrs. Ann Johnson** presented and discussed membership packets for the historical society. **Mrs. Johnson** discussed projects that are ongoing, including preserving the Old Courthouse and the Iola Cemetery, and stated that the historical society really needs more volunteers and encouraged everyone to consider joining.

Mayor Gaskin asked if anyone else had anything to discuss. **Betty Jo Cooper**, residing at Homewood Circle introduced herself and discussed issues that they are having with thru traffic on Homewood Circle. She stated that there were problems with trash being dumped and drugs. **Mrs. Cooper** requested the city temporarily shut down the thru traffic on Homewood Circle.

Mayor Gaskin thanked her for speaking and told her that **Justin Barnes with Gulf Coast Electric** was on the agenda and that topic would be discussed next.

Agenda

1. **Gulf Coast Electric-Justin Barnes** – **Mr. Barnes** stated they purchased the old Dixie Dandy property to use for warehousing. **Mr. Barnes** stated that currently Homewood Circle separates the main office and the newly purchased property. He requested that the City allow Gulf Coast Electric to take ownership of that portion of Homewood Circle, roughly 600 ft from the south end of their headquarter property line back to Hwy 22. **Mr. Barnes** proposed that Gulf Coast Electric could build a new Homewood Circle connection to Hwy 22.

Mayor Gaskin said to close the road you would have to get the engineer involved and get all property owners to sign off on the closure.

Engineer Husband suggested that if the City agrees to the proposed plan the City should get an easement from the existing road to Hwy 22 for utilities.

Additional discussion followed regarding having Gulf Coast Electric help with the TL James ballfield light poles and running underground utilities in lieu of putting in a connection road.

Following discussion, the board stated they would be in support of allowing Gulf Coast Electric to take ownership of the portion of Homewood Circle, provided they get permission from all adjoining property owners and FDOT permitting requirements are met.

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Approval of Bills....

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Approval of Bills

1. **Fisher's** – Following review, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve payment of Fisher's Building Supply bills (\$908.00). **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 Fisher** made a motion to approve payment of Charlie Pettis Pest Control invoice (\$90.00) **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion 4-0, with **Commissioner Pettis** abstaining due to conflict of interest.
3. **Wewa Outdoors** – Following review, **Commissioner Cox** made motion to approve payment of Wewa Outdoors invoice (\$279.00). **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0, with **Commissioner Paul** abstaining due to conflict of interest.
4. **Regular Bills** – Following review of the bills, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve payment of the regular (10,026.18) re-occurring (\$62,129.23), and additional bills (\$36,948.84) **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

Engineer Baumgardner said they are working bid docs may need workshop mid February to be able to go over the details in order to be ready to present the plans at the February regular meeting.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to hold a workshop on the fire station for February 15, 2024 @ 5:30 pm at the Senior Building. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

2. **Delinquent Utility Bills** – **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** explained that the delinquent utility bills were higher than usual because the meeting is earlier than normal and there were more extensions and promissory notes.
3. **Water Losses** – **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** stated they are continuing work on them.

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Old Business/Open Items cont'd....

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4. **SEWER INFILTRATION AND INFLOW** – the board discussed smoke testing to continue and instructed **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** to put a notification on the City sign.

5. **Ray Dickens Fish Fry for the Sr. Citizens (October 4, 2024)** – None

6. **Lift Station** – **Engineer Baumgardner** stated they started on lift station #4 and presented pay request #1 from North Florida Construction for lift station #4 for materials, bonds, and mobilizations.

Following review of the pay request, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve payment of pay request #1 for lift station #4 from North Florida Construction for \$158,030.21 from ARPA funds. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

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

8. **LDR's** – **City Engineer Jack Husband** stated the next step is getting an ordinance ready and get it approved by the board.

Engineer Husband also stated that Kyle had asked him to about the maintenance of the ditch that goes to Parker Street. **Mayor Gaskin** stated it belongs to the county. **Engineer Husband** said he was not aware of that, but that they would take care of it now that he knows.

9. **Employee Water/Sewer License Testing** – None

- Kyle Whitfield –
- David Paul –
- Blake Gilmore –.

10. **Senior Building** –. None

11. **Cemetery Committee & Buckhorn Decorative Fencing** – **Mayor Gaskin** directed **City Manager Michael Gortman** to call Bro Derick to see if he is able to attend next meeting to provide an update.

Other Comments

City Attorney Michelle Jordan – None

City Manager Michael Gortman – None

City Superintendent Chipper Wade – None

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Other Comments cont'd....

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Captain Chris Buchanan (GCSO) – None

City Finance Director Brittney Proctor – None

City Finance Clerk Misty Robbins – None

City Clerk Rachel Jackson – Stated at the last meeting **Commissioner Cox** requested that we look into getting the screen repaired on the fuel pump, we received a quote from Phelps for \$622.00 and are getting it replaced.

Mayor/Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Cox – None

Commissioner Paul – asked about an update on the Jehu water lines project. **Engineer Baumgardner** explained that we are still waiting for the state on the environmental review.

Commissioner Pettis – None

Commissioner Fisher – None

Mayor Gaskin – None

Additional Comments

Tom Wynn stated that Mrs. Vera and Mrs. Era are having their 100th Birthday. It will be February 8th at 11:00 at the Senior Building, and all are invited to attend.

Adjournment

Commissioner Pettis made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 pm. **Commissioner Fisher** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0

CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA



Phillip Gaskin, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rachel Jackson, City Clerk

