

**CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA  
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS  
Senior/Community Building  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 29, 2024  
6:00 PM**

The City Commission met on this date October 29, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at the Wewahitchka Senior/Community 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 Gaskin  
Commissioner Fisher  
Commissioner Paul  
Commissioner Pettis  
Commissioner Cox

**City Manager**

Michael Gortman

**City Clerk**

Rachel Jackson

**City Attorney**

Michelle Jordan (VIA VIDEO CONF)

**City Superintendent**

Chipper Wade

**City Parks & Rec Director**

David Paul

**City Finance Director**

Brittney Proctor (VIA VIDEO CONF)

**City Finance Clerk**

Misty Robbins

**City Engineer-SCE**

Hunter Baumgardner

Jack Husband

**Sheriff's Office**

**Public**

Ann Johnson  
Troy Rowe  
Jo Ellen Campbell  
Tom Wynn  
Chris Wynn  
Harvey Campbell  
Charles Johnson  
Melissa/Joe Rizzo  
Sammy Bailey  
Dave Hodsdon  
James Randall

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

After review, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve 9.25.24 Regular Meeting minutes. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**Public Recognition**

**Sammy Bailey** – Formally requested that the Gulf County Cattlemen's Association to allowed to use the TL James Horses Arena and facilities to hold monthly and quarterly meetings. In doing so, they would assist in the maintenance of the facility including

## REGULAR MEETING

October 29, 2024 @ 6:00 pm

Public Recognition cont'd...

Page 2

providing labor for keeping it in good order.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Fisher** made a motion to allow the Gulf County Cattlemen's Association to use and help maintain the facility. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**Ann Johnson** – stated the historical society is having a meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30, they will be having James Hand speaking about growing up in Iola, everyone is invited to attend

**Mrs. Johnson** stated that she will be getting back to working on the bricks and will get them finished soon.

**Mrs. Johnson** also stated they are going to try to do Christmas at the Courthouse again after the parade. She asked if City can help with garbage cans? The board agreed to help with them.

### Agenda

**1. Parker Street Drainage Ditch – City Manager Michael Gortman** stated there is an issue with the parker street drainage ditch backing up every time it rains due to beaver dam and we have been unable to find easement to it. The resident who owns the property by the ditch will not allow the county or city a maintenance agreement/easement in order to maintain it. **City Attorney Michelle Jordan** advised that the City not do work on the property without the proper paperwork.

**City Engineer Jack Husband** suggested that he research a more permanent fix by re-routing the ditch so that it would not even go through that resident's property.

Following discussion, the board agreed with **County Commissioner Husband** to research a more permanent fix by re-routing ditch.

**2. Resolution 2024-1211R - FDOT Traffic Maintenance Agreement Signature Authority – City Clerk Rachel Jackson** explained that FDOT had new contract numbers this year and requested an updated resolution authorizing signature authority on the traffic maintenance agreement. Following review, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-1211R. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

### Approval of Bills

**1. Fisher's Building Supply –** Following review, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve payment of Fisher's Building Supply bills (\$694.16) **Commissioner Paul** 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**

## REGULAR MEETING

October 29, 2024 @ 6:00 pm

Approval of Bills cont'd...

Page 3

Fisher seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0, **Commissioner Pettis** abstaining due to conflict of interest.

3. **Wewa Outdoors** – Following review, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve payment of Wewa Outdoors bills (9.24 YE \$129.97 & 10.24 \$218.00) **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0, with **Commissioner Paul** abstaining due to conflict of interest.
4. **Cox Transmission** – Following review, **Commissioner Fisher** made a motion to approve payment of Cox Transmission invoice (\$372.22) **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0, with **Commissioner Cox** abstaining due to conflict of interest.
5. **Regular Bills** – Following review and discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve payment of the regular bills (\$85,164.00), re-occurring bills (\$329,632.80) and 2023-2024 YE bills (\$30,397.78), **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)

**MONOLITH CONSTRUCTION:**

**SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION DATE-2.26.2025 FINAL PAYMENT DATE-4.2.2025**

**City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner** provided an update on the fire station and presented pay request #4 for \$182,189.94 for Monolith Construction.

Following review and discussion **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve Monolith Construction's Pay Request #4 (\$182,189.94). **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

2. **Delinquent Utility Bills** – **Mayor Gaskin** stated they are down about \$1,300.00
3. **Water Losses** – **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** stated they working on them regularly.
4. **SEWER INFILTRATION AND INFLOW** – **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** stated they are working on it
5. **Ray Dickens Fish Fry for the Sr. Citizens (October 4, 2024)** – missed because of weather rescheduled for Friday November 8<sup>th</sup>.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**October 29, 2024 @ 6:00 pm**

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

**Page 4**

**6. Lift Station** – City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner stated we can remove from open items since everything is complete. Mayor Gaskin instructed SCE to provide printed copy of as built on lift station 4.

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

**8. Employee Water/Sewer License Testing** – City Manager Michael Gortman stated

- Kyle Whitfield – Water – Kyle is working on his water tests
- Blake Gilmore – Sewer waiting to hear back from Florida rural water about seeing another sewer plant

**9. Senior Building** – Mayor Gaskin asked if we got the new lease agreement in place. City Attorney Michelle Jordan stated she drafted it and City Clerk Rachel Jackson confirmed it has been executed and is on file.

**10. Cemetery Committee & Buckhorn Decorative Fencing** – Commissioner Fisher stated he and City Superintendent Chipper Wade looked at it what he would like to pull out and not sale. The piece is about 92' wide x 100' long. Commissioner Fisher stated it's possible it could be cut down, but he wants to discuss with Bro. Derrick Gerber and Bro. Joey Smith first, as well as go to Apalachicola with City Superintendent Chipper Wade.

**Other Comments**

**City Attorney Michelle Jordan** – None

**City Manager Michael Gortman** – discussed changing rates for bulk water use.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to changes the bulk water usage rates to \$50.00 per thousand. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**City Manager Michael Gortman** requested the board allow him to go out for RFQ for consultants for the Triumph funds.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to allow **City Manager Michael Gortman** to advertise an RFQ for consultants on the Triumph funding. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**City Superintendent Chipper Wade** – None

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

**REGULAR MEETING**

**October 29, 2024 @ 6:00 pm**

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

**Page 5**

**City Engineers – Engineer Hunter Baumgardner** stated he has the cost estimate and all bid documents ready for Florida Commerce review, and hoped to be out to bid in a couple of weeks

On the Waste Water and Storm Sewer projects we have the designs ready and are in permitting, not expecting permitting to take too long. We have timelines from Florida Commerce to receive the Authority to Use Grant Funds by December 4<sup>th</sup>.

**City Finance Director Brittney Proctor** – Should have amendment ready in about weeks for review.

**City Clerk Rachel Jackson** – asked about changing the date of the November meeting due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

**Commissioner Paul** made a motion to change the November meeting to the 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**City Finance Clerk Misty Robbins** – None

**Mayor/Commissioners' Comments**

**Commissioner Cox** – asked **City Manager Michael Gortman** about a spreadsheet for fire hydrant maintenance. **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated he is working on it.

**Commissioner Paul** – None

**Commissioner Pettis** – None

**Commissioner Fisher** – None

**Mayor Gaskin** – None

**Adjournment**

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

**CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA**



**Phillip Gaskin, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

  
**Rachel Jackson, City Clerk**