

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

The City Commission met on this date April 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, asked **Sheriff Harrison** to lead a prayer, and everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

Mayor Gaskin
Commissioner Fisher
Commissioner Paul
Commissioner Pettis

City Manager

Michael Gortman (entered late)

City Clerk

Rachel Jackson

City Finance Director

Brittney Proctor (VIA PHONE)

City Finance Clerk

Misty Robbins

Sheriff

Mike Harrison

Public

Ann Johnson
Gene Hanlon
Michael Hammond (County Administrator)
Chris Wynn
Tom Wynn
Jack Husband
Cindy Dunn
Catherine Lee
Clay Murphy
Sandy Partridge
Hunter Baumgardner

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Pettis made a motion to approve the agenda. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Minutes

Following review, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve Regular Meeting 3/28/24 minutes. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Recognition

Mrs. Ann Johnson stated that the Historical Society and Friends of the Library have started planning for the Centennial that is coming up, they will be working with the city, county, and TDC. **Mrs. Johnson** stated they will be requesting some money to help with the booths and historical projects. The centennial will be coming up on June 7, 2025.

Catherine Lee president of Friends of Library presented and discussed the quarterly report, highlighting the programs and attendance, including free to the community tax preparation.

County Commissioner Jack Husband provided updates on the county commission items including the pickle ball courts, Court Street re-pavement, and the reflectors on Old Dairy Farm Rd. **County Commissioner Husband** also stated that he spoke to Rebecca

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Public Recognition cont'd....

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Perry about providing access to the park from the conservation easement. **County Commissioner Husband** stated he asked **County Administrator Michael Hammond** to come and discuss the BP money in more detail.

Mayor Gaskin stated that we were under the impression that the county was going to take care of getting the money and provide the city with our part. **County Administrator Michael Hammond** stated it has changed a lot over the last 14 years. He explained that the state and federal agencies have become involved and have changed the requirements to receive the funds. He discussed the projects that they have gotten money from.

County Administrator Hammond explained that the City will likely need to hire a consultant in order to receive the funds that it's entitled to. **County Administrator Hammond** stated the city should receive approximately \$2,000,000.00 in 2026, provided the city applies for the funds and has environmentally related projects, such as water or sewer projects to use the funds on. **Mayor Gaskin** asked if **County Administrator Hammond** could recommend a consultant, **Administrator Hammond** stated that the county used Chris Guris out of Mississippi is the county consultant, and has been very satisfied with his work. He will leave his contact information.

Commissioner Fisher said it didn't turn out like the senator said that it would. **Administrator Hammond** stated he agreed, it did not turn out as it was originally stated and it never flowed directly to the county as was originally intended. **Commissioner Fisher** asked about match requirements. **Administrator Hammond** stated that as he understands it you don't have to meet match requirements, but it is on a reimbursement basis, so the city would have to spend the money then request reimbursement for it.

Administrator Hammond stated they are working on getting Saturday hours at the library.

Agenda

1. Ordinance 2024-1229L – Ward I, Ward II Elections (Final reading)

Mayor Gaskin asked **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** to read by title only **Ordinance 2024-1229L**. **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** read **Ordinance 2024-1229L**

NOTICE OF CITY ELECTION ORDINANCE NO. 2024-1229L

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA PROVIDING FOR A CITY ELECTION, PROVIDING FOR QUALIFYING DATES AND A QUALIFYING FEE, DESIGNATING POLLING PLACE(S), AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF ELECTION OFFICERS, STATING WHO MAY VOTE, PROVIDING FOR VOTE BY MAIL BALLOTS, PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A CANVASSING BOARD AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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Following reading, **Commissioner Fisher** made a motion to approve **Ordinance 2024-1229L**. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Ordinance 2024-1230L – LDR's (Final Reading) - Mayor Gaskin asked **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** to read by title only **Ordinance 2024-1230L**. **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** read **Ordinance 2024-1230L**

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-1230L

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA, FLORIDA, REPEALING EXISTING LAND USE REGULATIONS AND ADOPTING NEW LAND USE REGULATIONS FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF NOTICE AND PUBLIC HEARING; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF PRIOR INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Following reading, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve **Ordinance 2024-1230L**. **Commissioner Fisher** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Bills

1. Fisher's Building Supply – Following review, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve payment of Fisher's Building Supply bills (\$1,667.48) **Commissioner Pettis** 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 payment of Charlie Pettis Pest Services invoice (\$90.00). **Commissioner Fisher** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0, with **Commissioner Pettis** abstaining due to conflict of interest.

3. Wewa Outdoors – Following review, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve payment of Wewa Outdoors bills (\$152.48) **Commissioner Fisher** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0, with **Commissioner Paul** abstaining due to conflict of interest.

4. Regular Bills – Following review and discussion, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve payment of the regular bills (\$86,281.93) re-occurring bills (\$50,542.37) and additional bills (\$44,847.82) **Commissioner Pettis** 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)

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(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

Mayor Gaskin asked when those bids will be in. **City Engineer Jack Husband** stated bids are due tomorrow at City Hall.

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 4, 2024)** – None
6. **Lift Station** – **City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner** provided an update on LS # 4, stating that it is ahead of schedule, substantial completion is June 2nd.
7. **Overtime Report broken down by pay periods** – None
8. **LDR's** – **City Engineer Jack Husband** said he will see what has to be sent to the state and that should finalize the LDR's.
9. **Employee Water/Sewer License Testing** – **City Manager Michael Gortman** provided updates on the employee water/sewer license testing:
 - Kyle Whitfield – told him he has to start turning in his tests
 - David Paul – has to redo his courses
 - Blake Gilmore –has sent in 2 tests
10. **Senior Building** – None
11. **Cemetery Committee & Buckhorn Decorative Fencing** – **City Manager Michael Gortman** said **Chipper** has it flagged. **Commissioner Fisher** said he will ride up tomorrow and look at it.

Other Comments

City Manager Michael Gortman – None

Sheriff Mike Harrison – None

City Engineers – **Engineer Hunter Baumgardner** provided updates on water line project, got all environmental review comments turned back into Florida Commerce.

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Engineer Baumgardner stated we need to have a workshop to narrow down project locations on the storm water project.

Engineer Baumgardner stated they have received the CAD file back on the waste water project. Should be getting signed and sealed survey very soon and can begin the environmental review.

Engineer Clay Murphy presented an updated plan for Dairy Farm Estates and preliminary plan approval.

Following review, **Commissioner Fisher** made a motion to approve the preliminary plan.

Commissioner Paul seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

City Finance Clerk Misty Robbins – None

City Finance Director Brittney Proctor – None

Mayor Gaskin stated he'd like to hold a budget workshop. Budget Workshop scheduled immediately following after the fire station bid opening special meeting, May 2, 2024 @ 5:30 pm.

City Clerk Rachel Jackson – presented and discussed an email received from the Gulf County Citizens Coalition for a Healthy Future. The email was in reference to exploratory oil drilling that has been proposed in the Apalachicola River Basin, 10 miles from Wewahitchka. The Coalition opposes the project and requested that the city provide a letter opposing the project as well.

Mayor/Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Paul – stated the Cattlemen's association are wanting to hold an event at the horse arena and discussed repairs that need to be made at the horse arena. Cattlemen's Association said they will paint the fence if the city can provide materials.

Following discussion, the board agreed to provide the materials for the Cattlemen's Association to paint the fence.

Commissioner Pettis – asked if we had found out about Mr. Gene's Jehu lots? Deeds to the lots were discussed and **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated the attorney is working on it.

Commissioner Fisher – Stated at the last meeting, Rebecca Perry asked for letter supporting the conservation easement project. He spoke to City Manager Michael Gortman following the meeting, and he is wanting to see about possibly getting some of the property behind TL James park and he would like to provide that letter of support for the conservation easement project.

Commissioner Fisher stated he would like **County Commissioner Husband** to provide some information about it. **County Commissioner Husband** stated he spoke to Ms.

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Perry following the meeting, and discussed additional property for TL James, an additional park on Hwy 22 and it would allow the County to access their drainage ditches for maintenance purposes as well. She said she would look into it, but **Commissioner Husband** hasn't heard back from her yet.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Fisher** made a motion to provide a letter of support for the conservation easement. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Gaskin – discussed the email from Gulf County Citizens Coalition about the oil exploration.

Following discussion, the board agreed to provide a letter opposing the exploratory oil drilling project.

Adjournment

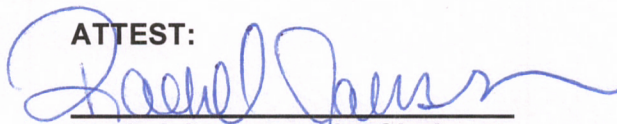
Commissioner Paul made a motion to adjourn at 7:15 pm. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA



Phillip Gaskin, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rachel Jackson, City Clerk

