

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

The City Commission met on this date January 6, 2025 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 Phillip Gaskin
Commissioner Ralph Fisher
Commissioner Johnny Paul
Commissioner Brian Cox

Public

Ann Johnson
Chris Karagiannis
County Commissioner Chris "Spike" McLemore

City Manager

Michael Gortman

City Clerk

Rachel Jackson (VIA VIDEO CONF)

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

Shane Ferrell

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

After review, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve 11.21.24 Regular Meeting minutes. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Recognition

Ann Johnson thanked the City for helping with Christmas at the Courthouse, stated everything went well and they hope to do it again next year.

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Agenda

1. Community/Senior Building Rental Fees – Commissioner Fisher asked about non-profits using the Community/Senior Building without a fee. Discussion followed by the board confirming that non-profits would be allowed to hold meetings for no charge.

After review of the current rates, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to keep the rental rates the same as they currently are. **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Bills

1. Fisher’s Building Supply – Following review, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve Fisher’s Building Supply bills (\$957.42) **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0, with **Commissioner Fisher** abstaining due to conflict of interest.

2. Charlie Pettis Pest Services- Moved to regular bills in **Commissioner Pettis’** absence.

3. Wewa Outdoors – Following review, **Commissioner Fisher** made a motion to approve payment of Wewa Outdoors bills (\$169.98) **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 Paul** made a motion to approve payment of the regular bills (\$99,689.52), re-occurring bills (\$51,787.03) and additional bills (\$30,865.89), and Charlie Pettis Pest Services bill (\$90.00) **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

5. Monthly Budget Update – Mayor Gaskin, stated the board would take the budget updates to review. **Finance Director Brittney Proctor** said to let her know if there were any format changes or anything that anyone would like her to make to the monthly updates.

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 presented and discussed Monolith Construction’s pay request 6 for the fire station project.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve pay request #6 for \$210,111.76. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

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Old Business/Open Items cont'd...

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Chris Karagiannis with Monolith Construction provided an update on the progress at the fire station. **Mr. Karagiannis** stated we are getting very close to completion, has a final inspection with Gulf County Building Department this week, and will still have punch out items and have a walk through with the city to get a list to get accomplished.

City Engineer Hunter Baumgardner presented and discussed Monolith Construction's change order 1. **Engineer Baumgardner** stated it is not a time extension, it is an price increase to the contract amount for \$70,089.92. Change order additions: supply and install washer and dryer, supply and install artic fill station, and tables, chairs, and furniture.

Following discussion, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve Monolith Construction's change order 1. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Delinquent Utility Bills – None

3. Water Losses – City Superintendent Chipper Wade stated they are working on them. The Board instructed **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** to check on water leak in ditch going into waste water plant.

4. SEWER INFILTRATION AND INFLOW – City Superintendent Chipper Wade stated they are working on them.

5. Ray Dickens Fish Fry for the Sr. Citizens (October 3, 2025) - None

6. Overtime Report broken down by pay periods – None

7. Employee Water/Sewer License Testing – City Manager Michael Gortman provided and update:

- Kyle Whitfield – Water – Kyle is working on his books
- Blake Gilmore – Blake is ready to attempt test and will be scheduling that tomorrow.

8. Senior Building – None

9. Cemetery Committee & Buckhorn Decorative Fencing – Commissioner Fisher stated we need to put markers out there.

Other Comments

City Attorney Michelle Jordan - waiting on deed from co-op on land swap, title company had stipulations in order to get title insurance, hopes to have that within a few weeks.

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Discussed FDEM/FEMA holding back funds from the reimbursement requests due to the Winterfell lawsuit settlement. FDEM/FEMA is requiring additional information regarding the settlement to prove that there is no duplication of benefits. The city may receive an invoice from Clark Partington due to the work they had to do to provide information from the settlement.

City Manager Michael Gortman – has been in touch with Justin Barnes about the lights at TL James, it looks like the co-op will cover their labor and about \$100,000. He is supposed to be at the meeting next month and have some numbers for the board to look at.

City Superintendent Chipper Wade – None

City Parks & Rec Director David Paul - None

Engineer Hunter Baumgardner – discussed the SCOP grant and which road/s the board wanted to put on the list. **Engineer Baumgardner** stated that last year Cox Landing Rd was discussed, however it did not score high enough to get funded. We also discussed 2nd Street through Orange Ave, that would score better and have a better chance of being funded. Following discussion, the board agreed to apply for the 2nd Street from River Road to Orange Ave project.

Engineer Baumgardner provided updates on the grant projects. On the waste water project the permit plans are complete and the construction plans for the manholes are in review right now. Should be going out to bid shortly.

Working on revised bid documents for the waterline project and should be out to bid at the end of the month.

We're about 40% complete with the permit and construction plans for the storm sewer project. Anticipating receiving the AUGF within a few weeks on that project.

Sheriff Harrison – None

City Clerk Rachel Jackson – discussed CD's maturing on January 12, 2025 and asked if the board wanted to renew. **Mayor Gaskin** instructed **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** to find out the renewal rates and advise the board.

City Clerk Rachel Jackson stated that the grant writer RFQ documents have been completed and are being advertised.

City Finance Director Brittney Proctor – None

City Finance Clerk Misty Robbins - None

Mayor/Commissioners' Comments
Commissioner Cox – None

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Commissioner Paul – None

Commissioner Fisher – None

Mayor Gaskin – stated he'd like to thank **County Commissioner Jack Husband** and **County Commissioner Spike McLemore** for coming and asked if they had anything to speak about, neither had anything to discuss.

City Manager Michael Gortman - stated he forgot to mention previously Mr. Roy Lee Carter resigned his position on the planning board, we asked Mrs. Ann Johnson if she would like to take his place. The board stated that would be great and agreed for Mrs. Ann Johnson to replace Mr. Carter.

Adjournment

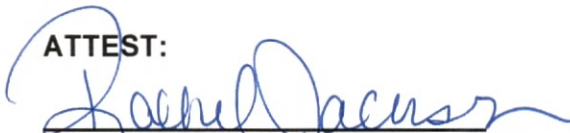
Commissioner Paul made a motion to adjourn at 6:59pm. **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA



Phillip Gaskin, Mayor

ATTEST:


Rachel Jackson, City Clerk