CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA
BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS
Senior/Community Building
REGULAR MEETING
September 24, 2026
6:00 PM

The City Commission met on this date September 24, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. at the Wewahitchka Senior/Community Building, 314 N. 3rd St, Wewahitchka, Florida. **Mayor Gaskin** called the meeting to order, asked **Bro. Derrick Gerber** to lead a prayer, and everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance
Mayor Phillip Gaskin
Commissioner Charlie Pettis
Commissioner Johnny Paul
Commissioner Brian Cox

Public
Jo Ellen Campbell
Harvey Campbell
Derrick Gerber
Jack Husband
Spike McLemore

City Attorney
Michelle Jordan
City Manager
Michael Gortman
City Superintendent
Chipper Wade
City Clerk
Rachel Jackson
City Finance Director
Brittney Proctor *(via video conf)*
City Finance Clerk
Misty Robbins
City Engineers-SCE
Hunter Baumgardner
Gulf County Sheriff's Office
Sergeant Sikes
Senior Program Representative
Renece Gainer

Approval of Agenda
Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the agenda, with the addition of Cox Transmission to bills, **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Minutes
After review, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve Workshop 8.25.26, Regular Meeting 8.27.26 and Budget Hearing 9.15.26. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Agenda Items
1. Resolution 2026-1232R – 2026 Christmas Parade – Mayor Gaskin read resolution 2026-1232R.

Following reading, **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-1232R. **Commissioner Pettis** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Public Recognition

Sheriff Mike Harrison – Stated he had to share some sad news, he stated that a pillar of the community, Mr. Gene Hanlon, passed away. **Mayor Gaskin** asked **Sheriff Harrison** to pray for the family.

Jo Ellen Campbell – asked if there are any updates on the housing development behind Moss Creek apartment? **City Manager Michael Gortman** provided an update, stating that they are moving forward and are supposed to be signing closing papers by the end of the month and are supposed to put 14 duplexes in.

Approval of Bills

1. **Fisher's Building Supply** – Moved to regular bills in Commissioner Fishers absence

2. **Charlie Pettis Pest Services** – Following review, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve Charlie Pettis Pest Services bill ($90.00) **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0, with **Commissioner Pettis** abstaining due to conflict of interest.

3. **Wewa Outdoors** – Following review, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve Wewa Outdoors bills ($209.97). **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0, with **Commissioner Paul** abstaining due to conflict of interest.

4. **Cox Transmission** –Following review, **Commissioner Pettis** made a motion to approve Cox Transmission bill ($4,850.00). **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-0, 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 ($75,626.39), reoccurring bills ($107,318.87), and additional bill ($52,905.72), and Fisher's Building Supply bills ($743.04), **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Old Business/Open Items

1. **Monthly Budget Update – Finance Director Brittney Proctor** doing pretty good, had a few line items that went over but there isn't anything big.

2. **Delinquent Utility Bills** - None

3. **Extension List** - None

4. **Water Losses – City Superintendent Chipper Wade** stated they are working on it

5. **SEWER INFILTRATION AND INFLOW** – None

6. **Overtime Report broken down by pay periods – Mayor Gaskin** asked about the dates on them. **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** stated we will get those corrected.

7. **Employee Water/Sewer License Testing**
   - Blake Gilmore – Water - **City Manager Michael Gortman** stated Blake is ready to schedule his test Monday.

8. **Senior Building – City Manager Michael Gortman** stated we have the no soliciting sign ordered and the other one installed. **Mayor Gaskin** asked about gas stove donation. **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** stated he didn't know. **Mayor Gaskin** asked him to meet with him tomorrow to see about it.

   Mayor Gaskin stated there had been issue with people coming in that should not be at the senior center. He asked **Sheriff Harrison** about having an officer come by to have a meal with the seniors. The board agreed, and **Sheriff Harrison** said he would pass that along.

9. **Cemetery Committee & Buckhorn Decorative Fencing – Mayor Gaskin** thanked the Gulf County Commissioners and said County did a great job

10. **Waste Water Consent Order 26-1501 – City Manager Michael Gortman** stated we have everything signed and sent back to them.

    City Clerk Rachel Jackson, stated she had the checklist created and sent it out to everyone. The consent order has been advertised as required and proof of advertisement has been sent to DEP.

    Engineer Hunter Baumgardner stated they are working on the required engineering work which is the next task that will be due.

11. **RV Permit Fees – Commissioner Cox** discussed the list of RV's within City limits that was compiled. He stated that what brought this up was discussion of a fee being charged for the required permit from our ordinance. **Commissioner Cox** stated other Cities don't do it, but they also have more RV parks.

    Following discussion, the board decided to hold a workshop at a later date to discuss the matter more.

12. **Fire Department Electricity – Engineer Jack Husband** stated he has to call the electrical engineer in Pensacola.

13. **Ray Dickens Fish Fry for the Sr. Citizens (October 2, 2026) – Mayor Gaskin**

stated it was coming up next Friday and **City Superintendent Chipper Wade** has been getting ready for it.

14. Bad Debts ***(Reminder for: Dec 2026 – Jan 2027)*** - None

Other Comments
City Attorney Michelle Jordan – None

City Manager Michael Gortman – Stated we received a determination letter from FEMA/FDEM, that they don't want to pay us that remaining amount of reimbursement that we are owed. He discussed the insurance reduction and that **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** found documentation where the City did try to dispute the insurance company's decision, so during closeout that will be taken into consideration.

Mayor Gaskin stated he didn't think that it was necessary to get lawyers on retainer at this point. Following discussion, the board directed **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** to sign the close out form and proceed with the process.

City Superintendent Chipper Wade – None

Mayor Gaskin discussed the senior program in **Senior Program Director's Renece Gainer's** absence, including purchasing a minivan. The Board directed **City Manager Michael Gortman** to research purchasing a minivan for the senior program.

Sheriff Harrison - discussed the law enforcement contract beginning on 10.1.26 and left the agreement for review and signature.

Engineer Hunter Baumgardner – presented change order 1 on storm sewer project M0163 for Chapel Branch & Lagniappe adding $366,833.65 to the original contract price. and increasing time by 45 days for substantial completion from November 14, 2026 to December 29, 2026, final payment date from December 14, 2026 to January 28, 2027.

Following review, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve Chapel, Branch & Lagniappe's change order 1 on storm sewer project M0163. Commissioner Pettis seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Engineer Baumgardner presented, discussed, and recommended approval of Chapel Branch & Lagniappe's pay application 5, in the amount of $397,975.24

Following review, **Commissioner Cox** made a motion to approve Chapel Branch & Lagniappe's pay application 5 for $397,975.24. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Engineer Baumgardner presented, discussed and recommended approval of Extreme Land Clearing/CBC pay application 9 in the amount of $585,276.88.

Following review **Commissioner Paul** made a motion to approve Extreme Land Clearing/CBC pay application 9 for $585,276.88. **Commissioner Cox** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Paul asked when road paving would start back. **Commissioner jack Husband** said in about 3-4 weeks.

Mayor Gaskin stated that we need to keep an eye on the contractor that is keeping heavy equipment by the sewer plant, to make sure that the road that has just been repaved is not impacted by the heavy equipment.

City Clerk Rachel Jackson – None

City Finance Clerk Misty Robbins – None

City Finance Director Brittney Proctor – None

Mayor/Commissioners' Comments

Gulf County Jack Husband - thanked **City Parks & Rec Director David Paul** for painting at Buckhorn and discussed the acre of land for future well site from the county.

Commissioner Cox – stated before they paved part of Red Bull Island there was something put in to fill the dips. He asked what would it take to do that on Canning Drive? **Gulf County Commissioner Jack Husband** stated that **City Manager Michael Gortman** should contact Clay about it to see how much money is left.

Commissioner Paul – stated **Mrs. Ann Johnson** asked him to thank the city for letting her do the tour at the cemetery, and also asked about getting a sign for Jehu Cemetery. The board instructed **City Manager Michael Gortman** to see about getting a sign for the cemetery.

Commissioner Paul asked about insurance for water leaks, he stated someone from Alabama told him there was a type of insurance to cover water leaks for customers. **City Attorney Michelle Jordan** stated there are companies that sell warranty plans that cover something like that, but it would not be through the city. **Commissioner Paul** said it seemed as though it was something they had through the utility company. **City Clerk Rachel Jackson** stated she would check into it.

Commissioner Pettis – None

Mayor Gaskin – discussed right of way abandonment/vacating on 2nd Street. **City Attorney Michelle Jordan** said we will need a legal description. The board instructed **City Manager Michael Gortman** to research how they were vacated before to see if there were legal descriptions required.

Adjournment

Commissioner Pettis made a motion to adjourn 7:18pm. **Commissioner Paul** seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA

By: Phillip Gaskin, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rachel Jackson, City Clerk

CITY OF WEWAHITCHKA EST. 1959 SEAL GULF CO. FLORIDA