



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING - SPECIAL SESSION
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023 at 9:00 AM
Midtown Plaza, 401 McLaughlin Ave. Bonifay, FL 32425

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Larry Cook called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

PRESENT

Mayor Larry Cook
Council Member James Sellers
Council Member Shelley Carroll
Council Member Rick Crews

Also present:

City Clerk Rickey Callahan, Police Chief Johnny Whitaker, City Superintendent Trey Barbee, Chief Plant Operator Matt Perry, Executive Assistant Sierra Smith, and Deputy Clerk Tracy Walker

A. Invocation

Executive Assistant Sierra Smith gave invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Executive Assistant Sierra Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion made to approve the agenda by Council Member Sellers, Seconded by Council Member Crews,

Voting Yea: Mayor Cook, Council Member Sellers, Council Member Carroll, Council Member Crews

III. APPROVE MINUTES

A. Approve minutes of 10-23-2023 Regular Session

Approve minutes of 11-06-2023 Special Session

Approve minutes of 11-13-2023 Public Hearing SUN Trail

Approve minutes of 11-13-2023 Regular Session

Approve minutes of 12-11-2023 Regular Session

Motion made to approve the minutes of 10-23-23 Regular Session, 11-06-23 Special Session, 11-13-23 Public Hearing SUN Trail, 11-13-23 Regular Session, and 12-11-23 Regular Session by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Sellers.

Voting Yea: Mayor Cook, Council Member Sellers, Council Member Carroll, Council Member Crews

IV. APPROVE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE / TRANSFERS / FINANCIAL SHEETS TO REVIEW

Motion made to approve Accounts Payable, Transfers, and Financial Sheets by Council Member Sellers, Seconded by Council Member Carroll.

Voting Yea: Mayor Cook, Council Member Sellers, Council Member Carroll, Council Member Crews

V. VISITORS – PUBLIC ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL

NON- AGENDA AUDIENCE

Effective October 1, 2013, Florida Statute 286.0114 mandates that “members of the public shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a proposition before a Board or Commission.” Each individual shall have three (3) minutes to speak on the proposition before the Board.

Richard Willsey addressed the council with concerns about the agenda.

VI. PLANNING & ENGINEERING

No updates.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Vacant Council Seat Appointment

Applicants-

Jason Powell

Shirley Mitchell

Charles Flowers

Roger Brooks

Eddie Dixon

Motion made to appoint Eddie Dixon to the vacant council seat by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Sellers.

Voting Yea: Mayor Cook, Council Member Sellers, Council Member Carroll, Council Member Crews

B. RFP for State Lobbying Services

Liberty Partners was the highest-ranking firm; the attorney will review contract for approval.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Hire City Attorney

Motion made to hire John Holloway as City Attorney by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Carroll.

Voting Yea: Mayor Cook, Council Member Sellers, Council Member Carroll, Council Member Crews

B. Meeting Dates for 2024

Motion made to cancel the first meeting in January by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Carroll.

Voting Yea: Mayor Cook, Council Member Sellers, Council Member Carroll, Council Member Crews

Meeting dates will need to be changed for 2024 to accommodate the attorney's schedule; these dates will be announced at a later meeting.

IX. COUNCIL / DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS / CITY ATTORNEY DISCUSSION

Items not listed on Formal Agenda.

A. Personnel Updates

Police Chief Johnny Whitaker presented Police Officer Raymond Grimbly with an award from the American Police Hall of Fame and Legion of Police Officers for his service to the City of Bonifay through volunteer hours.

Whitaker stated that three 2017 Ford Explorers were donated from Walton County.

B. Department Updates

- Grants Update

Executive Assistant, Sierra Smith stated there was a DOJ Grant and a Human Trafficking Grant available for the Police Department.

Smith also stated that the \$1.47 million grant for the Waste Water Treatment Plant was awarded.

Smith also mentioned that FPL recently conducted an internal audit and found nearly \$26K owed to the City.

C. Employee Spotlight: Executive Assistant, Sierra Smith for her diligent work on the above referenced WWTP grant.

Councilwoman Carroll voiced her concerns regarding discourse between HCBOCC and HCDC regarding the Busy Bee project.

X. ADJOURN

Motion made to adjourn meeting by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Carroll.

Voting Yea: Mayor Cook, Council Member Sellers, Council Member Carroll, Council Member Crews

Mayor Cook adjourned the meeting at 9:25 am.

Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to participate in this proceeding should contact City Hall at (850) 547-4238, at least five days prior to the proceedings.