



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING - REGULAR SESSION

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Bonifay City Hall Council Meeting Room – 301 J Harvey Etheridge St.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Larry Cook called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

PRESENT

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

Also present

Director of Finance Tracy Walker, Executive Assistant Sierra Smith, City Attorney Jon Holloway by phone, and Director of Public Works Aaron Taylor

A. Invocation

Vice-Mayor James Sellers gave invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-Mayor James Sellers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVE AGENDA

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

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

III. APPROVE MINUTES

A. September 2nd, 2025 Regular Session

B. September 8th, 2025 Special Session 1ST PUBLIC HEARING FOR TENTATIVE AD VALOREM & BUDGET

Motion made to approve the minutes of September 2, 2025 and September 8, 2025 by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Dixon.

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

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 Dixon.

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

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. **THIS IS NOT A QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION.** It is NOT a political forum, nor is it a time for personal accusations and derogatory remarks to/or about city personnel. Those who wish to speak are reminded to observe proper decorum, and to avoid the use of profane or vulgar language. If you would like to address the City Council please come to the podium and state your name and address for the record.

Angela Willsey, Happy Hollow Rd., asked the Council Members several questions. Would they grandfather her in and let her place a bench? Did the Cemetery Committee have a meeting today? Who appoints the Committee Members? Who oversees the Committee? Mrs. Willsey named several locations she would like to see benches.

Richard Willsey, Happy Hollow Rd., also asked several questions. When are the minutes going to be placed online? When will Rickey Callahan's name be removed from the paperwork? Why aren't Public Record Requests being responded to?

Mr. Willsey handed Mayor Cook several Public Record Requests, and stated "I expect them to be fulfilled forthwith."

Mr. Willsey asked why the proposed budget is not online any longer, and where he can get a copy of it?

VI. PLANNING & ENGINEERING

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Trick or Treating

Motion made to have Trick or Treating on October 31st, from 5:00 until 8:00 pm. by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Dixon.

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

B. Bonifay Fire-Rescue Purchase Requests

Executive Assistant Sierra Smith stated the first request is for the mobile communications setup, to be installed on Pumper 1, in the amount of \$2,425.00.

Motion made to approve purchase request for the amount of \$2,425.00 by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Dixon.

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

Executive Assistant Smith said the second request is to convert the batteries on Utility 1 to lithium batteries in the amount of \$2,500.00.

Motion made to approve the second purchase request in the amount of \$2,500.00 by Council Member Dixon, Seconded by Council Member Crews.

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

C. Employee Handbook Update

Director of Finance/HR Tracy Walker informed the Council Members the Employee Handbook update is presented for them to review and give any suggestions they may have.

D. Bonifay Fire-Rescue Grant Award

Fire Chief Travis Cook received a notice of grant award from The Division of State Fire Marshal. They have approved the fire department's grant application for the fiscal year 2025-2026 fiscal year in the amount of \$161,070.00 for the purchase of SCBAs.

Executive Assistant Smith stated this award will allow the fire department to purchase 15 air packs and 30 bottles to go on the trucks, replacing every unit they currently have and allowing them to have spares.

Motion made to accept \$161,070.00 grant award by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Dixon.

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

Executive Assistant Smith requested that the Council Members waive the Procurement Policy on taking quotes and allow them to purchase these items from Sunbelt to allow for compatibility on what they currently have.

Motion made to approve waiving the Procurement Policy by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Dixon.

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

IX. COUNCIL / DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS / CITY ATTORNEY DISCUSSION

Items not listed on Formal Agenda.

A. Council Updates

B. Department Updates

Director of Finance/HR Tracy Walker told the Council Members that we are transitioning to the new software; October 1st will be the first instillation of payroll & finance. We will be in training and doing the final payroll in the old system for the next 3 days.

Mayor Cook told the Council Members that the Cemetery Committee contacted him late this afternoon, and they all have resigned from the committee. The amount of pressure they are put under to justify their last policy, that was done in 2022, has put a burden on them. They have received numerous phone calls and text messages, including during church hours. Mayor Cook says he will get with Attorney Holloway and determine how to move forward.

C. Employee Spotlight

X. ADJOURN

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

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

Mayor Cook declared the meeting adjourned at 6:18 pm.

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.