



## **MINUTES**

### **CITY COUNCIL MEETING – REGULAR SESSION**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023 at 6:00 PM**

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

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#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Cook called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

##### **PRESENT**

Mayor Travis Cook  
Vice-Mayor Ryan Martin  
Council Member Emily McCann  
Council Member Rick Crews  
Council Member Sierra Smith

City Employees present: City Clerk Rickey Callahan, City Attorney Michelle Blankenship-Jordan,  
City Superintendent Trey Barbee, Police Chief Chris Wells, & Chief Plant Operator Matt Perry

##### **A. Invocation**

The Invocation was given by Vice-Mayor Ryan Martin

##### **B. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Mayor Ryan Martin

#### **II. APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion made by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member McCann.  
Voting Yea: Mayor Cook, Vice-Mayor Martin, Council Member McCann, Council Member Crews,  
Council Member Smith

#### **III. APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion made by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Vice-Mayor Martin.  
Voting Yea: Mayor Cook, Vice-Mayor Martin, Council Member McCann, Council Member Crews,  
Council Member Smith

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

No items to be approved for this item.

**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.

No members of the public addressed to Council.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Impact Fee Study - Bob Mearns

Bob Mearns with the Florida Rural Water Association appeared before the Council to address the Impact Fee Study offered to the City, and why the City needs it.

Motion made by Council Member McCann, Seconded by Council Member Crews.  
Voting Yea: Mayor Cook, Vice-Mayor Martin, Council Member McCann, Council Member Crews, Council Member Smith to approve Impact Fee Study at a cost of \$5,500.

B. Panhandle Patriotic Celebration - Emily McCann

Councilwoman Dr. Emily McCann advised the Council the the Holmes County Tourist Development Council had approved funding for the Panhandle Patriotic Celebration Fireworks Show to be held on July 2, 2023, and that the Bonifay Fire Department will be coordinating the show.

C. Mediacom Franchise Agreement - Emily McCann

No action on this item and it will be discussed at a future meeting.

D. City Hall Renovation Plans - Ryan Martin

Vice-Mayor asked that the plans for the renovation of the City Hall to be changed to consider incorporating the Bonifay Police Department to be located at City Hall. City Superintendent Trey Barbee will coordinate with Chief Chris Wells on the project.

E. 79 Corridor RFP - Ryan Martin

Vice-Mayor Martin advised the Council that the 79 Corridor Project has requested a workshop with the City Council to address the RFP for Board Clerk Services, and possibly wanting to negotiate a lower price.

Councilman Martin recommended that we scale back our cost a few thousand dollars, and then charge a flat fee for meetings. Vice-Mayor Martin recommended a flat fee of \$8,000, and charge \$250 per meeting. Councilwoman McCann asked Clerk Callahan if \$250 would be sufficient to meet the requirements per meeting. Clerk Callahan advised that it would be too low, and offered a figure of \$750 per meeting, and no less than \$500 per meeting.

Councilwoman Dr. Emily McCann offered a motion to revise the RFP to a flat fee of \$10,000, and a per meeting fee of \$500, seconded by Councilman Crews. During the discussion and before the vote on the motion, Vice-Mayor Martin asked if the Council wants to leave the RFP as it is, or amend it for him to offer. City Attorney Blankenship-Jordan stated the the Corridor Project Board shouldn't be telling the City what it should do because the City has a seat at the table. She stated that it gives her a great deal of "heartburn" to see that information is being conveyed to the City when the City is supposed to be a member of that decision-making process, and she thinks there is obviously a meeting going on outside the statutory meeting. Vice-Mayor Martin asked what the City Attorney would advise us to do, and she replied that she would address it at the next Workshop and Meeting. She also stated that IF the meeting was on Monday, March 20, she would be at a Council Meeting in Vernon. She stated that the meeting needed to be moved to a date that the City Council and she could attend. Vice-Mayor Martin advised he would contact Chairman Hawkins about changing the meeting date. City Attorney Blankenship-Jordan asked why the City's bid was not accepted, and what were the grounds.. Vice-Mayor Martin stated that Chairman Hawkins advised that there needed to be a workshop, and that there was only one bid (the City of Bonifay), and that the number of meetings were going to be changed, and that the pricing should be different because there is less work to do. Vice-Mayor Martin asked if the Council wanted him to tell the 79 Corridor Project if the City's bid remains the same. City Attorney Blankenship stated that the discussion on that needs to take place in the scheduled workshop. Mayor Cook recommended leaving the City's RFP as it is, and ask for a workshop at our March 13 meeting prior to the Council Meeting.

Councilwoman McCann withdrew her motion.

The Council agreed to attend the workshop, and to leave the RFP as it was submitted, with no changes.

#### F. Fire Station Bond Claim - Ryan Martin

City Attorney advised that the Council seek outside counsel who specializes in construction law. Probably an attorney out of Pensacola or Tallahassee, and that the costs would probably be \$400-\$600 per hour.

Councilwoman Emily McCann suggested that City Attorney Blankenship-Jordan reach out to her contacts to try to find an attorney to use for the litigation.

The Council agreed and City Attorney Blankenship-Jordan will reach out and bring back proposals to the Council.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Hiring Recommendation for Andrew Newton - Matthew Perry**

Motion made by Council Member Smith, Seconded by Council Member McCann.  
Voting Yea: Mayor Cook, Vice-Mayor Martin, Council Member McCann, Council Member Crews, Council Member Smith to hire Andrew Newton at \$15.00 per hour.

### **B. Bids - Hubbard Street Repairs**

Motion made by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member McCann.  
Voting Yea: Mayor Cook, Vice-Mayor Martin, Council Member McCann, Council Member Crews, Council Member Smith

### **C. RESOLUTION 23-05 2023 ELECTION**

Motion to approve made by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Vice-Mayor Martin.  
Voting Yea: Mayor Cook, Vice-Mayor Martin, Council Member McCann, Council Member Crews, Council Member Smith

## **VIII. COUNCIL / DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS / CITY ATTORNEY DISCUSSION**

Items not listed on Formal Agenda.

Councilwoman Smith advised the Council that she had given permission for Dixie Youth baseball team to practice at the Memorial Field softball field and to coordinate with other teams on a schedule.

## **IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **X. ADJOURN**

Mayor Cook adjourned the meeting at 6:56 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.**