



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING - WORKSHOP

MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2023 at 5:00 PM

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor McCann called the Workshop to order at 5:00 pm.

PRESENT

Mayor Emily McCann
Vice-Mayor Larry Cook
Council Member James Sellers
Council Member Shelley Carroll
Council Member Rick Crews

Also present:

City Clerk Rickey Callahan, City Attorney Michelle Jordan, City Superintendent Trey Barbee, Deputy Clerk and Finance Director Tracy Walker, Executive Assistant Sierra Smith, Police Chief Jimmy Macon, Fire Chief Travis Cook

II. APPROVE AGENDA

III. APPROVE MINUTES

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

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.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Capital Improvement Plan 5-year schedule

Mayor McCann told the Council Members "You have before you and agenda for this workshop. I would like to move our public comments to after our discussion, so we can be sure to have our discussion before the 1 hour allotment happens."

Mayor McCann said the first thing I would like you to look at is the City of Bonifay Capital Improvement Plan Schedule. What we have found is that what we thought was our Capital Improvement Plan was not adopted by Ordinance.

Council Member Crews said he did not see East Pennsylvania Avenue on the Pedestrian Safety & ADA Improvements, and requested it be added.

Mayor McCann said Pennsylvania Avenue is on here, from Telfair to Pine Street.

Mayor McCann said it has been broken down into Public Facilities, Public Safety & ADA Improvements, Parks & Rec, Public Safety, Roadway Improvements, Economic Development, Stormwater/Drainage Improvements, Sanitary Sewer/Wastewater, Potable Water, Special Projects, and Fleet/Equipment. "I know it is a lot, but the one thing we get asked for every grant, is this on your Capital Improvement Plan."

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Budget Discussion for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 City of Bonifay

Mayor McCann stated the next item you have, based on our conversation at the last workshop, Tracy Walker and I were able to come up with 3 options as far as the budget is concerned. "The original budget that we had talked about in previous workshops, the budget would out-source law enforcement to the Sheriff's Office, and then the newly adjusted budget where Chief Macon said he would be willing to run his department at the \$635,000. As you are reading that, I would like to make a couple of comments, I know we had a number of people to speak the last time we met to talk about the budget, so I just want to get some general information out."

"Number one, we are having this conversation because it is budget season. Someone asked why would we talk about this now? You have these conversations when you are planning to create the budget."

"One of the comments was "there is no where else that has done this". Mexico Beach has recently out-sourced their law enforcement, the City of Jacksonville out-sources their law enforcement. There was a comment "where we would be the first in the State to do this." If we were to do it, we would actually be the last in the County to do this, should the Council elect to out-source law enforcement."

Mayor McCann stated that funding was a big question, would we lose State or Federal funding, would we lose access to any grant funds, the answer is no. From the Department of Revenue, there is no revenue source sent to municipalities directly from the State that must be dedicated to funding the Police Department.

Mayor McCann said there were comments where we shouldn't try to have a surplus, we should break even. As we have talked about in previous meetings, the City has not been breaking even. That is one reason why we have talked about an Ad Valorem tax. 2 weeks ago I did a small financial update, in fiscal year 2021 we had to dip into our Enterprise fund for \$693,000, then in fiscal year 2021-2022, we had to dip out \$643,000. We are not trying to make a surplus with

anything we are doing, regardless of the decisions made tonight, we are trying to be good stewards of the funds we have been given.

Mayor McCann stated we are intending to move to the Florida Retirement System. From our fiscal year 2021 the actual numbers we spent \$22,000 on retirement. If we go with our originally proposed budget, we would be spending approximately \$300,000 for the Florida Retirement System. That is a big expense, but it is an expense that I feel like we need in order to attract and retain the employees that we have.

Mayor McCann said the next thing, there was talk about we need to make this a business decision only, so if that is the pleasure of this board, I would ask you to consider cost verses services. We all have to live with the decisions that we will potentially make, as such, I will not be making a recommendation for you all tonight.

Mayor McCann said another question was, what happens each year? "In every year we have a budget season, every year we are going to have conversations about our budget. There was talk about cutting other departments to make this happen. I did not get any direction from the Council to reach out, like I did with the Sheriff's Office. We do currently out-source some of our work with the cemetery, and with the streets, with the right-of-way cutting. No other municipalities or departments have reached out to me to say they would be willing to take on anything we are currently doing in the City."

Mayor McCann said the next thing is ultimately my biggest concern, with every decision we make, is safety first, and is it feasible for our citizens. So we want to make sure we provide adequate safety, but we also do it in a financially responsible way.

Mayor McCann said you can see the 3 options of the budget here, and I have this on the agenda for the Regular Session tonight. I would like some Council direction so that Tracy & I can put this into our software and get it ready for our first Public Hearing on September 7th.

Council Member Crews asked if the cemetery had been bid out?

Mayor McCann stated that was done before I came on board, but it had been. Mayor McCann said we had 2 people working out there and it was a significant cost. The Sheriff's Office was able to maintain the cemetery at a severely discounted rate. We can certainly bid it out again, if that is the direction of the Council.

Council Member Crews questioned what mosquito control was costing.

Mayor McCann said \$5,000 a year.

Council Member Carroll said when you say services verses cost, specifically with the Police Department, the services from the Sheriff's Office that you gave us last meeting, that is already a mutual aid agreement with the City right?

Mayor McCann said is it the Sheriff's Office services, and they do offer mutual aid.

Council Member Carroll stated so we are still going to get those services, if requested, from the Sheriff's Office through the mutual aid agreement.

Mayor McCann asked if there were any other questions before I open the floor to the public.

There were no questions from the public.

VIII. COUNCIL / DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS / CITY ATTORNEY DISCUSSION

Items not listed on Formal Agenda.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

X. ADJOURN

Mayor McCann adjourned the workshop at 5:14 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.