

REGULAR SESSION
FEBRUARY 13, 2023

The City Council of the City of Bonifay met in Regular Session February 13, 2023 in the City Council Meeting Room.

Members present were: Mayor Travis Cook, Vice-Mayor Ryan Martin, Councilwoman Sierra Smith, Councilwoman Dr. Emily McCann, and Councilman Rick Crews. City Employees present were City Clerk Rickey Callahan, City Attorney Michelle Blankenship-Jordan, City Superintendent Trey Barbee, Chief of Police Chris Wells, Code Enforcement Officer Rodney Coffey, and Chief Plant Operator Matt Perry. Fire Chief Larry Cook was also in attendance.

Mayor Travis Cook called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. Vice-Mayor Ryan Martin gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ACTION:

Councilwoman Sierra Smith offered a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of VI D, Final Pay Request & Notice of Substantial Completion of Eureka Square Parking Lot, seconded by Vice-Mayor Ryan Martin. Motion carried 5-0.

ACTION:

Vice-Mayor Ryan Martin offered a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Session January 23, 2023 and the minutes of the Special Session January 30, 2023, seconded by Councilwoman Dr. Emily McCann. Motion carried 5-0.

Under Public Addressing the Council Pastor Ed Bell of Northside Assembly of God Church asked the Council to consider enlarging the size of the culvert at the north end of Rangeline Street where it

intersects with W. North Avenue due to flooding of the area of the church building during heavy rains. City Superintendent Trey Barbee will take a look at the problem with a City Engineer and make a recommendation to the Council as to a solution.

Ms. Heather Shelby, Chair of Waukesha Way asked the Council for direction regarding the funds provided to Waukesha Way by the Council for donations as to what type organizations would qualify. It was agreed that the donations could be used County-wide to volunteer non-profit groups. Ms. Shelby spoke about Waukesha Way considering helping with the Panhandle Patriotic Celebration Fireworks Show, and was advised the Bonifay Fire Department has offered to handle the fireworks show contingent on funding. Ms. Shelby also asked for permission for Waukesha Way to hold a cornhole tournament Saturday, March 25, 2023 at Veteran's Memorial Park.

ACTION: A motion was offered to approve the request by Vice-Mayor Ryan Martin, seconded by Councilwoman Sierra Smith. Motion carried 5-0.

Amir Zafar with Mott McDonald appeared before the Council concerning the SRF Water Improvements Phase I & Phase II bid recommendations. He recommended that the Council accept the low bid from GCUC Utility Contractors, and negotiate with the contractor for as much work as possible for the money provided in the grant.

ACTION:

Councilwoman Dr. Emily McCann offered a motion to move forward with the recommendation of the engineer, seconded by Vice-Mayor Ryan Martin. Motion carried 5-0.

ACTION:

Councilwoman Dr. Emily McCann offered a motion to have another person act as Code Enforcement Officer rather than Officer Rodney Coffey based on the advice of the City Attorney. Councilwoman Sierra Smith offered a second. Motion carried 3-2, with Vice-Mayor Ryan Martin and Councilman Rick Crews voting No.

ACTION:

Councilwoman Dr. Emily McCann offered a motion to table City Hall Renovations (Plans), seconded by Vice-Mayor Ryan Martin. Motion carried 5-0.

Thomas Brannon with Dewberry Engineers recommended the Council approve the final pay request from Premier Paving and Notice of Substantial Completion of the Eureka Square Parking Lot.

ACTION:

Councilwoman Dr. Emily McCann offered a motion to approve the recommendation contingent on receiving a refund check from Dewberry Engineering for an overpayment due to the sidewalk issue. Motion was seconded Councilwoman Sierra Smith. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilwoman Sierra Smith advised the Council that she is working with Waukesha Way to help separate the Waukesha Way funds from the Tyler Erickson Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament money into a separate account set up for the scholarship money.

City Clerk Rickey Callahan presented a letter from the Florida Rural Water Association to perform a Water and Wastewater Impact Fee Study for \$5,500.

ACTION:

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Dr. Emily McCann to table the issue. A second was offered by Councilman Rick Crews. Motion carried 5-0.

City Superintendent Trey Barbee requested the Council approve the purchase of a fire hydrant with accessories in the amount of \$4,225.77.

ACTION:

A motion to approve the purchase by Councilwoman Dr. Emily McCann, seconded by Vice-Mayor Ryan Martin. Motion carried 5-0.

Under item “Franchise Agreement with Mediacom” City Attorney Michelle Blankenship-Jordan stated that there should be an Ordinance pertaining to the Franchise. City Clerk Rickey Callahan will bring it back to a future meeting.

On the advice of the City Attorney the Council set a “Town Hall Meeting” for February 27, 2023 at 5:00PM to discuss the upcoming City Election and provide information on the Seats and Terms of each Seat.

ACTION:

Vice-Mayor Ryan Martin offered a motion to nominate Councilman Rick Crews to the Emerald Coast Regional Council Board, seconded by Councilwoman Emily McCann. Motion carried 4-1 with Councilman Crews voting No.

ACTION:

Mayor Travis Cook offered a motion to table the item “Hiring Recommendation – Chief Chris Wells”, seconded by Councilwoman Sierra Smith. Motion carried 5-0.

No action was taken on “Fire Station Bond Claim”.

City Clerk Rickey Callahan presented a proposal from Florida Power and Light to swap out regular lights at Veteran’s Memorial Park with LED lights.

ACTION:

Motion by Vice-Mayor Ryan Martin to accept the proposal and to ask that three lights at the Bonifay Fire Station also be swapped out. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Sierra Smith. Motion carried 5-0.

City Clerk Rickey Callahan advised the Council that Waste Pro advised that they had applied a CPI increase of 10% to their pricing for garbage pickup for the City, and that the Council may need to look at increasing rates.

Emily McCann suggested the City have a Facebook page to promote and make announcements on behalf of the City. City Attorney Michelle Blankenship-Jordan advised that there should be policies adopted concerning the use of the page, and that she would check and see what other cities used.

Councilwoman Sierra Smith asked to represent the City Council at the next Charter Review Committee meeting with no opposition.

Vice-Mayor Ryan Martin advised that the 79 Corridor Project Board had voted to have a workshop on March 6, 2023 on the RFP the City had submitted for Board Clerk Services. He also said that since the RFP

advertisement the Board has changed the number of meetings per year, and that the City of Bonifay provided the only RFP received.

Sergeant Jody Long of the Bonifay Police Department presented awards for years of service to the following Officers:

Police Chief Chris Wells – 25 years

Officer Chuck White – 33 years

Officer Rodney Coffey – 30 years

Officer Betty Sims – 25 years

Officer Raymond Grimbly – 20 years

Sergeant Jody Long – 35 years

Mayor Travis Cook adjourned the meeting at 7:43PM.