



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING - REGULAR SESSION

MONDAY, AUGUST 05, 2024 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
Council Member Eddie Dixon

Also present

City Clerk Rickey Callahan, City Attorney Jon Holloway, Deputy Clerk Tracy Walker, Executive Assistant Sierra Smith, Chief Plant Operator Matt Perry, Fire Chief Travis Cook, and Chief of Police Johnny Whitaker

A. Invocation

Steve Connell, Holmes County EMS Director gave the invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Steve Connell, Holmes County EMS Director led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion made to approve the agenda 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

III. APPROVE MINUTES

A. July 15th, 2024 Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Motion made to approve the minutes of July 15, 2024 by Council Member Dixon, Seconded by Council Member Carroll.

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 Payables, Transfers, and Financial Sheets by Council Member Carroll, Seconded by Council Member Sellers.

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

V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Fire Chief Travis F. Cook - Bonifay Fire Rescue

Fire Chief Travis F. Cook presented the Council Members with the history of the City of Bonifay Fire Department, data from the last 5 years, the improvements in the ISO ratings, growth, and community outreach. Chief Cook wants to take a historical step forward by having a firefighter at the station during peak call hours, which will reduce response times to incidents.

Chief Cook requested the Council's approval of having an on-duty firefighter at the station Monday thru Friday from 8 am until 4 pm, with a pay rate of \$15.00 per hour. The \$10 per call stipend will still apply to volunteers. Councilmember Sellers asked if having a paid firefighter on duty will affect the department's ability to receive grants and Chief Cook advised him that it will not.

Motion made to approve having a paid firefighter at the station beginning October 1, 2024, by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Carroll.

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

VI. 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/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, state your name and address for the record

Richard Willsey addressed the council about public notice of meetings, his difficulty in navigating the website, and his civil rights being violated when he was removed from the meeting and wanted an apology from Mayor Cook.

Attorney Holloway advised Mr. Willsey to wrap up his comments as his time had expired, and Mr. Willsey continued. Mayor Cook also asked Mr. Willsey to please sit down. Mr. Willsey continued and refused to sit down. After several requests to sit down and Mr. Willsey refusing to sit down, Chief Whitaker was asked to remove Mr. Willsey from the meeting due to disrupting and interfering with the progress of the meeting.

A. Project Graduation Facility Usage Request

Lessie Perry, with Holmes County High Class of 2025 Project Graduation, came before the City Council stating that they do several fund raisers for the HCHS seniors, and their biggest fund raiser is the haunted house. Ms. Perry stated they have insurance for liability and requested using the Rec Center for their haunted house.

Motion made to approve letting them use the Rec Center 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

VII. PLANNING & ENGINEERING

A. Melvin Engineering - Downtown Stormwater Park Revision

Brett Melvin, with Melvin Engineering, presented and updated agreement for the Downtown Stormwater Park revision. Melvin stated that DEP shifted the deliverables around, but the dollar amount was still the same. The project is on schedule.

Motion made to approve the amendment 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

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Code Enforcement Discussion

City Attorney Jon Holloway gave an overview of proposed new Code Enforcement Ordinance.

Attorney Holloway stated that Code Enforcement encourages voluntary performance, having clean and safe properties for property value, and it gives time for home owners to get into compliance.

B. Request for Reimbursement of Legal Expenses

Attorney Holloway stated that this reimbursement request was to reimburse Mayor Larry Cook for his legal expenses of \$1,575.00 in addressing several ethics complaints to which the Florida Commission on Ethics found no probable cause. He also stated that the City is obligated by law to reimburse these expenses.

Motion made to approve reimbursing Mayor Cook \$1,575.00 for legal fees by Council Member Sellers, Seconded by Council Member Crews.

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

Voting Abstaining: Mayor Cook

C. Budget Discussion

Deputy Clerk Tracy Walker told the Council Members there was a new draft of the budget in their packets and asked if there were any questions.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

X. COUNCIL / DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS / CITY ATTORNEY DISCUSSION

Items not listed on Formal Agenda.

A. Council Updates

No updates.

B. Department Updates

Chief Plant Operator Matt Perry told the Council Members that we had a five-year inspection at the Wastewater Treatment Plant by DEP, and received a "glowing" inspection report.

Mayor Cook stated the fire department and the police department held a "Teen Night" and it was a great success. Waukesha Way's "Back to School Bash" was held the next morning and turnout was very good.

Chief Whitaker requested approval for two new hires, Mikayla Steverson and Aiden Tate.

Motion made to approve new hires by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Carroll.

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

EMS Director Steve Connell told the Council Members that there is 94 square miles in Holmes County that the Bonifay Fire Department responds to, and having a firefighter at the station

during peak hours is a good move. Bonifay Fire Department's Paramedics and EMTs also assist when EMS vehicles are on other calls.

Chief Cook stated that the Bonifay Fire Department UTV is back at the station, and will be able to assist with medical calls.

C. Employee Spotlight

XI. 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 9:51 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.