



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – SPECIAL SESSION THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023 at 5:00 PM

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT

Mayor Travis Cook
Vice-Mayor Ryan Martin
Council Member Rick Crews

ABSENT

Council Member Sierra Smith (Chaperoning a School Trip for HCHS)

A. Invocation

Vice Mayor Ryan Martin gave the Invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Mayor Ryan Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance

II. APPROVE AGENDA

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

III. APPROVE MINUTES

No Minutes to Approve

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

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

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.

Jason Powell appeared before the Council inquiring about City Clerk Callahan calling him earlier in the day and advising him the Holmes County Chamber of Commerce was asking that the political signs he had placed along Veteran's Boulevard be removed during the weekend due to the Down Home Street Festival being held and Veteran's Boulevard being where vendors set up. Attorney Michelle Blankenship-Jordan advised that the Down Home Street Festival had a Facilities Use Agreement with the City for exclusive use of that area during the Festival. Mr. Powell stated that he would take care of it.

Mr. Powell also asked the Council if they "want to spend taxpayer money to hire an attorney to pursue a claim against Holley Development" in reference to the construction of the Fire Department Expansion. Both Mayor Travis Cook and Vice-Mayor told Mr. Powell that yes, it needed to be pursued due to issues found in two different inspections, and the City of Bonifay didn't get what they paid for.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Hire Attorney for Bonifay Fire Department Bond Claim

City Attorney Michelle Blankenship-Jordan had been directed by the Council to find an attorney who specializes in Construction Law, and she reported that she had checked around and found an attorney out of Pensacola, FL, Joseph A. Passeretti with Beggs & Lane at a rate of \$325. per hour, and recommended that the Council sign a Letter of Engagement which she presented to pursue a claim on the Fire Department Expansion Project.

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

VII. NEW BUSINESS

VIII. COUNCIL / DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS / CITY ATTORNEY DISCUSSION

Items not listed on Formal Agenda.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Travis Cook advised the Council that he had been made aware of an investigation of Mr. Jason Powell for Voter Fraud. Chief Chris Wells advised that the City Police had turned the issue

of Mr. Powell's residency and qualifications to run for a City Council Seat over to the Office of General Counsel - Voter Fraud Unit. The City Council took no action on this issue and will not take Mr. Powell off the ballot based on the advice of the City Attorney.

X. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:22PM

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.