



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING - REGULAR SESSION

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Midtown Plaza, 401 McLaughlin Ave., Bonifay, FL 32425

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cook called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

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 - by phone, Deputy Clerk Tracy Walker, Executive Assistant Sierra Smith, Chief of Police Johnny Whitaker, and Assistant Fire Chief Landis Messer

A. Invocation

Council Member Eddie Dixon gave invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member Eddie Dixon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion made to approve agenda 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

III. APPROVE MINUTES

A. March 3rd, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion made to approve the minutes of March 3, 2025 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

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

Motion made to approve Accounts Payables, Transfers, and Financial Sheets by Council Member Sellers, Seconded by Council Member Carroll.

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

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. **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

Rosalie McClain, local resident, questioned why residents should have to pay for garbage every week.

Richard Willsey said citizens are complaining to him about the high water rates.

Willsey mentioned that he knows the City of Bonifay has consulted with Florida Power and Lights about the tree trimming, and said that the City should start with our own properties,

He mentioned the water retention area near Middlebrooks park again and said there was no point in the city continuing to seek funding for projects.

A. Champion Emma Meredith Day

City Clerk Callahan read Emma Meredith Day Proclamation.

WHEREAS, Emma Meredith is a senior at Holmes County High School; and

WHEREAS, she exemplifies the true definition of being a student-athlete by excelling academically and participates in track, cheer, and weightlifting; and

WHEREAS, she encompasses the qualities of hard work, perseverance, and determination; and

WHEREAS, Emma Meredith has won the third consecutive Florida High School Athletic Association 1A Weightlifting State Championship for Holmes County High School; and

WHEREAS, The City of Bonifay celebrates her winning the 1A title of State Champion, and wishes to honor her for her commitment, dedication, and athleticism;

THEREFORE, be it proclaimed that I, Larry F. Cook, Mayor, and the Council of the City of Bonifay, do proclaim March 17, 2025, as

CHAMPION EMMA MEREDITH DAY

VI. PLANNING & ENGINEERING

None.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Personnel Policy

Deputy Clerk Walker told the Council Members a need to change a section of the Personnel Policy regarding vacation time was found, and read the proposed change.

"Although there is no limit to the total amount of leave an employee can accumulate during employment, the payout for unused leave upon separation will be capped at two hundred fifty (250) hours, contingent upon successful completion of a two-week notice period. Any accrued leave exceeding 250 hours will be forfeited."

Motion made to approve Personnel Policy change 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

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 2025-02 Connection Fees

City Clerk Callahan read the heading of Resolution 2025-02.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BONIFAY, FLORIDA ESTABLISHING A FEE SCHEDULE FOR CONNECTION TO WATER AND SEWER UTILITIES; PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR LIBERAL INTERPRETATION; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS AND FEE POLICIES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Motion made to approve Resolution 2025-02 by Council Member Dixon, Seconded by Council Member Crews.

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

IX. COUNCIL / DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS / CITY ATTORNEY DISCUSSION

Items not listed on Formal Agenda.

A. Council Updates

Sandy Spear, with Bonifay Kiwanis Club, told the Council Members that the land swap should be complete within 30 days.

Mrs. Spear presented the Bonifay Police Department and the City with a check in the amount of \$2500.00 for their assistance with the rodeo.

B. Department Updates

Mayor Cook made the following announcements:

April 7th - First Employee of the Quarter Recognition

March 31 - Ground breaking at the stormwater park

April 4th – Tentative grand opening of City Hall

April 5th - Down Home Street Festival

C. Employee Spotlight

Assistant Fire Chief Landis Messer presented the Council Members with two submissions for the Employee Spotlight.

The first was Fire Fighter Brennon Granberry. On March 5, 2025, after his shift at the station, Granberry was on his way to Dothan when Bonifay Fire Rescue received two mutual aid calls. One of the calls was in the Poplar Springs area, and Granberry knew he was the closest one to the fire, which was threatening several structures. Once Granberry arrived on scene, he reported a size up, called for additional resources, and established incident command. The fire was 10 yards from a residential structure when Engine 1 arrived on scene, and began structure protection, while waiting on Florida Forest Service to help contain the fire.

The next morning, Fire Fighter Austin Medley and his family woke up to storm damage at their home, which resulted in 3 vehicles being damaged as well as their house. Around 8:30 that morning, our fire department was dispatched to a possible residential structure fire in the Gritney area. Medley responded, knowing he was probably the closest fire fighter in the county. When he arrived on scene, he reported a size up, established incident command, and began investigating the fire. Medley reported this was a working structure, with fire in the ceiling. Our department, as well as Gritney, extinguished the fire and controlled the damage to the structure.

X. 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 6:22 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.