



## MINUTES

### CITY COUNCIL MEETING - REGULAR SESSION

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026 at 6:00 PM

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

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Larry 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

##### ABSENT

Council Member Eddie Dixon

Also present

Executive Assistant Sierra Smith, Director of Finance/HR Tracy Walker, City Attorney Jon Holloway, Director of Public Works Aaron Taylor, Chief Plant Operator Matt Perry, and Chief of Police Johnny Whitaker

##### A. Invocation

Vice-Mayor James Sellers gave invocation.

##### B. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice-Mayor James Sellers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### II. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion made to approve the agenda by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Sellers.

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

### **III. APPROVE MINUTES**

#### **A. January 5th, 2026 Regular Session**

Motion made to approve January 5, 2026 minutes by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Sellers.

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

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

Motion made to approve Accounts Payable, 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

### **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

### **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A. Ordinance 2026-01 First Reading**

Finance Director Tracy Walker read the heading of Ordinance 2026-01.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BONIFAY, FLORIDA CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM QUESTION TO BE PLACED BEFORE THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF BONIFAY AT A SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD MARCH 31, 2026; PROVIDING A CHARTER REFERENDUM QUESTION DETERMINING WHETHER TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER FOR THE CITY OF BONIFAY; PROVIDING FOR THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED AMENDED CHARTER FOR THE CITY OF BONIFAY; PROVIDING FOR REQUISITE BALLOT LANGUAGE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

#### **B. Ordinance 2026-01 Public Hearing**

Mayor Cook opened the Public Hearing.

Richard Wilsey questioned how this will affect the districts, boards, or precincts as far as the elections are concerned.

City Attorney Holloway stated none of the election districts will change; they will be done on staggered terms.

Angela Wilsey asked how this is going to affect the Mayor's race.

City Attorney Holloway the first election will be 4 years for Mayor, Seat 1, and Seat 3; 2 years for Seat 2 & Seat 4.

With no further comments, Mayor Cook closed the Public Hearing.

Motion made to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2026-01 by roll call vote by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Sellers.

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

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Criminal Justice Grant- Police Department**

Executive Assistant Sierra Smith told the Council Members that the City of Bonifay and the Bonifay Police Department were fortunate to have received this Criminal Justice Grant in the amount of \$133,058.80.

This grant supports local agencies efforts in transitioning to Florida Incident-Based Reporting System (FIBRS). the funds will cover a portion of overtime costs for those working in support of the FIBRS, purchase equipment and supplies, and to contract with a vendor to transition to incident-based reporting by migrating data and training personnel.

Motion made to accept grant by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Sellers.

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

Motion made to enter into the SmartCop agreement by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Sellers.

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

## **VIII. PLANNING & ENGINEERING**

### **A. Ardurra - Amir Zafar**

Amir Zafar, with Ardurra, presented the Council Members with a task order for SRF Drinking Water System Rehabilitation Design.

Motion made to approve task order by roll call vote by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Sellers.

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

Director of Finance Tracy Walker read the heading of Resolution 2026-01.

“A RESOLUTION OF CITY OF BONIFAY FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE STATE REVOLVING FUND LOAN PROGRAM; MAKING FINDINGS; AUTHORIZING THE LOAN APPLICATION; AUTHORIZING THE LOAN AGREEMENT; ESTABLISHING PLEDGED REVENUES; DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES; PROVIDING ASSURANCES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, AND EFFECTIVE DATE.”

Motion made to adopt Resolution 2026-01 by roll call vote by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Sellers.

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

Director of Finance Tracy Walker read the heading of Resolution 2026-02.

“A RESOLUTION OF CITY OF BONIFAY, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE STATE REVOLVING FUND LOAN PROGRAM; MAKING FINDINGS; AUTHORIZING THE LOAN APPLICATION; AUTHORIZING THE LOAN AGREEMENT; ESTABLISHING PLEDGED REVENUES; DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES; PROVIDING ASSURANCES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY, AND EFFECTIVE DATE.”

Motion made to adopt Resolution 2026-02 by roll call vote by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Sellers.

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

## **IX. COUNCIL / DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS / CITY ATTORNEY DISCUSSION**

Items not listed on Formal Agenda.

### **A. Personnel Updates**

Executive Assistant Sierra Smith requested the Council Members to submit names for nominations for the Planning & Zoning board vacancy.

### **B. Department Updates**

Executive Assistant Sierra Smith told the Council Members that they had finished the Southside Drainage Project.

Police Chief Johnny Whitaker introduced new hire Police Officer David Webb.

### **C. Employee of the Quarter- Quarter 4**

Director of Public Works Aaron Taylor presented Colby Merritt the Employee of the Quarter award.

Police Chief Johnny Whitaker presented Chelsey Castro with the Employee of the Quarter award.

Council Members congratulated both employees and took pictures.

**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

Mayor Cook declared the meeting adjourned at 6:37 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.**