



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING - REGULAR SESSION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 02, 2026 at 9:00 AM

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

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

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

A. Invocation

Executive Assistant Sierra Smith gave invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Executive Assistant Sierra Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion made to approve the agenda 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

III. APPROVE MINUTES

A. January 20th, 2026 Regular Session

Motion made to approve the minutes of January 20, 2026 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

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 Crews.

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

Richard Willsey addressed the Council Members stating that since the last meeting he saw an article in the newspaper about the trash on Redbird Rd. He recalled addressing the Council multiple times about that area.

Mr. Willsey questioned if an item to change the City Charter is put on a referendum for the public to vote on, and it is passed, is the city able to change the charter once that referendum item is passed. Can the Council vote it out and change it back to the way it was before?

Mr. Willsey asked City Attorney Holloway who he could contact about that. Attorney Holloway told him that he does not give legal advice to those that are not his client, but told Willsey he can contact a lawyer and get an answer to his question.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Ordinance 2026-01 Second Reading

Director of Finance 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 and asked if anyone would like to address the Council.

No one addressed the Council, and Mayor Cook called for a roll-call vote.

Motion made to adopt Ordinance 2026-01 by roll-call vote 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

C. Planning & Zoning Board Member

Executive Assistant Sierra Smith requested this be tabled until the next meeting due to not enough time for the council to provide names.

Vice-Mayor Sellers asked if they were to recommend someone and then someone else will interview them. Executive Assistant Sierra Smith stated no, everyone is to bring back a recommendation and the Council will vote.

Angela Willsey interrupted Councilman Sellers and stated that she (Sierra Smith) was using a microphone and would like for everyone to use the microphones.

Mayor Cook called Angela Willsey out of order.

Lieutenant Castro approached the Willseys and spoke to them about their disruptions.

Richard Willsey began talking too loud to the council again.

Mayor Cook called Richard Willsey out of order.

Lieutenant Castro continued to try to speak with the Willseys about their behavior causing interruptions.

Richard Willsey stated they cannot hear him talking to Sierra and that is a violation of the Sunshine Law.

Mayor Cook called them out of order again, and they continued interrupting the meeting.

Due to constant disruptions from the Willsey's, Mayor Cook called for a recess.

After the recess, Mayor Cook called the meeting back in session.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Bonifay Police Department - Chief Whitaker Request

Police Chief Whitaker asked for the Council's approval to decommission 2 patrol vehicles, a 2017 & 2019 Ford Explorer.

Motion made to approve decommissioning the 2 patrol vehicles by Council Member Dixon, Seconded by Council Member Sellers.

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

VIII. PLANNING & ENGINEERING

IX. COUNCIL / DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS / CITY ATTORNEY DISCUSSION

Items not listed on Formal Agenda.

A. Council Updates

B. Department Updates

Bonifay Police Department monthly recap

Bonifay Fire-Rescue monthly recap

Police Chief Whitaker stated they had 688 calls.

Fire Chief Cook stated they had 64 calls.

C. Employee Spotlight

The Employee Spot light will be at the next Regular Session on February 17th at 6:00 pm.

X. ADJOURN

Motion made to adjourn the meeting 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 9:33 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.