



## MINUTES

### CITY COUNCIL MEETING - REGULAR SESSION

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023 at 9:00 AM

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

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Larry Cook called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

##### PRESENT

Mayor Larry Cook  
Council Member Shelley Carroll  
Council Member Rick Crews

##### ABSENT

Council Member James Sellers

Also Present

City Clerk Rickey Callahan, City Superintendent Trey Barbee, Police Chief Johnny Whitaker, Chief Plant Operator Matt Perry, Deputy Clerk Tracy Walker, and Executive Assistant Sierra Smith.

##### A. Invocation

City Clerk Callahan gave Invocation.

##### B. Pledge of Allegiance

City Clerk Callahan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### II. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion made to approve the agenda after moving Item 7C to 7A by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Carroll.

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

### III. APPROVE MINUTES

A. Approve minutes of 10-23-2023 Regular Session

Approve minutes of 11-06-2023 Special Session

Approve minutes of 11-13-2023 PUBLIC HEARING SUN TRAIL GRANT APPLICATION

Approve minutes of 11-13-2023 Regular Session

Motion made to approve minutes of 10-23-2023 Regular Session by Council Member Carroll, Seconded by Council Member Crews.

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

Motion made to approve minutes of 11-06-2023 Special Session by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Carroll.

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

Motion made to approve minutes of 11-13-2023 PUBLIC HEARING SUN TRAIL GRANT APPLICATION by Council Member Carroll, Seconded by Council Member Crews.

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

Motion made to approve minutes of 11-13-2023 Regular Session by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Carroll.

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

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

Motion made to approve Accounts Payable/Transfers/Financial Sheets by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Carroll.

Voting Yea: Mayor Cook, 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 time set aside for the Citizens of Bonifay to address the City Council. **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/or 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 stated that maintenance workers were leaving junk, and cut a phone line, and requested that this be looked into.

Shirley Randolph thanked Council Member Shelly Carroll for her assistance in getting limbs picked up.

Richard Willsey compared the County Commissioners meeting to City Council meetings regarding dialogue with the public.

Samantha Perry questioned the progress on live streaming the meetings.

City Clerk Callahan stated it was being address in the City Hall renovation project.

## **VI. PLANNING & ENGINEERING**

No updates

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Responses/Rankings RFP's for City Attorney**

Rankings by Committee of Mayor Cook, Sierra Smith, Trey Barbee, Tracy Walker, and Rickey Callahan.

Rank #1 - Jonathan Holloway

Rank #2 - Danielle Contini

(Recommendation for Hiring at 12/21/2023 Special Session at 9:00AM)

Information provided to Council. No action taken.

### **B. RFP Responses for State Lobbying Services --- Information**

Responses received from: Liberty Partners, Tallahassee, FL

Gray-Robinson, Tallahassee, FL

Continental Strategy, Tallahassee, FL

Ranked in order listed.

Will be scheduling meeting with firm ranked 1 for dicussions and negotiations.

Information provided to Council. No action taken.

### **C. Vacant Council Seat Appointment - Mayor Cook**

Applicants:

Jason Powell

Shirley Mitchell

Charles Flowers

Roger Brooks

Eddie Dixon

Motion made to appoint Eddie Dixon by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Carroll.

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

City Clerk Callahan administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Dixon.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. FRWA Rev Plan for the City of Bonifay - Bob Mearns**

Bob Mearns presented results of the Revenue Plan review, and will meet with Mayor Cook and Department Heads at a later date.

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

Items not listed on Formal Agenda.

### **A. Bonifay Fire Department Report - Chief Travis Cook**

Executive Assistant Smith said the Fire Department had 58 calls for the month of November, they included 7 fires, 13 wrecks, 14 medical assists, along with other calls. They also co-hosted Winter on Waukesha. It was good to see Waukesha Way, the Fire Department, and the Police Department all work together to have a great, safe, local event for everybody to enjoy.

### **B. Bonifay Police Department Report - Chief Johnny Whitaker**

Police Chief Whitaker gave report to Council showing 704 total calls for service during the month of November. They included 12 traffic crashes, 2 stolen vehicles that were recovered, and 13 disturbances. There was 1 narcotic overdose, where Officer Eager was able to get there and administer Narcan, which brought the man back around. According to EMS, it would have been a lot tougher based on their response to get there, if Officer Eager had not had that on hand.

### **C. Personnel Updates**

Executive Assistant Smith said she has been working closely with Lynn Ponds, the Administrative Assistant to Chief Whitaker, and Ponds has jumped right in and is doing a fantastic job.

Council Member Carroll stated there has been a lot of positive feedback from the community regarding the Fire Department and the Police Department.

Mayor Cook announced that they had gone to the Florida League of Cities open house/dinner last Friday Night, Thursday they made a trip to Pensacola to DEP's open house, and the week before, they went to Water Management's open house. So we are putting the City of Bonifay's name out there.

#### D. Employee Spotlight - Public Works Department

City Clerk Callahan said we want to thank the Public Works Department for the work they have done in helping get everything set up with what decorations that we are allowed to put up right now. And also thanked Sammy Michelle for informing the public that Florida Power and Light would not let the City put anything on their poles.

### **X. ADJOURN**

Motion made to adjourn by Council Member Crews Seconded by Council Member Dixon.

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

Mayor Cook declared the meeting adjourned at 9:42 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.**