



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING - REGULAR SESSION

MONDAY, APRIL 06, 2026 at 9:00 AM

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Cook called the meeting to order

PRESENT

Mayor Larry Cook
Council Member James Sellers
Council Member Shelley Carroll
Council Member Eddie Dixon
Council Member Rick Crews

Also present

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

A. Invocation

Public Works Director Aaron Taylor said the invocation

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Public Works Director Aaron Taylor led the pledge

II. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion made to approve the agenda.

Motion made 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

III. APPROVE MINUTES

A. March 16th, 2026 Regular Session

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

Motion made to approve accounts payable.

Motion made by Council Member Sellers, Seconded by Council Member Dixon.
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 asked why Project Gateway was no on the agenda. He questioned if the city clerk was required to be a resident of the city limits. He also mentioned selective prosecution and asked where the FPL power poles were going once they are removed.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. City Clerk Hire - Mayor Cook

Executive Assistant Smith explained the interview process for the city clerk position. Mayor Cook recommends Jessie Syfrett be hired at \$45,000 annually.

Motion made 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

B. Planning & Zoning Board Member

Motion was made to appoint Ryan Martin to the Planning and Zoning Board.

Motion made by Council Member Sellers, Seconded by Council Member Dixon.
Voting Yea: Mayor Cook, Council Member Sellers, Council Member Carroll, Council Member Crews, Council Member Dixon

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Easement Abandonment Request- 405 Rangeline Street

Motion made to deny the abandonment request.

Motion made 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

B. Easement Abandonment Request - Cotton Street

Motion made to deny the abandonment request.

Motion made 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

C. Variance Request for Summit Locations for 902 N Waukesha St

Motion made to deny the variance request, denial recommend by city planner.

Motion made by Council Member Dixon, Seconded by Council Member Carroll.

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

Voting Nay: Council Member Crews

D. Bonifay Police Department Surplus Request

Chief Whitaker advised the explorers are much more fuel efficient compared to the Tahoe's. He requested to surplus the Tahoe's and pursue explorer replacements.

Motion made 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

E. Bonifay Fire Rescue - Brush 1 & Tanker 1 Purchase

Captain Sellers asked to replace Tanker 1 tires according to NFPA standards. He stated he would use state bid.

Motion made 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

F. Panhandle Patriotic Celebration

Executive Assistant Smith advised that a group of organizations are planning the Panhandle Patriotic Celebration and wants to use Memorial Field and the Rec Center.

Motion made 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. PLANNING & ENGINEERING

A. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Discussion

Executive Assistant Smith stated the application cycle is open and the City would be going through the process to apply.

IX. COUNCIL / DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS / CITY ATTORNEY DISCUSSION

Items not listed on Formal Agenda.

A. Council Updates

None

B. Department Updates

Bonifay Police Department Recap

Bonifay Fire-Rescue Recap

Chief Whitaker advised he would update at the next meeting

Captain Sellers stated Bonifay Fire-Rescue has responded to 194 calls in the first quarter of the year. Pumper 1 is now in service. The turbo went out on the ladder truck and was fixed quickly. NFWMD donated a truck to use for Brush 1. The Easter Egg Drop was a huge success and so was the Down Home Street Festival.

Chief Plant Operator Matthew Perry stated that the EPA report for the plant came back perfect. This is the 3rd cycle of zero non-compliances. He also stated that the FRWA Director reached out for their marketing team to use our plant for training and social media content.

C. Employee Spotlight

Quarter 1 Nominations-

Dakota Ward - Fire

Ryan Martin - Fire

Lynn Ponds - Police

Captain Sellers presented the fire nominations. Chief Whitaker presented the police nomination.

X. ADJOURN

Mayor Cook adjourned the meeting at 9:40am.

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.