



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING - REGULAR SESSION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2025 at 6:00 PM

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

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:

Deputy Clerk Tracy Walker, City Attorney Jon Holloway - by phone, Executive Assistant Sierra Smith, Chief of Police Johnny Whitaker, and Fire Chief Travis Cook

A. Invocation

Council Member James Sellers gave invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member James Sellers 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

III. APPROVE MINUTES

A. January 5th, 2025 Regular Session Minutes

Motion made to approve the minutes of January 6, 2025 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

Richard Willsey asked again where the money from the fire department went. He also stated he would like to know how much money was raised in the pancake breakfast this past year. He also stated he was sent a letter regarding where the money from the Bonifay Fire Rescue was relocated to and said, “I don’t know what the penalty is for telling lies on a public records request to the State of Florida, but I do intend to find out”. He also questioned what the administrative fees are that being paid to the president and vice president. He claimed to share a quote from a renowned author with the council by saying “Methinks doth protest too much Mr. Cook” and also said “Where I come from we have a saying says a stuck hog squeals...” and finished his time by saying “I’m gon’ keep diggin’ on this, I assure you because there is something rotten in Denmark with this whole deal”.

VI. PLANNING & ENGINEERING

None.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ordinance 2025-02 First Reading - Election Date

Deputy Clerk Tracy Walker read the heading of Ordinance 2025-02.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BONIFAY, FLORIDA, RELATING TO AMENDMENT OF CITY CHARTER REGARDING ELECTION DATE; PROVIDING THE ELECTION DAY FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MAYOR TO BE HELD ON THE FIRST TUESDAY FOLLOWING THE FIRST MONDAY OF NOVEMBER IN EACH EVEN-NUMBERED YEAR; PROVIDING FOR THE ORDERLY TRANSITION OF OFFICE RESULTING FROM ELECTION DATE CHANGE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion made to approve first reading of Ordinance 2025-02 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

The second reading and adoption will be on February 18, 2025.

Executive Assistant Sierra Smith stated the second reading and adoption of Ordinance 2025-01 will also be on February 18, 2025.

IX. COUNCIL / DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS / CITY ATTORNEY DISCUSSION

Items not listed on Formal Agenda.

A. Council Updates

None.

B. Department Updates

Chief Travis F. Cook- Bonifay Fire-Rescue

Fire Chief Travis Cook informed the Council Members the Fire House Subs Restaurant offers grants for public safety. They applied in April 2024, July 2024, and October 2024, being denied each time. They reapplied again in October 2024 and on January 13, 2025 an email was received stating they were awarded a grant for 7 new AED's, which cost around \$3200 each.

Chief Cook stated that when the new AED's arrive, they will give the 2 AED's that they have on hand to the police department.

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

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

C. Employee Spotlight

Fire Chief Cook highlighted Captain Zach Sellers, stating he gets everything that needs to be done completed, he prepared the fire station and apparatuses for the snow, etc. His personal A/C unit failed recently, but he put his personal stuff aside to take care of the Fire Department's needs. He expressed how Captain Sellers exemplifies "Service Over Self", a longstanding BFD motto.

Deputy Clerk Tracy Walker stated she nominated Sabrina Porter. Deputy Clerk Walker stated we are down an employee, and Sabrina has stepped up, not complained, nor called for a break. Another employee, Ronnie Smith, has also helped when Sabrina needed to step out for a moment.

Executive Assistant Sierra Smith told the Council Members they are working on an Employee Recognition Program. The program will recognize employees who go above and beyond their standard job duties. At the end of each quarter, we will take employee spotlights that are mentioned in our council meetings and have an employee of the quarter. From there, an employee of the year will be chosen.

Mayor Cook stated during the recent weather event, we had some minor water leaks, no injuries to car crashes, and people heeded the warnings and stayed home.

Executive Assistant Smith told the Council Members we might be back in City Hall renovations are nearing completion.

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 6:19 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.