



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING - REGULAR SESSION

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024 at 6:00 PM

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

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
Council Member Eddie Dixon

Also present:

Attorney Jon Holloway, City Clerk Rickey Callahan, Chief of Police Johnny Whitaker, Fire Chief Travis Cook, Executive Assistant Sierra Smith, Deputy Clerk Tracy Walker, and Chief Plant Operator Matt Perry.

A. Invocation

Mr. David Lauen gave invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. David Lauen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVE AGENDA

Mayor Cook requested Emma Meredith Proclamation be placed on the agenda before Sandy Spear with the Kiwanis Club.

Motion made to approve agenda with amendment 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

III. APPROVE MINUTES

A. Approval of April 1, 2024 Regular Session Minutes

Motion made to approve the minutes of April 1, 2024, 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

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, 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 regarding meeting minutes, he brought up a public records request pertaining to the fire department receipts again, Facebook posts, city vehicle use, and romantic relationships.

Ryan Rosser asked who he should contact regarding roads in the city limits. Attorney Holloway advised him to email Mayor Cook.

Joyce Everett wanted to know about an ordinance regarding other people blowing trash in her yard.

A. Emma Meredith Proclamation

Executive Assistant Smith read the proclamation declaring April 15, 2024 as Champion Emma Meredith Day. Emma Meredith is a 2-time FHSAA State Champion Weightlifter.

B. Kiwanis Club - Sandy Spear

Sandy Spear and Shan Hatfield with the Bonifay Kiwanis Club, and Clay Milton, Attorney for the Bonifay Kiwanis Club, came back before the Council for a vote on transferring Memorial Field to the Kiwanis Club.

In the agreement, there will be a 20-year extension for the Holmes County School Board, swap of a parcel of land that attaches to City property, located on Depot St., have a reverted clause, and include the softball field being transferred to the Kiwanis Club.

Council Member Dixon stated that there is a huge difference in value, and suggested 2% on gross income of Kiwanis.

Sandy Spear stated it would always be a venue to be used by everyone.

Council Member Sellers asked “What the City gains from owning that field, stating his concern of liability. For 6 months out of the year other people are using it.”

Shan Hatfield asked “What is the value of the property to the City? As it sits, it's 70 years old and all parts of it need repair. It's a huge liability as it currently sits. Kiwanis spent thousands of dollars repairing the facility. Kiwanis is looking for a way forward to bring the facility up to par. This should be an opportunity for the city to make way for improvements that they cannot afford.”

Attorney Milton asked for a vote on the agreement.

Attorney Holloway clarified to leave out the softball field to Highway 79, and that camping spots being available to rent and the hookups.

Council Member Carroll asked if the work be done in time for Holmes County School Board and Pee Wee football to use the field.

Sandy Spear stated “yes”.

Motion made to approve with the changes agreed to at this meeting and to authorize the mayor to sign the agreement by Council Member Dixon, Seconded by Council Member Sellers.

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

Voting Nay: Council Member Carroll, Council Member Crews

Sandy Spear asked the Council to consider the original agreement and pay \$7,500 to the city for 5 years with previous changes.

Motion made to reconsider the previous motion 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

Motion made to rewrite to original contract and add \$7,500 per year for 5 years from Kiwanis to the City and give permission for the Mayor to sign it 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

VI. PLANNING & ENGINEERING

No updates.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. RFQ 2024-01 Engineering Services

Executive Assistant Smith gave an update on the proposals received for both RFQ 2024-01 and RFP 2024-01. She stated that Melvin Engineering has been very helpful throughout the process and recommended the council approve the recommendation of accepting Melvin Engineering for both the RFQ & RFP.

Motion made to award Engineering Services for RFQ 2024-01 to Melvin Engineering by Council Member Carroll, Seconded by Council Member Crews.

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

B. RFP 2024-01 Grants Administration Services

Motion made to award RFP 2024-01 Grants Administration Services to Melvin Engineering by Council Member Carroll, Seconded by Council Member Crews.

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

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. SBR Effluent Decanter

Chief Plant Operator Matt Perry said the State is requiring 2 decanters to be updated immediately.

Motion made to approve the proposal from Aqua-Aerobic Systems in the amount of \$19,775.96 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

IX. COUNCIL / DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS / CITY ATTORNEY DISCUSSION

Items not listed on Formal Agenda.

A. Council Updates

No updates.

B. Department Updates

Executive Assistant Smith announced a Health Fair on April 26th from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm by the Holmes County Health Department.

C. Employee Spotlight

Mayor Cook spotlighted Lynn Ponds in preparing for the storm: her and Landis Messer handled dispatch for the police and fire departments.

Mayor Cook announced a fish fry at Etta Hudson Park on April 20th.

Mayor Cook invited everyone to go and look at the splash pad with its upgrades. The splash pad will open May 1st.

Mayor Cook invited everyone to FDOT's open house on May 6th, right after the City's regular session.

City Clerk Rickey Callahan gave the Council an update on the City Hall renovations.

X. ADJOURN

Motion made to adjourn meeting 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

Mayor Cook adjourned the meeting at 7:35 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.