



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION - FINAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR AD VALOREM & BUDGET

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025 at 5:01 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 5:01 pm.

PRESENT

Mayor Larry Cook
Council Member James Sellers
Council Member Rick Crews

ABSENT

Council Member Shelley Carroll
Council Member Eddie Dixon

Also present:

Executive Assistant Sierra Smith, Finance/HR Director Tracy Walker, City Attorney Jon Holloway, Chief of Police Johnny Whitaker, Director of Public Work Aaron Taylor, Chief Plant Operator Matt Perry, 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 Sellers.

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

III. 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/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 and state your name and address for the record..

Richard Willsey stated he was glad to see the budget finally provided for public review on the final public hearing session. Mr. Willsey asked if this was the same budget from July or have changes been made?

IV. AD VALOREM

A. Resolution 2025 -10 2025-2026 Ad Valorem

Finance Director Tracy Walker read the heading of Resolution 2025-10.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BONIFAY OF HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA,
ADOPTING THE FINAL LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR HOLMES COUNTY
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

B. Public Hearing

Mayor Cook opened the Public Hearing.

Richard Willsey asked if the Council could tell the public the reason behind changing the Ad Valorem from 3 mills to 3.5 mills and increasing peoples property taxes.

Finance Director Tracy Walker stated the majority was for public safety which would be the Fire Department and Police Department.

Motion made to approve adopting Resolution 2025-10 by roll call vote by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Sellers.

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

V. BUDGET

A. Proposed Budget

Director of Finance Tracy Walker read the heading of Resolution 2025-11.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BONIFAY OF HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA,
ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026; PROVIDING FOR AN
EFFECTIVE DATE.

Richard Willsey questioned the Police Department and Fire Department budgets. He also questioned Christmas decorations.

B. Resolution 2025-11 Budget for 2025-2026

Motion made to approve adopting Resolution 2025-11 by roll call vote by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Sellers.

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

C. Public Hearing

Public Hearing was closed.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Employee Handbook

Motion made to approve adopting Employee Handbook by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Sellers.

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

B. Bonifay Fire Rescue Purchase Request

Motion made to approve the Fire Departments purchase request for a confined space cutter in the amount of \$5150.00, plus freight, by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Sellers.

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

Motion made to approve the Fire Departments purchase request for a confined space spreader in the amount of \$5310.00, plus freight, by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Sellers.

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

C. Kiwanis Club Property Transfer

City Attorney Jon Holloway informed the Council Members that we are closing in on finishing the transfer of property with the Bonifay Kiwanis Club. If it is the Council's pleasure, to have a motion authorizing Mayor Cook to execute the Draft Special Warranty Deed, subject to confirming the survey has the same legal description.

Motion made approving Mayor Cook to execute the Draft Special Warranty Deed by Council Member Sellers, Seconded by Council Member Crews.

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

VII. COUNCIL / DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS / CITY ATTORNEY DISCUSSION

Items not listed on Formal Agenda.

A. Council Updates

B. Department Updates

Finance Director Tracy Walker reminded everyone we are still working on our conversion software and asked for patience during this 3 to 4 month process.

Mayor Cook announced the Rodeo will be October 3rd, 4th and 5th.

C. Employee Spotlight

VIII. 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 Crews

Mayor Cook declared the meeting adjourned at 5:19 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.