



# **MINUTES**

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING - REGULAR SESSION**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024 at 6:00 PM**

**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 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

City Clerk Rickey Callahan, City Attorney Jon Holloway-by phone, Deputy Clerk Tracy Walker, Executive Assistant Sierra Smith, Police Chief Johnny Whitaker, Fire Chief Travis Cook, and Public Works Director Aaron Taylor

John Udochi with Melvin Engineering

City Planner John Feeney with Alday-Howell

#### **A. Invocation**

Council Member James Sellers gave invocation.

#### **B. Pledge of Allegiance**

Council Member James Sellers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **II. APPROVE AGENDA**

Before approving the agenda, Mayor Cook requested that Item A under Old Business be moved to Planning and Engineering; also Item A under New Business be moved down to Department Updates.

Motion made to approve agenda with amendments 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. December 2nd Regular Session Minutes**

Motion made to approve December 2, 2024 minutes by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Carroll.

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 Carroll, Seconded by Council Member Sellers.

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/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

None

### **VI. PLANNING & ENGINEERING**

John Udochi told the Council Members that bids for the Downtown Stormwater Park were opened on December 9, 2024. Out of the 6 bids received, 3 were over the allotted budget, and 1 bidder had to withdraw their bid due to not having the required FDOT qualifications.

After reviewing the 2 remaining bids, ECSC, LLC is the lowest with a total bid amount of \$1,988,938.94 which is less than the budgeted construction amount of \$2,000,000, and Melvin Engineering recommended awarding the bid to ECSC, LLC., contingent on DEP approval.

Motion made to approve awarding the bid to ECSC, LLC by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Sellers.

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

**A. Raley Drive Mobile Home Park - Land Use Change and Annexation into the City**

NOTE: The Planning and Zoning Board met with the Developers and held a Public Hearing on October 16, 2024 on this project in order to make a recommendation to the City Council. The Planning and Zoning Board voted to recommend to the City Council a "NO" vote on both the Land Use Change and the Annexation into the City.

This item was tabled at the November 18, 2022 City Council Meeting, and no new or revised plans have been received from the developer as of today.

City Clerk Callahan informed the Council Members that the Planning and Zoning Board met with the developers for the Raley Drive Mobile Home Park on October 16, 2024, and the Board voted to recommend to the City Council a "No" vote on both the Land Use Change and the Annexation into the City.

Motion made to deny Land Use Change by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Sellers.

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

Motion made to deny annexation by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Sellers.

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

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Melvin Engineering - BON23RE- Recommendation of Award**

Moved to Planning and Engineering.

**B. Ordinance Number 2024-12 Second Reading, Public Hearing, and Adoption**

City Clerk Callahan read the heading of Ordinance 2024-12.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BONIFAY, FLORIDA, SETTING FORTH REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE PROVISION OF POTABLE WATER AND SANITARY SEWER UTILITY SERVICES TO NON-CITY CUSTOMERS; AUTHORIZING BULK WATER AND SEWER UTILITY SERVICE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL ON CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENERS' ERRORS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Cook opened the meeting up for Public Hearing.

Mayor Cook closed the Public Hearing and the meeting went back into Regular Session.

Motion made to approve second reading and adoption of Ordinance 2024-12 by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Carroll.

Voting Yea: Mayor Cook, Council Member Sellers, Council Member Carroll, Council Member Crews. Vote was taken by roll call voting.

#### C. Rural Infrastructure Fund Award

Executive Assistant Smith told the Council that Governor Ron Desantis awarded 17 Florida Communities the Rural Infrastructure Fund for Infrastructure Improvements. The City of Bonifay was awarded \$1,233,000 to construct drainage improvements to address significant flooding issues at four key locations on the south side of town.

#### D. FDOT SUN Trail Award

Executive Assistant Smith stated the City was awarded \$1.2 million in Sun Trail Funding for a bike path/pedestrian trail along US 90 from Banfill Avenue east to the Sheriff's Office in 2029.

Executive Assistant Smith requested to tie Item D under New Business into this, because the application to apply for \$2.3 million to complete the Sun Trail project was ready to be submitted.

Motion made to approve the application by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Carroll.

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

### **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

#### A. Council Updates:

(In Packet) Garbage Rates with Waste Pro for Council Information - no action required.

Moved to Department Updates.

#### B. Bonifay Fire Rescue Purchase Request- Chief Cook

Fire Chief Travis requested approval to order bunker gear for \$11,000 that was already in the budget.

Motion made to approve purchasing bunker gear by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Carroll.

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

#### C. Bonifay Fire Rescue Assistance to Firefighters Grant

Fire Chief Cook stated Bonifay Fire Rescue would like to submit an application for a Assistance to Firefighters Grant. It is a 95%, with 5% match, to replace the air tank filling station for approximately \$99,987.00.

Motion made to approve applying for grant by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Carroll.

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

#### D. SUN Trail Grant Application

Approved under FDOT Sun Trail Award.

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

Items not listed on Formal Agenda.

#### A. Department Updates

Executive Assistant Smith stated that there was a good turnout at the Christmas Celebration, and thanked everyone for their involvement.

Fire Chief Cook told the Council Captain Jack Griffiths has been promoted by the Panama City Fire Department to Firefighter Engineer.

Police Chief Johnny Whitaker advised that he has solid evidence on the bank robbery suspects, and will be issuing warrants. He also stated that he should have the case closed by the end of the year.

Deputy Clerk Tracy Walker presented information for the Council on Waste Pro garbage rate increase. No action was required.

#### B. Employee Spotlight

Mayor Cook told the Council Members that employee Shawn Canaday has completed his training and passed the State test to be a licensed wastewater plant operator.

## **X. ADJOURN**

Motion made for meeting to adjourn by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Carroll.

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

Mayor Cook declared the meeting adjourned at 6:32 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.**