



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING - REGULAR SESSION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 03, 2025 at 9:00 AM

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Larry Cook called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

PRESENT

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

Also present

Deputy Clerk Tracy Walker, Executive Assistant Sierra Smith, City Attorney Jon Holloway - by phone, Chief of Police Johnny Whitaker, Chief Plant Operator Matt Perry, and Public Works Director Aaron Taylor

A. Invocation

Executive Assistant Sierra Smith gave Invocation.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Executive Assistant Sierra Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion made to approve agenda by Council Member Dixon, Seconded by Council Member Crews.

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

III. APPROVE MINUTES

A. January 24th, 2025

Motion made to approve the minutes of January 24, 2025 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

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, 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 stated that nothing has been done in the stormwater management retention pond across from Middlebrooks Park. Willsey paused for 53 seconds waiting on an answer. Mayor Cook reminded Willsey once again that this was not a question-and-answer period. Mayor Cook also reminded Willsey that he had three minutes and Willsey stated that he could stand there and look at him. Willsey paused for several seconds staring at Mayor Cook. He again mentioned about the council answering questions and paused again for several seconds.

Rosalie McClain told the Council Members that the carwash on the corner of Highway 90 and Oklahoma Street needs to be cleaned up.

VI. PLANNING & ENGINEERING

None

VII. OLD BUSINESS

None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. City Paving

Mayor Cook stated he and Chief Whitaker met with one of the paving contractors that are paving Highway 90. They will be working mostly at night and the City Police will help with traffic control.

Chief Whitaker stated they will be paving from Henry Grey Road, through town, to the end of the 4-lane on the east side. The improvements will be roadway, drainage, and sidewalks, and take approximately 18 months to complete.

B. Hubbard Street Damage

Mayor Cook stated that a Florida Power and Light (FPL) contractor cut a very large tree on Hubbard Street, and damaged the road. He is seeking permission from the Council to send FPL a letter describing the damage, and also remove the poles that are left in town from their upgrade.

Motion made to approve a letter being sent to FPL 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

C. Holmes Correctional Institution Partnership

Mayor Cook stated he has talked to the Warden at Holmes Correctional Institution about a 4 man work squad, and that is in the works. The City would supply the van and the oversee person that is approved by the State.

IX. COUNCIL / DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS / CITY ATTORNEY DISCUSSION

Items not listed on Formal Agenda.

A. Council Updates

None.

B. Department Updates

1. Public Works Update

Mayor Cook told the Council Members that Public Work Director Aaron Taylor has requested a pole barn that they will install themselves.

Public Works Director Taylor stated that the vac-truck has been sitting out in the sun, and it is taking its toll on the rubber hoses. The pole barn will rectify that problem.

Police Chief Whitaker read a letter expressing his thanks to Officer Braden Pate, Fire Chief Travis Cook, and Executive Assistant Sierra Smith for their outstanding assistance on February 1, 2025 to a motorist in need. The letters will be placed in their employment files.

Executive Assistant Sierra Smith also expressed her thanks to all involved in helping the motorists back on their way.

C. Employee Spotlight

Executive Assistant Sierra Smith read a letter from Fire Chief Travis Cook with his spotlight recommendation of Josh Myers. Josh joined our department in July of 2022. He has a full-time job that often takes him out of the county, but this never deters Josh from waking up in the middle of the night when someone calls 911. He will be at the station late at night doing apparatus checks, almost weekly, along with his 3 sons, while Josh teaches them why it is important to be in a constant state of readiness. When Josh is given a task, he completes it and does not need to be micromanaged.

Deputy Clerk Tracy Walker nominated Elois Bradshaw. Friday was her second day back at work, and she came in early and stayed late to make sure the bills were ready for customers who had payments drafted out on the first, would be able to pay their bills.

Council Member Sellers stated that West Brock needed to be widened for the delivery trucks that are going to the nursing home.

Council Member Crews stated since paving will be in the area, can we go ahead and authorize our engineers to look and see what the cost would be, and get bids on it.

Mayor Cook asked Public Works Director Taylor to ask the citizens if the City could trim the trees and bushes, as that will help the situation.

Motion made to approve getting engineers to look at widening and paving West Brock 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

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, Council Member Dixon

Mayor Cook declared the meeting adjourned at 9:20 am.

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.