



# **MINUTES**

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

**MONDAY, MAY 19, 2025 at 6:00 PM**

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

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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

Executive Assistant Sierra Smith, Director of Finance Tracy Walker, Chief of Police Johnny Whitaker, and Director of Public Works Aaron Taylor

#### **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 Carroll, Council Member Crews

### **III. APPROVE MINUTES**

#### **A. May 5th, 2025 Regular Session**

Motion made to approve the minutes of May 5, 2025 by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Carroll.

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

#### **B. May 16th, 2025 Special Session**

Motion made to approve the minutes of May 16, 2025 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 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

Director of Finance Tracy Walker read the disclaimer for the public addressing the Council

Richard Wilsey informed the Council Members that he could not find the Public Hearing advertisement in the May 14th newspaper. He stated that Ms. Smith was out of order at the May 16th meeting and requested that Mayor Cook reprimand her.

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

Mayor Cook informed the Council Members that Jeremy Kirkland has a hardship case on a piece of property and would like the Council to consider his plight.

Mr. Kirkland stated he lives at 313 W. Michigan Avenue. He has put a camper trailer there and requested at least a year to place a mobile home at that address.

Council Member Crews asked that it be tabled until the next regular session. The next Regular Session will be June 2, 2025 at 9:00 am.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. RIF - D0268 (WWTP) Update**

Executive Assistant Sierra Smith told the Council Members that the \$1.4 million Waste Water Treatment Plant improvements were out for bid. It is for the generator and mobile bypass pump to supply emergency power to potable water well #5. It will close on June 25th at 3:00 pm and the bids will be opened and read aloud then, and will have the Council an update for the July 7th meeting.

### **B. Community Project Funding Update - Rec Center Update**

Executive Assistant Sierra Smith gave the Council Members an update on the Community Project Funding for the Rec Center. Her and Mayor Cook have been in meetings with Liberty Partners, and the bids for design and engineering should go out May 28<sup>th</sup> and close on June 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm, with bids being read along then.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

None

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

Items not listed on Formal Agenda.

### **A. Council Updates**

### **B. Department Updates**

Police Chief Whitaker thanked the Council for allowing him to travel to south Florida for the championship baseball game. Holmes County High School came back as State Champions.

Police Chief Whitaker stated that this morning they went to Circle D in Marianna for the K-8 rodeo. There were 750 kindergarten through 4th grade students there.

Executive Assistant Smith stated that last Friday there was a Special Session regarding the CDBG application. The week before, she sent the legals to the newspaper regarding the advertisement of the CDBG application. The owner of the paper called that Friday afternoon and informed her that they made a mistake and did not put it in the paper. With that information, the City will not be submitting that CDBG application due to advertising requirements from the program.

Executive Assistant Smith informed the Council Members that her and Mayor Cook spent the last few weeks meeting with Florida Power & Light, Lumens, and Mediacom regarding their lines and poles through town. All entities are linked and should be working together now.

### **C. Employee of the Quarter Award**

Executive Assistant Smith told the Council Members that Waukesha Way sponsored the Employee of the Quarter Award.

Fire Chief Travis Cook invited Josh Myers and his family up to the council tables. Fire Chief Cook read the Employee Spotlight nomination that he submitted for Josh Myers. It is an honor to recognize Josh Meyers as the City of Bonifay's Employee of the Quarter.

Fire Chief Cook stated that on April 10, 2025, Bonifay Fire Department responded to the scene of a tragic motor vehicle crash on State Road 79, just south of the city limits. Assistant Fire Chief Larry Cook was directed to a lifeless child on the side of the highway. Assistant Chief Cook began CPR, including chest compressions and mouth-to-mouth breaths. Without the timely actions of Assistant Chief Cook, Trinity would not be here today. Chief Cook presented Assistant Chief Larry Cook a lifesaving award for his heroic actions that day.

## **X. ADJOURN**

Ryan Martin gave a closing prayer.

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 6:23 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.**