



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING - REGULAR SESSION

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 08, 2026 at 9:00 AM

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

at 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT

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

Also present: City Clerk, Jessie Chaney; Finance Director, Tracy Walker; Executive Assistant, Sierra Smith; Public Works Director, Aaron Taylor, Waste Water Treatment Facility Operator, Matthew Perry; Chief of Police, Johnny Whitaker; Fire Chief, Travis Cook

A. Invocation

led by Council Member Eddie Dixon

B. Pledge of Allegiance

led by Council Member Eddie Dixon

II. APPROVE AGENDA

Motion made 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

III. APPROVE MINUTES

A. Regular Session Meeting Minutes 8/17/2026

Motion made by Council Member Sellers, Seconded by Council Member Dixon.
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 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/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

Non-Resident, Richard Willsey of Happy Hollow, stated he was concerned over the City's budget and spending habits. Wanted to know why the City was purchasing a new truck for Police Department and new fire equipment. He stated the City was in a 1.5 million dollar deficit. Also, Willsey expressed concern over the public records requests he received for the bids for new fire equipment. He also questioned city hall employees pay raises. Mr. Willsey went over his allowed three minutes.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

VII. NEW BUSINESS

VIII. PLANNING & ENGINEERING

A. Ardurra

Amir Zafar from Ardurra advised the Council that the two SRF grants applied for had been approved in the amount of 10.7 million dollars. These grants will be used for water and sewer projects. Mr. Zafar will update the council when the grant agreements are received.

IX. COUNCIL / DEPARTMENT SUPERVISORS / CITY ATTORNEY DISCUSSION

Items not listed on Formal Agenda.

A. Council Updates

Mayor Cook provided an update on the City Hall parking lot paving project. He stated that the contractor would return later in the week to continue patching problem areas and that the project would be completed before the Northwest Florida Championship Rodeo, scheduled for the first weekend in October.

Mayor Cook reported that the City's budget decreased by 8% this year. He commended the department heads for reducing their individual budgets, noting that the Police Department achieved a significant decrease of 3.5%. These reductions will allow the City to fund Code Enforcement and potentially begin searching for a magistrate in January. Mayor Cook also thanked the City Council, Finance Director Tracy Walker, and all department heads for their efforts in producing a balanced budget. He announced that the next budget hearing would be held on September 21, 2026.

While Mayor Cook was providing his updates, Mr. Richard Willsey repeatedly made comments aloud. Mayor Cook called Mr. Willsey out of order. When Mr. Willsey continued speaking out of turn, Mayor Cook called him out of order a second time.

B. Department Updates

Chief Johnny Whitaker asked the Council for approval to add White's Towing to rotation due to the wait time from the only other choice, Eastern Diesel (Legacy). Chief Whitaker stated that they are having to wait an extended amount of time for towing services right now.

Resident, Jason Powell, spoke up and asked what if the owner wants to choose which company to use. Chief Whitaker responded that was still an option if owner chooses, as it has always been.

Council Member James Sellers asked Chief Whitaker at what point can you call someone else on the rotation. Chief Whitaker responded stating that they adopted the Highway Patrol's guidelines and will wait up to 45 minutes.

Motion made by Council Member Crews, Seconded by Council Member Dixon.

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

C. Employee Spotlight

X. ADJOURN

at 9:13 A.M.

Motion made by Council Member Crews.

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.