

MINUTES

The City of Blountstown, County of Calhoun, State of Florida, met in Regular Session Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 5:00 P.M. The following members of the City Council present were: Mayor Tony Shoemake, Councilman Bill Gaskin, Councilwoman Mert Stephens, Councilman Clifford Jackson and Councilwoman Sheila Blackburn.

Also present were: Police Chief Mark Mallory, Public Works Director Phillip Griffin, Fire Chief Ben Hall, and Council Secretary Joni Lambeth.

Absent were: City Manager Traci Hall and City Attorney Jeff Carter.

Also present were: Tony Arrant, and Colton Purvis, Megan Hoff, Jason Alderman, and Arzella Smith.

Mayor Tony Shoemake called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. Councilman Jackson led the Invocation. Councilwoman Stephens led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Tony Shoemake presented to the Council with the Additions of Jason Alderman with New Business. Councilwoman Stephens made a motion to adopt the Agenda with the Add-ons. Councilman Gaskin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Next was the approval of February 14, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes. Councilwoman Stephens made a motion to approve the February 14, 2023, minutes. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The Monthly Bills were presented for action. Councilman Gaskin asked questions concerning certain bills, such as three repetitive nail kits from Ace Hardware and other questions that will be answered with a follow-up report in the next few days. Councilwoman Stephens made a motion to pay the monthly bills with the Add on Bills. Councilman Gaskin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Next was Proclamations and Awards. No Proclamation or Awards.

The first item in Old Business was Capital Solutions Report. Councilman Gaskin asked if SB 0540 was preventing the city from charging surcharge to customers outside of city limits. Chief Mallory stated he will send an email to Patrick Bell to answer and clarify this question. Councilman Gaskin will make a summary of these questions for Mr. Bell. Mr. Bell was unable to attend the Council Meeting.

Next in Old Business was Engineer's Report. Mr. Colton Purvis provided Council an update regarding the WWTF Effluent Reuse System. Mr. Purvis stated the land clearing was on schedule and almost complete. After the clearing is complete topsoil stripping will be the next step.

Mr. Purvis provided Council with an update regarding the Blountstown Inflow and Infiltration Improvements. Mr. Purvis stated documents are ready to go out for bid and ready for Mrs. Hall to review.

Mr. Purvis updated Council about the Splash Pad. Mr. Purvis handed out a quote for the Splash Pad spray deck from Struthers Recreation for a total of \$7,062.50. The Council chose the blue green color, that should take four weeks to receive. The installation takes three days, and nothing is allowed on it for 24 hours. Councilwoman Stephens made a motion for

the approval for the blue-green color Splash Pad spray deck for \$7,062.50. Councilman Gaskin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mr. Purvis updated Council about the City Street Paving - project is completed.

Mr. Purvis provided the Council with an update regarding FEMA Projects. Mr. Purvis stated we are still waiting on time extension and the extra funding from FEMA.

Mr. Purvis provided Council an update regarding the Blountstown Beautification Grant and a survey request for property at Boggs Cemetery. Mr. Purvis stated the cemetery property has a parcel that is not under the city's property. Mr. Purvis stated the parcel is owned by Bennett Eubank and Mr. Eubank donated part of the parcel to City, for funding the surveys. Several questions from the Council concerning the plots and availability, which will have to be investigated for answers with the Funeral Homes. Councilwoman Blackburn asked who is charging for the plots and receiving these funds. She also asked who is placed in the cemetery and asked about the availability of plots. Councilman Gaskin made a motion to approve the purchase of the survey and deed for the property at Boggs Cemetery for \$1,500.00. Councilwoman Blackburn seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Mr. Purvis provided Council an update regarding FDOT RAISE Program. Mr. Purvis stated the application is submitted for the striping and new signs.

Mr. Purvis provided Council a suggestion regarding the RIF Program. Mr. Purvis stated the RIF Program application has been submitted. Mr. Purvis stated he received information about a Neal Dunn Grant for community buildings, regarding buildings in the community that need updated. The deadline for this grant is March 17, 2023. Mayor Shoemake requested that the storage building would be a great use for this grant. Mr. Purvis suggested that it may be used for funding with the new City Hall as well and will get a quote for the updating of the storage building.

Mayor Shoemake asked about an update on Lake Hilda. Mr. Purvis stated no update yet, that DEO still has several documentations that are spread out. Mayor Shoemake asked if the FEMA Grant will cover the decayed walls of the Depo due to no rain gutters. Mr. Purvis stated he would have to go back and check the FEMA reports. Mayor Shoemake asked Council about plans of fencing the Splash Pad and the choice of a fence timer. Mayor Shoemake would like to have this discussion and decision made at next month's meeting.

Next in Old Business was Wheeler Emergency Service Update. Mr. Garrett was unable to attend the Council Meeting and provided Council with a written report read by Chief Mallory. Chief Mallory stated the DEO Projects such as the MOO77 (Generators), that all documents have been submitted and approved for this to go out for bid. A checklist will be needed next week, to have everything together for the advertisement at the next meeting.

Chief Mallory stated the M0155 (Wastewater Treatment Plant) Environmental exemption review application and the additional request for information has been submitted. The RFI was completed and submitted on March 13, 2023, to request an update for the new City Hall location.

Chief Mallory stated the monthly reports for DEO projects were submitted on March 13, 2023.

Chief Mallory stated the Hurricane Michael Roofing project is almost complete and most of the sites have been inspected and documented. The collection of information for submission and reimbursement is in progress.

Chief Mallory stated the Time Extension has nothing new to report and FDEM has contacted FEMA and continues to wait for approval.

Next in Old Business was – New City Hall Update. Mrs. Hall was absent and will postpone discussion on New City Hall update in Page Turn meeting with Council on March 28, 2023. Time to be determined.

First in New Business was Ordinance 2023-01 – Requirement for Pawn Brokers- 1st Reading. Mayor Shoemake read Ordinance 2023-01 – Requirement for Pawn Brokers – Secondhand Dealers by title only. Councilman Gaskin made a motion to approve the 1st reading of Ordinance 2023-01. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion. Motioned approved.

Next in New Business was Ordinance 2023-02 – False Alarms – 1st Reading. Mayor Shoemake read Ordinance 2023-02 – False Alarms by the title only. Councilman Jackson made the motion to approve the 1st reading of Ordinance 2023-02 – False Alarms. Councilman Gaskin seconded the motion. Motioned approved.

Next in New Business was the Garbage Truck Lease –Mayor Shoemake stated the current lease on the 2019 Freightliner Garbage Truck is up in October 2023. Councilwoman Stephens made the motion to approve the lease for the 2024 Freightliner for 48 months for \$242,316.80. This lease is through Cadence Equipment Finance, which is the same as the current company being used. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Next in New Business was FGU Discounted Natural Gas Prepay Opportunity. Due to the absence of Mrs. Hall this discussion was postponed for the next meeting.

Next in New Business was Effluent Site Land Clearing Change Order No. 1. Mr. Purvis stated the geotech determined the quantity of topsoil that was needed. The bid was underbudget for the base bid and an added alternate for the stripping of topsoil. The approximate cost with the added alternate is \$188,813.61. Councilman Gaskin made the motion to approve the Change of Order No. 1. Councilwoman Stephens seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Next in New Business was Houses at the New City Hall Site. Mayor Shoemake stated that if any employees are interested in anything in the houses, everything should be out by the next Council meeting. Mrs. Hall has a list of staff who are interested in items in the houses. Mayor Shoemake stated after everything has been removed that is wanted, Chief Hall can have the Fire Department breach one of the houses for training purposes. Then once completed we will move forward with demolishing the houses.

Next in New Business was Add-On Item - Jason Alderman – Request for houses being built on Burns Ave. Mr. Alderman stated he is with Madrid CPWG. Mr. Alderman stated growth is coming and we need somewhere to place them. Mr. Alderman is requesting a letter of agreement for the city to provide all available utilities to a development he is in process of building on 9.3 acres on Burns Ave. Councilwoman Blackburn asked if some of

that area was flood land. Mr. Alderman stated some of the area is flood land. Mr. Alderman passed out plans for the first home to be built. Mr. Alderman asked the Council what the process is to annex the property into the city. Mr. Arrant answered that he would use the same process, to request before the Council with all the correct documents and can be completed within one to three months if everything is together. Mr. Arrant stated concern about having some area of development in a flood plain. Mr. Alderman answered that the flood plain can be delineated. After discussion, Mr. Alderman decided to review the annexing of this property with his partners and consult with Mr. Arrant, before moving forward. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to provide a letter of agreement for the city to provide available utilities to the housing development.

Mayor Shoemake Opened Public Comments.

Opened Public Comments - Megan Hoff with Blountstown Main Street – Request to use the Depot for 2nd Annual Live Art Night. Mrs. Hoff request use of the Depo to host the 2nd Annual Live Art Night for April 8, 2023, between 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. It will have chalk artists, kid’s activities, food trucks, and art vendors. Councilwoman Stephens made a motion to approve the Live Art Night on April 8th. Councilman Gaskin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mayor Shoemake Closed Public Comments.

Mayor Shoemake opened the meeting for City Staff Reports.

City Attorney Jeff Carter was absent.

Police Chief Mark Mallory provided Council with an update. Chief Mallory stated the animal shelter is in progress. The fencing is completed, and the drainage work is still underway.

Chief Mallory informed Council about the security cameras at the Depot Park. The \$3,000.00 will buy the hardware, but not cover the labor. Chief Mallory stated he was provided with a potential funding source with USDA before requesting more funds with Council.

Fire Chief Ben Hall provided the Council with an update about no hearing for Code Enforcement on March 14, 2023. Chief Hall provided information about the Neese Property which has a corrected order that will be filed.

Chief Hall also informed Council about the vehicle that was shipped out from the Dodge Company on March 9th and transporting to Fort Walton Beach. Once it is delivered, the necessary equipment will be added to the vehicle.

Councilwoman Stephens asked if the Police Department has all vacant positions filled? Chief Mallory stated that two new Police Officers are in the field training process and need two more police officers. Mayor Shoemake suggested a National Night Out/ Back To School Bash function for the Police Department around August. Chief Mallory stated he will begin planning.

Public Works Director, Phillip Griffin, provided Council information about a work truck that was attempted to be sold about three months ago. He has an offer for \$800 and requesting approval of accept offer. After discussion, Council agreed on the \$800 offer.

Mr. Griffin stated a new water main has been installed on Martin Luther King Drive. He also stated that the water fountain has been installed at the Depot and a second fountain will be installed soon at Magnolia Square.

Mr. Griffin stated the Depot is in progress with updating the roof, fixing leakage around the chimney, and installing rain gutters. Mr. Griffin requested approval for the installation of 6-inch gutters for the Depot building at a cost of \$1,500.00. Councilman Gaskin made the motion to approve the installation of 6-inch gutters. Councilwoman Stephens seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Mr. Griffin advised Council about a planned power outage for March 13, 2023, at 10:00 P.M. for only a couple of hours. An alert was sent out by EM on Alert Calhoun advising City customers of planned outage.

City Manager Mrs. Hall was absent.

Mayor Shoemake updated Council with the City Manager's Report about Dates to remember such as March 21, 2023, at 2:00 P.M. a Special Meeting with Doug Shuler on the New City Hall.

Mayor Shoemake stated an update from Stacy Miller with North Florida Construction regarding the County's project to clear the water ways. She stated they should begin work within the next few weeks, beginning on Faircloth Road and then moving to the Sam Atkins Park area. Currently they are not approved for mulching only removing the debris from the waterway.

Mayor Shoemake stated Thursday, March 30, 2023, will be the 74th Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet and each Council Member receives a free ticket. If you wish to bring a guest(s), please purchase your additional tickets from the Chamber of Commerce. Kristy is asking that you R.S.V.P by March 17th. Chief Hall added that Kristy's last day with Chamber of Commerce will be March 30th as well.

Mayor Shoemake closed City Staff Reports

Mayor Shoemake opened for Council comments.

Councilwoman Stephen questioned why minutes from the council meeting were not posted on the web site. Mayor Shoemake advised this would be followed up with Mrs. Hall and see if this is possible.

Councilman Gaskin questioned why we don't do pass through charging for electric as the same manner as the city charges for gas. There were no answers to this question and will have to follow up with Mrs. Hall.

Councilman Gaskin asked if patrol cars come equipped with Narcan. Chief Mallory stated each officer carries Narcan. Councilman Gaskin stated that Liberty and Bay County both have free dispensaries and allow family members or friends that may need this service. Chief Mallory and Chief Hall are going to research the group providing this service.

Councilman Gaskin stated that garbage trucks are tearing up garbage cans and causing rust in the front of cans. Mr. Griffin stated it may be due to wear and tear of the older garbage cans.

Councilman Gaskin stated concern about speeding on Gaskin Street due to complaints and Chief Mallory will provide the radar trailer on Gaskin Street to assist.

Councilwoman Blackburn received a request for permission to provide a supply box for the Splash Pad that would be stocked with sunscreen and other helpful items from the Calhoun County Community Foundation. After discussion, a blue colored box was chosen. Councilman Gaskin made a motion approving the Calhoun County Community Foundation placing a supply box at the Splash Pad. Councilwoman Stephens seconded the motions. Motion passed.

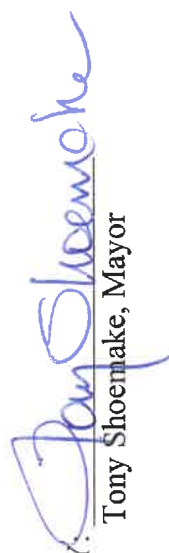
Councilman Jackson had no comment.


Mayor Shoemake requested a price reduction to Panhandle Sand and Gravel for 3 phase electric. After discussion, Council decided to reduce the price by removing the fees of labor and equipment cost. Councilwoman Blackburn abstained from this vote due to her owning the property. Councilman Gaskin made the motion to reduce the initial quote for approval. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Council also agreed to provide the same discounts to the 5-Star Paving (Allied Paving) for their 3-phase power hook up, once the 3-phase power is required. Councilwoman Stephens made the motion for the reduction in price for this business's for 3 phase power hook up. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mayor Shoemake stated concern about dumping behind the City parking lot, and behind the bank. It has become an issue. Mayor Shoemake requested a No Dumping Sign to be installed. Mr. Griffin stated a sign will be posted.

There being no further business Councilman Gaskin made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Stephens seconded the motion. The motion passed. Mayor Shoemake adjourned the meeting at 7:04 P.M.

BY: 
Tony Shoemake, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Traci S. Hall, City Manager