

City of Bowling Green

Minutes of Regular Meeting

September 13, 2022

Present: Mayor Gardner, Vice-Mayor Fite, Commissioner Durastanti, Commissioner Lunn, Commissioner Jones, City Manager Thompson, Deputy Clerk Gordillo, Chief Scheel, Attorney Buhr, and members of the audience.

1. **Call to order** – The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gardner.
2. **Prayer** – Commissioner Durastanti
Flag Salute
3. **Old Business**
 - A. **Approval of Minutes**
 - 1) **Regular Meeting 08/09/2022**

Vice-Mayor Fite made the motion to approve. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Durastanti. Roll call vote, all in favor, motion carried.
4. **New Business**
 - A. **Interim City Clerk**

City Manager Thompson introduced the new interim City Clerk, Katherin Kinzel. She is being trained to take over for Carmen Silva, the outgoing City Clerk. Commissioners took a moment to welcome her.
 - B. **Small Engine Repair Land**

City Manager Thompson stated that he spoke to them about the land. The Hanuschs were willing to do owner financing with \$0 down for all three buildings and lots behind them. He left the decision to the commission. Mayor Gardner asked if the City would receive the rent payments now being paid. City Manager Thompson gave a synopsis of the businesses paying rent currently. Commissioner Durastanti stated that the rent would not cover the amount due to buy the land monthly. Vice-Mayor Fite said that there are still real estate taxes due, however, City Attorney Buhr said that could be passed down to the renters. City Manager Thompson said a member of the public also mentioned insurance costs. Mayor Gardener asked how long would the City have to make payments to which City Manager Thompson said until it was paid off. The Hanuschs would be flexible on the timeframe to pay but not the price of \$750,000 as this is what Wawa had offered. Vice-Mayor Fite said that there is a procedure involved to the City purchasing land which includes an appraisal; City Attorney Buhr concurred and said that all this is in the code. Commissioner Durastanti said that the City did not have funds to purchase it. City Manager Thompson stated that the City could find a use for the property, but he did not want to be a landlord. Mayor Gardner asked what the City Manager’s recommendation is. City Manager Thompson said that the price was high and was only interested in the old Cricket store so it could be used for storage. Mayor Gardner asked for a motion, but no motion was made so no action was taken.

C. Contract for Peace River Oaks EDA

City Manager Thompson stated that the EDA approved the \$753,000. The IDA is also doing a grant for it. If approved, he wants to use the IDA money for Peace River Oaks and go back to the EDA to repurpose that money for the Highway 17 extension. This is a done deal.

D. Resolution 2022-03 – Garbage Rates

City Attorney Buhr read the short description for the resolution. Vice-Mayor Fite made the motion to accept the resolution with a second from Commissioner Lunn. Mayor Gardner asked for discussion. City Manager Thompson said that this is the only item that has been raised this year which is only going up \$5. Vice-Mayor Fite said that the City could hold this rate or even reverse it at some point. Jim Kelly (4640 Bryan Ave) asked what the increase would result in. City Manager Thompson said that the rate would go from \$27.75 to \$32.75, which amounts to 445,000 in extra revenue. Mayor Gardner called for the vote. Roll call vote, all in favor, motion carried.

E. Ordinance 2022-03 – Changes to Deposits/Fees

City Attorney Buhr read the short description for the ordinance. City Manager Thompson stated that the current deposit amount (\$170) does not cover the billing amount (which is billed a month behind). The increase amount (\$191.50) will cover approximately 2 months. Vice-Mayor Fite asked if the increased deposit amount includes the garbage rate increase. City Manager Thompson said that garbage increase is separate. Vice-Mayor Fite said that the amount is approximately two times the base utility rate. City manager Thompson said that this is just a deposit for the water and sewer. Commissioner Jones made a motion to accept the ordinance with a second from Commissioner Durastanti. Roll call vote, all in favor, motion carried for the first reading.

F. Water Meters

City Manager Thompson said that the commissioners agreed to purchase water meters. However, he and Vice-Mayor Fite spoke to Empire Pipe & Supply has a compact model (Sonata) similar to what the City has now which is available in two weeks. The original company, Fortiline, provided a quote of \$233, 023.59 while the other company, Empire Pipe & Supply, is \$252,650.00. No bids were received the last two times it went out to bid. City Attorney Buhr said that once the contract is signed the City will have to go with them unless they have a termination clause. City Manager Thompson said it did not go out for bid and that they did not send the meters on time (August) then we can get out of it since they will not send them until January. The Sonata water meter is a newer and sleeker model. He recommended going with the Sonata. City Attorney Buhr said to send the information to Frazier Carroway (Construction Attorney) for review and litigation. Vice-Mayor Fite said that some municipalities had them and asked confirmation that City of Wauchula from City Manager Terry Atchley who was present. Wauchula City Manager Atchley said they had remote meters, not electronic. City Manager Thompson will send over their contract over to City Attorney Buhr to see if the City can get out of the original contract. Commissioner Lunn asked if the plastic casing was included for the second company. City Manager Thompson said that they can be provided but the meters are encased in glass and are submersible. Empire has a ten-year warranty. Commissioner Jones

made a motion to consider going with the second company with a second from Commissioner Durastanti. Mayor Gardner asked for discussion, then vote. Roll call vote, all in favor, motion carried.

G. SCOP Project

City Manager Thompson explained that three roads have been paved but there was a small issue. The roads had to be redone due to drop-off, but the DOT signed off on it. There will be a change order to make it happen and DOT wanted it approved by the Commission. The contractor did it without notifying the City. He did all three roads and contacted DOT which they said the contractor had no choice. Vice-Mayor Fite made the motion to accept the paving change with a second from Commissioner Durastanti. Commissioner Jones asked if it was advantageous to which City Manager Thompson said yes but they used a different material on top. The difference is the slope in the drop-off which DOT said was okay. Roll call vote, all in favor, motion carried.

H. Well Field Generator

City Manager Thompson said that the city has put a lot of money into the main well field generator due to repairing it. Two magnets broke apart and there was possibly an issue of not being to obtain them. However, parts were found and will need Commission to approve spending as it is above the City Manager's pay approval limit. It is an important generator and due to age, parts are getting harder to get. Vice-Mayor Fite made the motion to approve the repair; second from Commissioner Jones. Mayor Gardner asked for discussion. Commissioner Jones asked if there was a backup option. City Manager Thompson said that he is working with Inframark on generator options. He said hurricane season is supposed to be light this year. City Attorney Buhr said that Zolfo has a generator and two smaller generators; he recommended the City speak to them regarding borrowing them if needed. City Manager Thompson said that Mid-Florida said that portable generators would not work. Roll call vote, all in favor, motion carried.

5. Mayor

Everything going good and smooth.

6. Recreation Committee

Mayor Gardner asked who was speaking for the Recreation Committee due to the absence of Chairperson Robinson. City Manager Thompson asked the Commission to consider to not paying the Chairperson instead of paying the current amount of \$350 (reduced in the budget to \$250 for 2022-2023 fiscal year). Commissioner Durastanti said that the position had not been paid previously. Commissioner Jones said that committee needed order and structure. He found ordinances that would be beneficial and concerned appropriate number of members, attendance, Roberts' Rules of Order, and compensation for members. Duties and responsibilities would be spread out and contacting local business. Office staff can help with making copies. Turning in minutes, agendas, and announcement. He and City Manager Thompson can go over and implement changes as needed. Motion to redact Chairperson payment was made by Commissioner Durastanti. City Manager Thompson explained how the payment system came about. Commissioner Jones explained the committee runs like the Commission as an extension of it. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lunn. Roll call vote, all in favor, motion carried.

7. City Manager Terry Atchley, Wauchula

City Manager Atchley wanted to invite the City of Bowling Green to Heritage Park in Wauchula on October 4th at 4pm. They are having a bricklaying ceremony to celebrate 100

years of providing electricity to the City of Wauchula. There will be light refreshments and entertainment.

8. Commissioners

Commissioner Jones is grateful for the progress that has been made in this community. However, one of the things to consider is a strategic plan which he has not seen. He wants to see things not done on a whim but be more intentional in planning. He went to a FLC class on strategic planning which should be done quarterly or biannually. It should be planned around budget time or the City cannot move forward without a guide especially if planning for funds to be assigned. Commissioner Jones introduced ADDIP (Assess, Decide, Discuss, Implement, Proceed) to help in making the plan. He felt a SWAT analysis was needed since he felt the City's seems to always have finance issues when emergencies come up. The City should be left in the best hands possible otherwise there will always be a struggle. Commissioner Durastanti wanted to thank the City employees for all their hard work. He praised City Manager Thompson and Police Chief Scheel. Mayor Gardner complimented the police department for the job they do. Vice-Mayor Fite seconded that comment. He welcomed Interim City Clerk Kinzel. He, City Manager Thompson, and Deputy Clerk Gordillo attended the 100th Annual Conference. They took away a lot of information. He is on the Municipal Administrative Legislative Committee, Advocacy team, and FAST (Federal Action Strike Team). He thanked City Manager Thompson for all he has done. There is a 1-hour session for commissioners on how to conduct a quasi-judicial webinar. He complimented the police department.

9. City Attorney

City Attorney Buhr complimented the City Manager and police department on a job well done.

10. City Manager

City Manager Thompson states that the City is short-staffed in public works (mowing grass, weeding, etc.). He told everyone to send a thanks to them. He also complimented office staff. Even though there have been multiple changes, it has been successful, and sanitation should run in the black. The community center has generated over \$2,000 in revenue since the grand opening in July. Everything is looking good, and he is proud of the City. He wanted to mention the lease program available from a company he met. The cost is about \$81,000 for 10 vehicles which includes maintenance. The City only has to pay for gas. He provided information to the Commissioners for review. It is a cost saving option from purchasing them outright. All city vehicles are owned and costs to keep maintained. He will present a more detailed presentation at the meeting. He appreciated the Commission and the residents.

11. Police Chief

Police Chief Scheel gave an update on the totaled police vehicle from last month. Insurance has not received insurance payment yet. Another police vehicle was intentionally hit recently. The cadet from the academy has passed his state exam and will begin work tomorrow. He is a resident of the City of Bowling Green. Mayor Gardner asked to be called so he can meet him.

12. Interim City Clerk

The new Interim City Clerk Kinzel thanked the City for the opportunity to be in this position and very excited to be in this position. She is very excited to be a part of what is going on in the City of Bowling Green.

13. Public

City Manager Terry Atchley said that if the new Interim City Clerk does as good of a job as she does with the Hardee County Fair then the City of Bowling Green has a great employee.

Mayor Gardner adjourned the meeting.

Duane Gardner, Mayor

Katherin Kinzel, Interim City Clerk

City of Bowling Green

Minutes of Tentative Budget Hearing

September 15, 2022

Present: Vice-Mayor Fite, Commissioner Durastanti, Commissioner Jones, City Manager Thompson, Interim City Clerk Kinzel, Chief Scheel, and members of the audience.

Absent: Mayor Gardener and Commissioner Lunn

Call to order – The meeting was called to order by Vice-Mayor Fite.

- 1. Public Announcement of Taxing Authority** – Vice-Mayor Fite stated that the purpose of this hearing is approve the final budget for taxation purposes. City Manager Thompson said the Commissioners have the budget and that it is balanced. There are only a few changes per the state. They redid some calculations and there is \$15,000 extra in appropriated money in the state revenue. The TIF is quite large but will change when taxes come up. Once numbers are provided, ~\$101,000 will come to the City for CRA. He stated that everything is accounted for. Financially, the City was short but only up \$3,000 on the administrative side and the police department was up due to \$3 raise on starting pay for officers. Every employee will pay \$30 per week for insurance. Vice-Mayor Fite asked if these was all employees which City Manager Thompson confirmed. He was able to get it down from \$50 per week each employee. The budget is meant to keep the City running. Extra funds will be used to purchase what is needed for the City to operate. Recreation Committee Chairperson will no longer be paid and this money will be reallocated to back into the committee. Liability insurance rates went down due to the purchase of the new garbage truck, but the workers' compensation insurance went up. Commissioner Jones asked what happened to the two workers on the original garbage truck. City Manager Thompson said they have been reassigned to other duties such as mowing grass and keep up the pipes. There are only four public works employees and two supervisors. He stated that Avion Palms requested that the land beside their property needed to be mowed more often due to weeds and sandspurs. Commissioner Jones wanted clarification why they were wanting that mowed since it is City property. City Manager Thompson and Vice-Mayor Fite said that the wind blows the seeds onto their property. City manager Thompson said it takes two to two-and-a-half days to mow that field. The City mows one side and use the tractor on the other side. With the EDA grant money, someone will come out to level it out so that a soccer league can use it. Electric fees have gone up greatly. The City was on Duke Energy but moved to PRECO. August 1st was the last of the Duke Energy pricing before rates went up with PRECO. Commissioner Jones wanted to know why the price went up when the City was with PRECO prior, however, Commissioner Durastanti and Vice-Mayor Fite said that the City had Florida Power then it changed to Progress Energy, then Duke Energy. PRECO took it over three years ago. An arrangement was worked out to keep the pricing at the level it was with Duke Energy for three years. The Centanino Community Center was given a budget of \$1,000 but the rental fees will offset this including the electricity used. Since the Community Center has been opened, it has been rented almost every weekend and made ~\$2,000. It is a line item for revenue and budgeted to bring in \$5,000, if rented out for 34 days at half-day increments. It should be rented out most of the year next year (mostly Saturdays). Interim City Clerk Kinzel confirmed that there were reservations Friday and Saturday of the current week. Vice-Mayor Fite asked what the cost of clean up is. City Manager Thompson said that it currently is \$0 as all employees do minimal cleaning as the renters have been doing a good job of cleaning up after their event. Vice-Mayor Fite asked about items taped to the wall and the removal of tape. City Manager Thompson stated that there was some tape left but not enough to warrant it being an issue. He did say that one of the toilets had been stopped up and when it was flushed out, rice and beans were coming out. He also said that since he could

not prove it was that renter, he gave them their deposit (\$100) plus \$100 back. There was a question as to whether they could have the event but found that the event did proceed. Toilet issue came about toward the end. Commissioner Jones said that the contract is not designed to make people happy but to make sure the renters comply with the policies. He wanted to know if there are procedures to make sure everything is working and clean after the event. These renters did pay for the \$150 rental. City Manager Thompson confirmed that security lights will be installed. The cemetery has \$1000. He will put contingency in and put in a line item for it. This will be for repairs (\$18,051). Capital improvements did not have a lot of room for added funds. Grants are available for the camping ground (\$753,000) and Pyatt Park/Centanino funds that have a little left over. The City is working on using the park funds now as they must be used by July 2023. Revenue for Enterprise fund is conservative. It is hard to know what will be made due to people coming and going. There is the \$5 increase for garbage, and he expects water/sewer to go up once the new meters are in the ground at the beginning of the year. Impact fees cannot be used for funding. Water and sewer are the same as last year. There is more money added for liability insurance, maintenance, and fuel. Sanitation is the same, but the maintenance is lower due to the truck being new. Inframark did not provide for an increase and should go down once the screw press being installed. Commissioner Jones asked if the pressure is an issue, will it properly calculate usage. City Manager Thompson said the meters only calculate water as it runs through the meter so if a pipe burst it will not calculate until fixed. New cards were purchased so it should not be an issue. There is not any manual pressurizing and there are lightning rods. Surge protection is not provided it by PRECO. Both Vice-Mayor Fite and Interim City Clerk Kinzel confirmed they are only provided to homeowners. Commissioner Jones suggested going with Mr. Sparky, but Vice-Mayor Fite and City Manager Thompson said that they cannot service PRECO-owned properties. The City can buy an insurance policy, but damage cannot be prevented. Commissioner Jones clarified that the surge protection could be done on the equipment side. He stated that it is better to get it and have protection instead of repairing it when it does get damaged. City Manger Thompson said that there is a line item for Water Plant Capital Reserves which never had anything in it but he put about \$10,000. He also put \$25,000 in contingency. One of the high-pressure pumps in the water plant went out and will be getting two new ones with a CBDG grant. Only two of the three current pumps are working and the City found someone to rewire the third one for \$5,000. \$8,800,000 is coming in for wastewater improvements. CBDG grant will start next year. Vice-Mayor Fite asked about the TAP money (\$6,400,000) and City Manager Thompson will put in the Final Budget when that meeting happens. CRA budget is slated to bring in \$101,671. The only addition is the audit costs. A concession stand is needed at Centanino Park. Vice-Mayor Fite asked if this will include bathrooms which City Manager Thompson confirmed it will. He reviewed damage that happened at Pyatt Park girls' bathroom. He said that the City received approval for a SCOP grant after submitting four. Vice Mayor Fite said that curving and signage needed to be addressed. City Manager Thompson said that SCOP money only provides for paving. He did curb spending as much as possible. Computers were purchased to update older models and maintenance for parks. The City's general fund is under \$10,000. Commissioner Jones confirmed there were changes in Sanitation but wanted to know about garbage pickup. City Manager Thompson said due to Chunk Your Junk and first windy storm pick up it is hard to gauge if it is making money. Commissioner Jones said that there are a lot of piles of yard debris still out. City Manager Thompson said that Code Enforcement is trying to put out door hangers. Commissioner Jones' concern is no one is claiming the piles. City Manager Thompson is working to make sure junk and yard debris is charged to the right resident.

The tentative budget was passed at the Tentative Budget Hearing of the City Commission held on the 15th day of August, 2022. The vote was as follows:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner/Mayor Gardner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Fite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>2nd</i> Commissioner Lunn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>1st</i> Commissioner Jones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Durastanti	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

City Manager Thompson asked if anything else needed to be included, otherwise he will present it at the August 26, 2022 meeting.

Commissioner Jones said if the revenues and expenses are locked which was confirmed by City Manager Thompson. Vice-Mayor Fite said that revenue can come in short which Commissioner Jones confirmed if something does not go right. He reviewed the items that could fluctuate, such as recreation committee, community center and water tower. The items that made money will offset those items that cost money. Vice-Mayor Fite said that the light at US Highway 17 and Main Street funds can be pulled from somewhere outside the City. Vice-Mayor Fite asked if the Methodist Church is paying the City for maintenance which was confirmed by Commissioner Durastanti. City Manager Thompson said that he would check on it. Jim Kelly asked if the property was supposed to be deeded to the City. Vice-Mayor Fite said the City would need to receive money since the property cost money for maintenance. Jim Kelly had concerns about the yard debris on his property where his neighbors also dump it. Commissioner Jones said that all yard debris needs to be away from trees, mailboxes, etc.

Meeting adjourned.

Duane Gardner, Mayor



Katherin Kinzel, Interim City Clerk

City of Bowling Green

Emergency Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2022

Present: Mayor Gardner, Vice-Mayor Fite, Commissioner Durastanti, Commissioner Jones, City Manager Thompson, Interim City Clerk Kinzel, and members of the audience.

Absent: Commissioner Lunn

Call to order – The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gardner.

Prayer – Commissioner Durastanti

Flag Salute

Mayor Gardner asked about the budget meeting to which City Manager Thompson said it was at 5:30pm.

1. **Resolution 2022-04**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BOWLING GREEN FLORIDA, DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE WHATEVER PRUDENT ACTIONS WHICH MAY BE NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY AND CUSTOMERS OF THE CITY'S UTILITIES SYSTEMS PURSUANT TO THIS DECLARATION; RATIFYING AND AFFIRMING SUCH ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CITY MANAGER PRIOR TO THIS DECLARATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mayor Gardner read Resolution 2022-04. Commissioner Durastanti made a motion to approve the resolution with a second from Vice-Mayor Fite. Roll call vote, all in favor, motion carried.

City Manager Thompson gave an update on storm preparations. He attended Emergency Management meetings. As of 2pm today, the cone has shifted, and Hardee County will possibly get the eye. It is predicted that the county will get rain and tornadoes. As of now, it looks like the storm will stay west of Hardee. Schools have been cancelled and if needed, a shelter will open at Hilltop Elementary and Bowling Green Elementary will be a pet friendly shelter. The City is prepared as of now and functional even if power is lost. A pipe bursting is the only thing that would hinder water. A generator was purchased to replace an old one. All tanks and tower are full. Sand and bags for sandbags are ordered. There is a limit of 5 per household but can up the limit can handle what is needed. City Hall will shut down at noon on Tuesday and closed all day on Wednesday for the safety of employees. Tuesday's garbage route will proceed as normal on Tuesday. County landfill will be closed on Wednesday and Thursday so Thursday's route will be picked up on Friday with the hope the landfill will reopen on Friday. Messages have been put on social media. Public works employees will come in later than normal so they can stay later. The County has helped get the City prepared. Vice-Mayor asked about Inframark's role and City Manager Thompson said they would be available before and after the storm. Everything will be picked up or tied down. City Manager Thompson will be staying at City Hall so he can be available during the storm since hotels are booked in the area. Vice-Mayor Fite if the City Hall has chain saws. City Manager Thompson said that chain saws and fuel are available if needed. Mayor Gardner said that Interim City Clerk Kinzel mentioned that South Florida State College will open as a special needs shelter. City Manager Thompson said that Wauchula is going to also give up sandbags. He said that Bowling Green decided to provide sandbags so alleviate

having only one location. The commissioners agreed to allow those outside the city limits if their information is documented (name/address). City Manager Thompson said the City can get reimbursed through disaster relief funds. The county did issue a state of emergency. Money can only be reimbursed if there is only a significant loss. Vice-Mayor Fite asked about the plug cost, but City Manager Thompson said that he has not seen the invoice yet. The biggest cost at this time will be overtime hours. The City has water but no food but the County can help with that. Avion Palm residents are staying at hotels. The County Manager has been helpful and responsive throughout this situation. City Manager Thompson feels the City is as prepared as possible. He wished he had more people. Vice-Mayor Fite asked about the traffic light being operational and City Manager Thompson said that there will be a generator available if needed. He asked the police department to pull people over if they are not obeying traffic laws. He feels this is a dangerous intersection.

Meeting adjourned.

Duane Gardner, Mayor

Katherin Kinzel, Interim City Clerk

City of Bowling Green

Final Budget Hearing

September 26, 2022

Present: Mayor Gardner, Vice-Mayor Fite, Commissioner Durastanti, Commissioner Jones, City Manager Thompson, Interim City Clerk Kinzel, and members of the audience.

Absent: Commissioner Lunn

Call to order – The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gardner.

- 1. Public Announcement of Taxing Authority** – City Manager Thompson stated that the meeting had to be rescheduled due to a personnel issue. When the notices went into the newspaper, there was missing information that is the responsibility of the City Clerk. Being new, Interim City Clerk Kinzel did not have information from the prior City Clerk to do this.

He apologized for this, and the meeting will need to be rescheduled. The budget information will be reposted in the newspaper with the correct information in its entirety. The commissioners agreed to hold the final budget meeting on October 3, 2022, at 5:30pm. Vice-Mayor Fite asked about compliance with the state. City Manager said that the City contacted the state and explained the situation who is allowing the City to correct it without penalty. Jim Kelly (4640 Bryan Ave) asked if an Ad Valorem ad will be run due to increase but City Manager Thompson said since there was not an increase it did not have to be put in the newspaper. Mr. Kelly said that the City can get it in the newspaper before noon September 27th. City Manager confirmed all notices will be put in by deadline for newspaper.

Meeting adjourned.

Duane Gardner, Mayor

Katherin Kinzel, Interim City Clerk

City of Bowling Green
Emergency Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2022

Present: Vice-Mayor Fite, Commissioner Lunn, Commissioner Jones, City Manager Thompson, Interim City Clerk Kinzel, and members of the audience.

Absent: Mayor Gardener and Commissioner Durastanti

Call to order – The meeting was called to order by Vice-Mayor Fite.

Vice-Mayor Fite stated that the purpose of this meeting was to extend Emergency Resolution 2022-04 to keep the City of Bowling Green in the funding loop. The motion was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Lunn. All commissioners present were in favor, and motion carried

Meeting adjourned.

Duane Gardner, Mayor

Katherin Kinzel, Interim City Clerk

City of Bowling Green

Final Budget Hearing

October 3, 2022

Present: Vice-Mayor Fite, Commissioner Lunn, Commissioner Jones, City Manager Thompson, Interim City Clerk Kinzel, and members of the audience.

Absent: Mayor Gardner and Commissioner Durastanti

Call to order – The meeting was called to order by Vice-Mayor Fite to approve the final budget and millage rate. He also asked that attendance be kept and put on the record to which Interim City Clerk Kinzel said she was.

- Hurricane Ian Update** – City Manager Thompson gave an update on Hurricane Ian status. The lights are back on and a portion of the City that is being worked on. The City was mostly unscathed by the hurricane. All roads are clear and signage was fixed. Debris pick up will begin on Wednesday, October 5th and it must be out by the road which will be picked up by a contractor hired by the county. He is having the police department go on their regular schedule once a check has been done. Commissioner Jones asked that he witnessed two teenagers with a CURVE sign while talking to Code Enforcement/Animal Control Officer Galvan. City Manager Thompson said that Police Chief Scheel is sleeping at City Hall as he has no power at home while Public Works supervisors are at the Community Center as they do not have power. Police Chief Scheel will take off Thursday and Friday as he has been working non-stop since before the hurricane hit (Tuesday). A drop of food will be delivered to Bowling Green and Sonny's will provide 600 meals at the elementary school so that traffic is not impeded at 5pm on October 4th. Both Vice-Mayor Fite and Commissioner Jones asked which street it will be on, and City Manager Thompson said that it would be the Church Street side, but he will verify this. Commissioner Jones said that school is supposed to start back Tuesday but Vice-Mayor Fite said that it is not in Hardee County. Commissioner Jones also stated that Sonny's had been in Zolfo Springs and City Manager Thompson said that they had already provided meals in Wauchula. City Manager Thompson said that Bowling Green sometimes feels ostracized along with Zolfo being that Wauchula receives the resources, but things have gotten better during this time. FEMA will be going door-to-door and setting up at the Centanino Community Center for registrations. He said that those from Bowling Green will not go to Wauchula and Vice-Mayor Fite stated that a lot of people do not have the ability to go to Wauchula. The American Red Cross came today and gave out supplies but ran out quickly. City Manager Thompson did not know they were coming until they showed up at City Hall. Everything has been running smoothly except for a couple of sewer breaks and the City backhoe blew up so a rental had to be procured. The City's expenses will be fuel, rentals, road clearing and overtime (especially the police department). Commissioner Jones stated that hurricane-related costs can be submitted, and City Manager Thompson said that it will, but he wants to let the Commission know that it will come out of the City's accounts prior to reimbursement. Vice-Mayor Fite said the generator rental will need to be included and City Manager Thompson said that it will run about \$10,000 and it has been a lifesaver since the City has had water and sewer this whole time. Vice-Mayor Fite stated that since it was rented after the declaration it should be reimbursed back to the City. Commissioner Jones said that making the declaration prior to the hurricane allows the City to get the resources it needs and pay for getting the City running again, then submitting it back for reimbursement. City Manager Thompson was at Hardee County Emergency Management today said that Ian may have a return trip but looking at it. He complimented the employees for their commitment to keeping the City running even throughout the weekend. Jim Kelly (4640 Bryan Ave) said the City even had coffee for those that were helping. Vice-Mayor

Fite said that there were no fatalities in Bowling Green. City Manager Thompson stated he spent the night at City Hall and could hear the winds as the hurricane passed through. At 3am, he went outside to look around after it passed by, the only thing that he could tell was wrong was that he believes the Boost store was broken into. Commissioner Jones wanted to know what the “boom” was. Vice-Mayor Fite said it may have been electrical outage. Commissioner Jones complimented public works employee Roy Briseno for clearing the roads. City Manager Thompson said that the praise should be for the entire public works department as they were sawing trees. Vice-Mayor Fite was glad the garbage was picked up. City Manager Thompson said that there were only a few complaints. He was putting out about five messages a day on Facebook to update residents. Vice-Mayor Fite said there was an issue with Facebook algorithms which was confirmed by Commissioner Jones as messages was posting a day or two after the message was posted. He felt it is important to know so messages could be shared. City Manager Thompson said that food and ice were the only items not procured. Fuel and backhoes were eventually brought to the City. Commissioner Jones asked where the backhoes came from to which City Manager Thompson said one came from a rental company in Tampa and the second was a business that would not let the City use it but he dug the holes. He paid for a third one to rent and Vice-Mayor Fite confirmed the City needed to buy one. Discussion about purchasing one between City Manager Thompson, Vice-Mayor Fite and Commissioner Jones provided options for financing and equipment providers.

2. **Public Announcement of Taxing Authority** – City Manager Thompson stated that the budget is the same as previously discussed at the tentative budget hearing. The only change was a previous City Manager had a line item of Debt Services (SRF Loan) of \$8,000. City Manager Thompson moved it into new equipment. It did not change the final numbers. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the final budget with a second from Commissioner Lunn. All commissioners in attendance were in favor and motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Duane Gardner, Mayor

Katherin Kinzel, Interim City Clerk

ORDINANCE 2022-03

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BOWLING GREEN,
FLORIDA PROVIDING FOR INCREASES IN WATER AND
SEWER MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES AND DEPOSITS;
PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND CONFLICTS; AND
PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, the City has monitored and calculated the costs of providing certain miscellaneous services; and,

WHEREAS, the City has determined that the existing deposit amounts do not adequately protect the City from losses due to nonpayment,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF BOWLING GREEN, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Miscellaneous Charges and Deposits Increased.

The water and sewer utility deposits and miscellaneous charges shall be increased as provided in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

Section 2. Severability. It is the declared intent of the City Commission that, should any section or provision of this Ordinance or any portion thereof; the deletion of which would not adversely affect (in the general sense) the remainder, be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remainder, as a whole or any part thereof; other than the part declared to be invalid, and in doing so, the court shall attempt to adhere to the legislative intent.

Section 3. Conflicts. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in express conflict with any of the provisions of this Ordinance, which cannot be harmonized by interpretation considering the intent of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 4. Notice. The Clerk verifies that notice has been provide the date, time, and place of the meetings of the City at which such increase will be considered, on the utility bills to the customers of the City utility as required in section 180.136 Florida Statutes, *in addition to* the regular notice required for passing an ordinance.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage.

=====

This Ordinance was read for the first time at the Regular Meeting of the City Commission held on the 13th day of Sept, 2022. The vote was as follows:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner/Mayor Gardner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Fite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Lunn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Jones <i>ls</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Commissioner Durastanti ^{2nd}

The final reading was held on _____ day of _____, 20____, at a regular special session of the City Commission, and this Ordinance was adopted rejected . The vote was as follows:

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Commissioner/Mayor Gardner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Fite	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Lunn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Durastanti	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ATTEST:

CITY OF BOWLING GREEN, FLORIDA

Katherin Kinzel, Interim City Clerk

Duane Gardner, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Gerald T. Buhr, City Attorney

DEPOSITS

CURRENT DEPOSIT CHARGES

\$170.00 deposit
\$ 30.00 connections charge

NEW DEPOSIT CHARGES

\$191.50
\$ 35.00

CURRENT LATE FEES

\$15.00

NEW LATE FEES

\$ 25.00

OTHER FEES AND CHARGES

CURRENT RECONNECTION FEES

Business hours (Mo.-Fr. 7am – 12pm; 1pm-4pm): \$40.00

NEW RECONNECTION FEES

\$50.00

CURRENT BAD CHECK FEE

\$25.00

NEW BAD CHECK FEE

\$30.00

Katherin Kinzel

From: Gerald Buhr <gerald@buhrlaw.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2022 1:49 PM
To: Katherin Kinzel
Subject: RE: Resolution/Ordinance Changes
Attachments: Ordinance to Increase Water and Sewer Utility charges 2022.docx

Lets discuss this carefully before proceeding, but make sure to place both commission meetings on the utility bills as discussed.

Jerry



GERALD T. BUHR, P.A.

Certified by the Florida Bar as a City, County and Local Government specialist since 2003

City Attorney for: Zolfo Springs, Bowling Green, San Antonio and Avon Park

2022 – Thirty Years as City Attorney for Zolfo Springs, Florida

2020 – Twenty Years as City Attorney for Bowling Green, Florida

of Counsel to:

Saxon Gilmore & Carraway, P.A., Tampa, Florida

Phone (863) 508-7055; Fax (863) 508-7066

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From: Katherin Kinzel <kinzel@bowlinggreenfl.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2022 12:29 PM
To: Gerald Buhr <gerald@buhrlaw.com>
Subject: RE: Resolution/Ordinance Changes


This is the ordinance that needs to be revised and goes with the attachment I sent earlier.

CITY OF BOWLING GREEN
P.O. BOX 608
BOWLING GREEN, FL 33834-0608

07502

PRE-SORTED FIRST
CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LAKELAND, FL
PERMIT #2110

Account Number		Bill From	Bill To	
000103-01		07/15/22	08/15/22	
Previous Balance		Payments		
246.50				
Type	Amount	Previous	Current	Usage
RWAT	0.00	1514	1514 A	0
FSF	0.00	0	0	
RGAR	0.00	0	0	
RSEW	0.00	0	0	
rtax	0.00			

			
Account Number	Due Date	Amount Due After Due Date	Amount Due By Due Date
000103-01	9/15/2022	261.50	246.50
RETURN THIS STUB WITH PAYMENT See back for Utility Rates Information			

Return Service Requested

FINAL

Current Amount	0.00
Amount Due Now	246.50
Pay After 09/15/22	261.50

RYAN CHANCEY
502 E BANANA ST.
BOWLING GREEN FL 33834

CUSTOMER:
RYAN CHANCEY
ADDRESS:
502 E. BANANA ST.

NOTICE

Rate increases on Water, Sewer and Solid Waste will be considered at the Sept 13th Bowling Green Commission Meeting at 104 E. Main St. beginning at 6:30pm.