

March 9, 2026 City Council

**DeFuniak Springs City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers
March 9, 2026**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bob Campbell called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Present: Mayor Bob Campbell; Councilmember Todd Bierbaum (Seat 1); Councilmember Josh Sconiers (Seat 2); Mayor Pro-Tempore Amy Heavilin (Seat 3); Councilmember Glen Harrison (Seat 4); Councilmember Danny Cosson (Seat 5).

Absent:

Also, present were City Manager Koby Townsend, City Attorney Clay Adkinson and Deputy City Clerk Sumie Gabbard.

2. PRESENTATION/PROCLAMATION

2A1. City Manager Townsend reported that the city received the 2025 Water Plant Operations Excellence Award from the FDEP.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Additions/Deletions to the Consent Agenda

B. Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilmember Bierbaum to approve the Consent Agenda and seconded by councilmember Sconiers; the motion passed without objection.

4. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Additions/Deletions to the Regular Agenda

B. Approval of the Regular Agenda

A motion was made by Councilmember Bierbaum to approve the Regular Agenda and seconded by Councilmember Sconiers; the motion passed without objection.

C. CITY MANAGER K. TOWNSEND

4C1. Discussion/ Direction on Finance Director Position Final Interviews

City Manager Townsend introduced the item and explained that a recruitment consultant, Mr. Gary La Venia conducted preliminary interviews and recommended three candidates: Xavier Mason, Adam Thompson, Kirilos Amir.

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Mr. La Venia provided an overview of each candidate's qualifications, including education, professional experience, and familiarity with municipal finance operations.

Councilmember Heavilin expressed concern that the candidates do not meet the minimum qualifications of the job.

Mr. La Venia provided more in-depth information about 2 candidates: Xavier Mason and Kirilos Amir. He noted that there has been a limited pool of candidates and that additional recruitment could be conducted if Council chooses to re-advertise the position.

A motion was made by Councilmember Cosson to reject all 3 candidates and re-advertise the finance director position and seconded by Councilmember Harrison; the motion passes without objection.

4C2. Allocation of Surplus Walton-DeFuniak Library Construction Project Funds

City Manager Townsend would like to allocate a Facility Maintenance Reserve Fund of \$43,000 for when projects come up.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bierbaum to allocate \$20,000 to go to a grant fund for our little league and athletic league and the remaining \$23,000 to go into the Facility Maintenance Reserve Fund and seconded by Councilmember Sconiers for discussion.

Councilmember Bierbaum described how the little league needs new equipment. He would like to have a one-time grant to the little league and athletic league: each would receive \$10,000. He would like the little league organization and athletic league organization to come back to council with a proposal of how to use the funds.

Councilmember Heavilin does not think the funds need to be allocated to something specific.

Councilmember Cosson discussed that there are a lot of things needed within the city to be fixed before starting to provide grants.

Councilmember Sconiers does not think the money should be used for a grant at this time and withdraws his second.

A secondary motion was made by Councilmember Heavilin to put \$43,000 into the Reserve Fund and seconded by Councilmember Cosson for discussion.

A substitute motion was made by Councilmember Sconiers to allocate the \$43,000 into a Facility Maintenance Reserve Fund and seconded by Councilmember Bierbaum for discussion.

Ms. Randy Lightner asks for clarification on what the facility maintenance reserve fund could be used for in the city.

Mr. Keenan Powell wants natural gas to be used as a stream of revenue for the city.

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The substitute motion made by Councilmember Sconiers to allocate the \$43,000 into a Facility Maintenance Reserve Fund and seconded by Councilmember Bierbaum passed with a 3-2 vote. Councilmember Heavilin and Cosson opposed.

4C3. Approval to Lease Vacant Half of the Old Airport Terminal

City Manager Townsend said since moving into the new terminal, half of the old terminal is vacant.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bierbaum to approve staff to release the entire old airport terminal building and seconded by Councilmember Sconiers for discussion.

Councilmember Heavilin inquired about improvements needed for the airport terminal and possible revenue it could generate.

Councilmember Cosson questioned if there has been interest in leasing the building.

The motion made by Councilmember Bierbaum to approve staff to release the entire old airport terminal building and seconded by Councilmember Sconiers passed with a 3-2 vote. Councilmember Heavilin and Cosson opposed.

4C4. Approval of Quote for Florence Park Fence

City Manager Townsend reported that Council allocated \$30,000 for the Florence Park fence, and staff recommends proceeding with Howie's Welding LLC based on received quotes.

A motion was made by Councilmember Sconiers to approve the recommended quote with Howie's Welding LLC for Florence Park Fence and seconded by Councilmember Harrison for discussion.

Councilmember Cosson inquired about the materials being used for the fencing.

City Manager Townsend explained the differences in the 3 quotes and why Howie's Welding LLC was chosen.

Councilmember Bierbaum expressed concerns about the discrepancies in warranty information for the 3 quotes.

Councilmember Sconiers withdrew his motion and wants staff to bring back warranty information.

4C5. Offers for the Armory and Surrounding City-Owned Property

City Manager Townsend had 2 offers for the armory but has not had contact with the two proposers.

Mayor Campbell presented a drawing of the armory and surrounding City-owned property, noting offers of \$40,000, \$200,000, and \$250,000 for various parcels and buildings in the area.

Councilmember Cosson asked about obtaining an appraisal and whether the buildings could be repurposed.

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Councilmember Bierbaum supported selling the buildings to fund fire station improvements and noted redevelopment could increase city revenue.

Councilmember Harrison noted prior criticism of not using bids, stated it is not currently a seller's market, and cautioned that land prices may increase in the future, making future purchases more expensive.

City Marshall Hurley stated the old Health Department building had issues and noted \$44,740 was spent on interior demolition and asbestos removal after acquisition from the county.

Councilmember Heavilin expressed concern about the sales and that there is potential for growth in that area.

A motion was made by Councilmember Heavilin to reject the offers for the armory and surrounding city-owned property and seconded by Councilmember Cosson for discussion.

Ms. Melinda Henderson stated the CRA's structural engineer determined the buildings cannot be saved or repaired.

Ms. Donna Arnold, a realtor, advised against selling without appraisal and opposed doing so at this time.

Mr. Phillip Currie questioned the lack of maintenance, suggested retaining the property, and stated he has a higher offer if it is sold.

Ms. Randy Lightner does not agree with the sale of the property.

Councilmember Harrison noted a nearby business has been interested in purchasing the property to expand.

Councilmember Sconiers stated that he does think the property would need to go out to bid.

The motion made by Councilmember Heavilin to reject the offers for the armory and surrounding city-owned property and seconded by Councilmember Cosson passed with a 4-1 vote. Councilmember Bierbaum opposed.

6. REQUEST TO BE ON THE AGENDA

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ms. Jayden from Main Street DeFuniak presented a proposed project to paint approximately ten fire hydrants within the Main Street District. The anticipated completion timeline is mid-April, weather permitting.

Councilmember Cosson expressed appreciation for the organization's continued efforts in promoting and enhancing the community.

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Mr. Jim Harman spoke in opposition to a proposed airport access road affecting Country Club Drive. He stated that there are safety concerns with the road infrastructure, the property values being impacted negatively, and that all property owners in the area have signed a petition in opposition. Mr. Harman requested Council reconsider the project and evaluate its impact on residents.

Mr. Greg Majors expressed concerns regarding lack of consistent communication from City officials, limited public transparency, and potential risks with increased traffic.

Councilmember Harrison stated that traffic associated with the proposed access would be directed toward the airport and not through the residential neighborhood and that the intent is to minimize neighborhood disruption while supporting airport access needs

Mr. Jerry Mota provided comments regarding historical and current conditions of the local country club, financial challenges faced by the facility over time, and community efforts to sustain operations.

Mr. Randal Griner asked whether an environmental impact study has been conducted for the airport area and does not want to see the expansion occur.

8. CITY ATTORNEY

9. LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

Councilmember Heavilin prepared a document showing what we realistically need to run the fire station to give to fire assessment vendor.

A motion was made by Councilmember Heavilin to give the prepared spreadsheet to the fire assessment vendor as the minimum of what we need to operate the fire station and seconded by Councilmember Cosson for discussion.

Mayor Campbell mentioned that a councilmember does not need to prepare this type of document because it looks like a conflict of interest.

Councilmember Sconiers believed we are getting ahead of ourselves with this document.

Councilmember Heavilin brought up the fact that we do not have a finance director currently and was trying to help provide financial information.

City Manager Townsend stated that he has already compiled the information necessary for the fire assessment vendor.

The motion made by Councilmember Heavilin to give the prepared spreadsheet to the fire assessment vendor as the minimum of what we need to operate the fire station and seconded by Councilmember Cosson failed with a 3-2 vote. Councilmember Bierbaum, Councilmember Sconiers, and Councilmember Harrison voted nay.

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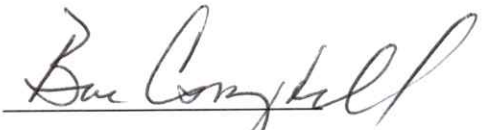
10. EXECUTIVE COMMENTS

11. COUNCIL COMMENTS

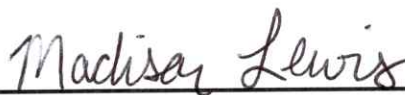
12. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:52pm.

Approved:


Bob Campbell, Mayor

ATTEST:



Minutes taken by Madison Lewis
City Clerk
Proper notice having been duly given

