

**DeFuniak Springs City Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers
April 13, 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: None

Also, present were City Manager Koby Townsend, City Attorney Clay Adkinson and City Clerk Madison Lewis.

2. PRESENTATION/PROCLAMATION

2A1. City Manager Townsend presented employee of the quarter, Mr. Brian Urban, a Welder for Public Works.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Additions/Deletions to the Consent Agenda

B. Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tempore Heavilin to approve the Consent Agenda and seconded by Councilmember Bierbaum; the motion passed without objection.

4. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Additions/Deletions to the Regular Agenda

B. Approval of the Regular Agenda

City Manager Townsend requested that an addition be made to the Regular Agenda as item B6. Kim Wennerberg – Cami Day.

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

4C1. City Manager K. Townsend - Code of Ordinances Chapter 12: Licenses, Permits, and Taxation (DRAFT)

City Manager Townsend introduced the updated Code of Ordinances Chapter 12 Draft for review and feedback.

Councilmember Bierbaum explained that the code review committee's original purpose was to simplify the code, noting that multiple fee categories and varying charges made the process difficult for staff. The proposed change would streamline fees into a single, consistent structure and that overall, the adjustment is expected to generate approximately the same revenue while improving consistency and ease of administration.

Councilmember Sconiers emphasized maintaining a simple, user-friendly approach that is fair and non-discriminatory for all.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Heavilin requested clarification on how businesses are charged, specifically whether professions such as realtors, doctors, engineers, and lawyers require only one business tax license.

No formal action taken.

4C2. City Manager K. Townsend - Airport Project Management Services

City Manager Townsend presented the ongoing airport projects being managed by Liberty Partners, noting their request for a 5% fee associated with a FAA grant to ensure appropriate compensation for their services.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bierbaum to approve the airport project management contract addendum and seconded by Councilmember Sconiers; the motion passed without objection.

4C3. City Manager K. Townsend - RFQ 2025-02-AP - Terminal Apron Expansion Project (Contract)

City Manager Townsend stated that the project was awarded to Garver. He is requesting approval of the contract in the amount of \$274,228.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bierbaum to approve the terminal apron expansion project contract and seconded by Councilmember Sconiers; the motion passed without objection.

4C4. City Manager K. Townsend - Runway 9/27 Expansion & Widening Project - Garver Contract Amendment #3

City Manager Townsend presented Garver Contract Amendment #3, which requests \$221,368 to complete the necessary modifications and provides 45 days to finalize the design.

Councilmember Bierbaum asked what the overlay would entail, including the cost to upgrade to the next weight-support classification to accommodate future growth while grant funding is still available.

The motion made by Councilmember Bierbaum to approve Garver Contract Amendment #3 and seconded by Councilmember Cosson passed with a 4-1 vote. Mayor Pro-Tempore Heavilin opposed it.

4C5. City Manager K. Townsend - Discussion/Direction on City Slogan Survey Results

City Manager Townsend asked for direction on the city slogan survey results.

Mayor Pro-Tempore Heavilin requested that the slogan align with the city vision statement, emphasizing that the city's history extends beyond its buildings. She suggested consideration of the slogan "Small Town, Big Heart".

Mayor Campbell emphasized the importance of preserving, saving, and restoring artifacts, noting that the city's history reflects both its physical structures and the entrepreneurial, forward-thinking mindset of its early residents.

Councilmember Harrison stated that staff reviewed 409 public survey responses and recommended following the public input, emphasizing that public input should be valued and considered in decision-making.

Ms. Mindy Henderson suggested narrowing the options to the top three slogans and putting them out for a public vote.

Ms. Diane Pickett requested that the slogan be selected only after clearly defining its intended purpose.

Ms. Jayden Broadway stated that the phrase “Historic Beauty, Quiet Charm” encapsulates the value of DeFuniak Springs, highlighting the city’s historic buildings and its quiet charm.

The motion made by Councilmember Harrison to adopt what the public survey showed as most popular which was “Historic Beauty, Quiet Charm” and seconded by Councilmember Sconiers passed without objection.

4C6. City Manager K. Townsend - Discussion/Direction on Historic Districts Design Standards

City Manager Townsend requested direction on the Historic District Design Standards, presenting three options: filing them away, using them as optional public guidance, or adopting them as an ordinance to establish them as official standards.

A motion was made by Councilmember Sconiers to make the Historic Districts Design Standards optional rather than a standard and seconded by Councilmember Bierbaum.

Councilmember Bierbaum stated that the document should be reviewed and revised by staff to function as a guideline document. He also noted that when properties in the historic district are bought or sold, realtors should disclose the applicable historic standards to new homeowners.

Councilmember Sconiers withdrew his motion.

No formal action taken.

5. PUBLIC HEARING/ORDINANCES

6. REQUEST TO BE ON THE AGENDA

6A. Wayne Charles - Krewe de Yak Mardi Gras Parade and Festival Special Event Permit

Mr. Rick Rule, Vice President of Krewe de Yak asked for approval of the Krewe de Yak Mardi Gras Parade and Festival Special Event Permit for 2027. It was the same as last year with the addition of closing Baldwin Avenue.

Councilmember Harrison expressed his concerns that shutting down two blocks for Mardi Gras parking would negatively impact businesses that rely on Saturday traffic.

Mr. Rule noted that Krewe de Yak is a small group and expressed concern that vendors may not return if there is competing activity.

Councilmember Bierbaum stated that hosting an event within the city does not grant exclusivity over the use of the downtown or other areas of the city.

Councilmember Cosson expressed hope that Krewe de Yak will continue to return, noting that multiple events are beneficial for local businesses and that the group currently has positive momentum.

Mayor Campbell suggested that Krewe de Yak could work with Main Street to come to an agreement.

Ms. Jayden Broadway described the Mardi Gras event as incredible, emphasizing that community builds community and that Main Street is interested in helping Krewe de Yak however they can.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bierbaum to approve the special event permit for Krewe de Yak without the closing of Baldwin Avenue and seconded by Councilmember Cosson; the motion passed without objection.

6B. Ms. Kim Wennerberg – Cami Day

Ms. Kim Wennerberg expressed her intent to organize a fundraiser in support of Cami Morgan, owner of The Pink House, who was recently diagnosed with cancer. She provided an overview of the proposed event, including key details and planned activities.

A motion was made by Councilmember Cosson to approve the Cami Day Special Event and seconded by Councilmember Bierbaum; the motion passed without objection.

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ms. Mindy Henderson stated that, on behalf of Forward DeFuniak, she initially assisted Mr. Chris Wallace with surveying other municipalities; however, the CRA later assumed responsibility for the project. She noted that the established historic standards provide guidance for Mr. Wallace. Ms. Henderson further explained that, should a review board be established in the future, it could offer incentives, such as potential tax benefits to encourage the restoration of historic homes.

Ms. Diane Pickett emphasized the importance of historic preservation and stated that action should be taken to address blight through consistent enforcement. She stated while growth is important, new development should be balanced with preservation efforts.

Mr. Tim Scott stated that Mr. Bierbaum is his son-in-law and noted that he has seen negative press regarding the Council as far away as Missouri. He added that Mr. Bierbaum cares deeply about the city.

Mr. John Joyner expressed concerns regarding inconsistencies in his water bill, stating that he has inquired about discrepancies but has not received sufficient clarification. He also noted a traffic safety issue on Orange Avenue, specifically the absence of a stop sign between 19th Street and 25th Street, and reported concerns about speeding in that area.

Mayor Campbell requested that Mr. Joyner provide his contact information to the City Clerk so the matter could be followed up on.

Councilmember Bierbaum stated that staff should ensure residents are informed about the availability of a one-time grace period for their water bill.

Ms. Mindy Henderson announced an upcoming Historic Preservation meet on April 21st focused on construction and remodeling. She also noted a triathlon on May 2nd.

8. CITY ATTORNEY

9. LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS

9A1. Councilmember D. Cosson - Twin Lakes Drive Infrastructure

Councilmember Cosson stated that existing pipes do not pose a public health risk when intact; however, he noted that now is an appropriate time to evaluate whether increasing pipe capacity is warranted. He added that, as the City moves into budget season, infrastructure priorities should remain a key consideration.

10. EXECUTIVE COMMENTS

City Manager Townsend stated that construction on the second floor of the Chautauqua building is set to begin, with the goal of completing the project by the end of the fiscal year. He also noted that the police and fire impact study will move forward, with bids expected to be brought before Council for review in late May.

11. COUNCIL COMMENTS

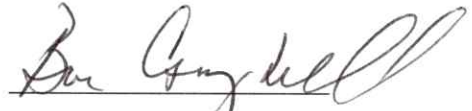
Mayor Pro-Tempore Heavilin welcomed the new City Clerk and offered compliments to staff for their work on LakeFest. She requested that Mr. Townsend's performance evaluation be postponed due to the current busy season, noting that the evaluation is due by June 1st.

Mr. Adkinson stated that evaluations are typically conducted around June to align with budget preparation and allow for salary adjustments during the budgeting process.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:39pm.

Approved:


Bob Campbell, Mayor

ATTEST:



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

