

MINUTES
AMERICUS CITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 8th, 2025

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Mayor Dustin Wright. Council members present were HARMON, HAMLIN, NUESSEN, HINRICHES and BURTON. Also present were City Clerk Lesley Harbaugh, City Treasurer Dodie Doudna, Attorney Steve Atherton.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Laverne Soetebier, Devin Holloway, Paul Pinick

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *June 10th, 2025, business meeting* Moved by HARMON to approve the June 10th, 2025, business meeting minutes. Motion seconded by HINRICHES. 4-0-1 vote.

BILLS TO PAY: Moved by HINRICHES to approve the July bills to pay for \$34,901.51. Motion seconded by HARMON. 5-0 vote.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

PROJECT PLAYSCAPE: HINRICHES reported that the splashpad grand opening was a success. She has received great feedback via Facebook through tags and messages of appreciation. She will monitor the water usage to see if the timer needs adjusted. July 13th is the next breakfast fundraiser and there will be a vintage baseball game at the ballfields on July 19th at 7:00 p.m.

MAINTENANCE: BURTON reported that there has been ongoing work on the chipper with replacements for parts, but it is still having ongoing issues. There is also a problem with the seal on the recycling trailer and ventilation on the north lift station. It is the consensus of the council to have a mobile tech come to repair the items in need.

CLERK: Lesley Harbaugh presented a complaint about trash blowing from one yard to another. Council would like a letter sent to the tenant.

POLICE: NUESSEN stated that the old police car is ready to be listed on Purple Wave.

PARKS AND RECREATION: HAMLIN shared that the bases have not been removed after each game at the ballfields as asked of ARO and when they are pulled, the plugs are not put in which has caused the anchors to rust and they will need to be replaced. HAMLIN has been contacted about the donation of 6 AED machines to be donated to the city and council discussed the locations where these could be used.

ADOPT THE AGENDA: Moved by HINRICHES to adopt the agenda. Motion seconded by BURTON. 5-0 vote.

1. **BFP REMODELING:** Building plans Paul Pinick and Devon Holloway are here to show the plans for the two houses they plan to build on College Block since their approval to buy two building sites in May. The council was pleased with their plans. Paul and Devon left at 7:23 p.m.
2. **2025 BUDGET:** *Draft of 2025 Budget* Laverne is here to go over a few changes from last month's draft. We have received the assessed valuation from the clerk and were able to stay under the RNR (Revenue Neutral Rate). There is plenty of room to keep everything needed in the budget. The clerk will publish the public hearing notice in The Gazette, and we will hold the regular budget hearing on August 12th, 2025. Laverne left at 7:31 p.m.
3. **SPLASH PAD:** The current hours are 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The council will monitor water usage to decide if there is a need to adjust for next year. A sign with rules was discussed and options will be explored.
4. **CAMPER HOOKUPS:** *Harper Homes (Planning & Zoning)* Tim Burton is here to ask the council to approve four camper sites at the mobile home park that could be used for short-term campers with a special use permit. Council will review information and discuss it at the next meeting. Tim left at 8:04 p.m.
5. **POND BUILD REQUEST:** *Mile Marker Rentals (Planning & Zoning)* Mile Marker Rentals is interested in putting a pond and walking trail on the property they own on first street between Oak and Pine. This would be for residential and public use. They will look into overflow options, floodplain management and will also invite neighboring property owners to voice any concerns they have about the project at the next meeting.

6. **ORDINANCE NO. 626:** *Swimming pools* Moved by NUESSEN to adopt Ordinance No. 626 repealing Ordinance No. 423 and adopting the 1997 Uniform Building Code. Motion seconded by HARMON. 5-0 vote.
7. **EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK:** Tabled
8. **KENNEL LICENSE/CAT ISSUE:** The city received a formal complaint about a vacant house that is being used to house cats which has gotten out of control and is causing issues for the neighbor. A letter will be sent to the homeowner addressing the issue as it is a health nuisance violation. Kennel Licenses for cats have not been enforced and it is the consensus of the council that it should be enforced for any residence with five or more cats.
9. **CITY HALL BUILDING OPTIONS:** Council would like to have a company give an estimate for structural repairs of City Hall.
10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** *Non-elected personnel issues* Motioned by BURTON to go into executive session for 8 minutes with council, mayor, and legal present. Motion seconded by HINRICHES. 5-0 vote. Motioned by BURTON to extend executive session for 10 minutes at 9:01 p.m. Motion seconded by NUESSEN. 5-0 vote. Out of executive session at 9:11 p.m. Moved by BURTON to accept the resignation of Police Chief Jody Meyers. Motion seconded by NUESSEN. 5-0 vote. Motion to adjourn by Hamlin at 9:12. Motion seconded by BURTON. 5-0 vote.