

**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Town Hall**  
**April 18 2023**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Council Members  
Present:

Luis Gomez  
Dynette Lewis  
Sandra McMurray Jackson  
Shelisa McCall  
Alicia Johnson

Others Present:

Benjamin Boutwell, Mayor  
Leslie Howington, Town Clerk  
Kevin Merchant, Superintendent  
Heath Burkett, Water/Wastewater Superintendent

Council President Luis Gomez confirmed the advertisement of the Bill List Review and Council Meeting, and at xxx p.m. called the meeting to order.

**1. Open Meeting with Prayer**

Council Member Sandra McMurray Jackson opened the meeting with prayer.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Roll Call**

Council Member Shelisa McCall contacted the Town Clerk and advised she would not be in attendance.

Present were:

Luis Gomez

Dynette Lewis

Sandra McMurray Jackson

Alicia Johnson

**4. Public Forum**

Dr. Jessica Griffen reported that YouthFirst Century had Phenomenal Open House today with 23 students. Alisha Harris and Calvin Cottrell, Jr. of Century have shaken the whole town going to every apartment dwelling to let them know of YouthFirst.

Dr. Griffen thanked Sparkie Harrison of Pensacola State College (PSC) for allowing CenturyFirst to use student desks, tables and chairs. Dr. Griffen asked if anyone had an office desk, chair and file cabinet she could borrow before the audit. The audit will take place on May 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. with Dr. Kim Cooper and her team from Escambia Children's Trust.

Dr. Griffen will be present at May Fest, in the office on Tuesday and Thursday from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

On April 24<sup>th</sup> office hours will begin from 10:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday.

Feeding the Gulf Coast and Dr. Griffen will do an evaluation, and a refrigerator is needed before she can come. Additionally, they need food bank storage.

Mr. Cottrell and Dr. Griffen discovered a leak that messed up a desktop. It's on the left side when you walk in the building. She took photos to share with Mayor Boutwell. It needs to be remedied.

Pixar will come out and check the computers.

Dr. Griffen and Kevin Merchant noted about 12 sections that need lights. Mr. Merchant would need Council permission from Council to purchase and install new lights.

They have 25 desks from PSC, and have purchased 20 computers plus some laptops.

Dr. Griffen asked if they could use a patch in the back to have a garden to participation in Home Ec. She is just presenting it for the Council to think about it for now. It won't be until summer.

The program is for 11–18-year-olds. They are coming up with games and activities for the 6-9 age group since they are showing up. They will not turn children away.

Parents are volunteering.

Dr. Griffen spoke with the Postmaster and the mail delivery lady. They are moving all mailboxes at Century Business Center out to the road. Mr. Merchant will get them a mailbox by the road.

Internet is installed with Spectrum. There is security for parameters of surfing the web.

Tonight, Dr. Griffen's largest concern is leak and the fridge for feeding program, and also lighting.

Leslie Howington asked what size refrigerator is needed. Dr. Griffen said based on her experience, a standard fridge. It is needed by May 23, 2023.

Kevin Merchant has a report on refrigerator combo 22 cubic feet for each freezer and fridge.

Single door fridge 25' with free shipping is \$1,699.

Upright deep freeze with single door 22.69' is \$1,949

Ice machines were high because they were so large.

\$1,499.99 with free shipping. It can be shipped three days after order.

All quotes are from Restaurant Supply.com.

Mr. Merchant went to Pensacola where we bought the fryer and the prices are much higher.

Mr. Merchant bought a handle for the sink in the kitchen.

Mr. Merchant advised the Council that he needed to leave the Council Meeting early due to a death in the family and invited questions.

Mr. Merchant advised that we have moved employees around in the field. The Council had received a memo on it.

On behalf of the Council and the Town, Council President Gomez extended condolences to Mr. Merchant and his family.

Helen Mincy, 111 Mincy Court, stated that she has asked so many times why our streets can't be cleaned in her area. "Others are cleaned, why not ours."

She called in a work order about a leaking water meter at her house. It was repaired, but what about the street. Mayor Boutwell advised we are on a schedule and we will get to both of these items.

**5. Approval of April 18, 2023 Bill List**

Council Member Alicia Johnson made a motion to approve the Bill List of April 18, 2023. Council Member Sandra McMurray Jackson seconded the motion. No questions. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. Mayor Boutwell Pensacola & Perdido Bay Estuary Program**

Mayor Boutwell turned the floor over to Matt Posner. He requested approval of the amended and restated agreement. This agreement has existed five years, and Town of Century has partnered with The Estuary them from the beginning. The only change from the five year old documents is changing from a non-profit.

Mr. Posner desires to be better engaged in Century and extended an offer for their education program. He would like to bring Century kids to the Coast and Coastal kids to the Town, teaching the students to be the best stewards of our natural resources.

Council Member Sandra McMurray Jackson made a motion to authorize Mayor Boutwell to execute and enter into the First Amended and Restated Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program Interlocal Agreement; and, to reappoint Mayor Boutwell to the Corporate Board of the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program Interlocal Agreement. Council Member Alicia Johnson seconded the motion. No questions. The motion passed unanimously.

**7. Mayor Boutwell Camp Fire Century, Emergency Preparedness Plan**

Mayor Boutwell read from Agenda Summary Sheet and requested a motion to authorize himself to sign the agreement.

Each year at the request of Camp Fire Century, Town of Century enters into an agreement to allow Camp Fire to evacuate students to the Century Community Center, 6001a Industrial Blvd., in case of an emergency.

Camp Fire agrees to pay utility bills for the time they occupy the building.

Council Member Dynette Lewis made a motion to authorize Mayor Boutwell to enter into the Emergency/Disaster Mutual Agreement By Camp Fire Gulf Wind, Inc. Council Member Sandra McMurray Jackson seconded the motion Council President Gomez verified that the students will evacuate to the Ag Bldg. in case of fire or damage to their building.

Council Member Dynette Lewis asked if this should be posted in the Ag Bldg. William Reynolds stated that it is possible that since this is an emergency evacuation agreement, it may be exempt from public records. There being no more questions or comments, the motion passed unanimously.

**8. Leslie Howington Emerald Coast Regional Council**

The report from Emerald Coast Regional Council was for informational purposes only.

**9. Staff Report**

Ms. Howington provided Minutes from the Cross Connection Control Plan Workshop, and asked the Council to make notes and present them to Dale Long. Mr. Long will compile them, and we will have a starting point for either another Workshop or Council Meeting.

The Northwest Florida League of Cities will be hosting our 2023 Annual Summer Event at The Island Resort at Fort Walton Beach on Friday, April 28 from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. CDT. Join us for a reception and dinner! Council is invited to attend. Ms. Howington will make the reservations.

**10. Mayor's Report**

Mayor Boutwell had nothing to report.

**11. Council Comments**

Council Member Sandra McMurray Jackson received a text that the ditch needs cleaning out 342 Lot B on Hilltop.

Council Member Dynette Lewis asked about the Carver Community Center. Mayor Boutwell reported that the architect is still finishing the design, then we will hold a Public Workshop and get input from the community.

Council Member Dynette Lewis requested a Project Thumbtack update. Mayor Boutwell stated that it is looking real good and coming soon, per Danita.

Council Member Alicia Johnson shared that she had been at the wastewater plant this past week. We have an advertised position there and recently have another opening there. We haven't had much luck possibly due to the low pay. Others are paying trainees around \$15.

Council President Gomez asked Ms. Howington to look at the budget for the money, adding that this is a skilled position. We need the best.

Council President stated that Dr. Griffen's comments made him realize he hasn't reserved the Park for the May 20th Block Party. This may be his last. It is a lot of work. Dr. Griffen offered to help.

Council President Gomez asked about the pump parts that we're waiting for at Pilgrim Lodge. Council Member Johnson stated that we have one meeting coming up and will be updated on what is next. Mayor Boutwell was told that as soon as the parts come in, they stated they would start working on it.

Council President Gomez shared that it is a hassle for Pilgrim Lodge. There has got to be an end to the delays.

Mayor Boutwell requested approval on the refrigerator and freezer. Council Member Dynette Lewis reviewed the amounts Kevin had provided.

Council Member Sandra McMurray Jackson made a motion to spend \$4,892 out of ARPA on the refrigerator freezer. Council Member Alicia Johnson seconded the motion. After discussion, it was decided to purchase one ice machine and refrigerator/freezer for the Century Business Center Cafeteria and hold off on the Ag Building ice machine. The price is not to exceed \$7,000.00.

During questions, William Reynolds noted that a 10% off coupon popped up on his laptop when he looked it up.

There being no further questions or comments, the motion passed unanimously.

## **12. Public Forum**

Dr. Griffen requested security on the building and invited Council thoughts.

Dr. Griffen shared that Workforce Escarosa will be at the Business Center at 10 a.m. The program employees 15-18 year olds. Workforce Escarosa has partnered with The Urban Development Group. The U.S. Postal Service is not allowed to participate.

Dr. Griffen provided Careersource Escarosa quick links. Lots of documents are required. Sign up for screening appointments April 22<sup>nd</sup> in Century.

## **13. Adjourn**

There being no further business, Council Member Sandra McMurray Jackson made a motion to dismiss. Council Member Alicia Johnson seconded the motion. There were no questions. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Howington, CMC  
Town Clerk