

# CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

321 WALNUT STREET, GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024 – 7:00 PM



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## MINUTES

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Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag - **Pastor Robert Cook, Praise in the Park**

Roll Call

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Connie Butler, Vice Mayor Steven Kelley, Council Member Ed Gaw, Council Member Matt Johnson, Council Member Thomas Smith

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** L.J. Arnold, III, City Attorney, Steve Kennedy, City Manager, Mike Null, Assistant City Manager, Erin West, City Clerk

Mayor to call on members of the audience wishing to address the Council on matters not on the Agenda.

1. Robert Cook 434 Cove Ct. GCS speaks concerning the stormwater fee and the method of charging the citizens the fee.

### AWARDS & RECOGNITION

1. Proclamation – Arbor Day  
Mayor Butler reads the proclamation and presents to members of the GCS Garden Club:  
Susan Jachimiec and Care Valleau  
Ms. Valleau speaks about the Arbor Day Ceremony being held on January 19, 2024.
2. Proclamation – Black History Month  
Vice Mayor Kelley reads the proclamation and presents it to Mayor Butler.  
Mayor Butler speaks about Black History Month and the activities that are planned during the month of February.
3. Recognition of Eliberto Castro for 46 years with the City of Green Cove Springs  
Assistant Water Utilities Director Scott Schultz speaks about Eliberto Castro and his 46 years with the City.  
Mr. Castro speaks about his time working with the City.

### CONSENT AGENDA

All matters under the consent agenda are considered to be routine by the city council and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion on these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered separately. Backup documentation and staff recommendations have been previously submitted to the city council on these items.

**Motion to approve Consent Agenda items 4 through 8.**

Motion made by Council Member Smith, Seconded by Council Member Johnson.

Voting Yea: Mayor Butler, Vice Mayor Kelley, Council Member Gaw, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Smith

4. City Council approval of the 2024 Food Truck Friday Dates. *Kimberly Thomas*
5. City Council approval of Minutes. *Erin West*  
Regular Sessions: 12/5/2023 and 12/19/2023
6. City Council approval of Amendment #3 to the Interlocal Agreement with Clay County for the Augusta Savage Pickleball Courts. *Mike Null*
7. City Council award of Bid # 2023-14 West Street CDBG Stormwater and Sidewalk Improvements to Besch and Smith in the amount of \$4,700,359.70. *Mike Null*
8. City Council approval to request to include SR 16 Trail Projects into the North Florida TPO's List of Priority Projects. *Michael Daniels*

**COUNCIL BUSINESS**

9. First reading of Ordinance O-03-2024 adopting an official City Seal and the provisions of Section 165.043, Florida Statutes, which regulates the unofficial use of the City Seal. *L. J. Arnold III and Erin West*  
City Attorney Arnold reads Ordinance No. O-03-2024 by title.  
City Clerk Erin West advises Executive Assistant Kim Thomas brought to her attention of the possible use of the city seal by citizens. After some research it was found that in 1991 the State of Florida passed a law allowing municipalities to create an ordinance against any use of seals without permission.  
Mr. Arnold advises the Council a resolution will be brought forward that will allow citizens to submit a request to the Council for the use of the city seal.  
**Motion to approve Ordinance No. O-03-2024 on first reading for form and legality.**  
Motion made by Council Member Johnson, Seconded by Council Member Smith.  
Voting Yea: Mayor Butler, Vice Mayor Kelley, Council Member Gaw, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Smith
10. Review and Update Regarding City's Capability and Impact to Offer Medical Insurance to Law Enforcement Officers Eligible for Retirement up to age 65. *Dee Jones*  
Human Resources Director Dee Jones speaks about the projections that were provided to Council in the agenda packet.  
Council discussion followed concerning the guidelines and the financial impact.  
Police Chief John Guzman and City Manager Steve Kennedy speak about the cost of a new officer and how this benefit will help with longevity.  
Discussion followed concerning costs and the future of the benefit.  
Council discussion followed with the Council giving Ms. Jones the directive to create the policy.  
Joe Sobotta 212 North St. GCS speaks future Councils and employee longevity.

Felicia Hampshire 508 Franklin St. GCS speaks for the new benefit and helping lobby during legislative days.

11. City Manager & City Attorney Reports / Correspondence

The City Manager and City Attorney made comments regarding various city activities, events, operations, and projects.

12. City Council Reports / Correspondence

The City Council made comments regarding various city activities, events, operations, and projects.

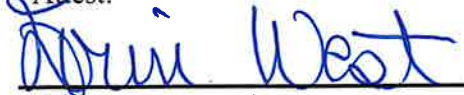
Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the City Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

  
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Constance W. Butler, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Erin West, City Clerk

Erin West, City Clerk