



# City Hall

404 West Jefferson Street  
Quincy, Florida 32351

[www.myquincy.net](http://www.myquincy.net)

## Regular City Commission Meeting

Thursday, September 14, 2023  
6:00 PM

**City Hall Commission Chamber**

**City Commissioners**

Mayor Freida Bass-Prieto – District IV  
Mayor Pro-Tem Angela G. Sapp – District II  
Commissioner Dr. Robin Wood – District I  
Commissioner Ronte R. Harris – District III  
Commissioner Dr. Beverly A. Nash – District V

*"An All-American City in the Heart of Florida's Future"*



City Commission Meeting  
Thursday, September 14, 2023  
6: 00 PM  
City Hall  
Commission Chamber  
**AGENDA**

**Call to Order**

**Invocation**

Sandy Davenport, Pastor of Morning Glory Baptist Church, Quincy, FL

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

**Approval of Agenda**

**Proclamation**

**Special Presentation**

1. Legislative Updates
  - Sheila Knowles, Lobbyists

**Items for Consent by the Commission**

2. Approval of August 8, 2023, Regular Commission Meeting Minutes
  - Janice Shackelford Clemons, City Clerk
3. Approval of August 22, 2023, Regular Commission Meeting Minutes
  - Janice Shackelford Clemons, City Clerk

**COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

**Public Hearings and Ordinances as Scheduled or Agendaed**

4. Ordinance 1142-2023 – Amending Chapter 54, Article III, Regarding the City of Quincy Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement Plan – Second Reading
  - Robert Nixon, City Manager
  - Gary Roberts, City Attorney
5. Ordinance 1143-2023 – Adoption of the 2023-24 Millage Rate – First Reading
  - Robert Nixon, City Manager
6. Ordinance 1144-2023 – Adoption of FY 2023-24 FY Budget – First Reading
  - Robert Nixon, City Manager

**Public Opportunity to Speak on Commission Propositions – (Pursuant to Sec. 286.0114, Florida Statute and subject to the limitations of Sec. 286.0114(3)(a), Florida Statute)**

**Resolutions**

**Reports, Requests, and Communications by the City Manager**

**Reports by Boards and Committees**

**Other Items Requested to be Agendaed by Commission Member(s), the City Manager and Other City Officials**

**Comments**

- City Manager
- City Clerk
- City Attorney
- Commission Members

**Adjournment**

Title XIX: PUBLIC BUSINESS - Chapter 286 - PUBLIC BUSINESS: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS -  
**SECTION 0105 - Notices of meetings and hearings must advise that a record is required to appeal.**

286.0105 - Notices of meetings and hearings must advise that a record is required to appeal. Each board, commission, or agency of this state or of any political subdivision thereof shall include in the notice of any meeting or hearing if notice of the meeting or hearing is required, of such board, commission, or agency, conspicuously on such notice, the advice that, if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing.

# Special Presentations

# Legislative Updates

# Items for Consent by the Commission

Approval of August 8, 2023,  
Regular Commission  
Meeting Minutes

**CITY COMMISSION**  
**Tuesday, August 8, 2023**  
**6:02 P.M. (Eastern)**

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**QUINCY, FLORIDA 32351**

**CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

The City of Quincy City Commission met in a regular in-person meeting on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, with **Mayor Freida Bass-Prieto** opening the meeting up and the following Commissioners present:

Mayor Pro-Tem Angela G. Sapp  
Commissioner Dr. Robin Wood  
Commissioner Ronte R. Harris  
Commissioner Dr. Beverly A. Nash

City Staff and Guests:

Robert Nixon, City Manager  
Gary A. Roberts, City Attorney  
Janice Shackelford Clemons, City Clerk  
Amanda Matthews, Senior Accountant  
Reginald Bell, Public Works Director  
Richard Ash, Utility Director  
Anthony Baker, Fire Chief  
Timothy Ashley, Police Chief  
LaTrenda Gainous Carroll, Customer Service Supervisor  
Jim Southerland Sr., WQTN-13 Administrator

Reginald C. Thompson, The Evans Agency – via Zoom

The regular in-person meeting was recorded and held in accordance with Florida Sunshine Law. (Note: Digital formatted documents/media are public records.)

**Called to Order**

Mayor Bass-Prieto called the Regular Commission meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Roberto Flores, Pastor of Kings of Kings Ministries, and Jefferson Flores, Associate Pastor of Kings of Kings Ministries, Quincy FL, provided an invocation in English and Spanish, followed by the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Bass-Prieto requested a roll call.

**Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Bass-Prieto requested to add the corrected minutes for July 25, 2023, Regular Commission meeting, and the change of date of the September 12, 2023, Regular Commission meeting as requested by the Department of Revenue (DOR).

Commissioner Harris offered a motion to approve the agenda as printed and add to the agenda the corrected minutes for July 25, 2023, Regular Commission meeting, and the



change of date of the September 12, 2023, Regular Commission meeting as requested by the Department of Revenue (DOR).

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp seconded the motion.

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Mayor Bass-Prieto	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp	Yes
Commissioner Wood	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Nash	Yes

**The Motion Carried 5 to 0.**

**Proclamations**

Mayor's Proclamation – In Support and Recognition of Black Business Month

- Freida Bass-Prieto, Mayor

**Summary of the Discussion by Staff and the Commission**

Mayor Bass-Prieto read the mayor's proclamation supporting and proclaiming August 2023 as Black Business Month in the City of Quincy.

**Special Presentation**

2023-2024 Fiscal Year Health Insurance Rates

- Robert Nixon, City Manager
- Stacey Hannigon, Human Resources and Risk Management Director
- Reginald C. Thompson, The Evans Agency

**Summary of the Discussion by Staff and the Commission**

Director Hannigon stated that this presentation is to provide the commission with the most recent rate for employee health benefits from the capital health plan.

Director Hannigon stated that there is an overall four percent increase in health benefits.

Director Hannigon provided the commission with the current cost of health benefits.

Director Hannigon stated that the total monthly cost for health benefits for employees and retirees is \$129,780.30.

Director Hannigon stated that the city contributes a total cost of seventy-five percent for health insurance.

Director Hannigon stated that the employee's total contribution to health insurance amounts to twenty-five percent.

Director Hannigon stated that in the 2024 fiscal year, the monthly contribution for the city will be \$134,971.68.

Director Hannigon stated that \$1,214,745.12 would be the city's new yearly contribution at seventy-five percent as opposed to the current yearly contribution of \$1,168,022.70.

Director Hannigon stated that \$46,722.42 is the cost difference the city would pay keeping the 75/25 percent contribution.

Director Hannigon noted that the commission would need to decide on which route to take.

City Manager Nixon stated that employees work very hard.

City Manager Nixon stated that the recommendation is to keep the 75/25 percent city/employee contribution for this fiscal year, while staff researches other options.

City Manager Nixon stated that this would allow employees an opportunity to adjust if needed.

Mr. Thompson stated that many companies saw an eight percent healthcare rate increase.

Mr. Thompson stated that a four percent increase is quite moderate.

Mr. Thompson stated that the increases seen in the economy are being passed to the consumer.

Director Hannigon stated that staff is discussing with the Evans Agency other healthcare options not covered by CHP that may benefit employees.

Mr. Thompson reminded the commission of the risk taken by financing employee healthcare coverage.

Director Hannigon stated that the Evans Agency also provides the city with dental and vision coverage.

Director Hannigon stated that the city pays half or fifty percent for dental coverage.

Director Hannigon stated that ninety employees are enrolled in dental.

Director Hannigon stated that the city in FY 2023 paid \$15,832.80 and will pay \$16,4593.20 in FY 2024, a difference of \$626.40.

Mr. Thompson noted that there is also a slight increase with the dental.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp stated that she is not in favor of increasing the amounts employees would need to pay for health insurance.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp stated that everyone needs health insurance and noted that staff are working to find suitable alternatives.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp stated that unnecessary burdens should not be placed on employees.

**Items for Consent by the Commission**

1. Approval of July 25, 2023, Regular Commission Meeting Minutes – corrected.
  - Janice Shackelford-Clemons, City Clerk

**Summary of the Discussion by Staff and the Commission**

Commissioner Harris offered a motion to approve the items for consent by the Commission.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp seconded the motion.

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Mayor Bass-Prieto	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp	Yes
Commissioner Wood	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Nash	Yes

**The Motion Carried 5 to 0.**

**COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Anthony Gainous, 631 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Quincy, FL, provided the following comments.

- Stated that he had some comments to make, however, the topic had not been brought up.
- Stated how helpful the city manager and his Commissioner Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp is when seeking a solution to the high utilities bill.
- Stated that he wanted to address some concerns he heard about but cannot speak about them right now.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp offered to schedule a meeting with Mr. Gainous to discuss his concerns.

William Walker, 1250 Tyler Sanders Rd., Quincy, FL, provided the following comments.

- Stated that he and his organization have been coming to city hall and investigating for over 35 years.
- Stated that he is seeking the city attorney's help to get back money stolen by commissioners and the former city manager.

- Provided information to the dais on a commissioner who is malfeasance in office and in violation of the Sunshine Law.
- Stated that he had not received information on a phone call or text message made by a commission during a public meeting.
- Stated that the investigation is ongoing and seeks to get rid of corruption in the City of Quincy.
- Stated to the commission to be careful at what you do. You're being watched.
- Stated that the information he received had no contract or vendors.
- Stated that this is a serious matter and under the leadership of Mayor Bass-Prieto.

Shaia Simmons, no address was provided. Providing the following comments.

- Stated how much she respects the commission.
- Stated that ten days ago, her son was pulled over in a vehicle owned by her.
- Stated that the vehicle was reported stolen.
- Stated that the Lord blessed her with four children.
- Stated that all her children were in the vehicle in front of the Campbell Kelly summer campers center.
- Stated that her son got out of the car begging that his siblings were in the vehicle.
- Stated that the vehicle was not stolen, it belongs to her and her husband.
- Stated that there was not a trained dispatcher working that day.
- Stated had there been a trained dispatcher on duty, it would have taken less than 30 minutes that was revealed to her by Police Chief Ashley and LT Hill that the trained dispatcher was out due to a tragedy.
- Stated that the county picked up the call.
- Stated that dispatchers are not as trained due to low paying wages.
- Stated that Officer Molave was very kind to her.
- Stated that her eight-year-old facetime her while she was in another country with guns drawn.
- Provided the ages of her children who were in the car. Stated that her son is a third-year law student.
- Stated that she is present as a mother due to negligence taking place by the City of Quincy.
- Stated that the City of Quincy is the holdout from having a consolidated communication system which 13.5 million dollars is earmarked for.
- Stated that she is in support of the police officers behind her.
- Grateful for receiving a call from the police chief and for the apology.
- Stated that this incident could have ended differently.
- Stated that the commission needs to do something now before blood is on the ground.

Rolanda Jackson, 2480 Bainbridge Highway, Quincy, FL. Provided the following comments.

- Stated that she had been before the commission numerous times.

- Stated that those were in nieces and nephews that the police stopped.
- Stated that the incident could have ended differently.
- Thanked Chief Ashley for his leadership.
- Stated that last year in July she came before the commission concerning building security.
- Stated that this is a government building that belongs to the citizens.
- Stated that it's just a matter of time before something could happen.
- Stated that she prays nothing happens.
- Stated that she's being told that there may be others carrying guns and drugs into city hall, that are not police officers.
- Stated that no one should be able to enter city hall without going through a metal detector.
- Stated that the courthouse has a metal detector.
- Stated that there's a lot going on in Gadsden County.
- Stated that applying for a job is not available online.
- Referred to number 4 on the City of Quincy's job application.
- Stated that she did not know that the city hires convicted felons.
- Stated that her stepson is in prison and when he gets out, she's looking for the city to give him a job.
- Stated we can keep grandstanding.
- Asked why the city keeps paying for background checks, other than sexual offenders.
- Stated that the city is not following protocol with hiring practices.
- Stated that the city needs to make it make sense.
- Stated that there is an ordinance tied to utility bonds.
- Stated that certain ordinances are being enforced, such as internet cafes.
- Stated that payment plans are being made and all ordinances need to be followed, not just those that suit us.
- Stated that she's not getting any answers.
- Commended Commissioner Nash for her newsletter.
- Stated that she was out there with Commissioner Nash and that the newsletter is a great piece of information keeping citizens informed.
- Stated that she missed Commissioner Wood her advisory meeting to keep her citizens informed.
- Stated that Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp has always held meetings.
- Stated that she has not missed any meetings whether in person or online.
- Stated that she has not heard the dais congratulate the two new commissioners.

Paula Phillips, 816 Sunset Dr., Quincy, FL. Provided the following comments.

- Congratulated Commissioners Dr. Robin Wood and Dr. Beverly Nash on winning their elections.
- Thanked the city manager for hiring the purchasing agent and for saving the city \$219,000. Stated that this is a huge savings for the city.

- Thanked Commissioner Harris and Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp for hiring City Manager Robert Nixon.
- Stated that City Attorney Roberts seldom receives accolades.
- Stated that the city attorney is doing a great job and winning lawsuits.
- Thanked Ms. Amanda Matthews, since the departure of Marcia Carty for stepping up.
- Stated that she's been laying low since the election.
- Stated that she thought things were going well and everyone was working together.
- Stated how sad she is to learn everything is not going well.
- Stated that she's hearing a lot of bad things, anonymous letters, and backstabbing.
- Stated that her thoughts were that for once the city would move forward and get things done.
- Stated that some people have their own agendas and are not being inclusive.
- Stated that this is what she hears and sees and is very sad about this.
- Stated that she desires the city to grow.
- Stated that she hopes the problem can get fixed.

**Public Hearings and Ordinances as Scheduled or Agendaed**

None

**Public Opportunity to Speak on Commission Propositions – (Pursuant to Sec. 286.0114, Fla. Stat. and subject to the limitations of Sec. 286.0114(3)(a), Fla. Stat)**

None

**Resolutions**

2. Resolution No. 1444-2023 – Approval of Road Closure for the 5K Bicentennial Run/Walk
  - Robert Nixon, City Manager
  - LT. Carlos Hill, Quincy Police Department

**Summary of the Discussion by Staff and the Commission**

LT Hill stated that the request is to close the road for the 5K Bicentennial Run/Walk.

LT Hill stated that King, Cleveland, Madison, and Love Streets are the roads that would be closed to accommodate the run/walk.

Mayor Bass-Prieto asked how residents would get out of Burmah Heights if these roads were closed.

LT Hill stated that there will be traffic control points.

LT Hill stated that he is still discussing this matter with Charles Hayes.

Mayor Bass-Prieto stated that Burmah Heights is a large subdivision, and she is concerned about how traffic would flow while the streets are closed.

Mayor Bass-Prieto pointed out that Fletcher Drive would be the only exit.

Mayor Bass-Prieto stated that Fletcher Drive is not paved.

Mayor Bass-Prieto noted that this event is happening on Labor Day weekend.

Mayor Bass-Prieto noted that there was no map in the packet.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp stated that the present route exceeds the Black Lives Matter route.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp stated that some of the businesses would be affected if Adams Street was blocked off.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp stated that this is a wonderful event that would bring the community together.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp encouraged LT Hill to continue having discussions with the county to address the concerns brought forth by the commission.

Commissioner Wood asked how the businesses and community would be notified about the event.

LT Hill stated that Mr. Charles Hayes is spearheading the event and would be directly responsible for notifying businesses and communities that would be affected by the road closure.

Commissioner Wood reiterated that the residents needed to know what is going on around them and communication is key.

Commissioner Harris asked if the streets that are being blocked off would be non-passible.

LT Hill stated that police officers would be stationed throughout the areas where roads would be closed.

LT Hill stated that the police department would do its best to control the flow of traffic.

LT Hill stated closing Highway 90 requires permission from FDOT.

LT Hill stated that consideration to revise the run/walk to start at Shanks Middle School would be discussed.

LT Hill stated that a new resolution would be presented at the next commission meeting along with the parade route.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp offered a motion to table the discussion on Resolution 1444-2023 until a revised resolution and map are presented.

Commissioner Harris seconded the motion.

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Mayor Bass-Prieto	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp	Yes
Commissioner Wood	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Nash	Yes

**The Motion Carried 5 to 0.**

**Reports, Requests, and Communications by the City Manager**

3. Approval of the Purchase of Parts to Rebuild the Return Activation Sludge Pump
  - Robert Nixon, City Manager
  - Richard Ash, Utilities Director
  
4. Approval of the Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreement between Gadsden County and the City of Quincy
  - Robert Nixon, City Manager
  - Anthony Baker, Fire Chief

**Summary of the Discussion by Staff and the Commission**

**Agenda item #3 – Approval of the Purchase of Parts to Rebuild the Return Activation Sludge Pump**

Director Ash stated that this is a request to purchase a RAS pump to install at the wastewater treatment plant.

Director Ash explained the purpose of the RAS pump.

Director Ash stated that the pump is old and cannot be repaired.

Director Ash stated that the cost to rebuild the pump is \$21,836.21.

Director Ash stated that Barney Pumps is the sole distributor which serves the municipal market for the State of Florida.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp questioned who would put the parts together.

Director Ash stated that Jacobs would bring in a mechanic to put the parts together on-site.



Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp offered a motion to approve the purchase of parts to rebuild the RAS pump from Barney's Pumps Inc. in the amount of \$21,836.21.

Commissioner Nash seconded the motion.

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Mayor Bass-Prieto	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp	Yes
Commissioner Wood	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Nash	Yes

**The Motion Carried 5 to 0.**

**Agenda item #4 – Approval of the Interlocal Fire and Rescue Agreement between Gadsden County and the City of Quincy**

Fire Chief Baker stated that this agenda item is to approve the interlocal fire and rescue service agreement between Gadsden County and the City of Quincy.

Fire Chief Baker stated that the agreement would be for a one-year period ending on September 30, 2024.

Fire Chief Baker stated that the City of Quincy currently receives \$486,688.00 for providing services to Gadsden County.

Fire Chief Baker stated that an additional \$31,656.00 would increase the county's payment to the city to \$519,344.00.

City Manager Nixon reiterated that the agreement is not what was hoped.

City Manager Nixon stated that the fire department receives just as many calls outside of the city as in the city.

City Manager Nixon stated that the city aims to receive a better agreement with the county.

City Manager Nixon stated that the \$31,656.00 is currently included in the proposed budget.

City Manager Nixon stated that he and the county administrator have discussed a paper call agreement.

City Manager Nixon stated that he would like the commission to consider staff putting together a joint workshop with the county for further discussion.

Commissioner Nash stated the agreement is not clear on how the county arrived at the number of \$31,656.00.

Commissioner Nash stated that she is concerned about the wear and tear of the equipment as well as the employees.

Commissioner Nash stated that the county just received 77 million and benefits greatly from our skilled fire department.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp stated that there is a considerable amount of time that the fire department spends in unincorporated areas, installing smoke detectors, fighting fires, and educating residents.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp stated that the services the city provides to the County require, gas, and manpower and certainly amount to more than a \$31,656.00 increase.

Commissioner Harris asked what would happen if the city did not sign the interlocal agreement.

Fire Chief Baker stated that there would not be an agreement with the county.

Fire Chief Baker stated that his department covers over 500 square miles with only 21 employees compared to Tallahassee having 200 employees and covers over 700 square miles.

Fire Chief Baker stated that limited staff can be quite cumbersome.

Commissioner Harris stated that a conversation is needed with the county before signing an agreement.

Commissioner Harris stated that the responsibility needs to be placed on the individuals downtown.

Commissioner Wood stated how ridiculous it is that we are covering over 500 square miles with 21 employees compared to the number of employees in Tallahassee.

Commissioner Wood stated that since negotiations are not beneficial, then stop the negotiations.

Commissioner Wood stated that this matter has gone on long before she became a commissioner.

Commissioner Wood stated she cannot agree to the agreement.

Commissioner Wood stated that there is a need to have a tough conversation with the county.

Mayor Bass-Prieto requested that a motion be made to table the item and asked the city attorney to review the interlocal agreement contract thoroughly.

Mayor Bass-Prieto asked the city manager to bring the county to the table for a discussion.

Mayor Bass-Prieto thanked the fire department for all the hard work being done.

Mayor Bass-Prieto offered a motion to table approval of the Interlocal Fire and Rescue Service Agreement between Gadsden County and the City of Quincy.

Commissioner Harris seconded the motion.

Commissioner Harris stated that he would agree to a billing agreement with the county.

Commissioner Harris stated that the city needs to recoup funds spent in unincorporated areas.

Commissioner Harris requested data on much time is spent outside the city limits.

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Mayor Bass-Prieto	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp	Yes
Commissioner Wood	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Nash	Yes

**The Motion Carried 5 to 0.**

**Reports by Boards and Committees**

None

**Other Items Requested to Be Agendaed by Commission Member(s), the City Manager, and Other City Officials**

None

**Comments**

City Manager, Robert Nixon

- Acknowledged that the City Commission Regular Meeting for September 12 needed to be rescheduled to comply with DOR requirements.
- Recommended that the City Commission Regular Meeting be held on September 14.

Commissioner Harris offered a motion to change the City Commission Regular Meeting scheduled for September 12 to September 14.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp seconded the motion.

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Mayor Bass-Prieto	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp	Yes
Commissioner Wood	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Nash	Yes

**The Motion Carried 5 to 0.**

- Stated that staff recommends budget workshops be held on August 14 and August 16.

Mayor Bass-Prieto stated that she is unavailable on August 14.

- Stated that staff recommends Tuesday, August 15 to complete the department's budget workshop and Wednesday, August 16, for non-profits and community-based organizations request for funding presentations.
- Stated that several of the commissioners will be traveling to the Florida League of Cities, have a safe trip, and encourage to bring back a lot of materials.
- Stated that the fire department wonderful job.
- Stated that the fire department's event yesterday was great, and many children had a wonderful time getting wet.
- Thanked Chief Ashley for all he has done for the city.
- Stated that the city has a few challenges and that it will be overcome.
- Stated that these challenges will be handled with dignity and decorum.
- Stated that the city is doing well responding to public safety needs.
- Stated that he is very happy with the way the city is going, despite having challenges.
- Thanked staff for their patience. However, under no circumstance will we compromise our character or effort and the ability to serve this community.
- Proud to serve as the city manager.
- Excited about the upcoming fiscal year and the hard decisions that will need to be made.
- Thanked the commission for voting to keep the same millage rate.
- Thanked staff for being mindful of spending.
- Thanked the commission for allowing him to manage the city.

City Clerk, Janice Shackelford Clemons

- No comments.

City Attorney Gary Roberts

- Stated that he received correspondence from Attorneys Larry White and Lous Thaler requesting that at some point the commission would consider paying

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp's attorney fees for the successful defense in the ethics complaint.

- Stated that he provided Attorney White with a legal opinion he gave under similar circumstances with former Commissioner Daniel McMillian.
- Stated that Attorney White provided supporting case law contrary to his opinion of non-payment.
- Stated that Attorney White is willing to present his argument before the commission.
- Stated that he contacted other attorneys regarding his opinion and the final decision rests on the commission.

## **Commission**

Commissioner Nash

- Announced that the Girl Scout meeting will be held at the Gadsden County Library on August 9 at 3:30 pm. Girls from kindergarten through high school are invited to attend and adult volunteers are needed.
- Thanked the citizens of District 5 for their willingness to work with her and provide feedback about her newsletter.
- Stated that it is important that when you see something say something because citizens do matter.
- Thanked Mr. Walker for bringing his complaint before the commission. Stated that Mr. Walker had mentioned her name as a person that has misused her elected office. Stated that she appreciates him doing the research and welcomes him and the citizen's review board results.
- Stated that an investigation goes both ways.
- Stated how greatly concerned she is about hostile, harassing, and threatening behavior from citizens including disturbing comments and personnel attacks during public meetings.
- Stated that the First Amendment rights are important. Protecting the rights of citizens to be critical of the government is at the heart of the First Amendment.
- Stated that the First Amendment is free speech and does not mean that a government employee has no recourse. Mean-spirited and personal attacks are unacceptable. Making defamatory and false statements recklessly with no regard for the truth.
- Stated that we cannot become desensitized from employee complaints and anonymous individuals.
- Stated that there is a duty to protect employees and citizens. Public trust is at stake along with the possibility of criminal activity if not investigated.
- Stated that the air needs clearing.
- Double standards need not be our way of work.
- Stated that everyone needs to be held accountable.
- Stated that there are rules of law in place for law enforcement officers and civilian violations.

- Stated that she requested that allegations and investigations be placed on the agenda but assumed that her request was not honored because the circumstances included personnel issues not appropriate for the dais.
- Stated that she is requesting per 2.15 of the city charter, two types of investigation and independent audits. One to FDLE by way of the City of Quincy's police department and the other by way of an expert in ethics and compliance in consultation with the city attorney.
- Stated that any threat to the public about operating ethically transparently and efficiently, and responsively is a threat to our democratic governance.

#### Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp

- Stated that district two's community meeting was successful.
- Stated how satisfied citizens who attended the community meeting were to hear the report given.
- Thanked the police department for distributing the flyers.
- Stated that Police Chief Ashley's was received well. Stated that the report was about how the police department is getting guns off the streets.
- Stated that some of the takeaways from the meeting are citizens were concerned with code enforcement issues, the completion of Tanyard Creek, and adding new playground equipment. Cleaning up the district.
- Stated that in the plans is a district clean-up in collaboration with the city-wide clean-up in November.
- Stated that a dog cage is needed on 7<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Stated that the light near 719 7<sup>th</sup> Street is out.
- Stated that the elephant in the room is the sad face she sees on the police officers and not the happy-go-lucky individuals she knows.
- Stated that whatever is going on must be taken care of.
- Stated that there is a city to take care of.
- Stated that there are people writing anonymous letters, investigating, and going to the ethics board.
- Stated that these actions tear us apart and keep us from doing the work of the city.
- Stated that there is a new board working and voting together to try and improve the city.
- Stated how hurtful this is to write about a person affecting their momma, children, wife, sisters, and brothers.
- Stated that Quincy is too small to attack and talk about others.
- Stated how knives are being used to stab people in their backs without remorse.
- Stated that these things are being done for petty ignorance.
- Stated that it is time out for this, Quincy is too small.
- Stated that there are issues on Mr. Gainous's street that need addressing.
- Stated that Mrs. Hannah lives in her district and there are issues there that need addressing.
- Stated that she cannot concentrate on the needs of her district when police officers are unhappy, the city manager is unhappy.
- Reiterated what Commissioner Nash stated that there is an FDLE investigation.

- Stated we need to work together.
- Stated that both new commissioners were congratulated at the reorganization meeting. Mentioned that Commissioner Harris noted that the dais was surrounded by women and their power.
- Looking forward to working with everyone.

#### Commissioner Wood

- Stated that she is generally a simple person.
- Stated how she does not like mess.
- Stated that she is a professional.
- Stated that she is here to serve the citizens of district one in the City of Quincy.
- Thanked the fire department and Fire Chief Baker for your leadership.
- Thanked the police department and Police Chief Ashley for your leadership.
- Stated that there are things going on around us that we are all aware of.
- Agreed with Paula Phillips that there is no place for this.
- Stated that the business should be about the citizens who elected us to do this job is what she's about.
- Stated that if you have evidence to present put your name on it and stand for who you are before the dais.
- Stated how you attack people impacting them, the people that they live with, and their children who look up to them.
- Reiterated that the business should be about the City of Quincy.
- Stated that anyone can make allegations and go to FDLE but needs to put their name on it.
- Stated that if she had a problem would address it with that person.
- Thanked district one advisory council. Stated that the member's major concern is beautifying the city so that it attracts others to visit.
- Stated that she is not interested in talking about things unproven.
- Stated that the allegations should be proven or not proven.
- Thanked tonight's presenters and those who made public comments.
- Stated that you are being heard.
- Acknowledged Black Business Month.
- Stated that we should all be unified and lift each other up is what she's about.
- Stated that no one is above the law and will not stand aside while people deliberately hurt the city. The letters are disturbing.
- Stated that she is sorry QPD about what is happening and asked that they allow the commission to investigate.
- Apologized to City Manager Nixon for the attacks. Stated that she does not like cowardly acts. Thanked the city manager for answering her calls and providing information timely.
- Stated that we will get to the bottom of this.
- Stated that her desire is to get help curb domestic and gun violence.
- Announced the memorial service on Saturday at Tanyard Creek for Shanderika Kelly who was murdered.
- Encourage returning students to learn much and stay safe.

## Commissioner Harris

- Stated that his colleagues had done a wonderful job in setting the tone where this commission needs to be.
- Stated that his position remains to allow the proper authority to do their job when it comes to investigation.
- Stated that the City of Quincy has the best counsel.
- Stated that Attorney Roberts has done a fine job when defending the city and has been successful.
- Stated to his colleagues to lend on city attorney advice.
- Encourage colleagues to read the charter.
- Request that the city manager follow up on Mrs. Simmons's comments about the commission standing in the way.
- Stated that the situation involving Mrs. Simmons's children was awful and that if the city is responsible for not doing something, this needs to be investigated and brought to the table.
- Stated that he was going to have an ice cream sundae with a cherry on top. Mrs. Phillips thanked him.
- Stated that he had received harsh criticism as an elected official.
- Stated that public comments are a part of an open government.
- Stated that it does his heart good to hear Mrs. Phillips say thank you.
- Stated that there is some low-hanging fruit that needs to be completed, such as online applications and metal detectors. Let's get this done.
- Stated that he feels good about the direction and the board.
- Stated that a good decision was made to hire the current city manager.
- Stated that not to allow the bumps in the road hinder from getting the job done.

## Mayor Bass-Prieto

- Asked Director Hannigon to the mic.
- Stated that she wishes to thank all the participants who made Saturday's teacher back-to-school giveaway successful but does not know all the names.

Director Hannigon stated that she works with some of the residents.

Director Hannigon stated that the organization Beyond Before Community Development Corporation was the host for Saturday's event.

Director Hannigon stated that a lot of giveaways are held for students.

Director Hannigon stated that Saturday's giveaway was to assist teachers in stocking their classrooms.

Director Hannigon stated that partners were Walmart, UNFI and Gadsden County Teachers Association. Centennial Bank staff and Lame Duck Farm, Michael R. Moore Lodge #21 and others served as volunteers.



Director Hannigon stated that Mayor Bass-Prieto showed up at 7:30 a.m. to help set up.

Director Hannigon stated that the goal is to do this annually and the next giveaway will be January 2024 to help restock the classrooms.

- Stated that there are three educators sitting on the dais and thanked them for all that they do.
- Stated that the teacher giveaway is a worthy cause.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp stated that her older sister still works in the classroom and volunteered at the event.

- Thanked the fire department for the kid's water event.
- Stated that she's received several calls that people are enjoying the water programs provided by the parks and recreation department.
- Thanked all departments for their hard work and to keep the city moving forward.
- Stated that she received a call regarding the litter on Strong Road. Stated that the caller stated that the litter seemed to be going away. Commended public works department.
- Stated that Commissioner Wood said it best. If you believe that something illegal is going on contact FDLE.
- Stated that she does not like mess and what it does to employees.
- Stated that there are good people in the community.
- Love where you live and live like you love it, don't litter.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp stated that Key Street looked so much better and thanked the city manager, police chief, and Director Bell for their hard work.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp that there will be ongoing efforts to clean up District 2.

The adjournment was motioned by Mayor Bass-Prieto and seconded by Commissioner Nash at 7:51 pm.

**Please Note:** The City Commission places the official copies of Commission Meeting Minutes on file with the City Clerk's Office upon approval.

Submitted by Janice Shackelford Clemons, City Clerk

**APPROVED:**

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Freida Bass-Prieto, Mayor, and  
Presiding Officer of the City  
Commission and of the City of  
Quincy, Florida

**ATTEST:**

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Janice Shackelford Clemons, City Clerk per  
Clerk of the of Quincy, Florida  
Clerk of the City Commission thereof

Approval of August 22, 2023,  
Regular Commission  
Meeting Minutes

**CITY COMMISSION**  
**Tuesday, August 22, 2023**  
**6:14 P.M. (Eastern)**

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**QUINCY, FLORIDA 32351**

**CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

The City of Quincy City Commission met in a regular in-person meeting on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, with **Mayor Pro-Tem Angela G. Sapp** opening the meeting up and the following Commissioners present:

Mayor Freida Bass-Prieto – via zoom  
Commissioner Dr. Robin Wood  
Commissioner Ronte R. Harris – via zoom  
Commissioner Dr. Beverly A. Nash

City Staff and Guests:

Robert Nixon, City Manager  
Gary A. Roberts, City Attorney  
Janice Shackelford Clemons, City Clerk  
Amanda Matthews, Senior Accountant  
Reginald Bell, Public Works Director  
Richard Ash, Utility Director  
Anthony Baker, Fire Chief  
Timothy Ashley, Police Chief  
LaTrenda Gainous Carroll, Customer Service Supervisor  
Jim Southerland Sr., WQTN-13 Administrator

The regular in-person meeting was recorded and held in accordance with Florida Sunshine Law. (Note: Digital formatted documents/media are public records.)

**Called to Order**

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp called the Regular Commission meeting to order at 6:14 p.m. Ruth Mashewske, Parrish Associate for the First Presbyterian Church of Quincy, provided an invocation, followed by the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp requested a roll call.

**Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp requested approval of the printed agenda.

Commissioner Wood offered a motion to approve the printed agenda.

Commissioner Nash seconded the motion.

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Mayor Bass-Prieto	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp	Yes
Commissioner Wood	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Nash	Yes

**The Motion Carried 5 to 0.**

**Proclamations**

None

**Special Presentation**

None

**Item for Consent by the Commission**

1. Approval of August 4, 2023, Special Commission Meeting Minutes
  - Janice Shackelford-Clemons, City Clerk

**Summary of the Discussion by Staff and the Commission**

Commissioner Nash offered to approve the item for consent by the commission.

Commissioner Wood seconded the motion.

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Mayor Bass-Prieto	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp	Yes
Commissioner Wood	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Nash	Yes

**The Motion Carried 5 to 0.**

**COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

**Public Hearings and Ordinances as Scheduled or Agendaed**

2. Ordinance 1142-2023 – Amending Chapter 54, Article III, Regarding the City of Quincy Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement Plan – First Reading
  - Robert Nixon, City Manager
  - Gary Roberts, City Attorney

**Summary of the Discussion by Staff and the Commission**

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp requested a motion to read Ordinance 1142-2023 by title only.

Commissioner Harris offered a motion to read Ordinance 1142-2023 by title only.

Commissioner Wood seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp directed the city clerk to poll the commission.

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Mayor Bass-Prieto	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp	Yes
Commissioner Wood	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Nash	Yes

**The Motion Carried 5 to 0.**

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp directed the city clerk to read Ordinance 1142-2023 by title only.

City Clerk read into the record by title only Ordinance 1142-2023.

Ordinance 1142-2023

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF QUINCY, FLORIDA PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 54, ARTICLE III, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY QUINCY, FLORIDA, REGARDING TO THE CITY OF QUINCY MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS' AND FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT PLAN; AMENDING SECTION 54-59 TO PROVIDE THE TERMS UNDER WHICH CERTAIN PLAN PARTICIPANTS SHALL BE ENTITLED TO REFUNDS OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ANY ORDINANCE OR PARTS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

City Attorney Roberts stated that this ordinance will bring the police officers and firefighters in compliance with state statutes.

City Attorney Roberts stated that the amendment would make it easier to compute payouts when a police officer and firefighter leaves.

City Attorney Roberts stated that Mayor Bass-Prieto is on the pension board and is familiar with the changes.

Mayor Bass-Prieto reiterated Attorney Roberts's comments that this ordinance complies with Florida Statutes regarding payouts.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp thanked the mayor for providing her comments.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp asked if there were any members of the audience requesting to speak on Ordinance 1142-2023.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp, hearing that no one from the audience wanted to speak on Ordinance 1142-2023, asked her colleagues for their will and pleasure.

Commissioner Nash offered a motion to approve Ordinance 1142-2023.

Commissioner Wood seconded the motion.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp directed the city clerk to poll the commission.

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Mayor Bass-Prieto	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp	Yes
Commissioner Wood	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Nash	Yes

**The Motion Carried 5 to 0.**

**Public Opportunity to Speak on Commission Propositions – (Pursuant to Sec. 286.0114, Fla. Stat. and subject to the limitations of Sec. 286.0114(3)(a), Fla. Stat)**

None

**Resolutions**

3. Resolution No. 1444-2023 – Approval of Road Closure for the 5K Bicentennial Run/Walk
  - Robert Nixon, City Manager
  - LT. Carlos Hill, Quincy Police Department
  - Charles Hayes, chief of Staff, Board of Gadsden County Commissioners
4. Resolution No. 1445-2023- Approval of Road Closure for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Big Bend Rodeo
  - Robert Nixon, City Manager
  - LT. Carlos Hill, Quincy Police Department

**Summary of the Discussion by Staff and the Commission**

Charles Hayes Chief of Staff for GCBCC stated that the may did not change.

Charles Hayes Chief of Staff for GCBCC stated that in collaboration with the sheriff's department and police department the plan is to have an officer on Adams, King, Key and 11<sup>th</sup> Streets directing traffic.

Charles Hayes Chief of Staff for GCBCC reiterated that there will be adequate officers working and everyone will be able to get in and out of Burmah Heights.

Charles Hayes Chief of Staff for GCBCC stated that ninety-three participants have registered for the 5K run.

Charles Hayes Chief of Staff for GCBCC stated the run may last for up to one hour.

Charles Hayes Chief of Staff for GCBCC stated that the officers working has been asked to stay an additional 4 hours to ensure that traffic flows.

Charles Hayes Chief of Staff for GCBCC stated that persons interested participating in the 5K run can sign-up online.

Charles Hayes Chief of Staff for GCBCC stated that walk ups can participate on the day of the run and there is no cost.

Charles Hayes Chief of Staff for GCBCC stated that events will be held though the end of the year in celebration of Gadsden County bicentennial year.

Charles Hayes Chief of Staff for GCBCC stated that the celebration will conclude with a gala in which proceeds will be given to Quincy Main Street.

Charles Hayes Chief of Staff for GCBCC stated a soul sip and stroll will be held on Sunday, September 3.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp offered a motion to approve Resolution 1444-2023.

Commissioner Nash seconded the motion.

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Mayor Bass-Prieto	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp	Yes
Commissioner Wood	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Nash	Yes

**The Motion Carried 5 to 0.**

LT Hill stated that on Friday and Saturday (August 25 and 26) the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Big Bend Rodeo will be held, and the request is to close Linda and East Pavilion Dr.

LT Hill stated that the roads will be closed from 6 pm to 10 pm both days.

Commissioner Nash stated that she looks forward to two days of rodeo.

Commissioner Nash offered a motion to approve Resolution 1445-2023.

Commissioner Wood seconded the motion.



<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Mayor Bass-Prieto	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp	Yes
Commissioner Wood	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Nash	Yes

**The Motion Carried 5 to 0.**

LT Hill pointed out that the Shanks B-Out Day will be held the same weekend as the 5K run.

LT Hill noted that this would be a busy weekend for law enforcement.

**Reports, Requests, and Communications by the City Manager**

5. Re-Appointment to the Fire/Police Pension Board of Trustees
  - Robert Nixon, City Manager

**Summary of the Discussion by Staff and the Commission**

City Manager Nixon stated that the City of Quincy Fire/Police Ordinance #54-61 Board of Trustees requires a five-member board, and two of those members shall be legal residents of the municipality.

City Manager Nixon stated that the seat held by Mayor Freida Bass-Prieto will expire on October 15, 2023.

City Manager Nixon stated that Mayor Bass-Prieto desires to continue serving on the board.

City Manager Nixon stated that staff recommends the re-appointment of mayor Freida Bass-Prieto to the fire/police pension board.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp asked if any of her colleagues wished to seat on the board.

Commissioner Harris stated that he had no problems in seating on the board.

Mayor Bass-Prieto pointed out that the board meets on Friday at 10 am.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp stated that she wanted to give everyone an opportunity to express their interest.

Commissioner Harris stated that he could not meet at 10 am because of work obligations.

Commissioner Wood offered a motion to re-appoint Mayor Freida Bass-Prieto to the fire/police pension board.

Commissioner Nash seconded the motion.

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Mayor Bass-Prieto	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp	Yes
Commissioner Wood	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Nash	Yes

**The Motion Carried 5 to 0.**

**Reports by Boards and Committees**

None

**Other Items Requested to Be Agendaed by Commission Member(s), the City Manager, and Other City Officials**

None

**Comments**

City Manager, Robert Nixon

- Stated that the summer has been eventful and reminded everyone to drive safe, without the drinking and driving and to be mindful of children.
- Encouraged residents to assist in keeping the city clean.
- Stated that public works is working hard at keeping debris off the streets.
- Stated that code enforcement team is also assisting in identifying problem areas.
- Stated that we should get back with adopting streets to keep areas of the city clean.
- Reminded that all the city has rules on how large bulky items are discarded.
- Stated that there are many events upcoming.
- Stated that neighborhood parties should be safe, and cars should not block the road and to be respectful of the neighbors.
- Encouraged all to contact the city managers office on how to plan a safe party or rent a city facility.
- Stated that the city is moving towards installing metal detectors in city hall and the police department is currently using the handheld metal detectors.
- Announced the Employee Appreciation Day on Friday, September 8, 12:30 – 4 pm at the recreation center.

- Announced that football is back at parks and rec.
- Announced the new hours of operation for the King Street Pool.

City Clerk, Janice Shackelford Clemons

- No comments.

City Attorney Gary Roberts

- No comments.

Commission

Commissioner Wood

- Expressed gratitude to all the meeting presenters.
- Commended the following departments: public works, code enforcement, and utilities for all that is being done and will be done.
- Stated that there is much work to be done in Quincy and hopes everyone is up for the task at getting it done.
- Encouraged fellow colleagues to work together on getting back to the way things use to be.
- Thanked law enforcement officers, fire fighters and the rest of the city staff working tirelessly and showing up every day to work.
- Motivated everyone to patrol your areas and encourage cleanliness throughout.
- Stated how happy she is to represent district one and invited constituents to the join the advisory task force meetings held on the first Thursday every month.
- Stated how important it is to voice your concerns and to work collectively and collaborate.
- Stated that conversations fuels progress and having them may be stuff and needed.
- Stated how beautification of the city is what the citizens of district one is most concern with and how the city looks to visitors.
- Stated that improvements to the infrastructure, building affordable housing is greatly needed.
- Stated that she sees more homelessness on the streets now, and will must care for the seniors and help our youth and provide activities for them that will keep them engaged.
- My district one, your district one our district one and your city. Stated that she will continue working for you.
- Stated to take pride in what's yours.
- Stated that she hopes district one received the first ninety days newsletter.
- Stated that we will work together to accomplish what is needed.
- Stated that the commission needs to finish what its starts.
- Stated that other resources will be sought to complete what is started.
- Stated that she has a list of things to accomplished.

- "If you can't fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk. If you can't walk, then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward." - Martin Luther King Jr.

#### Commissioner Harris

- No comments

#### Mayor Bass-Prieto

- Stated that she hopes everyone enjoy the 5K run and be out day.
- Stated that rodeo is unique and has history in the African American and Hispanic Culture.
- Stated that the first rodeo was held in Florida.
- Thanked the public works department for doing a great job.
- Commended the city manager for his hard work.
- Stated that if you look around there is a lot of good going.
- Love where you live and live like you love it, don't litter.

#### Commissioner Nash

- Thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
- Thanked the grandparent and the girls who attended the August girl scouts meeting.
- Announced that the next girl scouts meeting will be held on September 13 at the Gadsden County Public Library at 3:30 pm.
- Stated that the girl scouts are building girls of courage, confidence and character.
- Stated that the school board of Gadsden County held a special workshop at 1 pm today, regarding the new school construction.
- Stated that she had a conversation with a former employee of the school board who received notification about the meeting at 1:30 pm.
- Stated that she had no knowledge of the workshop discussing the architectural design of the K-8 new school.
- Stated that she google the legal notice dated August 14 regarding the workshop.
- Reiterated that she nor her constituent of district 5 was aware of the meeting.
- Brought greetings to the constituents of district 5.
- Stated that there is a new building underway to foster efficiency, effectiveness and transparency and that community and civic engagement are essential and necessary. The earlier the better.
- Stated that there will be an increase to the infrastructure and coordination with a new school building which will involve the city.
- Stated that district 5 is overly concerned that no one has contacted her or the citizens of the district regarding the new school.
- Stated that she met with the city manager on August 9 and the new school was at the top of her agenda.

- Stated that what she knows and understands is that district 5 understands that a new school will be a beneficial and bring us into the 21st century with skills and learning.
- Stated that the new school will provide multiple services to the community.
- Stated that district 5 must be a part of the process.
- Stated that district 5 is concerned about the city's partnership, infrastructure demand investments, upgrades, safety, timeline and much more.
- Stated that district 5 along with an advisory committee will present a white paper or a position paper to the city manager and school board regarding the new school construction.
- Stated that district 5 welcomes community engagement meeting with the city manager, school board and superintendent to share valuable information to construct this school with the community in mind.
- Stated that visions are important, or you will be left out and behind.
- Congratulated on the overdue repairs to the recreation bathrooms and other much needed repairs.
- Reminded the city manager, city attorney and city clerk about her public records request.

#### Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp

- Stated that collaboration is needed by all on the building of the new school.
- Stated that the school board needs to be considered that the commission has changed and the new commissioners had not been given the opportunity to meet with the superintendent or school board members.
- Stated that she was not aware of the school board's meeting.
- Stated that communication is vital at putting the needs of the citizens first.
- Stated that we want a new school and the citizens living in the area of the new school is impacted.
- Stated that she notices that the city is getting junkie and agrees beautification of the city is needed.
- Reported that at the intersection of Key and 2<sup>nd</sup> street, individuals are dumping items there.
- Requested a no dumping sign be placed at Key and 2 street.
- Requested the dates of the citywide cleanup in November.
- Thanked the constituents of district 2 and stated how great and supportive they are.
- Announced that the next district 2 community meeting is September 7. Stated that the meetings are held in the district.
- Requested a large map of district 2.
- Stated to join in and enjoy all the activities planned and to embrace and love one another.
- Reminisced about a church in the city standing since 1845 and its history.
- Stated it is time for a better sound system. When you're on zoom or the phone individuals speaking sound muffled.
- Passed out information from the Florida League of Cities.

- Stated how much she enjoyed the ethics training.
- Stated that IFAS has so much information on beatification.
- Stated that she sees Quincy blooming.

The adjournment was motioned by Commissioner Nash and seconded by Commissioner Wood at 6:58 pm.

**Please Note:** The City Commission places the official copies of Commission Meeting Minutes on file with the City Clerk's Office upon approval.

Submitted by Janice Shackelford Clemons, City Clerk

**APPROVED:**

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Freida Bass-Prieto, Mayor, and  
Presiding Officer of the City  
Commission and of the City of  
Quincy, Florida

**ATTEST:**

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Janice Shackelford Clemons, City Clerk per  
Clerk of the of Quincy, Florida  
Clerk of the City Commission thereof

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# Public Hearings and Ordinances as Scheduled or Agendaed

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Ordinance 1142-2023 –  
Amending Chapter 54, Article  
III, Regarding the City of  
Quincy Police Officers and  
Firefighters Retirement Plan –  
Second Reading

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ORDINANCE NO. 1142-2023

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF QUINCY, FLORIDA PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 54, ARTICLE III, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY QUINCY, FLORIDA, REGARDING TO THE CITY OF QUINCY MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS' AND FIREFIGHTERS' RETIREMENT PLAN; AMENDING SECTION 54-59 TO PROVIDE THE TERMS UNDER WHICH CERTAIN PLAN PARTICIPANTS SHALL BE ENTITLED TO REFUNDS OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ANY ORDINANCE OR PARTS THEREOF IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Quincy meets in regular sessions;

WHEREAS, the City Commission is authorized and empowered to amend the City of Quincy Municipal Police Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement Plan (the "Plan"); and

WHEREAS, the City Commission desires to clarify the conditions and terms under which a Plan participant shall be entitled to a refund of his or her contributions when leaving service;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF QUINCY, FLORIDA:

**Section 1.**     **Amendment of Section 54-59**

The City Commission hereby amends Section 54-59(f)(6) as follows:

**Sec. 54-59. - Basis, amount, and payment of retirement income.**

(f) *Vested benefits on termination of employment.*

(6) Except as provide in subsection (b) of this section with respect to normal retirement, subsection (d) of this section with respect to disability retirement, and subsection (e) of this section with respect to death, any participant that leaves the service of the municipality before

**NOTE:** *~~Struck-through language is language proposed to be deleted, Underlined language is amended language, and \*\*\* represents sections that have been skipped and that remain unchanged.~~*

accumulating aggregate time of 10 years toward retirement and before being eligible to retire under the provisions of this chapter, such participants shall be entitled to a refund of all of his or her contributions made to the Plan trust fund without interest, less any benefits paid to him or her. If any participant who has been in the service of the municipality for at least 10 years elects to leave his or her accrued contributions in the Plan trust fund, such participants upon attaining age 50 years or more may retire at the actuarial equivalent of the amount of such retirement income otherwise payable to him or her, under the applicable terms of the Plan, or, upon attaining age 55 years, may retire as provided under the applicable terms of the Plan, consistent with Florida law. the terminated participant whose service is terminated prior to the date as of which he has completed five years of credited service shall not be entitled to any benefit under the plan whatsoever, except the return of the terminated participant's contributions with five percent interest thereon. Any terminated participant who joins the plan on or after the effective date of these amendments and leaves the service of the city before accumulating an aggregate time of five years toward retirement and being eligible to retire under the provisions of this plan, such terminated participant shall be entitled to a refund of all his or contributions made to the trust fund with interest of no more than five percent as set by the board of trustees at its first quarterly meeting after the adoption of these amendments and as set by the board of trustees at its first quarterly meeting for each year thereafter, less any benefits paid to him.

**Section 2. Conflict/Repeal:**

All ordinances of Code provisions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**Section 3. Severability.** If any section, sentence, clause, phrase or provision of this Ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not be construed as to render invalid or unconstitutional the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

**Section 4. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the City of Quincy, Florida.

**PASSED FIRST READING ON:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PASSED SECOND READING ON:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY OF QUINCY**

**BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Freida Bass-Prieto, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Janice Shackelford Clemons**  
**CITY CLERK**

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Ordinance 1143-2023 –  
Adoption of the 2023-24  
Millage Rate – First Reading

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ORDINANCE NO. 1143-2023

AN ORDINANCE DETERMINING THE AMOUNT AND FIXING THE RATE OF TAXATION AND STATING THE ANNUAL LEVY FOR THE CITY OF QUINCY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024, AND SETTING THE PERCENTAGE BY WHICH THE MILLAGE RATE IS TO BE LEVIED.

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Quincy, has now received from the Property Appraiser of Gadsden County Florida, the certification of the taxable values for the year 2023, and it can now be determined what millage rate will provide the same ad valorem, tax revenue for the City of Quincy as was levied during the prior year by a calculation of what is known as the "rolled-back rate" pursuant to Section 200.065(1), Florida Statutes.

WHEREAS, the gross taxable value for operating proposed not exempt from taxation within Gadsden County has been certified by the County Property Appraiser to the City of Quincy as \$310,333,475,

WHEREAS, the rolled back rate was calculated 6.4037; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission voted on August 4, 2023, to establish a tentative millage rate of 6.4037, which is equal to the roll back rate, therefore, is not a tax increase, and

WHEREAS, the City of Quincy of Gadsden County, Florida on September 14, 2023, held a public hearing on the proposed millage rate for fiscal year 2023-2024 as required by Florida Statute 200.065; and

WHEREAS, the City of Quincy of Gadsden County, Florida held a second public hearing on 28<sup>th</sup> day September 2023 to adopt a fiscal year 2023-2024 final millage rate as required by Florida Statute 200.065; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF QUINCY

SECTION 1. That is hereby found and determined that the ad valorem millage rate of 6.4037 will provide approximately the same ad valorem tax revenue for the City of Quincy as was levied during the prior year and which rate is known as the "rolled-back rate" pursuant to section 200.065(1) Florida Statutes.

SECTION 2. That it is necessary, however, to levy a tax of 6.4037 mills, upon all of the taxable property within the corporate limits of the City of Quincy, Florida excluding exempt property, for the purposes of raising the amount of money necessary to carry on the Government of said City during the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024.

SECTION 3. That for the purpose of raising the amount of money necessary to carry on the Government of the City of Quincy, Florida during the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024 a direct tax of 6.4037 is hereby levied upon all of the taxable property within the corporate limits of the City of Quincy, excluding exempt property, as listed, described and valued on the assessment roll for the fiscal year 2023 by the proper official as provided by law and revised, equalized and corrected as provided by law.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and approval as provided by law.

INTRODUCED in open session of the City Commission of the City of Quincy, Florida on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, A.D. 2023.

PASSED in open session of the City Commission of the City of Quincy, Florida, on the \_\_\_\_ day of September, A.D. 2023.

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Freida Bass-Prieto, Mayor  
Presiding Officer of the City  
Commission of the City of Quincy, Florida

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Janice Shackelford  
Clerk of the City of Quincy and  
Clerk of the City Commission thereof

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Ordinance 1144-2023 –  
Adoption of the FY 2023-24  
Budget – First Reading

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