

**CITY OF CALLAWAY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 8, 2025– 6:00 P.M.**

The City of Callaway Commission met in a Regular Session on July 8, 2025. In attendance were Pam Henderson, Mayor, David Griggs, Mayor Pro tem, and Commissioners, Bob Pelletier, and Kenneth Ayers. Commissioner Scott Davis was present by phone. Also in attendance were Eddie Cook, City Manager; Kevin Obos, City Attorney; Ashley Robyck, City Clerk; David Schultz, Director of Finance; Tim Legare, Director of Leisure Services; Lisa Mayo, Director of Utility Billing; and David Joyner, Fire Chief.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Henderson, followed by Invocation, the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

Deputy Kip McKenzie reviewed the June stats from the Bay County Sheriff's office.

Mayor Henderson presented the Yard of the Month to 252 Red Bay Road.

Mayor Henderson presented a Proclamations for the anniversary of the ADA & for Parks & Recreation Month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 24, 2025 Regular Meeting

Motion:

Motion made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Ayers/Griggs to approve the minutes of June 24, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

Certification of Maximum Ad Valorem Tax/Millage Rate FY 25/26

City Manager Cook advised that each year the City is required to certify the maximum millage rate with the Property Appraiser. This is set as a benchmark and the City would be able to set a lower rate but not go above it.

Commissioner Pelletier commented that if no one is going to vote for a tax raise, why do we not set it at the 2.75.

Commissioner Griggs asked that since we have not seen the budget yet, why the 2.99 is being suggested. City Manager Cook addressed.

Commissioner Ayers suggested setting it at 2.7 to give citizens a break.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Davis advised that he agrees with not raising taxes but does believe it is best to start high and trim things off.

Commissioner Griggs commented that this may be the last year that we can do 2.75 due to projects still needed around the city and grants becoming harder to receive.

Mayor Henderson for public participation;

Don Hennings, 431 Tanya Pass, advised that he thinks it should be raised to 2.99 to help get things done in the City then bring it down.

Ron Shaner, 5711 Kevin Cir, advised that he agrees with Commissioner Pelletier, and it should be kept at 2.75.

Motion:

Motion made by Commissioner Pelletier and seconded by Commissioner Griggs to set the maximum millage rate at 2.75 The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion- Utility Billing Shut of Dates

Commissioner Pelletier advised that billing is still 60 days out and delinquent accounts are getting better, but we are still losing money. He also asked City Attorney if a credit score can determine the deposit. City Attorney Obos addressed.

Mayor Henderson advised that on the last list that commission received regarding collection accounts, that 4 out of the 10 have homestead exemptions so that would not be renters.

City Manager Cook advised that collection balances are not all water consumption; it also includes late fees.

Commissioner Pelletier stated that the new builds should pay to install the new meters that will work more effectively with the FlexNet system and asked why we are not buying the new meters now. City Manager Cook addressed. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Pelletier asked if City Manager Cook has spoken with staff about reducing bill due dates and shut off dates. City Manager Cook advised. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Griggs pointed out on the back of the bills it states that an additional deposit may be required due to service disconnection if the deposit amount is not \$250.00. Discussion ensued.

Lisa Mayo, Director of Utility Billing advised that a lot of accounts that are going to collections are active duty military who only have a \$110.00 deposit. Commission agreed to change the manual back to a \$250.00 deposit. She also spoke on issues with landlords fixing leaks for tenants & the number of unpaid balances when a robo call is done the day before disconnects. Discussion also ensued regarding tampering with meters after shutoffs and when they sheriff's office needs to be involved.

David Shultz, Director of Finance, advised of other issues with the manual that should be looked at such as the senior discount and other cities that have a fee for printed bills. Discussion ensued regarding keeping the senior discount, recurring payments, fees for credit card payments and the cost of mailing paper bills.

Mayor Henderson for public participation; there was none.

Anna Pelletier, 7724 Shadow Bay Dr, agrees with charging for paper bills.

Lawrence Lyons, 7003 Benton Dr, advised that the energy should be put into collecting on delinquent accounts instead of looking for other fees.

Tim Brunner, 6620 Cherry St, spoke on charging for paper bills and how the elderly who do not use computers would be penalized and spoke on the credit checks.

Citizen, advised that the coloring on the Callaway connection newsletter made it hard to read.

Teresa Langston, 6031 Lance St, commented on the postal service, does not agree with charging for paper bills, contacting active-duty upper management regarding past due accounts, and Florida Statute regarding shut off dates and notices.

Ron Shaner, 5711 Kevin Cir, spoke on deposits and how they are done when renting a place, does not agree with charging for paper bills, and using credit reports for the deposit amount.

Jeff Carnahan, 7752 Shadow Bay Dr, disagrees on fees associated with water bills, continuous city leaks, military discounts on the deposit, senior discounts, & recurring billing.

FY2025/26 Budget Workshops/Hearings Schedule

Commissioner Pelletier asked when commission would receive the budget. Director Shultz advised it should be ready the week before.

Mayor Henderson advised that she has a schedule conflict with August 5th at 1:00 p.m. and asked if it could be moved to either 2 p.m. or August 6th. Commission agreed to change to 2 p.m. on August 5th. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Henderson for public participation; there was none.

Budget meetings are scheduled as follows:

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| • Budget Workshop | Tuesday July 29 th | 1:00 pm |
| • Budget Workshop | Tuesday, August 5 th | 2:00 pm |
| • Budget Workshop | Tuesday, August 19 th | 1:00 pm |
| • 1 st Budget Hearing | Thursday, September 4 th | 5:01 pm |
| • Final Budget Hearing | Thursday, September 18 th | 5:01 pm |

Informational Purposes- City to accept new water and sewer lines for new subdivision on Hwy 2297

City Manager Cook advised that his is just for informational purposes only & that a new subdivision will be constructed on Highway 2297 in unincorporated Bay County. The City of Callaway has water and sewer mains available to provide services to the property and will be accepting the water & sewer to the 10 new homes.

Mayor Henderson for public participation; there was none.

Discussion- Water & Sewer Rate Increase

City Manager Cook advised that the City has received letters from Bay County indicating the sewer rates will be increasing as of October 1, 2025 and water rates will be increasing January 1, 2026. Water will be increasing 2.6% or \$0.05 per thousand gallons and sewer will be increasing 4.0% or \$0.15 per thousand

gallons. In order to increase rates for the City of Callaway, if chosen to do so, the City must advertise the increase two months in advance of the date the increase will take effect.

Commissioner Griggs reiterated the amounts per thousand gallons.

City Manager Cook explained how water & sewer are billed. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Henderson for public participation; there was none.

Direction was to increase only by the amounts that the County is raising.

COMMISSION/STAFF COMMENTS – The following were points of discussion:

Pamn Henderson, Mayor

- Home Dedication for Habitat Village
- Independence Day Celebration
- East Pass Letter of Support to Bay County
- League of Cities dinner

Scott Davis, Commissioner Ward I

- Cemetery Drainage project
- July 4th Suggestion of date change

David Griggs, Commissioner, Ward II

- Painting of Berthe & Hwy 22 intersection
- Damage in City Parks
- Historical Society presentation

Bob Pelletier, Commissioner, Ward III

- Solid Waste bid

Kenneth Ayers Jr, Commissioner Ward IV

- City project review with City Manager
- Water leaks in Callaway Point
- Bay Estuary Committee meeting
- Cemetery Fence & Drainage

Eddie Cook, City Manager

- Lift Station project update
- Hugh Thomas project update
- Sandy Creek
- Beacon Point update
- Cherry Street update

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Henderson read the announcements as follows:

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|-----------|
| • July 15, 2025 | Planning Board Meeting | 6:00 p.m. |
| • July 17, 2025 | Historical Society | 5:30 p.m. |

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Martin Vossler, 6303 Wallace Rd, spoke on unmarked police cars for speed enforcement and the need for marked police cars, and asked for Clarification on East Pass.

Ron Shaner, 5711 Kevin Cir, spoke on citations from the Sherriff's office and speeding in his neighborhood.

Tim Brunner, 6620 Cherry St, commented on the person mowing and if something can be done so they can see behind them.

Teresa Langston, 6031 Lance St, commented on charging fees to use the parks to pay for security cameras at parks, Beacon Point, citizen complaints about the building.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Attest: _____
Ashley Robyck, City Clerk

Pamn Henderson, Mayor