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Williston says 'No Thank You' to Levy County School Board; *Looks at fixing or building City Hall*



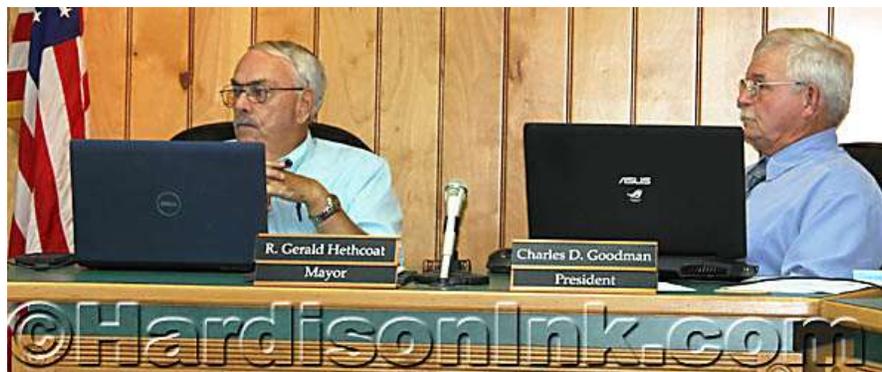
City Councilman Danny Etheridge and City Councilman Matt Brooks were among the five who voted to tell the School Board 'No Thank You' to an offer to sell the city the old WHS cafeteria >

Story and Photos By Jeff M. Hardison © Sept. 7, 2016 @ 3:37 p.m.

WILLISTON – A unanimous vote Tuesday night (Sept. 6) showed the Williston City Council declining an offer from the Levy County School Board to buy the cafeteria on the now abandoned former Williston High School campus.

On a motion by City Council Vice President Nancy Winger, seconded by City Councilman Elihu Ross, the five voting members chose to decline the offer and to instruct City Manager Scott Lippmann and staff to begin to investigate what is required to either repair or replace City Hall on the site where it sits.

Before that vote, the discussion had continued from the meeting two weeks before.



Mayor R. Gerald Hethcoat (left) is not a voting member of the Williston City Council, but President Charles Goodman was among those who voted in favor of the Winger-Ross

motion, which will lead city staff to start seeing what is needed to move forward with renovating or replacing City Hall. Meanwhile, the City Council told City Manager Scott Lippmann that a coat of paint is permitted.

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(from left) Vice President Nancy Winger, City Councilman Scott Elihu and City Manager Scott Lippmann are all active in helping staff know which way the City Council wants to go with resolving problems with the City Hall buildings. Lippmann mentioned that more square-feet of space may mean the city could save money on storage space it is currently renting to keep records.

City Attorney Frederick Koberlein Jr. answered a question about the City Council taking out a loan. The funding aspect of the project is in its infancy, and there is no firm cost or method for paying for the project yet.

Vice President Winger, though, added some information that helped everyone go forward with not buying the old WHS cafeteria.

She said that during the evacuation, the cafeteria was used as a shelter. When she visited it, she heard American Red Cross workers comment about the roof leaking. Winger saw the leaking roof.

The current City Hall, which includes the Community Room (on the side of the complex next to Walgreen's), is about 8,500 square-feet. There is a current tentative



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concept of a bigger footprint – 14,000 square-feet.

However, this whole idea is in its earliest stages and Council President Charles Goodman suggested creating a committee to begin looking at options of renovating or replacing City Hall, and finding methods for funding this huge project.

As for input from people, one person said she liked the old building. Another person said she prefers to level the old structure and to go with a new building. Results from a weekly tabloid's "poll" were not shared Tuesday night.

Mayor On The Go



Williston Mayor R. Gerald Hethcoat was in Cedar Key Tuesday (Sept. 6) again, to see how the city is progressing in its recovery from being hit by Hurricane Hermine. Mayor Hethcoat is on the go very often. Later that night, he was presenting a proclamation about the United States Constitution as well as presenting a certificate of completion to a City Council member who earned that recognition.

Photo by Jeff M. Hardison © Sept. 7, 2016 @ 3:07 p.m.