

HardisonInk.com

New member sworn in at City Commission meeting;

Park grant sought for Chiefland, AEDs bought, and truck loan secured



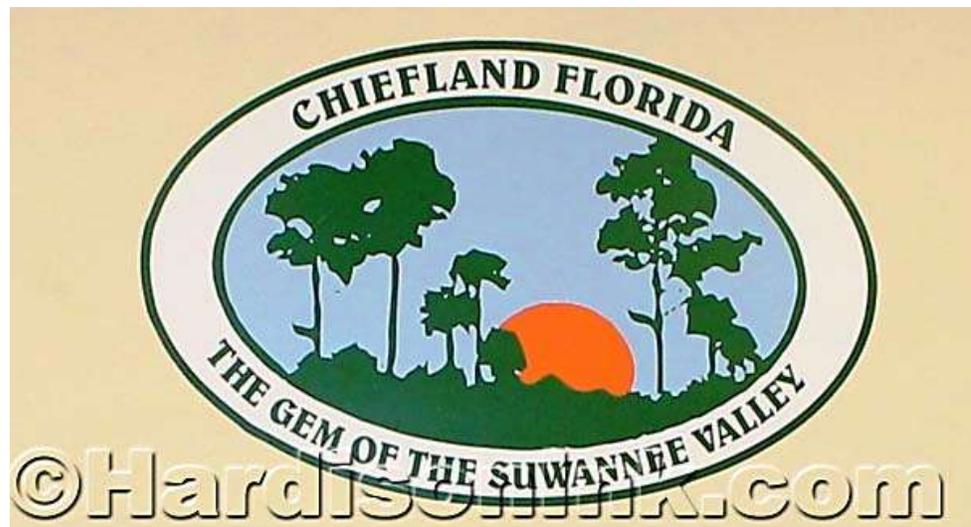
Donald Lawrence takes the oath of office administered by Levy County Judge J.T. 'Tim' Browning.

Story, Photos and Video By Jeff M. Hardison © Oct. 25, 2016 @ 11:37 a.m., All Rights Reserved

CHIEFLAND -- Selected as the appointee to replace former Chiefland City Commissioner Teal Pomeroy, Donald Lawrence took the oath of office Monday night (Oct. 24) in the Hardy Dean Sr. Municipal Building (Chiefland City Hall) as Levy County Judge J.T. "Tim" Browning administered it.

Mayor Pomeroy died Aug. 19 in a scuba accident when he was swimming alone in the Suwannee River that night.

The seal of Chiefland is now painted on the wall behind the City Commission in the Hardy Dean Sr. Municipal Building (Chiefland City Hall).



HardisonInk.com



The Chiefland City Commission is whole again with (from left) Teresa Barron, Rollin Hudson Mayor Betty Walker, Donald Lawrence and Vice Mayor Chris Jones.

A 3-1 vote on Oct. 10 to appoint Lawrence to the Group 2 position on the Commission had Mayor Betty Walker as the lone dissenter.

In a Sept. 26 letter asking to be considered for the vacant City Commission seat that came to be, Lawrence said he is a Vietnam veteran who has lived in Chiefland for more than 23 years.

He retired from teaching in Levy County, where he taught and coached for more than 18 years in Chiefland.



City Manager (and Ex Officio City Clerk) Clerk Mary Ellzey (upper left) speaks as Deputy City Clerk Laura Cain smiles for the world while a photo is snapped during the Monday night (Oct. 24) meeting.

HardisonInk.com



Donald Lawrence (left) speaks as Vice Mayor Chris Jones listens.

The new city commissioner instantly began his civic post with his first vote being with the rest of the City Commission -- Mayor Walker, Vice Mayor Chris Jones and city commissioners Teresa Barron and Rollin Hudson to seek a \$50,000 grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to be part of the funding to create Chiefland Trail Head Park, which is the name Pomeroy tagged the park with.



Chiefland City Attorney Norm Fugate helped the Chiefland City Commission know more about grants from for recreational facilities in the city, which can be funded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, as he shared that there are two such projects under way in the city of Cedar Key now. Fugate serves as that city's municipal attorney too.

HardisonInk.com



Here is a rendering of what one view of the park might look like upon completion.



Chiefland Project and Finance Coordinator Bryan Hassell speaks to the City Commission about the Chiefland Trail Head Park. There was some discussion about asphalt used for parking – pervious versus impervious, because of the flow of water from the parking lot after rain.

HardisonInk.com



Chiefland City Manager Mary Ellzey reads to the City Commission about the possible grant from the state.



(from left) City Commissioner Rollin Hudson, Mayor Betty Walker and City Commissioner Donald Lawrence listen to a person speaking at the meeting.

HardisonInk.com



Chiefland city commissioners Teresa Barron (left) and Rollin Hudson

The first motion seconded by Lawrence was made by Barron to buy nine restored Automated External Defibrillator (AED) units, which Chiefland Fire Chief James Harris found through his connection with the Florida Fire Chiefs Association for \$2,750. Nine new AEDs would cost \$24,000. When the units are purchased, they will be distributed among fire and police vehicles.

Like all of the votes Tuesday night, the Chiefland City Commission was unanimous in its voting for the added AEDs.

Another Chiefland Fire Rescue-related vote was to accept a four-year loan for \$9,000 to buy a \$29,000 truck. The interest rate for the loan is fixed at 2.54 percent. Payments on the loan are just under \$200 a month.

The guaranteed funding source for the loan is the money that the Levy County Board of County Commissioners allocates to Chiefland for the CFR to respond to calls outside the city limits in the unincorporated part of Levy County that is relatively near to the city.