

Commission Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2019
6:30 pm

Mayor Waters said before we begin the official meeting of the Starke City Commission, there will be a time of voluntary prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Those willing to do so are asked to stand and Commissioner Nugent will lead us in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Waters called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

This was the second regular meeting of the month. Members present included Mayor Wilbur L. Waters, Commissioner Tommy Chastain, Commissioner Janice D. Mortimer, Commissioner Danny Nugent and Commissioner Shannon Smith. Also present were Director of Operations Scott Anaheim, Police Chief Jeff Johnson, Director of Finance John-Paul Ledford, City Attorney Clay Martin, City Manager Bob Milner and Deputy Clerk Lisa Terry. City Clerk Ricky Thompson was absent due to illness.

Mayor Waters asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none.

Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the Minutes of the December 3, 2019 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Mortimer asked to table the minutes until the January 7, 2020 Commission Meeting.

Mayor Waters asked if there were any emergency items. Mr. Milner said the employee luncheon will be on Thursday, December 19, 2019 and he would like to close city hall from 12:00 to 2:00 pm. Mayor Waters said he would like to close city hall for the rest of the day like they have done in the past. He said city hall would reopen Friday, December 20, 2019 at 8:00 am. Mr. Milner asked to add this as Item 9G. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to declare this an emergency item. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Waters asked for citizen participation. There was no citizen participation. Mayor Waters read the statement for citizen requests "The City of Starke welcomes you to this meeting. This time is set aside for our citizens and general public to address the city commission. This is not a question or answer time. It is not a political forum, nor is it a time for personal accusations or derogatory remarks to or about city personnel. If you would like to address the commission please complete a form, come to the podium when you are called, speak into the microphone and state your name and address for the record. Please also limit your comments to not more than 3 minutes. Your participation is welcomed." Mayor Waters asked to have citizen participation moved under the citizen participation statement for the next meeting.

Mayor Waters called for public hearings. There were no public hearings.

Mayor Waters asked for the City Clerk Report. Mr. Ledford said Commissioner Mortimer met with the bond trustees and reviewed the bills. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to pay the bills. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Ledford asked James Halleran with James Moore & Company to present their proposal. Mr. Halleran asked the commissioners to look at the engagement letter provided to them. Mr. Halleran said the previous audit cost the city \$68,000. He is willing to reduce that by five percent to \$64,600 for a one-year contract with two one-year extensions or a straight three-year contract would be reduced by ten percent to \$58,140. Commissioner Chastain asked about possible additional costs due to lack of preparation cited in the letter. Mr. Ledford said the wording is subjective and he would like to have the single audit addressed because we will be subject to one in the next year or two. Commissioner Chastain asked about reconciliation of the pensions. Mr. Ledford said he did last years with input from Reddish & White. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to accept the engagement letter with James Moore. Mayor Waters passed the gavel and seconded the motion. The motion failed 2-3. Commissioner Chastain, Commissioner Nugent and Commissioner Smith opposed the motion. Attorney Martin asked if the commissioners would like him along with Mr. Milner and Mr. Thompson to work with James Moore to address the issues and bring the engagement letter back for a vote at the next meeting. The commissioners agreed.

Mr. Ledford read the title to Ordinance Number 2020-03 Natural Gas Rates and Charges. This was the second reading. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the second reading. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to approve the second reading. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Ledford read the title to Ordinance Number 2020-04 Electric Rates and Charges. This was the second reading. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the second reading. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the second reading. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Ledford addressed Resolution Number 2020-17 Modification to the Subgrant Agreement with the Department of Economic Opportunity CDBG 18DB-OM-03-14-02-N09. Mr. Ledford turned the resolution over to Mr. Milner. Attorney Martin read the title to the resolution. Mayor Waters entertained a motion. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2020-17. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Ledford said Mr. Thompson wanted him to remind everyone that the Lawtey Christmas Parade is this Saturday, December 21, 2019 at 10:00 am with line up at 9:30 am.

Attorney Martin addressed Resolution Number 2020-15 contract with Southern Switch & Contacts. Attorney Martin read the title to the resolution. Mr. Milner said the work should begin on the substation in thirty to forty-five days. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to

approve the resolution. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to approve the resolution as read by title. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Commissioner Chastain asked if the contract could require work that would cause power outages to be done at night. Mr. Milner said outages will be minimized and will be early in the morning or late at night whenever possible. Mr. Anaheim said whenever possible outages required for the substation project will be coordinated with outages required for the overpass project. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Milner addressed Resolution Number 2020-16 Contract with J&H Waterstop Utilities. Attorney Martin read the resolution title. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve the resolution as read by title. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Milner addressed advertising for members for the Starke Recreation Advisory Board. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the advertisement. Commissioner Smith made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. Commissioner Smith asked if the committee is open to citizens of the county. He asked how many members there would be. Mr. Milner said five members and two alternates. Commissioner Chastain asked if they should meet with the county commissioners to discuss this. Mr. Milner said they certainly could. The motion passed 3-2. Commissioner Mortimer and Commissioner Nugent opposed the motion. Commissioner Mortimer asked where this will be advertised. Mr. Milner said in the paper, on Facebook and on the website. Commissioner Chastain asked Mr. Milner to reach out to the county about a joint meeting.

Mr. Milner addressed the payment for insurance for use in the recreation program. He recommended the commissioners approve the \$2165 to purchase the required insurance for the Cal Ripkin and Babe Ruth Leagues. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the payment. Commissioner Smith made a motion for discussion. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. Commissioner Smith asked if anyone has expressed an interest in filling the position of the Bradford Parents Athletic Association. Mr. Milner said no one has. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Milner addressed the purchase of city vehicles. Mr. Milner said the vehicles will be two Chevrolet 1500s one for \$23,458 and one for \$24,415. The other will be a van for the Gas Department for \$23,524. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the purchases. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Milner addressed the request for bids to clear the Edwards Road Property. Mayor Waters asked if this includes removing all trees including grinding the stumps. Commissioner Nugent said some of the trees need to be marked to be left on the property. Mr. Milner said that will be part of the contract. Attorney Martin said the city will have to comply with its own tree ordinance. Mayor Waters entertained a motion. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to approve the request for bids. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Milner addressed closing city hall for the employee luncheon Thursday, December 19, 2019. Mayor Waters asked that city hall be closed all Thursday afternoon. Commissioner Nugent asked if overtime will be paid for employees who are called in. Mr. Milner said he will work it out where there will be no overtime. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to close city hall on December 19, 2019 from 12:00 until 5:00 pm. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Waters asked for the Attorney Report. Attorney Martin had nothing further.

Commissioner Nugent thanked everyone for their participation in the Christmas Parade.

Commissioner Chastain asked about the 2nd Amendment Law the county passed. He asked if the city should follow suit. Attorney Martin said he will look into it and bring it back before the commission at the next meeting. Commissioner Mortimer said she is not for it. Attorney Martin said he will send an email to the commissioners explaining the law.

Commissioner Chastain asked about the access road to the cell tower. Attorney Martin said the access road is a publicly dedicated road.

Commissioner Mortimer said the Christmas Decorations look very nice.

Commissioner Smith asked about the tree ordinance. He asked about a tree that was cut down recently on a business property. Mayor Waters said it was eaten up with bugs.

Mayor Waters said the Christmas Parade was a success.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.