Commission Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2020
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 Chastain will lead us in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Waters called the meeting to order at 6:33 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, Deputy Clerk Lisa Terry and City Clerk Ricky Thompson.

Mayor Waters asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Attorney Martin asked to remove Item 9.F. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to accept the change to the agenda. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to accept the change to the agenda as requested by Attorney Martin. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 5-0.

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

Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the Minutes of the January 7, 2020 Commission Meeting and the Minutes of the January 9, 2020 Special Commission Meeting. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Waters asked if there were any emergency items. There were none.

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.” There was no citizen participation.

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

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

Mayor Waters asked for the City Manager Report. Mr. Milner addressed Resolution Number 2020-20 approval of amendment 3 to the FDEP SRF clean water loan agreement. Attorney Martin read the resolution by title. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-20 as read by title. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Milner addressed Resolution Number 2020-21 approval of the FDOT school zone construction and maintenance agreement. Attorney Martin read the resolution by title. 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 Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Milner addressed Resolution Number 2020-22 approval of assignment of contract by Southern Switch & Contacts, Inc to Cavok Capital, LLC and associated change order. Attorney Martin said the contract was awarded to Southern Switch & Contacts then the company was bought out by Cavok Capital, LLC. Attorney Martin read the resolution by title. He said because of the buy-out the city is now asking for a performance bond. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the resolution as read by title. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-22 as read by title with a performance bond. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Milner addressed Resolution Number 2020-23 acknowledging and consenting to closing the railroad crossing at East South Street. Mayor Waters wanted confirmation that the railroad crossings will not be closed until the overpass is completed. Commissioner Chastain said he wants something in writing. Commissioner Chastain asked to table Resolution Number 2020-23 until they have something in writing. Attorney Martin said he will reach out to the Florida Department of Transportation to confirm the closings will not occur until the overpass is completed. Mr. Milner suggested tabling Resolution 2020-24 as well.

Mr. Milner addressed the processing for the emergency purchase of a service vehicle for use by the public works supervisor. Mr. Milner said this should not have been listed as an emergency at this time. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the purchase. It seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. Commissioner Chastain asked if policy and procedure was followed for this purchase. Mr. Ledford said the truck has already been purchased. Commissioner Chastain asked if the purchase of a truck is considered an emergency purchase according to policy and procedure. Mr. Ledford said it is not. Commissioner Mortimer asked how this happened. Mr. Milner said it was his mistake. Commissioner Mortimer asked if there will be a finding on this during the audit. Mr. Milner said they can blame it on the Ex-City Manager. The motion passed 3-2. Commissioner Chastain and Commissioner Nugent opposed the motion.

Commissioner Mortimer said she would like a prefabricated building considered for the Thomas Street Park before the recreation advisory board is formed. She said the old building is a liability and needs to be removed as soon as possible. Mr. Milner agreed. Commissioner Chastain said the grapple truck can demolish the old building.

Mayor Waters asked for the Police Chief Report. Chief Johnson had nothing further.

Mayor Waters asked for the Attorney Report. Attorney Martin said the lawsuit against the Police Department is being handled by Travelers Insurance who was the city's insurance provider at the time of the accident.

Attorney Martin asked if the commissioners would be willing to accept the current contract with John Holman for the position of City Manager. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the contract as is. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. Commissioner Chastain asked about the contract renewing for two years. Attorney Martin said it will automatically renew unless one of the parties gives sixty days-notice. Commissioner Chastain asked about Mr. Holman being paid through the end of the month if he passes away on the first of the month. Attorney Martin said Mr. Holman would agree to changing that to being paid through the pay period. Commissioner Chastain asked to amend the contract. Attorney Martin suggested deleting through the end of the month and replace it with through the end of the pay period. The motion passed 5-0. Mayor Waters asked for a vote to approve the amended contract. The motion passed 4-1. Commissioner Nugent opposed the motion. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to extend employment to Mr. Holman. Commissioner Smith made a motion to extent employment to Mr. Holman. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 4-1. Commissioner Nugent opposed the motion.

Commissioner Nugent had nothing further.

Commissioner Chastain asked about a date for a workshop with the county. Mr. Milner said he will look into it.

Commissioner Chastain asked about the walk behind vacuum that was budgeted for but has not been purchased. Mr. Milner said he will look into it.

Commissioner Chastain asked about the offer from Crown Castle. Mr. Martin said he has asked them to come back with a new offer.

Commissioner Chastain asked about leaving a natural perimeter around the new parking lot. Mr. Milner said they could plant something after it is cleared.

Commissioner Mortimer would like to take a field trip to the splash park. She asked who she needs to schedule it with. Mr. Milner asked her to give him a call.

Commissioner Mortimer said the Martin Luther King Jr parade and banquet went very well. She thanked everyone for their support. She said Dr. Jackson Sasser was pleased with the key to the city.

Commissioner Smith asked when the engineering will be completed on the paving on Orange Street. Mr. Anaheim said it will be done soon.

Mayor Waters wants the record to reflect that he has been waiting on speed bumps for Cypress Street.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.