Commission Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2020
6:30 pm

Vice Mayor Smith 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 I will lead us in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

This was the second regular meeting of the month. Members present included Vice Mayor Shannon Smith, Commissioner Tommy Chastain and Commissioner Danny Nugent. Also present were Director of Operations Scott Anaheim, New City Manager John Holman, 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. Commissioner Janice D. Mortimer was absent due to illness. Mayor Wilbur L. Waters was absent due to work.

Vice Mayor Smith asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none. Vice Mayor Smith entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 3-0.

Vice Mayor Smith entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the Minutes of the February 4, 2020 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 3-0.

Vice Mayor Smith asked if there were any emergency items. There were none.

Vice Mayor Smith 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." Chrissy Allen came forward representing the Downtown Merchants. She said the Downtown Merchants have procured a billboard on the southside of town near the Alachua County line. She said showcase is going to wrap it but the cost will take up their Christmas budget. She is asking the city to look at purchasing a large used Christmas tree around 25 feet tall. Mrs. Allen asked about putting the city logo on the billboard. The commissioners agreed to have it on the next agenda for a vote when there is a full board. Christina Libby came forward to express concern for citizens with lawn debris who do not have trucks. Mr. Milner explained that WCA will now be picking up more lawn debris and will have an additional truck for lawn debris.

Vice Mayor Smith said he would like to recognize John Holman as the New City Manager. Mr. Holman introduced Mike McCleary and Jacob Williams with Florida Municipal Power Agency who would like to present Mr. Milner with an award. Mr. McCleary recognized Mr. Milner for 3 years of service to the City of Starke and the FMPA Board and presented him with a plaque.

Vice Mayor Smith called for public hearings. There were none.

Vice Mayor Smith 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 3-0.

Mr. Thompson addressed Ordinance Number 2020-07 amending the firefighters' retirement system to include up to 250 hours of overtime per year. Attorney Martin read the title of Ordinance Number 2020-07. He said this is the first reading. Vice Mayor Smith entertained a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance Number 2020-07 as read by title. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to approve the first reading by title. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Thompson addressed Ordinance Number 2020-08 repealing Ordinance Number 2014-0713. Attorney Martin read the title of Ordinance Number 2020-08. He said this is the first reading. Vice Mayor Smith entertained a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance Number 2020-08 as read by title. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to approve the first reading by title. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Thompson introduced Scott Koons of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council to present Resolution Number 2020-01 recognizing the 150th Anniversary of the City of Starke. Executive Director Scott Koons said the City of Starke has been a member since 1965. He read the resolution and presented it to the commissioners. Vice Mayor Smith thanked Mr. Koons.

Mr. Thompson addressed Resolution Number 2020-29 suspension of safety pay. Attorney Martin said this addresses audit finding 19. He recommended that the board approve the resolution so it can be provided to the state auditor. Vice Mayor Smith entertained a motion to approve Resolution Number 2020-29. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2020-29. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 3-0.

Attorney Martin suggested tabling the bond trustee discussion until there is a full board present at the next meeting. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to table the discussion. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 3-0.

Vice Mayor Smith asked for the City Manager Report. Mr. Milner suggested tabling Change Order Number 3 for the FRDAP Grant Funded Splash Park. Vice Mayor Smith entertained a motion to table the change order. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to table the change order. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 3-0.

Attorney Martin suggested tabling Resolution Number 2020-26 until the next meeting so he can bring back a more accurate resolution. Vice Mayor Smith entertained a motion to table Resolution Number 2020-26. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to table the resolution until the next meeting. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Milner addressed Resolution Number 2020-27 appointing John Holman as primary city representative and Scott Anaheim as alternate city representative to the Florida Municipal Power Agency. Vice Mayor Smith entertained a motion to approve the Resolution Number 2020-27. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve the resolution. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Milner addressed Resolution Number 2020-28 appointing John Holman as primary city representative and Scott Anaheim as alternate city representative to the Florida Gas Utility. Vice Mayor Smith entertained a motion to approve the Resolution Number 2020-28. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to approve the resolution. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 3-0.

Mayor Waters asked for the Police Chief Report. Chief Johnson said some of the swing arms have been installed at State Road 100 and Orange Street. Mr. Anaheim said the lights are 45 days out.

Attorney Martin gave an update on water rates. He said we cannot charge a bulk purchaser from out of town a higher rate without a rational basis. Attorney Martin said it would not hold up in court.

Attorney Martin gave an update on outside labor law counsel. He spoke with Susan Erdelyi with Marks Gray and she will provide a flat fee quote for the legal work needing to be done.

Attorney Martin gave an update on the Woodard and Curran engineering contract. He said there may need to be a separate contract to address the USDA funded portion and the DEP State funded components.

Commissioner Nugent had nothing further.

Commissioner Chastain asked about updates on the substation. Scott Anaheim said there will be an outage next Wednesday at 12:00 am for about 2 hours. Vice Mayor Smith asked if the citizens are being made aware of it. Mr. Anaheim said they will.

Commissioner Chastain asked about a joint city and county commission workshop. Mr. Milner said Rachel Rhoden wants the city commissioners to submit possible dates.

Commissioner Smith thanked Mr. Milner for encouraging him to run for the board and for his service to the city for the last 3 years.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.