Commission Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2019
6:30 pm

Mayor Nugent 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 he will lead us in the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

This was the first regular meeting of the month. Members present included Mayor Daniel W. Nugent, Commissioner Tommy Chastain, Commissioner Janice D. Mortimer, Commissioner Shannon Smith and Commissioner Wilbur Waters. Also present were Director of Operations Scott Anaheim, Customer Service Representative Autumn Box, Finance Director John-Paul Ledford, City Attorney Clay Martin, City Manager Bob Milner and Police Major Barry Warren. Deputy Clerk Lisa Terry and City Clerk Ricky Thompson were absent due to illness.

Mayor Nugent asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Mr. Milner asked to add Item 10.E. the amendment of the contract with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services extending the time for the LED lighting grant. Mayor Nugent entertained a motion to approve the change to the agenda. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to approve the change. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 5-0. Mayor Nugent asked to move Item 10.B to Item 6.B. Mayor Nugent entertained a motion to approve the change. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the change to the agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 5-0.

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

Mayor Nugent entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the Minutes of the September 17, 2019 Commission Workshop, the Minutes of the September 17, 2019 Public Hearing and the Minutes of the September 17, 2019 Tentative Budget Hearing. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Commissioner Chastain asked about the minutes from the September 17, 2019 Commission Meeting. Ms. Box said the minutes are not finished but Ms. Terry will have them for approval at the next meeting. The motion passed 5-0.

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

Mayor Nugent 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." Kevin Sampson addressed the commission regarding the Starke Police Department showing up at the Pine Forest Apartments and harassing residents. Major Warren said Mr. Sampson is welcome to come and see him if he has a problem. Mr. Sampson said he does not want to see Major Warren he wants to see the reports. Eulinda Russ addressed the commission regarding the Police Department and Pine Forest Apartments. She said she was in her office on September 25, 2019 at 6:19 pm when she noticed police officers outside. Ms. Russ walked outside and an officer asked her who owned the red car. Ms. Russ told the officer the car belongs to her fiancé. She said the office pointed a gun at Mr. Sampson. Major Warren said the officers were responding to a call they received. Ms. Russ said Officer Rooney started cussing. She said her niece recorded the incident on her cell phone. Mayor Nugent asked Ms. Russ to get with Major Warren to discuss this. Commissioner Waters asked if they know who made the call. Major Warren said he does not. Commissioner Waters said this could get someone hurt. He said it needs to be looked into. Commissioner Mortimer said she has an issue with the profanity used by the officer. She asked Major Warren if he could use the video as evidence to discipline the officer. Major Warren said he could. Commissioner Mortimer said she trusts that Major Warren and Police Chief Jeff Johnson will look into the incident. Ms. Russ asked about refunds for apartment numbers L1, L3 and L5. Mr. Ledford said he would look into it. Mayor Nugent asked Ms. Russ to give Mr. Ledford her contact information.

Mayor Nugent addressed the relocation of the Bradford High School Homecoming Parade route. Bradford County Sheriff Gordon Smith showed the commissioners the proposed Bradford High School Homecoming Parade route. He asked the commissioners to approve moving the parade to US Highway 301. Sheriff Smith said the principal of the high school contacted him and he contacted the Florida Department of Transportation and they approved the proposed route. He said the school board would like to bring in the students from other area schools to watch the parade. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the parade route being moved to US Highway 301. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion Passed 5-0.

Mayor Nugent called the special public hearing to order. Mr. Ledford said the proposed final millage rate is 5.0710. He said the proposed final millage rate of 5.0710 MILLS is a 3.39% increase over the rolled-back rate of 4.9047 MILLS. Mr. Ledford said the approximately $34,865 in extra revenue from the rolled-back increase will be used to fund general services. Mayor Nugent asked for comments from the public regarding the millage. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Nugent asked for comments from the commissioners. There were no comments from the commissioners. Mayor Nugent asked if any commissioner would like to set the final millage at anything other than 5.0710 MILLS. There was no response from the commission. Mayor Nugent called for a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-01 setting the final millage at 5.0710 MILLS. Commissioner Waters made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-01. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 3-2. Commissioner Chastain and Commissioner Smith opposed the motion. Mayor Nugent said the next issue is the proposed final budget. Mr. Ledford said the proposed final budget is composed of the following expenditures and reserve totals: the General Fund is $5,067,391, the Special Revenue Fund is $3,362,690, the Enterprise Fund is $14,457,063 and the CRA Fund is $2,065 for a total approved budget of $22,889,209. Mr. Ledford said the proposed final budget total operating expenses are

18.18% more than last year's total operating expenses. Mayor Nugent asked for comments from the public. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Nugent asked for comments from the commissioners. There were no comments from the commissioners. Mayor Nugent asked if any of the commissioners wish to amend the proposed budget. There was no response from the commission. Mayor Nugent called for a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-02 adopting the budget consisting of the following expenditures and reserve totals: the General Fund is $5,067,391, the Special Revenue Fund is $3,362,690, the Enterprise Fund is $14,457,063 and the CRA Fund is $2,065 for a total budget of $22,889,209. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-02. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The motion passed 3-2. Commissioner Chastain and Commissioner Smith opposed the motion. Mayor Nugent called for the special public hearing to be adjourned.

Mayor Nugent called for nominations for the 2019-2020 Mayor. Commissioner Mortimer nominated Commissioner Waters to be the 2019-2020 Mayor. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 5-0. Commissioner Nugent thanked the commission for allowing him to serve as mayor.

Mayor Waters called for nominations for the 2019-2020 Vice Mayor. Commissioner Mortimer nominated Commissioner Smith to be the 2019-2020 Vice Mayor. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 5-0. Mayor Waters said he appreciates the opportunity to serve as mayor.

Mayor Waters asked for the City Clerk Report. Mr. Milner said Commissioner Mortimer met with the bond trustees to review the bills. Commissioner Mortimer 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 congratulated Mayor Nugent and Vice Mayor Smith. Mr. Milner addressed the bid for the CDBG Lift Station Rehabilitation to J & H Waterstop Utilities. Mr. Milner introduced Tim Norman from Mittauer & Associates. Mr. Norman said the bid from J & H Waterstop Utilities was $599,450 and will include installing generators at each lift station. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve awarding J & H Waterstop Utilities. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion for discussion. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Commissioner Chastain asked Mr. Ledford if the additional funds were in the budget. Mr. Ledford said he would work with Mr. Anaheim to allocate funds. Commissioner Nugent asked about the different costs from each bidder for generators. Mr. Norman said the generators have to meet specifications. Commissioner Smith asked if there was any additional FEMA money coming in. Mr. Ledford said the last of the FEMA money for $160,000 came in last week. Commissioner Smith asked if it had been allocated to anything. Mr. Ledford said it had not. The motion passed 5-0. Mayor Waters asked about the sewer line at the Edwards Road Park behind the concession stand. Mr. Milner said it needs to be replaced.

Mr. Milner addressed the selection of brickwork for the State Road 100 railroad overpass. Mr. Milner introduced Stephen Browning with the Florida Department of Transportation. Mr. Browning thanked the commissioners for their patience during the bypass project. He said the commissioners have two different brick choices and the renderings are in their packet. Mr. Browning said one brick is Summitville Red and the other is Providence. He said they need to have a decision this month and he would like a decision tonight if possible. Mr. Browning said the bricks will be on the columns and the sidewalks will be stamped stained concrete. Commissioner Chastain asked if the old pavers on Call Street could be the stamped stained concrete. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to select a brick color. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to select the Summitville Red brick. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Milner addressed the proclamation proclaiming October 4, 2019 as Chuck Kramer Day. Mr. Milner read the proclamation. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to adopt the proclamation. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to adopt the proclamation. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Milner addressed the amendment of the contract with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services extending the time for the LED lighting grant. He said the amendment extends the completion date from October 31, 2019 to December 31, 2019. Mr. Milner said the contractor has assured him that the installation of the LED lighting will be completed by December 31, 2019. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the amendment. Commission Chastain made a motion to approve the amendment. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Waters asked Major Warren for the Police Chief Report. Major Warren said he is looking forward to the Bradford High School Homecoming Parade and the RJE Come Together Day.

Attorney Martin said his office is looking into the issues with internet cafés discussed at the last meeting. Attorney Martin said Mr. Milner has agreed to stay as City Manager until February 28, 2020 and asked for a pay increase to $84,000 per year. The commissioners agreed to a pay increase to $80,000 per year. Mr. Milner has agreed to the new pay rate and signed the amended contract. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the amended contract. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the amended contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 4-1. Commissioner Chastain opposed the motion.

Commissioner Chastain asked if the $3,000,000 loan for the overpass project that the state agreed to forgive has been received in writing. Attorney Martin said he will look into it and report back to the commission at the next meeting.

Commissioner Nugent said he would like to include the downtown businesses in the upcoming events. He asked Mr. Milner for a budget update.

Commissioner Chastain asked Sheriff Smith about the city and the county getting together on fire services. Commissioner Nugent agreed it needs to be discussed. Commissioner Smith suggested talking about the Police Department as well. Commissioner Mortimer said she is not in favor of discussing merging the Police Department with the county. Mayor Waters said he is not in favor either. Commissioner Chastain asked about mowing the sprayfield. Mr. Anaheim said they are looking into it.

Commissioner Nugent asked about extending water services to the Bradford County Fairgrounds. Mr. Milner said Mr. Anaheim presented this to the county. Mr. Milner said it would require a looped water system.

Commissioner Smith asked about the ADA project. Mr. Milner said he will have a recommendation at the next meeting. Commissioner Smith asked about the billing issues at Pine Forest Apartments. Mr. Ledford said he had not heard about it but he will be looking into it and report back at the next meeting.

Commissioner Mortimer said October 12, 2019 is Come Together Day at the RJE complex. She said she would like to participate in the Bradford High School Homecoming Parade. Commissioner Mortimer said she attended the meeting with the county regarding extending water services and Mr. Anaheim did a very good job with his presentation.

Mayor Waters asked the commissioners to let Mr. Milner know if they would like to remain on the boards they serve on.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.