Commission Meeting Minutes
May 19, 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. Those willing to do so are asked to stand and I will lead us in prayer.

This was the second regular meeting of the month. Members attending via GoToMeeting included Mayor Wilbur Waters, Commissioner Tommy Chastain, Commissioner Janice D. Mortimer and Commissioner Shannon Smith. Also attending via GoToMeeting were Operations Director Scott Anaheim, Finance Director John-Paul Ledford, City Attorney Clay Martin, Attorney Scott Walker and Police Major Barry Warren. Also attending in person were City Manager John Holman, Deputy Clerk Lisa Terry, City Clerk Ricky Thompson and Assistant Dan Williams. Commissioner Danny Nugent was out of town.

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

Mayor Waters asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Mr. Holman asked to add item 9.E. conference center use agreement. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the addition to the agenda. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. Mayor Waters polled the commissioners for a vote. Commissioner Chastain voted yes. Commissioner Mortimer voted yes. Commissioner Smith voted yes. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Mayor Waters polled the commissioners for a vote. Commissioner Chastain voted yes. Commissioner Mortimer voted yes. Commissioner Smith voted yes. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the Minutes of the May 5, 2020 Commission Meeting. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Mayor Waters polled the commissioners for a vote. Commissioner Chastain voted yes. Commissioner Mortimer voted yes. Commissioner Smith voted yes. The motion passed 4-0.

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 none.

Mayor Waters asked for the City Clerk Report. Clerk Thompson said Commissioner Chastain and Bond Trustee Jesse Myers reviewed the bills. Commissioner Chastain asked if the A/C unit for the Police Department is in the budget. Major Warren said there are two units and one of them needs to be replaced. Mr. Ledford said there will need to be a budget amendment to pay for the new unit. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to pay the bills. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. Mayor Waters polled the commissioners for a vote. Commissioner Chastain voted yes. Commissioner Mortimer voted yes. Commissioner Smith voted yes. The motion passed 4-0.

Clerk Thompson addressed the square use. He said the Downtown Grill and the North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce both have provided proof of insurance naming the city as the insured. He said the square has been well used but is no longer needed now that restaurants are at 50 percent occupancy. Commissioner Chastain agreed to close the square. Commissioner Mortimer agreed to close the square. Commissioner Smith agreed to close the square.

Mayor Waters asked for the City Manager Report. Mr. Holman addressed Resolution Number 2020-39 sewer revenue bond. Hr. Holman said this is a United States Department of Agriculture bond to be used for the new wastewater treatment plant. Attorney Walker read the resolution by title. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve Resolution Number 2020-39 as read by title. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2020-39 as read by title. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Mayor Waters polled the commissioners for a vote. Commissioner Chastain voted yes. Commissioner Mortimer voted yes. Commissioner Smith voted yes. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Holman addressed the contract for electric repairs with Gainesville Regional Utilities. He said this is a cooperative program to improve services and minimize outages that will not exceed $8,000. Mr. Anaheim said the Florida Department of Transportation should pay for the repairs. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to approve the repairs. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motions were withdrawn. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to table this item. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. Mayor Waters polled the commissioners for a vote. Commissioner Chastain voted yes. Commissioner Mortimer voted yes. Commissioner Smith voted yes. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Holman addressed the advertisement for grant applications for the Fire Department and Police Department buildings and the Gas Department odorizer and security gate. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the advertisements. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to approve the advertisements. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. Mayor Waters polled the commissioners for a vote. Commissioner Chastain voted yes. Commissioner Mortimer voted yes. Commissioner Smith voted yes. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Holman addressed the update on the COVID-19 emergency. Mr. Holman said there are currently 49 cases in Bradford County. Businesses are opened to 50 percent capacity except for cinemas and movie houses.

Mayor Waters asked for the Police Chief Report. Major Warren said there was a drive-by shooting at Sonic last night and an arrest was made today.

Attorney Martin said he is working on a couple of items.

Commissioner Chastain asked for consideration to increase local preference and to support buy American. Mayor Waters supported an increase to 10 percent local preference. Commissioner Mortimer supported a 7 percent increase. Commissioner Smith asked what other cities were using. Attorney Martin said he will look into it. Clerk Thompson said the cap should be looked at if the local preference percent is increased.

Commissioner Mortimer thanked the Police Department for their swift action on resolving an issue quickly and without incident that occurred outside of the city but moved into the city.

Commissioner Smith asked where the party began. Major Warren said it started in Lincoln City which is outside the city limits. He said the party moved to the intersection of State Road 16 and US Highway 301. Major Warren said last night's incident was connected to the party and Detective Rooney did an outstanding job.

Mayor Waters expressed appreciation for the Police Department, the Fire Department and the Sheriff's Office.

Mayor Waters entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to adjourn. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm.