

Commission Meeting Minutes
November 19, 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 Pastor James Jones 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 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, Finance Director 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 Smith made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the Minutes of the October 15, 2019 Commission Workshop, the Minutes of the October 15, 2019 Commission Meeting, the minutes of the November 5, 2019 Commission Workshop, the minutes of the November 5, 2019 Commission Meeting and Resolution No 2020-09 first amendment of rights-of-way and pole attachment agreement with Mobilitie. 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. 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." Pastor James Jones of 5264 NW CR 229, Starke, Florida addressed the commission regarding an article in the November 7, 2019 edition of the Bradford County Telegraph. He said he considers Bradford County a good place to live. Pastor Jones said the picture with the article showed an abandoned

business and a house in the heart of the black community. He said the Bible says "If it looks like sin stay away from it." Pastor Jones said this looks like racism. Commissioner Mortimer said Pastor Jones contacted her and she let him know that the Bradford County Telegraph is a private business and the City of Starke does not have the ability to dictate what goes in the paper. She encouraged Pastor Jones to contact the owner of the Telegraph or the reporter to ask how those pictures were selected. Mr. Milner said everything Jeff Look the Code Enforcement Officer does is public record. He said Mr. Look takes photographs to support alleged violations. Mr. Milner said Mr. Look is required to post violation notices on a board at City Hall. Mayor Waters asked Pastor Jones if that answered his question. Pastor Jones said not quite. He said he is trying to prevent racism. Pastor Jones said this does not look good. Commissioner Mortimer asked if Pastor Jones contacted the paper. He said he did not because in the past it has not done any good.

Mr. Milner said Congressman Ted Yoho said the City of Starke will be receiving \$7,800,000 in grant money for the wastewater treatment facility. Attorney Martin said there was a scrivener's error on the resolutions in the commissioners' packets where Mayor Waters' name was misspelled but it has been corrected on the actual documents. Attorney Martin read the title of Resolution No 2020-10 USDA loan resolution (RUS Bulletin 1780-27). He introduced Mary Gavin Technical Assistance Provider with the Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project. Mrs. Gavin presented a loan resolution for a vote to accept a loan in the amount of \$8,819,000 with a grant amount of \$7,808,000. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve Resolution No 2020-10. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. Commissioner Mortimer asked about the impact of selecting a new engineering firm. Ms. Gavin said they will need to accept the preliminary engineering report and environmental report and provide a certification that they will not change anything. Commissioner Chastain asked what will happen if the bid amount comes in lower. Mrs. Gavin said the grant amount will be reduced. The motion passed 5-0.

Attorney Martin read the title of Resolution No 2020-11 USDA loan supporting documents. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the resolution as read by title. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Ledford said Commissioner Mortimer met with the bond trustees and reviewed the bills. Commissioner Mortimer said one of the bond trustees had a question regarding a vendor and it will be answered. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to pay the bills. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Ledford read the title of Ordinance No 2020-04 electric fuel adjustment for fiscal year 2019-2020. He said this will keep the fuel adjustment the same as last year. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance No 2020-04. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve the first reading by title. It was seconded by Commissioner

Chastain. Commissioner Mortimer asked why the fuel adjustment is staying the same if fuel costs have been declining. Mr. Ledford said the amount being set by the ordinance is the maximum fuel adjustment rate. The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Chastain asked about a discounted rate for buying fuel by credit card compared to buying fuel in bulk. Mr. Ledford said he will look into it.

Commissioner Chastain said the city is negotiating a contract with the highest ranked auditing firm. He asked if a contract has been drawn up. Mr. Ledford said James Moore has requested some additional information which he has provided but they have not presented a contract. Commissioner Chastain asked if they should expect a contract at the next meeting. Mr. Ledford said it will probably be presented at the December 17, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Chastain asked how that fits with the timeline. Mr. Ledford said it should be fine.

Mayor Waters asked for the City Manager Report. Mr. Milner addressed Resolution No 2020-13 contract with Falstreux Heating & Air to replace the A/C unit at the operations center. Attorney Martin read the title of Resolution 2020-13. 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 Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Milner addressed Resolution No 2020-12 quasi-judicial hearing procedures. Attorney Martin read the resolution by title. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve Resolution 2020-12. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the resolution as read by title. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Milner addressed the review of the City Manager candidates. He said there were eight finalists but three asked to be removed. Mr. Milner would like to have background checks run on the remaining finalists before the December 3, 2019 meeting. The commissioners agreed to having background checks run on the remaining candidates.

Mr. Milner and Mr. Anaheim would like to have a workshop with Woodard & Curran on December 17, 2019 before the regular commission meeting. It will be on the agenda for the December 3, 2017 meeting for a vote.

Mr. Milner said Mr. Look has issued citations to several building owners including S & G Gas Station. Mayor Waters asked if the old Kentucky Fried Chicken has been cited. Mr. Milner said it has. Commissioner Nugent asked if Mr. Look has the authority to enter private property and take pictures. Attorney Martin said he does.

Commissioner Chastain asked for an update on the splash park. Mr. Milner said Engineer Gary Sneddon will be at the December 3, 2019 meeting to answer questions. Commissioner Mortimer said there were bills associated with the splash park in the batches she reviewed. Mr. Milner said the city is direct purchasing materials to save sales tax. Commissioner Chastain said that needs to be in a change order. Mr. Milner said Mr. Sneddon issues the change orders.

Commissioner Chastain asked if the city now owns the Dodd property. Attorney Martin said as of Friday the city owns the Dodd property and the documents have been filed with the Bradford County Courthouse for recording.

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

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

Commissioner Nugent had nothing further.

Commissioner Chastain had nothing further.

Commissioner Mortimer asked Chief Johnson to look into the question raised by the bond trustee and provide him with a response.

Commissioner Smith asked Chief Johnson if the turning lanes will be coming back on State Road 100. Chief Johnson said there will be turning lanes going north and south.

Commissioner Smith asked about construction on Orange Street starting right after graduation. Commissioner Chastain said Mittauer & Associates said construction will begin on May 25, 2020.

Mayor Waters asked about having the 30 acres south of the bypass mowed. He said there were fresh tracks. He asked about putting up a gate. Mr. Milner said they need to check with the adjacent property owners. Mr. Anaheim said it is owned by the Florida Department of Transportation. Commissioner Chastain asked if the access road could be used if the city sold the property. Attorney Martin said he will look into it.

Mayor Waters asked about the substation. Mr. Milner said it will be on the December 3, 2019 agenda. Mayor Waters said we have to update the substation. Mr. Anaheim said they will make it work.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm.