

Commission Meeting
June 4, 2019
6:30 pm

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

Commissioner Chastain offered a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

This was the first regular meeting of the month. Members present included Vice Mayor Wilbur Waters, Commissioner Tommy Chastain, Commissioner Janice D. Mortimer and Commissioner Shannon Smith. Also present were City Attorney Clay Martin, City Manager Bob Milner, Police Chief Jeff Johnson and City Clerk Ricky Thompson. Mayor Nugent was absent due to military leave. Deputy Clerk Lisa Terry was absent due to illness.

Vice Mayor Waters asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Mr. Thompson asked to remove Item 8. D. for further clarification. Commissioner Mortimer asked to add Item 9. B. Status of the Florida League of Cities City Manager Search. Vice Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the agenda with the changes. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the agenda with the changes. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Vice Mayor Waters asked if there was anything from the audience. The motion passed 4-0.

Vice Mayor Waters asked the commissioners if there was anything they wanted removed from the consent agenda. There was not. The consent agenda consisted of the minutes of the May 21, 2019 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Vice Mayor Waters asked if there was anything from the audience. The motion passed 4-0.

Vice Mayor Waters addressed the emergency items. There were none.

Vice 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.

Vice Mayor Waters asked for the City Clerk Report. Mr. Thompson said Commissioner Smith met with the Bond Trustees and recommended the bills be paid. Commissioner Smith made a motion to pay the bills. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. Vice Mayor Waters asked if there was anything from the audience. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Thompson addressed Resolution No. 2019-11 expressing support for the Bradford County Fair Association. Attorney Martin read the title of Resolution No. 2019-11. Vice Mayor Waters

entertained a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-11 as read by title. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-11. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. Vice Mayor Waters asked if there was anything from the audience. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Thompson addressed the Florida League of Cities 93rd Annual Conference designation of a voting delegate. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to designate Mayor Nugent as the voting delegate to the Florida League of Cities Annual Conference. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Vice Mayor Waters asked if there was anything from the audience. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Thompson addressed the Thomas Street Park commencement approval letter. He said the city has received authorization to commence improvements to the Thomas Street Park with a grant from the Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Thompson said this is for information only.

Mr. Thompson addressed the Wainwright Park commencement approval letter. He said the city has received authorization to begin improvements to Wainwright Park with a grant from the Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Thompson said this is for information only.

Mr. Milner said there is a change order for the splash park and Mark Williams owner of M & R Construction is hoping to begin construction on July 1, 2019. Commissioner Smith asked what the change order is for. Mr. Milner said the splash pad will be a softer material for half the cost and the shade structure will be larger. Commissioner Chastain asked about security cameras. Mr. Milner said it is not part of the grant but he recommends security cameras be installed at the ball fields and the splash park. Vice Mayor Waters asked about the quality of the video produced by the cameras. Mr. Milner said the video will be high quality. Vice Mayor Waters asked where the monitors will be located. Mr. Milner said in the control room. Vice Mayor Waters asked about security cameras for Thomas Street Park and Wainwright Park. Mr. Milner said he plans to add security cameras to these parks as well. Mr. Thompson expressed his appreciation for the officers at city hall during cutoffs. Vice Mayor Waters expressed his appreciation for Autumn Box and Joan Freese who work in customer service.

Vice Mayor Waters asked for the City Manager Report. Mr. Milner addressed the Florida Gas Utility prepay option. He said Attorney Martin has reviewed the agreement and will discuss it with the commissioners. Attorney Martin said when the City of Starke joined Florida Gas Utility it was agreeing to purchasing and transporting of natural gas for their gas utility. He said by entering into this agreement with Black Belt Energy the city is agreeing to purchase natural gas at a discounted price. Attorney Martin said the 3 firm contracts would account for approximately 1/3 of the gas the city normally purchases. He said this is a policy decision based on demand over the next 30 years. Attorney Martin said the additional 2/3 of gas the city purchases provides a buffer. Attorney Martin asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Waters asked Mr. Thompson how much money was saved from the agreement the city entered into with Florida Gas Utility in 1995. Mr. Milner said that Florida Gas Utility could provide the amount. Commissioner Chastain asked about the 5 to 7 year clause allowing the city to sit out if the discount drops below .20 per dekatherm. Attorney Martin said the city could sit out but would be obligated to enter back into the agreement if the discount was at least 20 cents per

dekatherm after the sit out period. Commissioner Smith asked about the 5 to 7 year period. Attorney Martin said it is a soft period based on the Black Belt Energy group purchasing and selling bonds to provide the discount. Commissioner Mortimer asked if this agreement is the same as the agreements the city entered into a few months ago. Attorney Martin said this agreement is purchasing gas from different sources but this agreement is the same general model as the other agreements. Vice Mayor Waters asked for Mr. Thompson's recommendation. Mr. Thompson said it is a very good discount. Vice Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the agreement. Commissioner Smith made a motion to enter into the agreement. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. Vice Mayor Waters asked if there was anything from the audience. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Milner addressed the Florida League of Cities City Manager search. He said he met with the Florida League of Cities on Thursday, May 30, 2019 during the Florida City and County Management Association Conference in Orlando. Mr. Milner said the Senior Advisor Group recommended the city work with George Forbes who served as the City Manager of Jacksonville Beach for 20 years and Jim Hanson who served as the City Manager for Atlantic Beach for 14 years. Mr. Milner said a more reasonable resignation date would be December 31, 2019 instead of the September 30, 2019 date he originally gave. He suggested holding a workshop on July 2, 2019 at 5:30 pm when Mr. Forbes would make a presentation. Mr. Milner said Mr. Forbes and Mr. Hanson would like to meet with each commissioner individually to see what they require in a city manager. Commissioner Mortimer asked Mr. Milner why his resignation date of September 30, 2019 that was accepted by the commission would need to be extended. Mr. Milner said most City Managers give a 6-week notice. Vice Mayor Waters asked if the commissioners would be agreeable to the workshop on July 2, 2019 at 5:30 pm. No one opposed the workshop.

Vice Mayor Waters asked for the Police Chief Report. Chief Johnson said Tony Mangol who served on the Police Officers' Pension Board passed away unexpectedly. He said his prayers are with Mr. Mangol's family. Chief Johnson said he will be bringing names of possible board members before the pension board to fill the open position. He said the person must live within the city limits. Commissioner Mortimer asked if the possible members would be brought before the Pension Board. Chief Johnson said they would be brought before the Pension Board and then before the commissioners. He said the active members of the Police Pension would have to vote on the person to fill the position. Commissioner Mortimer asked when the position would be filled. Chief Johnson said he would like to bring the names of possible replacements to the board at the July 24, 2019 meeting and have the position filled by the October 23, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Chastain asked if there would be a ballot box at City Hall. Chief Johnson said there would be. Chief Johnson asked for prayers for the Mangol family. Commissioner Mortimer said she attended Mr. Mangol's service and spoke on behalf of the city to express appreciation for his service on the Pension Board and as a poll worker. Commissioner Mortimer asked for continued prayers for Mr. Mangol's family.

Chief Johnson said there will be a Community Traffic and Safety Team Meeting on Thursday, June 6, 2019 at Beef O'Brady's at 12:00 pm. He said the meeting is for Baker, Bradford and Union Counties to address traffic complaints. He encouraged the commissioners to attend the meeting.

Vice Mayor Waters asked for the Attorney's Report. Attorney Martin said he is working on the city's purchasing policy. He is working on the tree ordinance to incorporate it into the Land Development Code. Attorney Martin is also working with the Land Development Code to integrate enforcement by the magistrate, the Auditor General Report and the memorandum of understanding with the Firefighters' Local 3120 Union. He is working on the Edwards Road property purchase and with Nathan Thornton on Americans with Disabilities website compliance. Vice Mayor Waters asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Chastain asked Attorney Martin to give an update on the buildings being torn down. Attorney Martin said there is no provision in the Land Development Code requiring a city permit for demolition. He said the concern is whether or not hazardous materials are being handled properly. Attorney Martin reached out to the Florida Department of Transportation regarding their contractor's requirements for handling hazardous materials and environmental regulations. He will be following up with a request for contracts and make them available to any commissioner who wishes to review them. Vice Mayor Waters asked about addressing the dilapidated buildings within the city. Attorney Martin said he will be working with the magistrate to make sure the code enforcement officer has the ability to issue citations and enforce those citations. Vice Mayor Waters said he knows a contractor in Jacksonville who is paid by the city to tear down dilapidated buildings and put a lien against the property. Attorney Martin said he will look into this. Commissioner Chastain said it will need to be included in the budget.

Commissioner Chastain asked about the CRA. Attorney Martin said it is on his list at a lower priority than some other items.

Commissioner Chastain asked about a city and county workshop. Mr. Milner said he has not received a calendar from anyone except Commissioner Smith and Rachel Rhoden has not received a calendar from the county commissioners. Commissioner Chastain asked Mr. Milner to pick 3 or 4 dates for the commissioners to choose from.

Commissioner Chastain asked what happened with the Federal Grant writing that Mr. Milner and the County Manager were supposed to work on. Mr. Milner said Director of Operations Scott Anaheim is working on a master plan. Commissioner Smith asked for a time frame. Mr. Milner said after the budgets are completed.

Commissioner Chastain asked about city and county mutual aid. Mr. Milner said Attorney Martin is looking into this.

Commissioner Chastain said the city had an electric rate study done years ago. Vice Mayor Waters said this should be addressed at budget time.

Commissioner Chastain asked about having the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council attend the meeting with the Bradford County School Board. Mr. Milner said he has reached out to Scott Koons.

Commissioner Chastain asked about budget workshops. Mr. Milner said they could have one at the end of July. Commissioner Chastain asked if there could be one before then. Mr. Milner said

they need to complete the Auditor General findings. He said Finance Director John-Paul Ledford has done a tremendous amount of work on this.

Commissioner Smith asked Mr. Milner to have the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council at the meeting with the Bradford County School Board.

Commissioner Smith said the City Facebook page is great. He asked that the shut off information be included. Ms. Box said the information will be provided for the Facebook page tomorrow.

Commissioner Smith asked if all groups will be in attendance at the Florida Department of Transportation Workshop. Mr. Milner said they will. Commissioner Chastain asked to have an agenda for the workshop. Mr. Milner said he will have one.

Commissioner Smith asked if the Code Enforcement position has been advertised. Mr. Milner said it has been advertised in the Telegraph and through Workforce. Commissioner Smith asked when the deadline for applications is. Mr. Milner said Friday, June 14, 2019. Commissioner Mortimer asked if LaJuan Whittle is still filling the position. Mr. Milner said she is. Commissioner Smith thanked Mr. Milner for the second speed bump on North Thompson Street.

Commissioner Mortimer asked when the meeting with the Bradford County School Board is scheduled. Mr. Milner said Monday, June 24, 2019 at 9:00 am.

Commissioner Mortimer asked for a list of board members and expiration dates for their terms. Mr. Thompson said he will provide her a list.

Vice Mayor Waters asked when the truck route will be completed. Chief Johnson said the week of August 20th, 2019. Vice Mayor Waters asked everyone to keep Ms. Terry in their prayers.

Mr. Thompson said the existing bonds were paid off early so the city is bond free.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.