

Commission Meeting Minutes
July 21, 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 Commissioner Smith will lead us in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

This was the second meeting of the month. The meeting was held at the Charley E. Johns Conference Center due to social distancing guidelines. Members attending included Mayor Wilbur Waters, Commissioner Janice D. Mortimer, Commissioner Danny Nugent and Commissioner Shannon Smith. Also present were City Manager John Holman, Police Chief Jeff Johnson, City Attorney Clay Martin, Deputy Clerk Lisa Terry and City Clerk Ricky Thompson. Commissioner Tommy Chastain 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. Clerk Thompson asked to add item 8B loan resolution for police vehicles grant with a motion to approve, item 8C current year proposed maximum millage rate with a motion to approve, item 8D set dates for budget hearings for September 8, 2020 and September 22, 2020 with a motion to approve and item 8E move September's regular commission meetings to September 8, 2020 and September 22, 2020 with a motion to approve. Mr. Holman asked to remove item 9B resolution number 2020-49 until the next meeting. Attorney Martin asked to add item 11E evaluation of the city manager. 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. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the minutes of the June 30, 2020 Commission Workshop and the minutes of the July 7, 2020 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 4-0.

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."

Mayor Waters asked if there were any emergency items. Mr. Holman said there was an emergency purchase to replace 16 unsafe electric utility poles at a cost of \$20,552.80. He said Primoris will do the work. Mr. Holman said he was going to have the city electric department do

the work but they are on quarantine due to COVID-19 and he will be submitting a reimbursement request under the COVID-19 emergency assistance plan. Commissioner Mortimer asked where the unsafe poles are located. Mr. Holman said he will send the commissioners a list of the locations. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the emergency purchase. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 4-0.

Chrissy Allen with the Downtown Grill came forward for citizen participation. She asked about opening the splash park. Ms. Allen said she has contacted other cities with splash parks that are open and operating safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. She said she has spoken to Amy Johns with the health department and she does not have an issue with the splash park being open. Ms. Allen said she sent an email asking Mr. Holman why it is not open and has not received an answer. Mayor Waters asked Mr. Holman for an answer. Mr. Holman said that he is ready to open the splash park now that baseball and softball is over. Mayor Waters asked Mr. Holman to do what needs to be done and open the splash park.

Mayor Waters called for public hearings. There were none.

Mayor Waters asked for the City Clerk Report. Clerk Thompson said Commissioner Smith met with the bond trustees to review the bills. Commissioner Smith made a motion to pay the bills. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 4-0.

Clerk Thompson addressed Resolution Number 2020-53 loan resolution for the police vehicles grant. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve the resolution. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 4-0.

Clerk Thompson addressed current year proposed maximum millage rate. He said the prior year millage rate is 5.0710, the current year rolled-back rate is 5.0909, the majority maximum rate is 5.2548 and the two-thirds vote maximum rate is 5.7803. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve the 5.7803 rate because they can still go with a lower rate. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 4-0.

Clerk Thompson addressed the dates for the budget hearings. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to have the budget hearings on September 8, 2020 at 5:30 pm and September 22, 2020 at 5:30 pm. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to hold the budget hearings at 5:30 pm on September 8, 2020 and September 22, 2020. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 4-0.

Clerk Thompson addressed moving the regular September meeting dates to September 8, 2020 and September 22, 2020. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve moving the meeting dates. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve moving the meeting dates to September 8, 2020 and September 22, 2020. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Waters asked for the City Manager Report. Mr. Holman addressed Resolution Number 2020-50 engineering services agreement addendum number 1 with Mittauer & Associates. Mr. Holman said this is for the utilities for the Orange Street project. He said he has confirmed with Clerk Thompson that the funds are available. Attorney Martin read the resolution by title. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve Resolution Number 2020-50 as read by title. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2020-50 as read by title. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Holman addressed Resolution Number 2020-51 agreement with Woodard & Curran to provide general engineering services. Mr. Holman said this would be a piggyback off a contract with the City of Newberry. Attorney Martin read the resolution by title. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve Resolution Number 2020-51 as read by title. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2020-51 as read by title. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Holman addressed Resolution Number 2020-48 agreement with M & R Construction for removal and replacement of lights at the fire station. Attorney Martin read the resolution by title. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve Resolution Number 2020-48 as read by title. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2020-48 as read by title. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Holman addressed Resolution Number 2020-52 agreement with M & R Construction for removal and replacement of ceiling tiles at the fire station. Attorney Martin read the resolution by title. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve Resolution Number 2020-52 as read by title. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2020-52 as read by title. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Holman addressed the proposed workshop on planning and zoning ordinances or regulations. Commissioner Smith asked about having a budget workshop. Mayor Waters suggested having a budget workshop instead on August 4, 2020 at 5:30 pm. Commissioner Smith made a motion to have a budget workshop on August 4, 2020 at 5:30 pm. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Holman gave an update on the COVID-19 pandemic. He said there are 198 cases in Bradford County with 22 hospitalizations and 2 deaths.

Mayor Waters asked for the Police Chief Report. Chief Johnson said construction is continuing for the Alligator Creek bridge replacement and the State Road 100 railroad overpass. He said there has been another homicide in Starke. He praised the work of Sergeant Michael Rooney and Detective Courtney Personette with the Bradford County Sheriff's Office.

Attorney Martin addressed the class action lawsuit with Purdue Pharma. Attorney Martin received a notice from the court overseeing the lawsuit. He said the city can file a claim and hire experts to determine the opioid related expenses incurred by the city but he recommends

seeking a claim based on the model to determine a settlement amount. Attorney Martin said he needs authorization from the commission to seek a claim. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to allow Attorney Martin to seek a claim. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 4-0.

Attorney Martin asked to postpone Item 11B reformation of bond trustees, Item 11C local procurement policy and Item 11D solid waste collection fees.

Attorney Martin addressed the discussion of evaluation of the city manager. He said the evaluation needs to be done per the city manager contract. Attorney Martin said he has an evaluation form the commissioners could use. Commissioner Mortimer asked when the evaluations would need to be returned. Attorney Martin said in 7 to 10 days. Commissioner Mortimer moved to proceed with the evaluation to be returned by July 29. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Nugent asked about adding an additional feature to the splash park. He said city hall needs to be painted. Commissioner Smith said city hall needs to be brought into ADA compliance. Mr. Holman said he will do a Request for Proposals.

Commissioner Mortimer said the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County have decided to cancel the political event to be held at the square because of the rise in COVID-19 cases.

Commissioner Smith had nothing further.

Mayor Waters had nothing further.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.