

Commission Meeting Minutes
August 26, 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 Mortimer will lead us in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

This was the second regular 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 Tommy Chastain, Commissioner Janice D. Mortimer and Commissioner Shannon Smith. Also present were Director of Operations Scott Anaheim, City Manager John Holman, Police Chief Jeff Johnson, City Attorney Clay Martin, Deputy Clerk Lisa Terry, City Clerk Ricky Thompson and Line Crew Supervisor Steve Warren. Commissioner Danny Nugent was absent due to surgery.

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

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 Mortimer made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the minutes of the August 4, 2020 Commission Budget Workshop, the minutes of the August 4, 2020 Commission Meeting and the Allstar Competitive Cheer Boot Drive at US Highway 301 and State Road 16 on September 12, 2020 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. 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." Keith Corson who owns 803 Westmoreland Street in Starke came forward. He said the land behind the bus barn that is owned by the city is not being maintained and he is concerned about his property flooding. Mr. Anaheim said he needs to work with the school board to have the ditch dug out. Mayor Waters asked when it can be done. Mr. Anaheim said in two weeks. Commissioner Smith

gave Mr. Corson his card with his cell phone number. He asked Mr. Corson to contact him if the issue is not resolved.

Mayor Waters called for public hearings. There were none.

Mayor Waters asked for the City Clerk Report. Clerk Thompson said Commissioner Smith reviewed the bills. Commissioner Smith made a motion to pay the bills. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 4-0.

Clerk Thompson addressed hiring a temporary CPA. His recommendation is Adventum. Commissioner Smith made a motion to hire the temporary CPA. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. Commissioner Mortimer asked for clarification of the motion. Commissioner Smith said his motion is to hire the firm recommended by Clerk Thompson. Attorney Martin said the motion should be to hire Adventum as recommended by the city clerk. Commissioner Smith withdrew his motion. Commissioner Chastain withdrew his second. Commissioner Smith made a motion to hire Adventum as recommended by the city clerk. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 3-1. Commissioner Mortimer opposed the motion.

Mayor Waters asked for the City Manager Report. Mr. Holman introduced Justin deMello with Woodard & Curran to present the wastewater treatment plant update. Mr. deMello said the design phase of the project is at 25 to 30 percent completion. He said they have come across some cautionary items that could cause the cost of the project to increase. These include bad wiring, poor soil conditions and not having an emergency generator in the scope of the project. Mr. deMello recommended engaging the US Department of Agriculture to determine what changes can be made to lower costs.

Mr. Holman addressed Resolution Number 2020-54 amendment number 1 to the agreement with Woodard & Curran for engineering services for the wastewater treatment plant. Attorney Martin read the resolution by title. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2020-54 as read by title. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Holman addressed Resolution Number 2020-55 amendment number 1 to the agreement with Woodard & Curran for engineering services for the wastewater collection system. Attorney Martin read the resolution by title. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the resolution as read by title. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Holman addressed the COVID-19 update. He said testing is available at the food pantry each Monday and Friday and at the health department Tuesday through Thursday. Mr. Holman said 655 people have tested positive in Bradford County.

Mr. Holman addressed detour routes. He said the utility relocation is currently underway.

Mr. Holman addressed the splash pad update. He said it is very popular. Commissioner Chastain asked if there were security cameras. Chief Johnson said if they are installed, they could be connected to the police department's system.

Mr. Holman addressed the city manager evaluation. He asked if the commissioners would like to wait until there is a full commission. Mayor Waters said yes.

Commissioner Mortimer asked how it is decided where the tree trimming contractor goes. Mr. Warren said they have started with the biggest problem areas which are located at Church Street and the Votek circuit. He said the next area will be Jefferson Street. Commissioner Mortimer said she has some citizens who have requested tree trimming. She said she will let Mr. Warren know where they are. Mr. Anaheim said they have released Asplundh to respond to Louisiana and Texas because of Hurricane Laura.

Mayor Waters asked for the Police Chief Report. Chief Johnson said he had nothing. Commissioner Mortimer asked about the accident at the splash pad. Chief Johnson said a female slipped and busted her head open. Mayor Waters asked to keep her in our prayers.

Mayor Waters asked for the Attorney Report. Attorney Martin said he will bring an evaluation for the city attorney to the commissioners at the next meeting. Commissioner Chastain asked about the local preference ordinance. Attorney Martin said it is still in the works. Commissioner Mortimer said they were going to have a workshop on this but the budget workshop took priority.

Commissioner Mortimer had nothing further.

Commissioner Chastain asked about funding for additional wiring at Veteran's Park. Mr. Holman said he has talked to Florida Municipal Power Agency and is waiting on more information.

Commissioner Chastain asked about the \$92,000 in purchasing under miscellaneous. Mr. Holman said he will get back on that.

Commissioner Chastain asked about using the sprayfield for hemp farming. He suggested looking into it.

Commissioner Smith suggested reaching out to Tesla about car charging stations. Mr. Holman said he will call them.

Mayor Waters asked about having another budget workshop. Mr. Holman suggested Tuesday or Wednesday of next week. Commissioner Smith suggested having a budget workshop on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 5:30 pm. The commissioners agreed.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.