

Commission Meeting Minutes
September 22, 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 Chastain 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 and Commissioner Janice D. Mortimer. Commissioner Shannon Smith attended via GoToMeeting. Also present were Director of Operations Scott Anaheim, City Manager John Holman, Police Chief Jeff Johnson, City Attorney Clay Martin, Deputy Clerk Lisa Terry and City Clerk Ricky Thompson. 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. Mr. Thompson asked to add item 8.D. request from the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the agenda with the addition. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition. 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 September 8, 2020 Commission Budget Workshop and the minutes of the September 8, 2020 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Chastain said the minutes of the September 8, 2020 Commission Meeting say there is supposed to be a site plan letter from water management. Mr. Anaheim said they have promised to provide a letter. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 3-1. Commissioner Chastain opposed the motion.

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 the final budget hearing to order. Mayor Waters said the first issue to be discussed is the proposed final millage. Clerk Thompson said the proposed final millage is 5.0909 MILLS. Clerk Thompson said the proposed final millage rate of 5.0909 MILLS is a 0.0% increase over the rolled-back rate of 5.0909 MILLS. Clerk Thompson said there will be no additional revenue from the rolled-back millage rate. Mayor Waters asked for comments from the public regarding the millage. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Waters asked for comments from the commission regarding the proposed tentative millage. There were no comments from the commission. Mayor Waters asked if any of the commissioners wished to set the millage at anything other than 5.0909 MILLS. There was no response from the commissioners. Attorney Martin read the title of Resolution Number 2020-59. Mayor Waters called for a motion to adopt resolution 2020-59 setting the final millage at 5.0909 MILLS. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to adopt resolution 2020-59. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Waters said the second issue to be discussed is the proposed final budget. Mr. Thompson said the proposed final budget is composed of the following expenditures and reserve totals: the General Fund is \$4,421,397, the Special Revenue Fund is \$3,196,935, the Enterprise Fund is \$21,788,403, the CRA Fund (Component Unit) is \$1,890 for a total approved budget of \$29,408,625. Mr. Thompson said the total operating expenses for the proposed final budget are 28.48% more than last year's total operating expenses. Mayor Waters asked for comments from the public regarding the proposed final budget. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Waters asked for comments from the commission regarding the proposed final budget. Commissioner Chastain said the commissioners should recognize the declining enterprise fund. Mayor Waters asked if any of the commissioners wish to amend the proposed budget. There was no response from the commissioners. Attorney Martin read the title of Resolution Number 2020-60. Mayor Waters called for a motion to adopt resolution 2020-60 adopting the final budget consisting of the following expenditures and reserve totals and approving the final hearing date of September 22, 2020 at 6:30 pm: the General Fund is \$4,421,397 the Special Revenue Fund is \$3,196,935, the Enterprise Funds is \$21,788,403 the CRA Fund (Component Unit) is \$1,890 for a total approved budget of \$29,408,625. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to adopt resolution 2020-60 adopting the final budget for fiscal year 2020 to 2021. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 3-1. Commissioner Chastain opposed the motion. Mayor Waters adjourned the budget hearing at 6:43 pm.

Mayor Waters asked for the City Clerk Report. Clerk Thompson said the bond trustees and Commissioner Smith reviewed the bills. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to pay the bills. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. Commissioner Chastain asked Clerk Thompson to research bills from Miracle Towing for vehicle repairs. Mr. Thompson said he was not aware that Miracle Towing was doing vehicle repairs. Commission Smith asked Mr. Holman if he should go out for bids. Mr. Holman said if the repairs are more than the limit he will go out for bid. The motion passed 4-0.

Clerk Thompson addressed Resolution Number 2020-61 renewing the audit contract with James Moore and Associates. Attorney Martin read the resolution by title. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the resolution as read by title. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2020-61 as read by title. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 4-0.

Mrs. Ruise with the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County said there was a candidate forum planned that had to be postponed. She would like to reschedule the forum for October 17, 2020 from 4:00 to 6:30 pm at the square. She said there will only be 50 chairs and social distancing practices will be followed. Mrs. Ruise said each candidate will be given 3 and ½ minutes to speak. Mayor Waters said he has no problem with it as long as safe practices are performed. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the event. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 4-0.

Clerk Thompson addressed the update on Adventum and temporary CPA services. He said that 78% of the audit items are complete or pending. He said it should be complete by October 12, 2020. Commissioner Chastain asked how much is outstanding for utility bills. Clerk Thompson said around \$200,000. Commissioner Chastain asked Attorney Martin if commercial properties are protected from disconnection under the emergency order. Attorney Martin said he will find out.

Mayor Waters asked for the City Manager Report. Mr. Holman addressed the natural gas public awareness and damage prevention literature. He said this is a requirement of the regulations for a natural gas system. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to approve the literature. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Holman addressed workshops for city attorney and city manager reviews on October 6, 2020 at 5:30 pm and an FMPA update on November 17, 2020 at 5:30 pm. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the workshops. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the workshops. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Holman addressed the engineering update on the wastewater treatment plant and collection system. Mr. Holman introduced Justin deMello with Woodard & Curran. Mr. deMello presented 3 options for the wastewater treatment plant project. Option 1 was to stay the course at a cost of \$18,650,000. Option 2 was to stay the course and incorporate unplanned issues at a cost of \$25,060,000. Option 3 was to alter the plan and incorporate unplanned issues at a cost of \$18,608,000. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to select an option. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to select option 3. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Holman addressed Resolution Number 2020-62 appointments to the recreation advisory board. Mr. Holman said the commissioners could score the candidates or draw names out of a hat. Commissioner Mortimer said she wholeheartedly supports Mr. Rodney Mosley and would like to nominate Mr. Mosley to the board and draw the rest from a hat. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to appoint Mr. Mosley to the 5-year term and draw the rest of the names from a hat. Mayor Waters passed the gavel to Commissioner Chastain and seconded the motion. The motion failed 2-2. Commissioner Chastain and Commissioner Smith opposed the motion. Mayor Waters suggested pulling the names from a hat with the first name serving the 5-year term, the second serving the 4-year term, etc. The first name pulled was Rodney Mosely, the second name pulled was Chris Olive, the third name pulled was Nicole Baxter, the fourth name pulled was Jeffrey Gowens and the fifth name pulled was Granetta Gardener with Roy Morgan being the alternate. Attorney Martin read the title of the resolution. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to adopt the resolution as read by title with the names as pulled from the hat. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Holman addressed the water and sewer rate studies. Mayor Waters suggested tabling this until the revised rate study is completed. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to table the rate study. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Holman addressed the wastewater treatment plant permit renewal. He said it will be a 5-year renewal beginning in March of 2021. Mayor Waters entertained a motion to approve the renewal. Commissioner Smith made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Holman addressed the Veteran's Memorial Park improvements. He said they will have red, white and blue lighting for the trees. Commissioner Chastain asked if the city could receive funding from FMPA. Mr. Holman said he will look into it. Mayor Waters would like the lighting to be done before Christmas.

Commissioner Smith asked Mr. Holman if he had heard anything back on the car charging stations. Mr. Holman said he is working with FMPA because they have better contacts.

Commissioner Chastain asked about hemp farming. Mr. Holman said he is waiting on a return phone call.

Commissioner Chastain asked Clerk Thompson to look back at the fuel adjustment for the last 3 years.

Commissioner Mortimer asked Chief Johnson if the DOT is planning to lower the speed limit on the bypass. Chief Johnson said not that he is aware of.

Mayor Waters asked Mr. Anaheim about cleaning up ditches around town. Mr. Anaheim said he will do his best. Mr. Anaheim said the city needs a comprehensive storm water plan.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.