

Commission Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2021
5:30 pm

Mayor Shannon Smith 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 meeting was the first regular meeting of the month. Members attending included Mayor Shannon Smith, Commissioner Tommy Chastain, Commissioner Janice D. Mortimer and Commissioner Wilbur Waters. Commissioner Danny Nugent arrived a little late. Also present were City Manager John Holman, Police Chief Jeff Johnson, City Attorney Clay Martin, Deputy Clerk Lisa Terry and City Clerk Ricky Thompson.

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Mayor Smith asked for agenda changes. There were none. Mayor Smith entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Smith entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the minutes of the July 23, 2021 City Manager Interviews, the minutes of the July 23, 2021 Special Commission Meeting, the minutes of the July 27 Commission Meeting and the minutes of the August 3, 2021 Special Commission Meeting. Commissioner Waters made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Smith asked for any emergency items. There were none.

Mayor Smith 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 Smith called for old business. Mr. Holman said before old business he would like to introduce Kayla Young, the new Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Holman said Ms. Young is learning about code enforcement and entering contractors into the iWorQ program. Commissioner Mortimer asked if Ms. Young is local. She said she lives in Bradford County. The commissioners welcomed Ms. Young. Mr. Holman said at the last meeting they reviewed the budget. He wants to review the millage rate. Mr. Holman said the staff is recommending staying at the current 5.0909 rate. Clerk Thompson said the hearings will be on September 7,

2021 and September 21, 2021. Mayor Smith asked if this rate is what the budget is based on. Mr. Holman said yes. Commissioner Chastain said the rate was never discussed prior to being sent to the property appraiser's office. Commissioner Mortimer asked if there is going to be any penalty. Clerk Thompson said it was done appropriately. Attorney Martin said it meets the essential requirements of the statute. Commissioner Mortimer questioned the process. Clerk Thompson said Aclarian may not know the protocol. Commissioner Chastain asked if there would be any more budget workshops. The commissioners said they would like to have another one. Mayor Smith suggested August 17, 2021 or August 19, 2021. Commissioner Waters said August 17, 2021 would be better for him. Mayor Smith suggested the workshop be held at 5:30 pm.

Mayor Smith called for public hearings. There were none.

Mayor Smith asked for the city clerk report. Clerk Thompson said Commissioner Chastain reviewed the bills. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to approve paying the bills. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The motion passed 5-0.

Clerk Thompson addressed the Florida Municipal Power Agency discussion. He said he will provide Attorney Martin with the contract for review. Mayor Smith asked what this is about. Clerk Thompson said at one point the cost of natural gas spiked and the rates were terrible. He said the letter stopped the self-renewal so we need to get back in the group or try to find another company to provide power. Mayor Smith wants to know more. Mr. Holman said he will schedule FMPA to come in to answer questions at one of the September meetings.

Clerk Thompson said the unpaid utility bills were at \$130,700.18 and are down to \$35,339.15.

Mayor Smith asked for the city manager report. Mr. Holman addressed resolution number 2021-65 amending the personnel manual to add Juneteenth to the holiday schedule. Attorney Martin read the resolution by title. Mayor Smith 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. Holman said the latest COVID-19 variant is the Delta variant.

Mr. Holman said there will be a detour starting August 19, 2021. He will provide a copy of the detour to the commissioners.

Mr. Holman said the official numbers for the American Recovery Act should be posted on floridadisaster.org. He said the contract will be coming out prior to the first payment.

Mr. Holman said there will be a public hearing on August 19, 2021 at 5:00 pm for the CDBG-CV grant.

Mayor Smith asked for the police chief report. Chief Johnson said the Starke Police Department won first place in the Florida Law Enforcement Liaison Traffic Safety Challenge Category 2.

Chief Johnson said Victim Advocate Jim Lewis will be honored at the Legacy Dinner on Thursday, August 19, 2021.

Chief Johnson said the first day of school traffic went surprisingly well. Clerk Thompson said the Starke Police Department Facebook posts introducing officers is impressive.

Mayor Smith asked for the city attorney report. Attorney Martin said he and Fire Chief Gary Wise will be going before a judge regarding the properties across from Southside Elementary School.

Attorney Martin said Census counts will be coming out soon. He suggested preparing a Request for Qualifications for demographers. Mayor Smith entertained a motion to approve preparing an RFQ. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Nugent said school zone crossings need to be repainted. He said houses on South Street need to be looked at because they are being damaged by the construction.

Commissioner Chastain asked about the developer agreement. Mr. Holman said he will meet with the Apartment Complex and Sporty's Carwash.

Commissioner Chastain asked about building fund permit fees. Mr. Holman said he is working on it.

Commissioner Chastain asked about the electric rate study. Mr. Holman said he will have the information to FMPA by Friday.

Commissioner Chastain asked about the lights downtown. Mr. Holman said 15 lights have been repaired or are waiting on parts.

Commissioner Chastain asked if any employees are making less than \$10 per hour. Clerk Thompson and Mr. Holman said there are none.

Commissioner Chastain asked about Archive Media group. Clerk Thompson said ENS will be storing the data. Commissioner Chastain asked if it needs to be bid out. Clerk Thompson said ENS should be able to roll it over for free or he will get approval.

Commissioner Waters asked how the proclamations are coming for Coach Hurst and Dr. Pete Gianas. Mayor Smith suggested talking to the families. Attorney Martin said he will have the ordinances for the next meeting.

Commissioner Mortimer thanked Ms. Terry for all she does. Clerk Thompson thanked Ms. Terry.

Mayor Smith asked about the cell tower development deal. Mr. Holman said he will bring something back at the next meeting.

Mayor Smith entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to adjourn. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 pm.