

Commission Meeting Minutes
September 7, 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 Chastain 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, Commissioner Danny Nugent and Commissioner Wilbur Waters. Also present were Director of Operations Scott Anaheim, Police Chief Jeff Johnson, City Attorney Clay Martin, Deputy Clerk Lisa Terry and Finance Director Tonya Wainwright.

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 5:29 pm.

Mayor Smith asked for agenda changes. Mr. Anaheim asked to replace item 10.B. with Woodard & Curran update on the wastewater treatment plant. Attorney Martin asked to add item 7.B. presentation by Tom Geoffroy and item 8.C. Ordinance Number 2021-15 for first reading due to an error. Commissioner Mortimer asked to add item 7.C. city manager. Mayor Smith entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the agenda with the changes. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Smith entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the minutes of the August 24, 2021 Budget Workshop and the minutes of the August 24, 2021 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Waters made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Smith asked for any emergency items. Mr. Anaheim said the fire department's A/C unit went out and had to be replaced for \$6,850. Mayor Smith entertained a motion. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the emergency purchase of the A/C unit at a cost of \$6,850. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The motion passed 5-0.

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." Olivia Hilliard addressed the commission about a fundraiser for helmets for the Bradford County Cowboys at US Highway 301 and State Road 100. Mayor Smith said the boot drives have been moved to US Highway 301 and State Road 16 due to construction. Mrs. Hilliard said they would like to hold

the fundraiser this Sunday. Mayor Smith asked her to get with Dan Williams to do the appropriate paperwork. Mayor Smith asked about a rain date. Mrs. Hilliard asked for September 19, 2021. Mayor Smith asked for a time. Mrs. Hilliard said from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve a boot drive at US Highway 301 and State Road 16 on September 12, 2021 with an alternate date of September 19, 2021 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Smith called for old business. He asked Jacob Williams with Florida Municipal Power Agency to address the All-Requirements Project cost and contract terms. Mr. Williams introduced Jody Finklea. Mr. Williams said there is plenty of time to decide on this. He presented the PowerPoint. Commissioner Chastain requested a rate study. Mr. Williams said he will look into it. Commissioner Mortimer said there are strategic reasons to postpone making a decision. Mayor Smith asked to bring this back in December.

Mayor Smith asked Tom Geoffroy, General Manager of Florida Gas Utility to address Resolution Number 2021-72 the agreement with FGU to participate in a gas prepay transaction. Mr. Geoffroy said it is a thirty-year commitment to purchase 28 dth per day in the winter and 13 dth per day in the summer at a discount of \$.30 per dth. Mayor Smith asked when the deadline to decide is. Mr. Geoffroy said today because it closes on Thursday. He said all but two member cities have committed to the agreement. Commissioner Waters asked Mr. Anaheim's recommendation. Mr. Anaheim recommended moving forward with the agreement. Mayor Smith asked Attorney Martin's opinion. Attorney Martin said the agreement presented does what it says it does. Attorney Martin read the resolution by title. Mayor Smith entertained a motion. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the resolution as read by title. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The motion passed 4-1. Commissioner Nugent opposed the motion.

Mayor Smith called for the city manager discussion. Commissioner Mortimer said a couple of weeks ago the city attorney sent a text message about a conversation with candidate Drew Mullins. She asked if Attorney Martin had spoken to Mr. Mullins since. Attorney Martin said Mr. Mullins called to ask him questions and he referred Mr. Mullins to Mayor Smith. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion for Attorney Martin to enter into contract negotiations with Drew Mullins for the city manager position. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. Commissioner Nugent said Kevin Powell would like to be reconsidered for the position and he would like him to be considered. Attorney Martin referred the commissioners to a letter from Mr. Powell rescinding his withdrawal of his application. He said it is up to the commission to add Mr. Powell back to the list of candidates. Mayor Smith called for a vote. The motion passed 3-2. Commissioner Chastain and Commissioner Nugent opposed the motion to negotiate a contract with Mr. Mullins. Commissioner Nugent said Mr. Powell should have been considered.

Mayor Smith called for public hearings. Attorney Martin said you have before you two resolutions for the tentative millage and budget. Mayor Smith called the hearing to order. Mayor Smith said the first issue to be discussed is the proposed tentative millage. Mrs. Wainwright said the proposed tentative millage is 5.0909 MILLS. She said the proposed

tentative millage rate of 5.0909 MILLS is a 0.0% increase over the rolled-back rate of 5.0909 MILLS. Mayor Smith asked for comments from the public regarding the millage. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Smith asked for comments from the commission regarding the proposed tentative millage. There were no comments from the commission. Attorney Martin read Resolution Number 2021-70 by title. Mayor Smith called for a motion to adopt resolution 2021-70 setting the tentative millage at 5.0909 MILLS and approving the final hearing date to set the final millage rate. Commissioner Waters made a motion to adopt resolution 2021-70. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0. Mayor Smith said the second issue to be discussed is the proposed tentative budget. Mrs. Wainwright said the proposed tentative budget is composed of the following expenditures and reserve totals: the General Fund is \$5,573,613, the Special Revenue Fund is \$2,697,141 and the Enterprise Fund is \$30,973,158 for a total approved budget of \$39,243,912. Mrs. Wainwright said the proposed tentative budget total operating expenses are 33.44% more than last year's total operating expenses. Mayor Smith asked for comments from the public regarding the proposed tentative budget. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Smith asked for comments from the commission regarding the proposed tentative budget. Commissioner Mortimer asked about the special revenue fund. Mrs. Wainwright said it is for streets and transportation. Mrs. Wainwright said both. Attorney Martin read Resolution Number 2021-71 by title. He said there is a typo but he is going to read it as it should be stated. Mayor Smith called for a motion to adopt resolution 2021-71 adopting the tentative budget consisting of the following expenditures and reserve totals and approving the final hearing date. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to adopt resolution 2021-71 adopting the tentative budget. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. Commissioner Mortimer asked when the typo will be corrected. Attorney Martin said it will be corrected before it is signed. The motion passed 5-0. Mayor Smith adjourned the budget hearing.

Attorney Martin read the title of Ordinance Number 2021-16 establishing "Dr. Pete Gianas Day". Mayor Smith entertained a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance Number 2021-16. Commissioner Waters made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0.

Attorney Martin said Ordinance Number 2021-15 establishing "Coach David Hurse Day" is being addressed again due to an error in the previous reading. He read the ordinance by title. Mayor Smith entertained a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance Number 2021-15. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the ordinance on first reading. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Smith asked for the city clerk report. Ms. Terry said Commissioner Chastain reviewed the bills. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to approve paying the bills. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. Commissioner Chastain asked Mr. Anaheim about a bill from Gainesville Regional Utilities for \$30,000 to set poles. He asked if the work should have been bid out. Mr. Anaheim said they used a mutual aid contract. The motion passed 5-0.

Ms. Terry addressed the request for qualifications for audit services. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve the request for qualifications. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 5-0.

Attorney Martin addressed the agreement with Folds & Walker for legal services. He said he feels like they have done a good job and he enjoys working for the City of Starke. Commissioner Waters made a motion to extend the agreement for three years. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0.

Ms. Terry addressed the closeout and final reimbursement for the Thomas Street and Wainwright Park FRDAP Grants. Mayor Smith asked for an update on the corrections. Mr. Anaheim said Patrick Welch will be doing a survey to correct the errors on the football field. Mr. Anaheim said repairs are being made to the damage done to the bathrooms. Mayor Smith said he would like security cameras to be an emergency item.

Mayor Smith asked for the city manager report. Mr. Anaheim addressed Resolution Number 2021-66 entering into an agreement with Curt's Construction for street resurfacing and drainage improvements. Attorney Martin read the resolution by title. Mayor Smith entertained a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Waters made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Anaheim asked Justin deMello to give an update on the wastewater treatment plant. Mr. deMello presented a PowerPoint Presentation. Mayor Smith asked about the acquisition of property for the Call Street lift station. Mr. Anaheim said the city may need to take the property. Attorney Martin said the owner is not grasping the process. Mr. deMello said the current property is in a flood zone so it can not be used. He recommended moving forward with taking the other property. Commissioner Waters made a motion to move forward with taking the property. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Anaheim said the barbed wire left at the sprayfield needs to be cleaned up before any mowing can be done. He said he will keep records and create a bill.

Mayor Smith asked for the police chief report. Chief Johnson said he has nothing to report. Commissioner Mortimer congratulated Chief Johnson on his reelection.

Mayor Smith asked for the attorney report. Attorney Martin said the Department of Environmental Protection says the city must go through a permitting process to be able to demolish houses. He said the process for permitting and mitigation could double the cost. Attorney Martin asked the commission to allow him to send the DEP a letter telling them why the city should be excluded from the permitting process. Mayor Smith asked him to move forward. Commissioner Chastain asked if the house could be boarded up and sprayed for rodents. Attorney Martin said that is the plan.

Attorney Martin said Folds & Walker will be hosting ethics training on November 18, 2021 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. He encouraged the commissioners to attend.

Commissioner Nugent said the Northeast Florida League of Cities will be hosting a dinner in Palatka in October. He encouraged the commissioners to make reservations.

Commissioner Chastain had nothing further.

Commissioner Waters had nothing further.

Commissioner Mortimer had nothing further.

Mayor Smith had nothing further.

Mayor Smith entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to adjourn. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.