

Commission Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2022
5:30 pm

Mayor Mortimer 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 City Clerk Jimmy Crosby will lead us in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

This meeting was the first regular meeting of the month. Members attending included Mayor Janice D. Mortimer, Commissioner Danny Nugent, Commissioner Scott Roberts and Commissioner Shannon Smith. Also present were Director of Operations Scott Anaheim, City Clerk Jimmy Crosby, City Attorney Clay Martin, City Manager Drew Mullins and Deputy Clerk Lisa Terry. Commissioner Wilbur Waters was absent.

Mayor Mortimer asked for agenda changes. There were none

Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the minutes of the January 18, 2022 Commission Meeting and the commissioner bill review. Mayor Mortimer said she reviewed the bills and they look good. Commissioner Smith made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. The motion passed 4-0.

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

Mayor Mortimer 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 public participation.

Mayor Mortimer called for old business. There was none.

Mayor Mortimer called for public hearings. There were none.

Mayor Mortimer asked for the city clerk report. Clerk Crosby said he previously asked the commission to extend the Aclarian contract but that has not worked out as he had hoped. Clerk Crosby would like consent to put out a request for proposals for finance and accounting services. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to allow the clerk to put out an RFP for finance and accounting services. Commissioner Nugent made a motion. It was seconded by

Commissioner Smith for discussion. He asked Attorney Martin if he had something to say. Attorney Martin said it has been addressed. The motion passed 4-0.

Clerk Crosby said the dates for the city election primary and runoff need to be changed to allow the Bradford County Supervisor of Elections to handle the election. He asked to change the primary to August 23, 2022 and the runoff to November 8, 2022. He said it will result in a higher voter turnout. Clerk Crosby asked Attorney Martin to cover any legal questions. Attorney Martin said the charter and ordinances set the dates for the primary and for a runoff if there is not a majority. He said for the Bradford County Supervisor of Elections to handle the election and possible runoff the dates need to coincide with their elections. Attorney Martin said the change would need to be made by ordinance. Mayor Mortimer said the motion is to change the primary election date to August 23, 2022 with a runoff date if needed of November 8, 2022 and to change the qualifying period. Commissioner Nugent said the city has held a runoff in the past and done it themselves. Commissioner Smith said he has no problem with having the county handle the election and having more people voting. Commission Roberts said he supports it fully. He believes it will be better for the city and the citizens. Mayor Mortimer agreed. She believes it will be better for the citizens to have one place to go to vote. She entertained a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Smith made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. Commissioner Smith asked if this will be for this year only or future elections. Clerk Crosby said this will be for this election but they need to clean up the charter to address future elections. Commissioner Nugent asked why this was not presented before the meeting. Clerk Crosby said there was an anxiousness about the election and we did not get the final word until today. Mayor Mortimer called for a vote. The motion passed 3-1. Commissioner Nugent said he opposed the motion because the information was not made available before the meeting.

Mayor Mortimer asked for the city manager report. Mr. Mullins addressed the engineering contracts. He introduced Jerry Dabkowski Principal with the firm Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering. Mr. Dabkowski said he looks forward to working with the team. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Roberts made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 4-0. Mr. Mullins said there is a paper copy of the Kimley-Horn contract on the commissioner's desks. Commissioner Nugent asked Attorney Martin if he had looked at the contract. Attorney Martin said a lot. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Smith made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Mullins asked the commission to accept the drinking water planning and consulting services ranking sheets. Commissioner Smith made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Mullins addressed approval of the Woodard and Curran water engineering services agreement. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the agreement. Commissioner Roberts made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Mullins asked Brad Witt with the Bradford County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management to answer any questions the commissioners have about the Local Mitigation Strategy. Mr. Witt said should the city join with the county in the Local Mitigation Strategy any funds would come directly to the city.

Mayor Mortimer asked for the attorney report. Attorney Martin had nothing further.

Commissioner Smith asked for an update on the houses across from Southside Elementary School. Mr. Mullins said the letter has been sent to the Department of Environmental Protection and he is getting quotes. Attorney Martin said the response from the Department of Environmental Protection is expected within 10 days. Commissioner Smith said they had a very favorable response from Tallahassee on working with the county to get infrastructure out to the bypass.

Commissioner Roberts had nothing further.

Commissioner Nugent said the City of Starke will be hosting the Northeast Florida League of Cities dinner this month. Commissioner Roberts asked where it is being held. Commissioner Nugent said the convention center.

Mayor Mortimer said the visit to Tallahassee was very beneficial. She said she looks forward to working with colleagues to move forward on projects.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 pm.