

Commission Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2022
5:30 pm

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

Mayor Mortimer asked for agenda changes. Clerk Crosby asked to move items 10. B. and 10. C. up to after the consent agenda. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve the agenda with the changes. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the minutes of the March 1, 2022 Commission Meeting, Resolution Number 2022-21 affirming the assumed base rate for the electric utility billing power cost adjustment and the commissioner bill review. Commissioner Roberts made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The motion passed 4-0.

Attorney Martin gave instructions on quasi-judicial hearings. He asked if the commissioners had any ex-parte communications about the hearings. Commissioner Roberts said no. Commissioner Waters said no. Commissioner Nugent said no. Mayor Mortimer said none. Attorney Martin asked anyone who is going to testify in this matter to stand and take the oath. He administered the oath to property owner Ronald Denmark and Mr. Mullins. Attorney Martin read the ordinance by title. Mr. Mullins summarized the application as a change to the future land use map from low density residential to commercial. Mr. Denmark said he wants to add two buildings to his existing mini storage business. Attorney Martin asked for any public comments or questions. There were none. He asked for anything from the commissioners. There was not. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the ordinance on first reading. Commissioner Waters made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. The motion passed 4-0.

Attorney Martin read the title of Ordinance Number 2022-05. Mr. Mullins summarized it as a change from single family low density to commercial. Mr. Denmark said the Planning & Zoning Board made a recommendation to the commission to approve the change. Attorney Martin asked for public comment. There was none. He asked for comment from the commission. There

was none. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2022-05 on first reading. Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2022-05. 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 asked for the presentation from SWAT. Candace Osteen introduced students Shana and Jada from Students Working Against Tobacco. Jada said they are promoting a healthy community by lowering the rate of tobacco use. Shana said youth are targeted by tobacco and vaping companies. She said they are encouraging non-tobacco users. Mayor Mortimer said she and the City of Starke supports the program and asked the students to let the city know how they can help.

Mayor Mortimer asked for the FMPA presentation from Commissioner Roberts. Commissioner Roberts expressed his appreciation for being able to present. He said Jacob Williams, Mike McCleary and Jody Finklea are in attendance representing FMPA. Commissioner Roberts said he wants the commission to know how important FMPA is. He said they serve 2.6 million people with low-cost, reliable and clean power. Commissioner Roberts said the governance of FMPA is done by its members. He asked Mr. Anaheim to come forward to talk about ways FMPA assists him. Mr. Anaheim said FMPA has assisted with the Call Street substation project and with the overpass. He said they also provide safety training for the apprenticeship program. Mr. Roberts asked Jacob Williams to talk about fuel costs. Mr. Williams said gas prices have doubled and natural gas has increased significantly. He said Florida uses more natural gas to produce power than any other state. Mr. Williams said FMPA is doing everything they can to keep rates low. He asked if anyone had any questions. Mayor Mortimer thanked Commissioner Roberts for taking the initiative to bring the presentation. Commissioner Roberts encouraged the commissioners to attend a few FMPA meetings. Mr. Williams said all their meetings are on Teams so the commissioners can attend that way. Mayor Mortimer thanked the FMPA representatives for their attendance. Commissioner Roberts expressed appreciation to Mr. Anaheim for his part in the presentation.

Mayor Mortimer called for old business. There was none.

Mayor Mortimer called for public hearings. Attorney Martin read Ordinance Number 2022-02 by title. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the ordinance on second reading.

Commissioner Roberts made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The motion passed 3-1. Commissioner Nugent opposed the motion.

Attorney Martin read Ordinance Number 2022-06 by title. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the ordinance. Commissioner Waters made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. The motion passed 4-0.

Attorney Martin read Ordinance Number 2022-07 by title. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion. Commissioner Roberts made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Mortimer asked for the city clerk report. Clerk Crosby had nothing to report.

Mayor Mortimer asked for the city manager report. Mr. Mullins addressed the Community Service Director position. He said the position will encompass strategic planning, economic opportunity, citizen involvement, building and zoning, parks and recreation and grants. He said Resolution Number 2022-20 establishes the position. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the Community Service Director position and Resolution Number 2022-20. Commissioner Waters made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Mullins said future traffic switch is in the packet. Chief Johnson said get ready.

Mayor Mortimer asked for the police chief report. Chief Johnson publicly thanked the FBI and FDLE for their help on a case and the arrest of three people.

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

Commissioner Roberts thanked the commission for allowing him to speak about FMFA.

Commissioner Waters had nothing further.

Commissioner Nugent said the Northeast Florida League of Cities dinner is Thursday at 6:00 pm.

Mayor Mortimer said in reading the minutes from the last meeting that Commissioner Smith requested a beautification plan from the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council. Mayor Mortimer said she does not remember that. Mr. Mullins said he reached out to the University of Florida and they have a master's degree candidate who specializes in beautification. Mr. Mullins is working on an internship.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm.