

Commission Meeting Minutes
April 5, 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 Roberts 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, Commissioner Shannon Smith 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.

Mayor Mortimer asked for agenda changes. Drew Mullins asked to add item 10.F. Weldon Place Developers Agreement. Mayor Mortimer asked to move items 10.A. and 10.B. under emergency items. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the requested changes. Commissioner Nugent made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the minutes of the March 15, 2022 Commission Meeting and the commissioner bill review. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Mortimer asked for 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 the Commissioners and Clerk to join her for the presentation of the resolutions. She asked the 2021- 2022 Bradford High School Girls Weightlifting Team and Coaches to join them. Mayor Mortimer read Resolution Number 2022-22 commending the team and the coaches for their outstanding season. She presented the resolution to the State Champion Bradford High School Girls Weightlifting Team and the coaching staff.

Mayor Mortimer asked the Bradford High School Boys Basketball Team and Coaches to join the Commissioners. She read Resolution Number 2022-23 commending the team and the coaches for their outstanding season. Mayor Mortimer presented the resolution to the State Champion Bradford High School Boys Basketball Team and the coaching staff.

Mayor Mortimer called for old business. There was none.

Mayor Mortimer called for public hearings. Attorney Martin read the title of Ordinance Number 2022-06. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion. Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2022-06. It was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. Mayor Mortimer asked about the effective date. Attorney Martin said it will become effective upon passage. Two citizens asked to speak on the water rates. Markleyann Cash said she is opposed to raising the water and sewer rates. She said the people cannot afford it. Sissy Story said utility rates are ridiculous. She said she is opposed to the rate increase. The motion passed 4-1. Commissioner Nugent opposed the motion.

Attorney Martin read the title of Ordinance Number 2022-07 establishing the required bond amount for the City Clerk. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the ordinance. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.

Attorney Martin read the title of Ordinance Number 2022-08. He said if the ordinance is approved the commission should direct him to proceed to district court. He handed Mrs. Heeder a paper with an amendment to the ordinance that read notwithstanding the foregoing, any change in city commission districts occurring as a result of this Chapter 39 will not make a city commissioner ineligible from continuing in office for the remainder of any term commencing before the effective date established hereby. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the ordinance and direct Attorney Martin to proceed to district court. It was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. Commissioner Smith asked about the timeline through the courts. Attorney Martin said he anticipates moving forward in about ten days so it should be before the election. The motion passed 5-0. Mayor Mortimer commended the attorney and staff for getting this done. Commissioner Roberts expressed appreciation for the Bradford County Supervisor of Elections Office.

Attorney Martin gave instructions on quasi-judicial hearings. He asked if the commissioners had any ex-parte communications about the hearings. Commissioner Smith said no. Commissioner Roberts said no. Commissioner Waters said no. Commissioner Nugent said no. Mayor Mortimer said no. Attorney Martin administered the oath to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth to Mr. Mullins. Attorney Martin read the ordinance by title. Mr. Mullins summarized the application as a rezoning from residential to commercial. Attorney Martin asked for any public comments or questions. There were none. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the ordinance on second reading. Commissioner Waters made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 5-0. Attorney Martin read the title of Ordinance Number 2022-05. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the ordinance

on second reading. Commissioner Waters made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 5-0.

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 Resolution Number 2022-24 interlocal agreement with the Bradford County Board of Commissioners for the division of local option fuel tax proceeds. He said the state has asked for reauthorization of the agreement. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Smith made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. Attorney Martin said a formula will be used if the county and cities can't agree that will yield less funds to the cities. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Mullins addressed the impact fee proposal. He said impact fees were done away with but with more development occurring the city could use the impact fees. He said the study will cost \$5,000. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the study. Commissioner Smith made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. Mayor Mortimer asked how long the study will take. Mr. Mullins said about a month. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Mullins addressed the purchase of two police vehicles. He said this would be done with ARA funds. Chief Johnson said they need more cars but are asking for two. Commissioner Waters asked what the ARA funds have been used for. Clerk Crosby said for sewer lines and a vac truck. Mayor Mortimer said the funds were originally very limited on the items that could be purchased but congress approved a much broader scope for the use of the funds. Clerk Crosby said they are using the funds for one-time expenditures. He suggested that police car purchases be spread out over multiple years. Commissioner Smith asked about the list that was made initially. Clerk Crosby said the list was never finalized. He said the list did not include items that can now be purchased with the funds but he can provide copies of the original list. Commissioner Waters asked what the police truck was doing in Sanderson. Chief Johnson said the officer was going home. Commissioner Waters said he did not think that was allowed. Chief Johnson said the CDC would not allow multiple officers to use the same vehicle. He said they should have gone back to the original policy at the beginning of the year. He said there will be no more cars going out of the county. Commissioner Nugent said policy should have been followed. Commissioner Smith asked if cars are still going out of the county. Chief Johnson said he was going to make it effective May 1, 2022 but he will do what the commission wants. Mayor Mortimer said she believes it should be effective immediately. Commissioner Waters said he could see allowing it until Friday. Mayor Mortimer said the issue for a vote is the two vehicles. Mayor Mortimer asked how much the two cars will cost. Chief Johnson said \$64,000. Clerk Crosby said the purchase will be on state contract. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the purchase of two police vehicles using ARA funds. Commissioner Waters made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. Clerk Crosby said this is to allow Chief Johnson to look for two vehicles but the purchase will be brought back for approval. The motion passed 4-1. Commissioner Smith opposed the motion. Mayor Mortimer said they still

need to decide when to stop officers from taking vehicles home. Commissioner Waters suggested Friday. The consensus of the board was Friday.

Mr. Mullins thanked Mayor Mortimer for showing him some areas of concern within the city. He said they are working to address those.

Mr. Mullins addressed the Weldon Place Developer Agreement. Mayor Mortimer asked what the time frame is on this because they just got this tonight. Attorney Martin said it could wait until the next meeting. Commissioner Waters made a motion to table the agreement until the April 19, 2022 Commission Meeting. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Mortimer asked for the police chief report. Chief Johnson had nothing further.

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

Commissioner Smith said there is heavy traffic by the dance studio on the westside of Call Street. He would like a children crossing sign.

Commissioner Roberts had nothing further.

Commissioner Waters said Chief Johnson does an awesome job.

Commissioner Nugent said he has received complaints about 4-wheelers on Pratt Street. He asked Mr. Anaheim to look at some issues on South Street. Mr. Anaheim said they will be working in the area on the sewer system. Commissioner Nugent asked the commissioners to RSVP for the Northeast Florida League of Cities dinner.

Mayor Mortimer said there is a Zoom Meeting at 11:00 am on Thursday about safety on the bypass. She said if you are unable to attend to share concerns with Mr. Mullins. Clerk Crosby said the three-way traffic light should be four-way.

Commissioner Smith asked if DOT had reached out for plans for plants for the overpass. Mr. Mullins said he is working with a planner for the beautification of the downtown area. Commissioner Nugent said he would like the bridge named for veterans.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm.