

Commission Meeting Minutes
May 3, 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 Smith 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 City Clerk Jimmy Crosby, Deputy Clerk Lisa Heeder, Police Chief Jeff Johnson, City Attorney Clay Martin and City Manager Drew Mullins. Commissioner Wilbur Waters was absent.

Mayor Mortimer asked for agenda changes. Clerk Crosby asked to add Shriner's boot drive request as item 5.B. Mr. Mullins asked to add Christopher Crowder with Sandcastle Development as item 12.B. Mayor Mortimer asked to move citizens request under item 5.B. Mayor Mortimer asked for the wishes of the board. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the agenda with changes. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the minutes of the April 19, 2022 Commission Meeting, Resolution Number 2022-28 amendment number 4 to the clean water state revolving fund loan agreement and the commissioner bill review. Mayor Mortimer said Commissioner Nugent has not had time to review the bills and asked that he pull anything that is not ok. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Mortimer called for the girls softball helmet drive for May 14, 2022 with a rain date of May 28, 2022. She asked if anyone representing the team was here. Tyler Orton came forward. He asked to add May 15, 2022 for the boys baseball teams. Mayor Mortimer asked if they could change their rain date to accommodate the next request. Mr. Orton said they could change the rain dates to May 21, 2022 and May 22, 2022. Mayor Mortimer asked for the wishes of the board. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the helmet drives. It was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. Mayor Mortimer asked that no children be in the road. Mr. Orton said yes ma'am. The motion passed 4-0. Mr. Orton said June 2, 2022 to June 5, 2022 they are hosting the District Allstars Tournament. He said last year the city provided a roll-off dumpster. Mr. Orton asked if the city could provide a dumpster and port-a-potties. Mr. Mullins said we don't have a contract for port-a-potties. Commissioner Nugent suggested contacting Pam Whittle at the North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Smith asked about security cameras. Mr. Mullins said Scott Anaheim is working with a vendor. Commissioner

Nugent suggested a flashing light to slow down traffic. Mr. Orton said they have requested rumble strips. Mayor Mortimer asked Mr. Orton to get with Mr. Mullins to discuss the needs. Mr. Orton agreed.

Mayor Mortimer called for the Shriner's boot drive request. David Knisley requested a boot drive on May 28, 2022 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Nugent made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. The motion passed 4-0. Mr. Knisley asked about lights. Chief Johnson said to get with Major Barry Warren.

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." Mayor Mortimer asked Michael Heeder to come forward. He lives at 932 Wilson Road in Starke. Mr. Heeder expressed his appreciation for the Commissioners, the Police Chief, City Manager and the line crew. He said the Touch-A-Truck event was a big success. He said the police and the linemen worked with the kids. Commissioner Smith asked about the concert. Mr. Heeder said he is looking into a Veteran's Day event. Mayor Mortimer thanked Mr. Heeder.

Mayor Mortimer asked Sean Brewer to come forward. Mr. Brewer thanked Mayor Mortimer. He said he grew up in Seminole Florida and went the University of Florida. He has 3 sons and his wife has been a teacher in Alachua County since 1996. Mr. Brewer started as an Assistant State Attorney in 1998. He has prosecuted crimes against women and children and has coached multiple youth teams. Mr. Brewer is running for Circuit Judge. He thanked the commission for allowing him to speak.

Mayor Mortimer called for the pay increase for the police pension retirees. Police Pension Board Trustee Shirley Mangol came forward. She lives at 505 Bridges Street in Starke. She said the Police Pension Board voted to approve a one-time increase of 5 percent for Police Pension Retirees. Commissioner Nugent asked if they had run the numbers. Mrs. Mangol directed the Commissioners to page 4 of the packet from the Actuary Shelly Jones. Commissioner Smith asked when the last increase was. Chief Johnson said not since he has been here. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion for the request for the increase for the Police Retirees. Commissioner Nugent made a motion. Mayor Mortimer asked if the motion was for a one-time 5 percent increase. Commissioner Nugent said yes. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Mayor Mortimer asked when it would take effect. Clerk Crosby said it will probably be on the next check. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Mortimer asked for emergency items. There were none.

Mayor Mortimer called for old business. There was none.

Mayor Mortimer called for public hearings. Attorney Martin said you have before you Ordinance Number 2022-09 establishing the schedule of water and wastewater rates and charges. He read the title of the ordinance for first reading. Mr. Mullins said the reason this is being readdressed is the software would not bill properly with the other rates. Clerk Crosby said the numbers now work for paying back the loan. Commissioner Smith said he wanted to have a rate study and workshop on this and now they are raising rates 20 percent. Clerk Crosby said the previous ordinance raised rates by more. Commissioner Smith said they need to do this to meet the loan requirements but also need to workshop it. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to accept the corrected version and move forward to second reading. It was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Mortimer asked for the City Clerk report. Clerk Crosby had nothing further.

Mayor Mortimer asked for the City Manager report. Mr. Mullins addressed moving the May 17, 2022 meeting to May 24, 2022. Attorney Martin said moving the meeting will allow the redistricting ordinance to come before the commission for second reading. Commissioner Nugent said he wants to keep the regular meeting date. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion. Commissioner Smith made a motion to move the meeting date. It was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. The motion passed 3-1. Commissioner Nugent opposed the motion.

Mr. Mullins introduced Christopher Crowder with Sandcastle Development. Attorney Martin said because this is a matter under staff review on a pending development application this could have quasi-judicial implications. He said because Mr. Crowder has threatened litigation on this the commissioners should refrain from asking any questions. Mr. Crowder passed out a handout. Attorney Martin asked if the handout is already in the record. Mr. Crowder said it is. Mr. Crowder said Sandcastle Development is a not for profit to develop affordable housing. He said it will create local jobs. Mr. Crowder said the development will consist of houses for \$36,000 to \$40,000 household annual income families. He said the homes would be on land zoned single family residential but contain multiple homes. Mr. Crowder said the code defines a lot as not having multiple homes but this would be a subdivision so he believes he is within code because the lot is more than 5 acres. He said he is not opposed to rezoning but they are running into deadlines. He said he is not threatening litigation so he believes the commission could ask questions. Attorney Martin said he sent the plans to Sandra Joseph at the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council and spoke to her on the phone and she confirmed it goes against city code. He said rezoning could be done in a non-quasi-judicial manner. Mr. Crowder said he would have liked to be part of that phone call. Mayor Mortimer thanked Mr. Crowder.

Mr. Mullins introduced Brandon Ludwig the new Community Services Director for the city. Mr. Ludwig said it is an honor to be here and it's nice to meet the commissioners. He said there are a lot of good plans and he is excited to be a part of them.

Mr. Mullins said street signs were brought up at the last meeting and they are working to replace them.

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

Mayor Mortimer asked for the attorney report. Attorney Martin said the courts have reopened the redistricting case. Mayor Mortimer asked what that means. He said they have drawn a judge who has never worked on this type of matter before so she will need to familiarize herself with it. Attorney Martin said everyone involved is on the same page so hopefully the Judge will grant the joint motion on the case.

Mayor Mortimer asked about the Bradford County Supervisor of Elections Office contract. Attorney Martin said he has reviewed it and provided a copy to the Supervisor of Elections for review.

Commissioner Smith said the Munis system is not being updated. Clerk Crosby said May 25, 2022 Munis will be here to do a demo of the upgrades and all upgrades should be completed in the next few months. Mayor Mortimer asked about cost. Clerk Crosby said the upgrades will be free but we will have to pay for training.

Commissioner Roberts had nothing further.

Commissioner Nugent said the Northeast Florida League of Cities dinner is coming up. He asked the commissioners to get their plans together.

Mayor Mortimer said for whatever reason the property on North Street had not been demolished but thanks to the clerk and the manager and staff the property has safely been removed. She thanked Danny Griffis, John Sasser, Stevie Warren and Fire Department members who came out to wet the property during demolition to cut down on inhalants including Jason Clemons, Andy Tyson, Jacob Crary and Paul Jones and John McDaniel who came out the next day to level the property. She asked that her appreciation be made part of the minutes.

Mayor Mortimer asked the commissioners to let Lisa know if they plan to attend the Northeast Florida League of Cities dinner on May 19, 2022 so she can make reservations.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.