

Commission Meeting Minutes  
May 24, 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 I 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, Commissioner Shannon Smith and Commissioner Wilbur Waters. Also present were Deputy Clerk Lisa Heeder, Finance Director James Hughes, City Attorney Clay Martin, City Manager Drew Mullins and Police Major Barry Warren. City Clerk Jimmy Crosby was absent.

Mayor Mortimer asked for agenda changes. Attorney Martin asked to pull the commissioner bill review off the consent agenda and move it after citizen requests. Mayor Mortimer asked to move item 12.E.b. under citizens requests. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the agenda with changes. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve the agenda with changes. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the first 5 items on the consent agenda. The first 5 items on the consent agenda consisted of the minutes of the May 3, 2022 Commission Meeting, Resolution Number 2022-29 agreement with the Bradford County Supervisor of Elections, Resolution Number 2022-30 addendum to the Welford Place Developer Agreement, Resolution Number 2022-31 appointment of representatives to the Public Risk Management Group Health Trust Board of Directors and the RFP for Building and Zoning Consultant. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the first 5 items on the consent agenda. Commissioner Smith made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Mortimer asked for emergency items. There were none.

Mayor Mortimer called for Michael Heeder. Michael Heeder came forward. He lives at 932 Wilson Road in Starke. Mr. Heeder said he would like to use Veteran's Memorial Park for a flag retirement ceremony on June 14, 2022 which is Flag Day. Mr. Heeder said Ace Hardware is donating 50 flags to replace worn ones. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion. Commissioner Smith made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. Commissioner Smith asked if there would be any issues with the construction. Major Warren said no. The motion passed 5-0.

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 read a statement from Alberto Zubillaga of 613 West Pratt Street into the record “My remarks are about three different sets of people in your community or neighborhood. Let’s talk about senior citizens and the disabled who both live from paycheck to paycheck. This increase will be detrimental to both groups. The third group of people I would like to talk about is the single parents who have to work two sometimes three jobs to make ends meet. So, when voting I would appreciate you take these three groups into consideration.”

Mayor Mortimer called for AuBroncee Martin to come forward. Mr. Martin said he is a candidate for 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit Judge. He said the election is August 23, 2022. He passed out cards.

Attorney Martin said the reason the bill review was pulled is that there is an invoice for George Roberts Insurance. He suggested pulling that bill so the commissioners can vote on the rest. Then Commissioner Roberts will declare a conflict and abstain from voting on the George Roberts Insurance bill. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to pay the bills with the exception of the George Roberts bill. Commissioner Nugent made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The motion passed 5-0. Mayor Mortimer asked Commissioner Nugent what his recommendation is for the George Roberts Insurance bill. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to pay the George Roberts Insurance bill. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Commissioner Roberts abstained from voting. Commissioner Waters asked if this is a bill they had before Commissioner Roberts came on the board. Commissioner Roberts said it is a renewal. Mayor Mortimer asked Attorney Martin if Commissioner Roberts being on the board does not preclude the city from doing business with his insurance company. Attorney Martin said that is correct. Attorney Martin said the conflict is for Commissioner Roberts to vote on something for his private benefit. Attorney Martin said as long as Commissioner Roberts abstains from the vote and declares a conflict it is fine. The motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Roberts turned in a Form 8B Memorandum of Voting Conflict for County, Municipal and Other Local Public Officers.

Mayor Mortimer called for old business. There was none.

Mayor Mortimer called for public hearings. Attorney Martin said the first item is the Fair Housing Public Information Meeting. Mr. Mullins introduced Andy Easton. Mr. Easton said the CDBG requires applicants to hold a housing meeting to educate elected officials, real estate professionals and the general public concerning fair housing. He said the city must have a fair housing ordinance consistent with state laws. Mr. Easton asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Mr. Easton addressed the first public hearing for the CDBG. He said it is federal money that goes to the state and then to small communities with under 50,000 people. Mr. Easton said the program is for housing rehabilitation, neighborhood revitalization, commercial revitalization and economic development. He said the grant application deadline is July 21, 2022 and the city is eligible to apply for up to \$700,000. Mr. Easton asked for public comments. There were none. Mr. Mullins asked for appointments for 3 low-income citizens and 2 citywide to serve on a Citizen Advisory Task Force. Mayor Mortimer asked when the board should provide names. Mr. Mullins said by next Monday.

Mayor Mortimer asked Attorney Martin to share the good news. Attorney Martin said at 4:41 pm an order came in from the court approving the redistricting. He read Ordinance Number 2022-08 by title. Mayor Mortimer asked for the wishes of the board. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the ordinance on second reading. It was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. The motion passed 5-0.

Attorney Martin read Ordinance Number 2022-09 establishing the water and sewer rates by title. Mayor Mortimer asked for the wishes of the board regarding Ordinance Number 2022-09. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve. It was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. Mayor Mortimer asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Smith said he is not happy with it and would like a meeting to get the rates and the structure set the way we anticipated it the last 2 ½ years. Mayor Mortimer asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Mortimer asked for the City Manager report. Mr. Mullins said the USDA gave notice to go out to bid on the wastewater treatment facility. Mr. Mullins said some different entities have come to him about possible development on 301 South where the old sprayfield was located. He suggested having the property appraised. Mayor Mortimer asked if the property has ever been appraised. Mr. Mullins said not to his knowledge. Mr. Mullins said he will be on vacation from June 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> but will be here on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Mortimer asked if the Manager's Office will be open every day. Mr. Mullins said yes. He said they changed the way workorders are done. He said if anyone needs anything they can call Chasiti or himself. Commissioner Nugent asked if Mr. Mullins could make a board to show progress. Mr. Mullins said he can. Commissioner Waters said he would love to see that. Commissioner Smith asked about monthly progress reports. He said we need to get back on those. Mr. Mullins agreed. Mr. Mullins said Scott Anaheim submitted his resignation last Thursday and it is a hard resignation. His last day will be June 17<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Waters asked if the position would be offered in house. Mr. Mullins said it would.

Mayor Mortimer asked for the police chief report. Major Warren said the Click it or Ticket Program for seat belt awareness has begun. Mayor Mortimer thanked the Police Department for the job well done escorting the service member home. She said there was a tremendous outpouring of support from the community. Mayor Mortimer said it was very touching. She asked if the Police Department stayed with him the whole way. Major Warren said Lieutenant Michael Rooney did.

Commissioner Smith asked about cameras for the ballpark. Mr. Mullins said they have begun the installation process. He said there has been some additional vandalism but he is hoping the cameras will help deter it. Major Warren asked if the camera system would have bluetooth so it could alert cell phones. Mr. Mullins said yes. Mayor Mortimer asked if that would be for all three parks. Mr. Mullins said yes. Mr. Mullins said he has a meeting on Thursday with the contractors for DOT.

Mayor Mortimer asked for the attorney report. Attorney Martin said he needs the wishes of the commission on a competing request. He said Folds & Walker has been asked to provide legal representation to the Bradford County Development Authority. He said they would not take on another government client without running it by the commission because they are their first client here. He said they do not see any obvious conflicts of interest but would like feedback from the commission. Mayor Mortimer has no problem with it. Commissioner Smith said he is good with it. Commissioner Roberts said he is good with it. Commissioner Waters said he is good with it. Commissioner Nugent said Mr. Brown was the attorney for the city and the county and there were issues with it. Mayor Mortimer said the spirit of comradery with the city and the county has never been better and she doesn't think there is a problem. Commissioner Smith said they need to have another joint city and county meeting. Mayor Mortimer agreed. Attorney Martin said the Bradford County Development Authority is an independent special district so it is not part of the Bradford County Commission. Mayor Mortimer asked what would happen if there was a conflict. Attorney Martin said if one of the parties would not waive representation for the conflict Folds & Walker would represent neither. Mayor Mortimer thanked Attorney Martin for preparing the document for the Federal Courts for redistricting. She said the board and the citizens appreciate everything he did.

Commissioner Roberts asked for a brief update on the two houses that the city was trying to demolish. He said one has been torn down but asked about the other one. Mr. Mullins said they were not able to tear the other one down but they can board it up. Attorney Martin said the ability to tear the house down is off the table but they can board and seal. Commissioner Nugent asked if there is any old fencing they could use to secure the property. Attorney Martin said the city might be able to fence the property with an amendment to the ordinance. Commissioner Roberts said if we modify the ordinance for this property we need to be prepared to use it in the future. Mayor Mortimer asked what direction the board needs to give to move forward with this. Attorney Martin said he will get with Mr. Mullins to begin the process of board and seal. Commissioner Waters said he asked about having the property cleaned up. Mr. Mullins said he will take care of it.

Commissioner Roberts said he appreciates the work done for the redistricting.

Commissioner Waters said he appreciates the Sheriff's Department, the Police Department, the Fire Department and everyone for the procession. He said it went very well.

Commissioner Nugent asked about replacing missing and unreadable signs. Mr. Mullins said several have been taken care of. He asked for specific locations. Commissioner Waters said two years ago he asked for the inmate crews to clean signs and it hasn't happened. Commissioner Nugent asked about construction crews blocking South Street. He reminded the commissioners about the Northeast Florida League of Cities dinner in Orange Park. Mayor Mortimer said the dinner will be June 16, 2022 and the speaker will be Allison Payne from the Florida League of Cities. Ms. Payne will give an update on the legislative session and status

Mayor Mortimer said we need to set the workshop for the recommendation on the Ad Hoc Committee on Ethics and Discipline. Commissioner Nugent said he is not available during the month of June. Commissioner Waters suggested July 5, 2022 at 5:30 pm. Attorney Martin asked if the regular meeting should start at 6:00 pm or 6:30 pm. Mayor Mortimer said they will need an hour so she asked for 6:30 pm for the meeting start time.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.