

Commission Meeting Minutes
December 20, 2022
5:30 pm

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

This meeting was the second meeting of the month. Members attending included Mayor Scott Roberts, Commissioner Janice D. Mortimer and Commissioner Andy Redding. Also present were City Clerk Jimmy Crosby, Deputy Clerk Lisa Heeder, Finance Director James Hughes, Attorney Clay Martin, Police Captain James Molina and City Manager Drew Mullins. Commissioner Danny Nugent and Commissioner Shannon Smith were absent.

Mayor Roberts asked if there were any agenda changes. There were none. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion approve the agenda. Commissioner Redding made a motion. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 3-0.

Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the minutes of the December 6, 2022 Commission Meeting, Resolution Number 2023-16 Agreement with Cellco Partnership DBA Verizon Wireless for mobile communication services, Resolution Number 2023-17 use of FMPA conservation funds, the New Mercy Mission Home concert fundraiser square use March 17, 2023 and the commissioner bill review. Commissioner Mortimer said having reviewed the bills she would like to make a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 3-0.

Mayor Roberts asked for emergency items. There were none.

Mayor Roberts asked for old business. There was none.

Mayor Roberts 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 three minutes. Your participation is welcomed." There was no public participation.

Mayor Roberts called for public hearings. Attorney Martin read the title of Ordinance Number 2023-01 providing for a \$100.00 per month cost of living adjustment for General Employee Retirees. Commissioner Mortimer said she serves on the General Pension Board and it is the recommendation of the board to approve the increase. She made a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2023-01 on first reading. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. He asked if the city does not normally provide a yearly COLA. Commissioner Mortimer said the pension board asks for an actuarial study then votes on the increase. She said the retirees have not had one in a very long time. Mayor Roberts asked if there was anything else. The motion passed 3-0.

Mayor Roberts asked for the City Clerk report. Clerk Crosby said James Moore & Company is here to present the audit. James Halleran came forward and introduced Brandon McKittrick. Mr. Halleran said there were 9 material weaknesses and 1 compliance comment. Mr. Halleran said they have met with the clerk's staff with a plan to correct them. Clerk Crosby said he appreciates the job done by James Moore & Company, Jim Farrell and James Hughes. Attorney Martin suggested a motion to accept the audit and direct staff to complete the required State reports. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion. Commissioner Redding made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 3-0.

Clerk Crosby addressed the request from FPL for a gas pump. He said it would be for use during emergencies. Clerk Crosby recommended proceeding with the project. Mayor Roberts agreed as well as Commissioner Redding and Commissioner Mortimer.

Clerk Crosby reported on the Community Development Group for a joint effort with the county for a new water plant that was frozen because of COVID. He said they are looking for grant funding as well as for the downtown square project.

Clerk Crosby said he and Drew Mullins think the January 3, 2023 Commission Meeting could be cancelled if the commissioners would like. Mayor Roberts said he will be out of town. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to cancel the January 3, 2023 meeting. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 3-0.

Mayor Roberts asked for the City Manager report. Mr. Mullins thanked Clerk Crosby for the work on the legislative package. He said it will improve water flow around town. Mr. Mullins said the Christmas lunch is tomorrow at 12:00 pm at the United Methodist Church.

Mayor Roberts asked for the Police Chief report. Captain James Molina said they have 2 police cars they would like to surplus. He stated for the record the cars are Chevy Impalas a 2009 and a 2014. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion. Commissioner Mortimer moved to approve the request to surplus the 2 vehicles. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 3-0.

Mayor Roberts asked for the City Attorney report. Attorney Martin thanked the commissioners for attending the Folds & Walker Ethics Training. He said they are looking at some changes for next year. Commissioner Mortimer asked about having the training earlier in the year because the State requires it to be done by the end of the year. Clerk Crosby suggested having workshops with other cities.

Commissioner Mortimer said the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County have set aside a table for the City at the MLK Banquet. She said if more tickets are needed to let her know. The banquet is on January 14, 2023 at 6:00 pm. Attorney Martin asked about sponsorship. Commissioner Mortimer said the deadline has been extended but suggested Attorney Martin call first thing in the morning. Commissioner Mortimer said the FAST Committee that she and Clerk Crosby serve on will host a Fly-In February 7th and 8th, 2023. Clerk Crosby said he will get with the commissioners to talk about going to talk about additional funding at the National level. Commissioner Mortimer said Merry Christmas and thanked Commissioner Nugent for reviewing the bills for her at the last meeting.

Commissioner Redding said there is spray paint all over the road from the garbage trucks. He reminded everyone to wrap their pipes and take care of pets during the coming cold weather.

Mayor Roberts said everything is going well. He said Rural Counties Day is April 25, 2023.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 pm.