

Commission Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2023
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 Commissioner Nugent 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 first meeting of the month. Members attending included Mayor Scott Roberts, Commissioner Danny Nugent, Commissioner Andy Redding and Commissioner Shannon Smith. Also present were City Clerk Jimmy Crosby, Deputy Clerk Lisa Heeder, Police Chief Jeff Johnson, Attorney Clay Martin and City Manager Drew Mullins. Commissioner Janice D. Mortimer was absent.

Mayor Roberts asked if there were any agenda changes. Clerk Crosby asked to add an RFQ to go out for bids for auditors under the Clerk. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the change. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 4-0. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Smith made a motion. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the minutes of the December 20, 2022 Commission Meeting, the Women's Health Event square use February 12, 2023 and requesting a waiver of the rental fee, the Asplundh tree trimming bid ranking and the commissioner bill review. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. Commissioner Smith said he reviewed the bills and they looked good. The motion passed 4-0.

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. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2023-01. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 4-0.

Iana Patterson came forward to say that the Women's Health Event is February 18, 2023 not February 12, 2023. Attorney Martin suggested voting again on the new date. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion. Commissioner Smith made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Roberts asked for the City Clerk report. Clerk Crosby asked the Commission to approve putting out the bid for auditors. He said James Moore & Company notified them that they would not be providing that service. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve the RFQ. Commissioner Smith made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. Commissioner Smith asked about forming a committee to review the bids. Attorney Martin said the commissioners should appoint at least 1 commissioner and someone with government accounting experience. Clerk Crosby suggested Jeff Oody. Commissioner Nugent asked if the candidates could be interviewed. Attorney Martin said if the committee wants to meet the candidates the meeting needs to be publicly noticed. Clerk Crosby asked for a timeline. Attorney Martin said the top ranked firm would be notified on March 7, 2023, a contract would be negotiated by March 14, 2023 and the contract would be executed on March 22, 2023. Mayor Roberts said there is a first and a second. The motion passed 4-0. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to appoint a committee. Commissioner Smith made a motion to appoint Commissioner Redding, Mayor Roberts and Jeff Oody. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 4-0.

Clerk Crosby asked the commissioners if they would like to cancel or reschedule the meeting for February 7, 2023 because 3 of the commissioners will be out of town. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to cancel the first meeting in February. Commissioner Smith made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. Mayor Roberts said if anything comes up they can call an emergency meeting. The motion passed 4-0.

Clerk Crosby asked the commissioners to let him know if they would like to sit at the city's table at the Chamber Banquet.

Clerk Crosby said the city appealed the CDBG-CV grant denial and won. He said Mr. Mullins wrote a really good appeal and the Department of Economic Opportunity recommended moving forward with it.

Mayor Roberts asked for the City Manager report. Mr. Mullins said Clerk Crosby took what he was going to say.

Mayor Roberts asked for the Police Chief report. Chief Johnson said Orange Street will be closed for a while due to repairs to the railroad tracks.

Mayor Roberts asked for the City Attorney report. Attorney Martin said he has no news to report.

Commissioner Nugent said the Northeast Florida League of Cities dinner is in St. Augustine on Thursday.

Commissioner Redding asked Chief Johnson to increase patrols in Lakewood due to theft.

Clerk Crosby said there is a proposal for the group that does the site plans to do a traffic study for \$11,000 for the new proposed housing. Mayor Roberts asked for the wishes of the board. Commissioner Smith said he does not see spending \$11,000 for the study. Mayor Roberts said impact fees could help pay for it and he would support it. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion. Commissioner Redding made a motion to approve the traffic study. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 3-1. Commissioner Smith opposed the motion.

Commissioner Smith said great job on the appeal. He said there is a new recreation board and suggested they reach out to them.

Mayor Roberts said he appreciates the quick response to some items in his district. He said the Martin Luther King Junior Banquet was good and the city received an award for helping with the RJE gym project.

There being no further discussion Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 pm.