

Commission Meeting Minutes  
February 21, 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 Redding 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 Janice D. Mortimer, 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.

Mayor Roberts asked if there were any agenda changes. Commissioner Mortimer asked to add item 11.B. prayer walk under Chief Johnson. Clerk Crosby asked to remove item 4.D. Drew Mullins asked to add item 10.A. water tank maintenance ranking sheets. Clerk Crosby asked to add item 9.B. direction on moratorium for towers and antennas. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the changes. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the minutes of the January 17, 2023 Commission Meeting, Resolution Number 2023-18 Contract with All Terrain Tractor Service to upgrade and rehabilitate the wastewater collection system, Resolution Number 2023-19 agreement with Inspired Technologies of North Florida for Information Technology Professional Services and the commissioner bill review. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. Commissioner Smith asked about the bill for \$6,000 for a police car with a leaking crank shaft. Chief Johnson said without the invoice he can't tell you. Commissioner Smith suggested using multiple vendors. The motion passed 5-0.

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.” Eulinda Russ Manager of Pine Forest Apartments came forward to address responsibility and reimbursement for line repairs at the lift station at Pine Forest Apartments. She said the Department of Environmental Protection sighted her and said the problems could be due to the lines. She said the apartment complex has spent \$80,000 on this. Ms. Russ said Building Inspector Wilson Whidden came to talk to her and said it is the city’s problem. She is asking someone to look into this. Commissioner Mortimer said when Bob Milner was City Manager he was supposed to find out who owns the lift station. She asked Mr. Mullins where we are on this. Mr. Mullins said Hallmark Management was supposed to send him something. He said he talked to Mr. Milner and former City Clerk Ricky Thompson and they said the city does not own the lift station. Mr. Mullins asked Ms. Russ to send him all the documentation on this. Commissioner Mortimer said Mr. Mullins needs to do his due diligence to find out who owns the lift station.

Mayor Roberts asked for the City Clerk report. Clerk Crosby said Powell & Jones out of Lake City is the only firm to put in an RFQ for auditing services. He asked the commission to approve the ranking sheets and contract negotiations. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.

Clerk Crosby said after review of the Land Use Code there is nothing on towers or antennas. He suggested a moratorium on them until the commission can decide where they want them. Mayor Roberts asked for a timeframe. Attorney Martin said the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council suggested 180 days. He suggested the commission direct staff to impose a moratorium effective today. Commissioner Smith made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Roberts asked for the City Manager report. Mr. Mullins said two vendors put in for the wastewater treatment plant tank maintenance. He recommended negotiating with Veolia the highest-ranking firm. Commissioner Nugent made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Commissioner Mortimer asked what the motion is for. Commissioner Smith said to approve the rankings and move forward with negotiations. Commissioner Mortimer said she would like the 15 year term of the contract to be negotiated. Mr. Mullins said it is pretty standard to have 15-year contracts to cover the lifespan of the work. Mayor Roberts said we have a motion and a second. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Roberts asked for the Police Chief report. Chief Johnson said all churches will be invited to the prayer walk. He said officers will be with them the entire time as with a moving parade. Commissioner Mortimer said one portion of the route does not have sidewalks. Chief Johnson said they will have police vehicles there. Attorney Martin said the city is not sponsoring the event. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion. Commissioner Nugent made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0.

Chief Johnson said they need to address the ordinance for enforcement of cars parked on the streets. He said if passed for enforcement a sticker will be placed on the car and the car will be towed 2 hours later. Chief Johnson said they will need citations and the same magistrate used for code enforcement will be used for this. Commissioner Smith asked that they have something to vote on. Attorney Martin suggested he and Chief Johnson get together and look at the enforcement processes. Mayor Roberts asked for something to be brought back to the commission.

Chief Johnson said the detour will be changing. He said Thompson Street will be blocked and Cherry Street will be opened.

Chief Johnson said the fire department did an incredible job with the apartment fire. He thanked Clay County for the use of the ladder truck.

Mayor Roberts asked for the City Attorney report. Attorney Martin said he has nothing to report.

Commissioner Nugent thanked everyone who came to the Northeast Florida League of Cities dinner here in Starke. He said Mr. Mullins and Clerk Crosby did an excellent job. He said the Washington trip went really well.

Commissioner Mortimer said she and Clerk Crosby were appointed to the FAST Committee by the Florida League of Cities and Commissioner Nugent was appointed by the Northeast Florida League of Cities. She said they attended the FAST Fly-In February 7<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Mortimer said the CEO of the National League of Cities Clarence Anthony is the former Mayor of Plant City. She said they met with Congresswoman Kat Cammack and we can rest assured she is working hard for us. Commissioner Mortimer said they were provided with a Federal Action Agenda with things they are lobbying for. One is flood plain insurance that is set to expire this year in September. She said the other issue is to simplify the process for local government grants. Commissioner Mortimer said they shared with Congresswoman Cammack that smaller cities don't get a fair share of federal grant dollars because of the grant process. She said there was also a White House Staff Briefing. Commissioner Mortimer said we need to take advantage of Community Development Block Grants. She encouraged the commissioners to attend the Florida League of Cities meetings.

Mayor Roberts asked about the RJE grant. Clerk Crosby said the city will be receiving the \$700,000 grant. Commissioner Mortimer said the \$200,000 that had been committed by the city if the appeal did not go through will go back into the ARPA fund. Clerk Crosby said there will be a meeting on March 8, 2023 with leaders of the project to map out what needs to be done.

Commissioner Redding stood in respect of the veterans. He said Veterans Park is very important to him. Commissioner Redding said it is being closed in and he would like to see other opportunities for this park. He said there are other areas that would give a lot more room for the park that would be safer. He expressed his appreciation to the veterans. Commissioner

Nugent said they voted to keep the park where it is. Mayor Roberts said he would like to explore options. Commissioner Mortimer asked who owns the park. Mayor Roberts said the city does. Commissioner Mortimer suggested appointing a committee to explore options.

Commissioner Smith gave a shout out to the line crew for putting up poles for a batters eye at Bradford High School baseball field.

Mayor Roberts said FMPA will hold a special workshop at the local Kiwanis Club Meeting. He said he would like a workshop with FMPA before the budget workshops. Mayor Roberts suggested the budget workshops start at 5:00 pm. Commissioner Mortimer suggested the second Tuesday of the month. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion for a budget workshop on March 14, 2023 at 5:00 pm. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 5-0.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.