

Commission Meeting Minutes
March 7, 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 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 first meeting of the month. Members attending included Mayor Scott Roberts, Commissioner Janice D. Mortimer, Commissioner Danny Nugent and Commissioner Andy Redding. Also present were City Clerk Jimmy Crosby, Deputy Clerk Lisa Heeder, Police Major John Riles, Attorney Clay Martin and City Manager Drew Mullins. Commissioner Shannon Smith was absent.

Mayor Roberts asked if there were any agenda changes. Clerk Crosby asked to remove item 4.D., 10.A. and 10.B. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve the changes. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve the agenda with the changes. Commissioner Redding made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the minutes of the February 21, 2023 Commission Meeting, Resolution Number 2023-21 amending the employee handbook by approving the policies for payment of accrued but unused leave time upon separation from employment, Resolution Number 2023-22 approving the agreement with STC Two LLC for a second amendment to the PCS Site Agreement and the commissioner bill review. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. Commissioner Mortimer asked for the person who reviewed the bills to be stated. Mayor Roberts said Commissioner Smith was unable to review the bills so he did it on his behalf. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Roberts asked for the closing of Market Road during fair operation hours March 7th through 12th. Michael Heeder said the Police Explorers and Uniformed Deputies will be controlling traffic and parking. Commissioner Mortimer asked what would happen if they said no. She said the fair comes every year and the only time they are concerned with the city is when they need something. Mr. Heeder said moving forward they will be more proactive with involving the city. Commissioner Mortimer said planning meetings should include the mayor. Mayor Roberts said if something goes wrong they will be called out. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the road closure. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. Commissioner Redding said he was at the ribbon cutting and there was no mention of the city.

Commissioner Mortimer said she shared her comments with Police Chief Jeff Johnson. 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 citizen participation.

Mayor Roberts asked Edrick Hamilton and Michael Heeder to talk about Juneteenth. Mr. Heeder stated his address as 932 Wilson Road in Starke. He said they are asking about a program not so much a sponsorship. Mr. Heeder said they would like to use the Downtown Square and close Call Street on June 10, 2023 from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm. Mr. Hamilton said Juneteenth is the official day of freedom. He said they will have churches singing, youth performing, food trucks and fireworks. He said they would also like to have a car or motorcycle show. Mr. Heeder said he is working on a plan. Commissioner Mortimer asked where the insurance would come from. Mr. Heeder said the North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce has expressed an interest in providing the insurance. Commissioner Nugent expressed concern for businesses if Call Street is closed. Mr. Heeder said the closing will only be from Church Street to Water Street so it will not affect businesses. Commissioner Nugent asked about train traffic. Mr. Heeder said CSX will send its own officers. Commissioner Redding made a motion to hold June 10, 2023 for the event until Mr. Heeder comes back with a plan. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. Mr. Mullins said they will need an application and insurance. Commissioner Mortimer asked if they would like the fee waived. Mr. Heeder said yes. Commissioner Redding added waiving the fee to his motion. Attorney Martin said there are elements that are not clear. Mr. Mullins suggested tabling this until the application is turned in. Commissioner Redding withdrew his motion. Commissioner Nugent withdrew his second. Mayor Roberts suggested bringing it back to the commission. Commissioner Mortimer said as a point of clarity they are in support of the event.

Mayor Roberts asked for the City Clerk report. Clerk Crosby reminded the Commissioners of the workshop next Tuesday at 5:00 pm. He said there will also be a presentation by FMFA at the local Kiwanis Club Meeting.

Mayor Roberts asked for the City Manager report. Mr. Mullins said he has nothing but will have a lot at the next meeting.

Mayor Roberts asked for the Police Chief report. Major Riles had nothing further.

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

Commissioner Nugent said he will be out of town for the workshop.

Commissioner Mortimer asked if the Planning & Zoning Board has attendance issues. Clerk Crosby said he is monitoring the problem. Commissioner Mortimer said there are plenty of citizens who would be willing to serve.

Commissioner Redding asked Attorney Martin if he had looked into the National Registry for Veterans Park. Attorney Martin said he asked the Veterans to reach out to the entity making it a National Registry and has not heard back. Attorney Martin said he expects that the title search will come back showing that the city owns the park. Commissioner Nugent said the Veterans do not want the park moved. Commissioner Mortimer asked Attorney Martin and Drew Mullins to report on Ms. Russ and the lift station at Pine Forest Apartments. Mr. Mullins said he will reach back out to Ms. Russ. Commissioner Mortimer asked who owns the lift station. Mr. Mullins said the complex owns the lift station but the city owns the lines. Mayor Roberts suggested sending a letter to Ms. Russ and the corporate office. Commissioner Nugent asked if there was any grant money to clean the banks of Alligator Creek where people fish. Clerk Crosby has spoken to people who believe there is grant money available. Mr. Mullins suggested a meeting with the Suwannee River Water Management District.

Mayor Roberts had nothing further.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 6:19 pm.