

Commission Meeting Minutes
March 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 Mortimer 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, Commissioner Danny Nugent, Commissioner Andy Redding and Commissioner Shannon Smith. Also present were Executive Assistant Cathy Bradley, 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 that item 4.B. be removed for corrections and brought back at the next meeting. Mr. Mullins asked to remove item 4.E. and 4.F. and to move item 4.H. to item 10.D. He asked to add item 10.E. Vero Pole Attachment Agreement. Clerk Crosby said he did not know anything about this. Mayor Roberts reiterated the changes and entertained a motion. Commissioner Smith made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the minutes of the March 7, 2023 Commission Meeting, Resolution Number 2023-23 approval of the FMPA rescission document, Resolution Number 2023-24 adopting the FEMA subaward and grant agreement, Resolution Number 2023-27 adoption of the auditor agreement with Powell & Jones, CPA and the commissioner bill review. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. 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." Mayor Roberts said Sandcastle Pines will be addressed later in the meeting. He called William Scott

Canatsey. Mr. Canatsey stated his address as 409 North Orange Street. He said the posted speed limit on Orange Street is 25 miles per hour. Mr. Canatsey said a daily speeder harasses the neighborhood and screams down the street. He said he has called the police a handful of times and offered to let them use his driveway to stop speeders. Mr. Canatsey asked about speedbumps. Chief Johnson said speedbumps are not wanted on that street because of the school. Mayor Roberts asked Mr. Mullins to look into this.

There were no public hearings.

Mayor Roberts asked for the City Clerk report. Clerk Crosby said the schedule is out for upcoming meetings. He said there will not be a meeting on April 4, 2023 because of the Legislative Action Days and most of the commissioners will be out of town. Clerk Crosby said the special meeting will be April 11, 2023, where they will be able to address any emergency items, but it will mainly be to begin the budget process. Clerk Crosby said we need a new server to upgrade the software and we are putting together a replacement plan for the server, desktops and laptops. Commissioner Nugent asked if the server should be an emergency item. Clerk Crosby said that would be helpful and said it will be purchased with ARA money. Commissioner Smith asked for an update on the ARA money. Clerk Crosby said there is \$285,000 left. Mayor Roberts said Clerk Crosby should move forward with the purchase of the server. Attorney Martin said from his conversation with Finance Director James Hughes the server qualifies as an emergency purchase. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to allow Clerk Crosby to purchase the server. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the purchase of the server as an emergency purchase. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Roberts asked for the City Manager report. Mr. Mullins addressed the RFQ for continuing consultant engineering services for various capital projects. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve the RFQ. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Mullins addressed the FGU agreement for discounted natural gas. He introduced Tom Geoffroy with Florida Gas Utility. Mr. Geoffroy said this is the biggest discount the City of Starke has seen in a long time. He said the City of Starke currently participates in four of these discounts. Mr. Geoffroy said this is split into two transactions for diversity. He said 45 cents is the minimum and there are exit clauses if you lose your customer base. Mr. Geoffroy said the savings is guaranteed at \$26,000 per year. He recommended entering into this directive. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to enter into the proposed directive. Commissioner Smith made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Mullins addressed the GFL solid waste contract renewal. He is looking for direction to move forward with the renewal. Mayor Roberts said he feels comfortable moving forward with this. He said the city has a good system with GFL for taking care of customer issues. He entertained a

motion to approve to move forward. Commissioner Nugent made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Mullins addressed approval of the Woodard & Curran contract with public records and E-Verify. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. Commissioner Mortimer asked when Mr. Mullins would be able to move forward. Mr. Mullins said April 1, 2023. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Mullins addressed the Vero pole attachment. He said the agreement is for 63 attachments at \$23.50 per month or about \$17,800 per year. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the pole attachment agreement. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Mullins said the issue with Ms. Russ at Pine Forest Apartments has been resolved. Mayor Roberts asked Mr. Mullins to get documentation. Commissioner Mortimer thanked Mr. Mullins.

Mayor Roberts asked for the Police Chief report. Chief Johnson said there is another change to the construction and downtown is a mess. Mr. Mullins said it is being addressed by Shannon Mobley.

Attorney Martin addressed the subdivision plat for Sandcastle Pines. He said this is a quasi-judicial hearing and any decision must be based on the evidence presented. Attorney Martin read instructions for the quasi-judicial hearing. He asked if any of the commissioners has had any ex parte communications. Commissioner Nugent said no. Commissioner Mortimer said no. Commissioner Redding said no. Commissioner Smith said no. Mayor Roberts said no. Attorney Martin swore in everyone who wanted to give testimony. Robert Williams came forward as legal council to Sandcastle Pines. He said they asked the city to rezone the property and the commission denied it. Mr. Williams said the proposal and site plan is single family residential that is compatible with the surrounding neighborhood. He said the city staff has done a great job in meeting the set of rules set by the city. Mr. Williams respectfully requested the approval of the site plan. Kevin Powell with the Planning & Zoning Department came forward. He said they reduced the number of homes from 25 to 22 and are not looking for rezoning because all concerns have been met except for the draw down of the retention pond. Attorney Martin asked if there were any party interveners. Clerk Crosby said not that he is aware of. Attorney Martin said at this time it would be appropriate for citizens wishing to comment to come forward. Mayor Roberts said the first citizen request form is from Terry Qualls. Mr. Qualls came forward and stated his address as 803 North Westmoreland Street. He said he has not seen the site plan. The commissioners said they have not seen it either. Attorney Martin asked Mr. Williams if he would object to taking a 5-minute break so the commissioners could look at the site plan. Mr. Williams said no. Mayor Roberts called the meeting back to order. Mr. Qualls expressed concern over putting 22 homes on 6 acres at the end of his road and the additional traffic and flooding it would create. Mayor Roberts called for Martin Sanders. Mr. Sanders stated his address as 809 North Westmoreland Street. He expressed concern over flooding and the street not holding up to the traffic caused by the construction. Mayor Roberts called for

Dede Frazier. Ms. Frazier stated her address as 821 Parkwood Place. She expressed concern over the traffic, speeding and flooding. She thanked the commissioners for hearing her out. Mayor Roberts called for Brady Lockwood. Mr. Lockwood stated his address as 505 North Westmoreland Street. He expressed concern over the traffic and the safety of the children in the neighborhood. He thanked the commissioners for hearing him out. Attorney Martin asked if the applicant would like to cross examine any of the witnesses. Mr. Williams said no. He explained the issues are flooding and traffic. He said development must happen and retain water to the 100-year flood plan. Mr. Williams said they have worked hard to meet the code and he is requesting approval of the project. Attorney Martin asked for staff comments. Mr. Powell said the concerns raised by the community should be addressed. He said the commissioners may want to look at the traffic study. Attorney Martin said if the commission wished to recess the hearing until the April 11, 2023 meeting this would be the time to do that. If not they could ask questions of the applicant or staff. Clerk Crosby expressed concern over the hearing taking time from the budget workshop if the hearing is recessed until April 11, 2023. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion. Commissioner Redding made a motion to recess the hearing until the next regular meeting so the commissioners could review all the data. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 5-0.

Attorney Martin said he was asked to look into the title for Veteran's Park. He said the park is clearly titled to the city with no limitations. Commissioner Smith asked if there is an agreement with the Veteran's. Attorney Martin said not according to the county's public record. Clerk Crosby offered to research the issue. Commissioner Nugent suggested researching Charles Schaefer.

Commissioner Nugent had nothing further.

Commissioner Mortimer had nothing further.

Commissioner Redding had nothing further.

Commissioner Smith asked Chief Johnson to work on the speeding issues.

Mayor Roberts said the next regular meeting is April 18, 2023 when the hearing will be resumed and questions can be brought back.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm.