

Commission Meeting Minutes
June 20, 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 Danny Nugent will lead us in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Roberts called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

This meeting was the second regular 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, City Manager Drew Mullins, Building and Zoning Official Kevin Powell and Fire Chief Gary Wise.

Mayor Roberts asked if there were any changes, additions or deletions to the agenda. Hearing none he said the agenda is approved as printed.

Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the minutes of the June 6, 2023 Commission Meeting, the Gainesville Gold Boot Drive July 1, 2023 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at US Highway 301 and State Road 100 and the commissioner bill review. Commissioner Redding made a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. 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 said there are three things to be brought before the commission. The Sandcastle Pines site plan, the fire department presentation and the police department presentation. He said after each presentation is when you are going to come up and speak. Mayor Roberts said you will be given three minutes. He asked if anyone else would like to turn in a citizen participation form. 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 asked for Robert Williams to come forward to address the Sandcastle Pines site plan. Attorney Martin asked anyone who wishes to testify to raise their right hand. He

administered the oath to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Attorney Martin asked if any of the commissioners had any ex parte communications. Commissioner Nugent said no. Commissioner Mortimer said no. Commissioner Redding said no. Commissioner Smith said no and Mayor Roberts said no. Mr. Williams said he represents the Sandcastle Pines Foundation. He said first he would like the staff report to be approved and that the requested changes have been made. Mr. Williams said the traffic report said that no changes would need to be made. He said the Saint Johns Water Management District reviewed and approved the plan. Mr. Williams said this is a good project that will meet a need. He thanked the commissioners, Mr. Powell and Clerk Crosby. Mr. Powell said at the last meeting the commissioners asked for some changes to the site plan. He said looking at the new site plan is concurrent with the land development code. Attorney Martin asked if there was any cross examination. There was none. Mayor Roberts asked Commissioner Nugent if he had any questions. Commissioner Nugent did not. Mayor Roberts asked Commissioner Mortimer if she had any questions. Commissioner Mortimer thanked Mr. Williams for coming back and coming into compliance with the wishes of the commission. She said it is important that they have something positive for the city. Commissioner Redding asked if the issues with the sidewalk had been addressed and the one lot had been turned into a residence. Mr. Powell said they have. Mayor Roberts asked Commissioner Smith if he had any questions. Commissioner Smith did not. Mayor Roberts asked about the deed restriction or HOA and if the residents would be members. Mr. Williams said the owners will be members. Mayor Roberts said that is the issue they have had. He said the owners could have a meeting and change anything that they want to change. Mr. Williams said he understands the thought but that is addressed in that actual terms of the lease that has to be approved by Florida Housing and Finance. Mayor Roberts expressed concern over Sandcastle Pines being the judge and the jury. He asked what the percentage is for income. Jessica Criss said five units will be at fifty percent and the remaining units will be at sixty percent of the median income of the area. Mayor Roberts said he would like taxes and damage to the road to be addressed in the motion. Mr. Williams said they will commit to paying taxes and fixing the road if they damage it. Attorney Martin asked if the taxes would be based on non-homesteaded property. Mr. Williams said it would have to be. Mayor Roberts said the property can be sold. He asked how long they perceive to keep the property. Ms. Criss said they have no intention of selling the property and it could only be sold if it was kept affordable for fifty years. Attorney Martin asked if the taxes would be kept on the land. Mr. Williams said yes. Mr. Roberts thanked Mr. Williams and Ms. Criss for coming. Attorney Martin suggested a motion that keeps the taxes with the land and a developer's agreement that addresses repair of the road and has a reasonable bond to cover the repairs and addresses the land development code. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to that effect for the site plan for Sandcastle Pines. Commissioner Smith made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.

Please see the attached transcript for this portion of the meeting.

Mayor Roberts called for the Clerk's Report. Clerk Crosby said the only meeting we have in July is July 11th. He said Starke and Bradford County secured \$2,000,000 in State funding for

infrastructure. He said it was worked hard for by State Senator Bradley and Representative Brannon as well as Speaker Pro Temp Clemons. Clerk Crosby expressed appreciation for them and the Governor. He said they are going to take the \$4,000,000 the county has committed and turn it into \$14,000,000 because we have the matching dollars available. Clerk Crosby said because they put up \$400,000 in ARA funds for City Walk the state will match with \$400,000. He said the Florida Department of Transportation has \$500,000 in their budget to do work downtown when they finish the overpass. Mayor Roberts said he can not speak highly enough about the working relationship between the city and county. He thanked County Commissioners Diane Andrews and Carolyn Spooner. Commission Chairperson Andrews thanked Mayor Roberts for allowing her to speak. She said it is very encouraging to see the county and the city working together. Commissioner Andrews said they are both working on budgets and having to make painful decisions. She said growth is coming to Bradford County and it is encouraging to know we are working together.

Mayor Roberts called for the City Manager Report. Mr. Mullins said he appreciates the work that Clerk Crosby did behind the scenes to get the \$4,000,000.

Mayor Roberts called for the Police Chief Report. Chief Johnson had nothing. Commissioner Redding said there is an issue with people running stop signs on Pratt Street. Chief Johnson suggested taking the stop signs down and putting in speed bumps. Mayor Roberts suggested Chief Johnson bring this back before them.

Mayor Roberts called for the Attorney Report. Attorney Martin had nothing further.

Commissioner Nugent said there are signs around Starke that need to be replaced or cleaned. He said Call Street needs to be repaired before it is signed off on. Mr. Mullins said they have been in discussions.

Commissioner Mortimer agreed with Commissioner Nugent about the streets. She invited everyone to the North Central Regional Planning Council Meeting Thursday when she will assume the Chairmanship of the Board. Mayor Roberts asked where it will be. Commissioner Mortimer said Lake City and the dinner is at 6:30 pm and the meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

Commissioner Redding asked who owns the property by Sonny's parking lot with the pond. Mr. Mullins said it is DOT's.

Commissioner Smith asked to schedule a budget workshop or put it on an agenda. Commissioner said wasn't there a motion directing the clerk and manager to do something with the budget. Clerk Crosby said they have what you have voted on for the budget and within a margin it is balanced. He suggested they take that as a base to work on. Commissioner Smith said there is only one meeting in July. Commissioner Mortimer suggested July 11th.

Commissioner Smith asked if it would be a workshop. Clerk Crosby said he will have it on the meeting agenda.

Mayor Roberts congratulated Commissioner Mortimer.

There being no further business Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Redding made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:54 pm.