

Commission Meeting Minutes
September 19, 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 and the Pledge of Allegiance. 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 5:31 pm.

This meeting was the second regular meeting of the month. Members attending included Mayor Scott Roberts, 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, City Attorney Clay Martin and City Manager Drew Mullins. Commissioner Janice D. Mortimer was absent.

Mayor Roberts asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Chief Johnson asked to add vehicles for surplus under item 11. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve the agenda with the change. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the agenda with the change. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the minutes of the September 5, 2023 Commission Meeting, the minutes of the September 7, 2023 Tentative Budget Hearing, Resolution Number 2023-54 adopting a health insurance opt out and payment plan, Resolution Number 2023-60 agreement with Jones Edmunds & Associates for general engineering and consulting services, Resolution Number 2023-61 agreement with Global Rental Company for an Altec Model AT40G bucket truck and the commissioner bill review. Commissioner Nugent made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 4-0.

Chief Johnson said there are a few things they want to do for Retiring Assistant Police Chief Barry Warren. Chief Johnson introduced Bradford County Sheriff Gordon Smith. Sheriff Smith came forward and talked about the great things that Assistant Chief Warren has done during his thirty years with the police department. Sheriff Smith presented Assistant Chief Warren with an award expressing the appreciation of the Bradford County Sheriff's Office for his many years of service.

Chief Johnson came forward and talked about the sacrifice from Assistant Chief Warren and his family. He talked about the children Assistant Chief Warren has helped through the Shop with a Cop program. Chief Johnson presented Assistant Chief Warren with a plaque for his dedicated service to the citizens of Starke.

Assistant Chief Warren said the community raised him and he gave back. Chief Johnson said they will do Assistant Chief Warren's final call at 9:30 am at the police department.

Clerk Crosby presented Assistant Chief Warren with a letter transferring his service revolver to him upon his retirement.

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." Clerk Crosby asked Bradford County Commissioner Chris Dougherty to come forward. Mr. Dougherty thanked the board for the opportunity to be here. He said a couple of years ago they lost an icon in Dr. Pete Gianas. Mr. Dougherty said Clay County is naming State Road 230 in Clay County Dr. Peter Gianas Memorial Highway. He said the county commission will hear a resolution Thursday night. Mr. Dougherty said they want this to be a city and county collaboration. He read the resolution making the honorary designation of a portion of State Road 230 Dr. Pete J. Gianas Memorial Highway. Mr. Dougherty said they would like to have the signs in the right-of-way so that it is seen going out towards Kingsley Lake and coming back into the city. He said he wanted to bring this before you and would like a partnership with the city and the county. Clerk Crosby suggested the commission vote on adding that the city would like to join with the county. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to join with the county in honor of Dr. Pete Gianis. Commissioner Smith made a motion. Mr. Dougherty suggested waiting until the rest of the county board has heard the resolution. Commissioner Smith withdrew his motion. Attorney Martin asked if the county attorney could reach out to him so they could work together on the resolution.

Mayor Roberts called for public hearings. Mayor Roberts said the first issue to be discussed is the proposed final millage. Clerk Crosby said the proposed final millage is 4.8754 mills. He said the proposed final millage rate of 4.8754 mills is a 4.1663% increase over the rolled-back rate of 4.6804 mills. Mayor Roberts asked for comments from the public regarding the proposed final millage. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Roberts asked for comments from the commission regarding the proposed final millage. There were no comments from the commission. Mayor Roberts asked Attorney Martin to read Resolution Number 2023-58. Attorney Martin said this is a resolution of the City of Starke, Florida, adopting the millage rate and levy of ad valorem taxes for the fiscal year 2023-2024; making certain findings in fact in support of the city adopting said millage rate and levy of ad valorem taxes; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date. He said should the commission wish to adopt this resolution the appropriate motion would be to adopt the resolution as read by title only. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve Resolution Number 2023-58 setting the

millage rate of 4.8754. Commissioner Redding made a motion to adopt Resolution Number 2023-58. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Roberts said the second issue to be discussed is the proposed final budget. Clerk Crosby said the proposed final budget is composed of the following expenditures and reserve totals: general fund \$4,175,536, special revenue funds \$1,243,648, enterprise funds \$35,409,847 for a total approved budget of \$40,829,031. Clerk Crosby said the proposed final budget total operating expenses are 49.07% more than last year's total operating expenses. Mayor Roberts asked for comments from the public regarding the proposed final budget. There were no comments from the public. Mayor Roberts asked for the reading of Resolution Number 2023-59. Attorney Martin said this is a resolution of the City of Starke, Florida, adopting the final budget for fiscal year 2023-2024; making certain findings of fact in support of the city adopting said budget; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date. He said should the commission wish to adopt this resolution the appropriate motion would be to adopt Resolution Number 2023-59 as read by title only. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to adopt the budget consisting of the following expenditures and reserve totals: general fund \$4,175,536, special revenues funds \$1,243,648, enterprise funds \$35,409,847 for a total approved budget of \$40,829,031. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to adopt Resolution Number 2023-59 adopting the final budget for fiscal year 2023-2024. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Roberts called for the clerk's report. Clerk Crosby said the 49% increase is because of the money for the new water and sewer plant. He said each commissioner has a copy of the code enforcement report and the report on online payments. Clerk Crosby said ADG is working on the online payment fees and is hoping for a resolution by January 2024.

Mayor Roberts called for the city manager's report. Mr. Mullins said there are two great articles in the Telegraph about the city and FMPA and about storm response. He said the old fire truck will be in the Homecoming Parade next Friday at 12:00 if anyone wants to ride in it.

Mayor Roberts called for the police chief report. Chief Johnson said there are two vehicles they are requesting to surplus. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve surplussing the vehicles. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the surplus. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 4-0. Chief Johnson said he and Attorney Martin have started work on the parking ordinance.

Mayor Roberts called for the attorney's report. Attorney Martin had nothing else.

Commissioner Nugent said the Northeast Florida League of Cities dinner is in Palatka on the 21st.

Commissioner Mortimer was absent.

Commissioner Redding thanked Mr. Mullins for getting the leaking valve fixed at Pratt Street and State Road 100. He asked that we get back to focusing on the Pratt Street canal.

Commissioner Smith said he would like to prioritize the air conditioning units at the fire department. He would like to have that taken care of ASAP.

Mayor Roberts had nothing further.

There being no further business Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Smith made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding and the meeting was adjourned at 6:14 pm.