

Commission Meeting Minutes  
October 17, 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 Commissioner Smith will lead us in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Roberts called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

This meeting was the second regular meeting of the month. Members attending included Mayor Scott Roberts, 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, City Manager Drew Mullins and Building and Zoning Official Kevin Powell. Commissioner Janice D. Mortimer and Commissioner Danny Nugent were absent.

Mayor Roberts asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. No one responded. Mayor Roberts asked to move item 14 to just before item 5. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 3-0.

Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the minutes of the October 3, 2023 Commission Meeting, Resolution Number 2024-01 Relating to the State Revolving Fund Loan Program authorizing the preparation and submission of a loan application and agreement, Resolution Number 2024-02 approval of extension of contract with Woodard & Curran for administrative services, Bradford Cowboys helmet drive at Highway 301 and State Road 16 on October 22, 2023 8:00 am to 1:00 pm with a rain date of October 29, 2023, Concerned Citizens of Bradford County Oktoberfest October 21, 2023 at 3:00 pm logistic support and the commissioner bill review. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 3-0.

Chief Johnson said DOT did not give an entrance to the square. He said they will make a driveway for it. Chief Johnson brought in two officers wearing pink badges for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. He introduced Officer Jarred Altman who used NARCAN on September 19, 2023 to save a life. Chief Johnson presented Officer Altman with a Life Saving Award. Commissioner Redding said turning left onto US Highway 301 is causing problems because of the construction. Chief Johnson said he will increase activity and encouraged the commissioners to call his cell phone if there are any issues and he will take care of them.

Mayor Roberts asked for Tobacco Free Bradford and Bradford SWAT to come forward and present on tobacco free parks. Teagan Bradley, Rose Wilsey and August Lefevres spoke about the dangers of tobacco and vaping and asked the commissioners to consider an ordinance to ban tobacco and vaping from public parks. Mayor Roberts asked for the pleasure of the board.

Commissioner Smith said he would like to move forward with drafting the ordinance. Commissioner Redding and Mayor Roberts agreed.

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." Alvin Hunter came forward and stated his address as 450 West Pratt Street. He talked about his deep involvement with veterans.

Mayor Roberts called for public hearings. Attorney Martin read the title of Ordinance Number 2023-16 relating to the sale and exchange of city property. He said should the commission wish to adopt the ordinance the motion should be to adopt Ordinance Number 2023-16 as read by title only. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion. Commissioner Redding made a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2023-16 on second reading. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 3-0.

Mayor Roberts said that A and F are not quasi-judicial. He suggested taking those first. Attorney Martin read the title of Ordinance Number 2023-08 amending the land development code pursuant to application LDC 23-01. He said should the commission wish to adopt the ordinance the motion should be to adopt Ordinance Number 2023-08 as read by title only. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2023-08. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 3-0.

Attorney Martin read the title of Ordinance Number 2023-17 pursuant to petition number ANX 23-01 relating to voluntary annexation. He said should the commission wish to adopt the ordinance the motion should be to adopt Ordinance Number 2023-17 as read by title only. Attorney Martin said a representative of the applicant is here should the commissioners have any questions. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2023-17. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. Commissioner Redding said he would like to hear from the applicant. Gerry Dedenbach with CHW came forward representing Avery Roberts. The motion passed 3-0.

Attorney Martin said there are four matters before you for quasi-judicial hearings. He said the first is Ordinance Number 2023-11 amending the future land use plan map of the comprehensive plan pursuant to application S230628A. Attorney Martin asked anyone who will be giving testimony to stand and raise their right hand. Attorney Martin administered the oath

to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth to Mr. Powell and property owner Johnny Bragg. Attorney Martin asked if any of the commissioners have had any ex-parte communications regarding these matters. Commissioner Smith said no. Commissioner Redding said no and Mayor Roberts said no. Attorney Martin read the ordinance by title. He asked Mr. Powell to speak on the matter. Mr. Powell said it is for second reading and he has no additional information. Attorney Martin asked if the commissioners had any questions. They had none. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2023-11. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2023-11. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 3-0. Attorney Martin read Ordinance Number 2023-12 by title. He asked Mr. Powell to speak on the matter. Mr. Powell said it is for second reading and he has no additional information. Attorney Martin said if the commission wishes to adopt the ordinance the appropriate motion would be to approve as read by title only. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2023-12 on second reading. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 3-0. Attorney Martin read Ordinance Number 2023-13 by title. He asked Mr. Powell to speak on the matter. Mr. Powell said it is for a future land use change, it has been approved by the Planning & Zoning Board and it is consistent with the surrounding properties. Attorney Martin asked if the Concurrency Management Study would be moved into evidence. Mr. Powell said yes. Attorney Martin said if the commission wishes to adopt the ordinance the appropriate motion would be to approve as read by title only. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2023-13 on first reading. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 3-0. Attorney Martin asked Mr. Powell to speak on the matter. Mr. Powell said it is for a future land use change, it has been approved by the Planning & Zoning Board and it is consistent with the surrounding properties. Attorney Martin asked if the Concurrency Management Study would be moved into evidence. Mr. Powell said yes. Attorney Martin said if the commission wishes to adopt the ordinance the appropriate motion would be to approve as read by title only. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2023-13 on first reading. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 3-0. Attorney Martin said Ordinance Number 2023-14 is the rezoning companion of Ordinance Number 2023-13. He read Ordinance Number 2023-14 by title. Mr. Powell said this was brought before the Planning & Zoning Board last night and they all voted to recommend approval. Attorney Martin asked if Mr. Powell would like to move the Concurrency Management Study into evidence. Mr. Powell said yes. Attorney Martin asked if there were any questions. There were none. He said if the commission wishes to adopt Ordinance Number 2023-14 they should do so as read by title only. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion. Commissioner Smith made a motion to adopt Ordinance Number 2023-14 as read by title only. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 3-0.

Mayor Roberts asked Dwight Hewett to come forward to discuss the request for consideration of a property exchange. Mr. Hewett stated his address as 6177-2 Kingsley Lake Drive. He said this project has been a long time coming. He said the original CityWalk was going to be 80 units but now they are looking to move forward with 45. Mr. Hewett introduced his partner Chris Raley. Their plans include capturing storm water for irrigation and using solar power. Mr. Hewett said the townhomes will be rent to own and cater to teachers, nurses, first responders

and corrections officers. They will be 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Mr. Hewett believes being walking distance from downtown will be good for local businesses. Mr. Raley said they will begin construction in 8 to 10 months. Mr. Hewett said they are looking to trade Veteran's Park for a property with close to 1,200 additional square feet. Mr. Hewett and Mr. Raley met with veterans about the proposed exchange. Attorney Martin said with the commissioner's direction he can work with Mr. Hewett on the exchange. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion. Commissioner Redding made a motion to have Attorney Martin work with Mr. Hewett to move forward with the land swap. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 3-0.

Mayor Roberts called for the clerk's report. Clerk Crosby said most of the agenda is planning and zoning. He thanked Mr. Powell for working with very little staff. Mr. Crosby introduced Lance Campbell the office manager for planning and zoning. Mr. Crosby said the City of Starke is growing and working with the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council. Mayor Roberts said one of the most important departments is building and zoning.

Mayor Roberts called for the city manager's report. Mr. Mullins asked Justin deMello with Woodard and Curran to give an update. Mr. deMello said the operations for the wastewater treatment plant are better than even. He handed out shovels used during the ground-breaking ceremony. Mr. deMello said the new plant is on schedule and on budget. He said the collection system was a little slow out of the gate but is moving forward. He asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Mayor Roberts called for the attorney's report. Attorney Martin said Folds and Walker will be hosting ethics training on December 6<sup>th</sup> and the food will be better.

Commissioner Smith had nothing further.

Commissioner Redding asked Mr. Mullins about the Sandcastle project. Mr. Mullins said there was an email from Terry Qualls about the road and the large trucks coming down it and having to back out. Mr. Mullins said they are trying to work with the school system to have better access.

Mayor Roberts had nothing further.

There being no further business Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm.