

Commission Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2023
5:30 pm

Vice Mayor Andy Redding 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.

Vice Mayor Redding called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

This meeting was the first regular meeting of the month. Members attending included Vice Mayor Andy Redding, Commissioner Janice D. Mortimer, Commissioner Danny Nugent and Commissioner Shannon Smith. Also present were Executive Assistant Cathy Bradley, City Clerk Jimmy Crosby, Police Lieutenant Jason Green, Deputy Clerk Lisa Heeder and City Attorney Clay Martin. Mayor Scott Roberts was absent.

Vice Mayor Redding asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. There were none.

Vice Mayor Redding entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Smith made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 4-0.

Vice Mayor Redding entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the minutes of the November 7, 2023 Commission Meeting, Resolution Number 2024-05 agreement with Starke FL Propco, LLC granting a license for access over certain lands for utilities installations, Resolution Number 2024-06 construction and maintenance agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for maintenance of certain landscaping and streetscaping improvements, Resolution Number 2024-07 accepting a conveyance of real property Southern Villas Drive extension as a public road right-of-way, Resolution Number 2024-08 accepting a conveyance of real property Alexander Road as a public road right-of-way, Resolution Number 2024-09 improvements agreement with Sandcastles Foundation and the commissioner bill review. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 4-0.

Vice Mayor Redding presented Fire Chief Gary Wise with a plaque for twenty-nine years of dedicated service to the citizens of Starke.

Vice Mayor Redding called for emergency items. There were none.

Vice Mayor Redding called for old business. There was none.

Vice Mayor Redding 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.” Vice Mayor Redding asked Albert Mize to come forward. Mr. Mize expressed his opposition to moving Veterans Park.

Vice Mayor Redding asked Melanie Jackson to come forward. Miss Jackson talked about the Bradford County Public Library’s Christmas Carnival. She asked to close the road between Pratt Street and Broadway Street. She said she has spoken to the police department so they know about it. Attorney Martin suggested a motion be contingent on the organization filing the proper paperwork. Vice Mayor Redding entertained a motion to support the event at the Bradford County Public Library. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to support the event when the proper paperwork is completed. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 4-0.

Vice Mayor Redding called for public hearings. There were none.

Vice Mayor Redding called for the clerk’s report. Clerk Crosby reminded the commissioners about the tree lighting downtown at 6:00 pm on Friday night and Christmas on Call Street Saturday followed by the Christmas Parade at 6:00 pm. He said there will be preparations for any of the commissioners or city officials and their family that want to ride in the parade.

Vice Mayor Redding called for the police chief report. Lieutenant Green said they have two light towers they are trying to surplus. Attorney Martin said those were on the consent agenda so that’s already been approved.

Attorney Martin said you have before you Resolution Number 2024-10 agreement with Kingsley Development for the exchange of real property. He said the ordinance you adopted earlier this fall allows the city to engage in a land swap that requires a hearing tonight to give anybody in the audience the opportunity to speak for three minutes. Attorney Martin read the resolution by title. Vice Mayor Redding asked if anyone would like to speak. Carl Peterson came forward and stated his address as 122 South Thompson Street in Starke. He agreed with Mr. Mize. American Legion Commander Norman Dowdy came forward and expressed full agreement with the exchange. Alvin Hunter came forward and stated his address as 455 West Pratt Street in Starke. He said the American Legion and the Starke Veterans Advisory Council with a majority of the membership present agreed to back the plan that is in place. Debra Mize came forward and expressed concern over Veterans Park. Junior Army Instructor John Crews came forward to express support of the move of Veterans Park. Vice Mayor Redding said in the end our visions are all to celebrate our veterans and to include all veterans. Commissioner Nugent said he is for the property swap but he wants to make sure that the facility they plan on building is the two buildings that they showed us. Dwight Hewett said the project that they showed the commissioners that they call CityWalk is exactly what they plan to build there. Commissioner Smtih said he wanted reassurance that they weren’t going to do something else with that

property and if there was any kind of change they would need to come back and address that issue together. Mr. Hewett said they are making it a priority for military, first responders, nurses and teachers to be the only group they are going to talk to in the beginning. Chris Raley said the depiction of the site plan is exactly what we are going to do as well as the elevations we were asked to put in. Commissioner Smith asked what the timeframe is. Mr. Hewett said they have a lot to go through still so maybe the groundbreaking will be the end of next year. He said they hope to start sooner. Mr. Raley said the zoning has to be changed on the swapped property. Vice Mayor Redding entertained a motion. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve the agreement. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 4-0. Attorney Martin said he is looking forward to seeing everybody tomorrow night for ethics training.

Vice Mayor Redding called for the commissioner reports. Commissioner Nugent said the Northeast Florida League of Cities Christmas Dinner will be in Lake City.

Commissioner Smith said Mrs. Brown fell on city property and we are working with her and the insurance company. He made a motion to front payment for Patricia Brown's dental work and be reimbursed by the insurance company. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Mortimer said the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County is preparing for the seventh annual MLK Banquet to be held on January 13, 2024 at 6:00 pm at the Charley E. Johns Conference Center and the city will have a table so let her know if you would like a ticket.

Vice Mayor Redding had nothing further so he entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 pm.