

Commission Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2024
5:30 pm

Mayor Roberts said before we begin the official meeting of the City of Starke 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 a prayer followed by the Pledge.

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

This was the second regular meeting of the month. Members in attendance 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, Interim Fire Chief Jason Clemons, Operations Director Jimmy Crosby, Attorney Allison Folds, Deputy Clerk Lisa Heeder, Finance Director James Hughes and City Manager Drew Mullins.

Mayor Roberts said I will move on to agenda changes any additions or deletions. Mr. Crosby asked to add Resolution Number 2024-44 as 8.C. and proposed millage and budget hearing dates as 10.B. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the agenda with changes. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. Commissioner Mortimer asked where is 144th Street in the City of Starke? Commissioner Redding said it comes out at 301 where VyStar, IHOP and Tractor Supply are. Commissioner Mortimer said thank you. Commissioner Smith said there was a group out a couple weeks ago and they did not have vests on. I don't remember us approving it as well but we definitely need to make sure they get vests and all the safety procedures are followed. Mayor Roberts asked for any further discussion. There was none. The motion passed 5-0.

There was no old business.

There were no emergency items.

Mayor Roberts said the City of Starke welcomes you to this meeting. This is a time 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. There

was no citizen participation.

Mayor Roberts said moving into the public hearings. Attorney Folds said first is Ordinance Number 2024-17. An ordinance pertaining to water and wastewater service within the City of Starke; establishing the schedule of water and wastewater rates and charges of the City of Starke; repealing all ordinances in conflict; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date. The appropriate motion would be to pass Ordinance Number 2024-17 on second reading. Mayor Roberts said you've heard the second reading for Ordinance 2024-17. I would entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Redding made a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2024-17 on second reading. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0.

Attorney Folds said the next is an ordinance on first reading. Ordinance Number 2024-18 an ordinance of the City Commission of the City of Starke, Florida adopting the 2024-2028 five-year capital improvement program annual update; providing for legislative findings; providing for severability; providing for exclusion from codification; and providing for an effective date. The appropriate motion would be to pass Ordinance Number 2024-18 on first reading by title. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-18. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. Commissioner Mortimer said I have a question on the parks and recreation. I don't see Thomas Street Park so what improvements what renovations are we applying for with the \$50,000 FRDAP for Edwards Road Park? Mr. Crosby said what are you talking about specifically on this? Commissioner Mortimer said parks and recreation, Edwards Road Park Renovations. Thomas Street Park needs renovations more than any park that we have. Mr. Crosby said we have to take turns with each one. So, I'm assuming that you would like to amend the ordinance to add \$50,000 for Thomas Street Park for the 2026 budget. It's just a projection of what we are looking out for. So, I think the commissioner's point is well taken that it should be shown in the plan. I think that a motion would be in order if the commission chooses to add Thomas Street Park under the parks and recreation. I think 2026 would probably be the first year that we can do anything. Mayor Roberts asked can we add this right now and include it in the first reading so we don't have to redo it? Mr. Crosby said yes. Mayor Roberts said so we're amending the motion to add that to the plan. Mr. Crosby said you're entertaining a motion to amend the ordinance as read to include Thomas Street Park for \$50,000 for that grant and the plan for the year 2026. Commissioner Mortimer said before we get there for a point of clarity for me is there a FRDAP grant that is still open that we're still working on for Thomas Street Park because I know we're doing some work out there? Mr. Mullins said yes. That's the one that has not been closed. So, I understand we can't apply for one while one is open. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to offer an amendment to the motion to add Thomas Street Park for a \$50,000 FRDAP grant for the fiscal year 2026 estimated budget. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 5-0. Mr. Crosby said now you need to go back to your original motion and second to pass the ordinance. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Roberts said moving on to 8.C. Attorney Folds said this is Resolution Number 2024-44 a resolution of the City of Starke, Florida addressing the city's employee retirement benefits; recognizing the need for such benefits to be competitive with those

offered by other employers; recognizing employees may prefer control over their retirement funds through the 457(b) deferred compensation plan; making certain findings of fact in support of the city adopting a defined benefit plan opt out and contribution plan; adopting a defined benefit opt out and contribution plan; adopting provisions to be included in the city's employee handbook; directing the city clerk and city manager to develop provisions for further approval by the city commission to be included in the city's employee benefits cafeteria plan document; directing the city clerk and city manager to give effect to mandates of this resolution; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing for an effective date. The appropriate motion would be to pass resolution number 2024-44. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to pass resolution number 2024-44. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Roberts said moving on to the City Manager's report. Mr. Mullins said there is no law enforcement report so if you want to move to 10.B. Mr. Crosby said based on our workshop we would appreciate entertaining a motion to set the tentative millage rate at 4.3879 which would be a decrease of 10%. It would be dropping down from where it is now. Commissioner Smith made a motion that we move our millage rate to 4.3879. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Redding said on the law enforcement report. I recommend that we have a report once a month on the first meeting of the month. Let's put it on the record. Mayor Roberts said we'll put it on the record.

Mr. Mullins said Mr. Crosby has taught me a lot, and number one is to delegate, so I certainly appreciate him for everything he's doing.

Attorney Folds said I would like to thank Mr. Crosby for helping the city attorney with procedural matters.

Commissioner Smith said we've got one more thing under the city manager. The tentative dates. Mayor Roberts said thanks for reminding me. The dates were September 5th and 17th. We're going to have our final budget hearings on September 5th and September 17th at 5:00 pm. Commissioner Smith made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Roberts said moving right along to the commissioner comments and reports. Mr. Nugent. Commissioner Nugent said I gave Mr. Crosby the information on the League of Cities breakfast at the convention. We need to have a count of who wants to attend.

Commissioner Smith said in our budget meeting, we talked about a few things. We also came across an idea maybe to use the late fees towards our parks, designate the money as a donation from the enterprise fund to the city. I would like if it's good with the board, if we could direct the city manager to bring something back to us so we can put that in some type of ordinance or resolution. I don't know if we need to make a motion on it or just the wishes of the board. Commissioner Mortimer said just direction, but I have a question. So, are you thinking a specific amount? Commissioner Smith said I would

divide it by three. I would bring it in every quarter. Whatever we generate goes to that park. So, we're not expending our funds. Whatever we collect, we can divide it up. Each quarter goes to a park and we just rotate. Put the three parks in a hat and draw one out. Commissioner Mortimer said I don't think that's fair, because we have parks that have been neglected and have a greater need than others. Commissioner Smith said just to start the first project. Commissioner Mortimer said I think we need to look at where the greater need is and start there. Commissioner Smith said do we want to direct the city manager to bring back the order from that? Mayor Roberts said if you all will get with the city manager on where you would like to see it come back and get it brought back to us at the next meeting then we can decide on that either by priorities or concentrate on the bathrooms or whatever.

Commissioner Mortimer said we would like to announce that I am co-sponsoring a nonpartisan political forum on next Thursday, July 25 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. It's going to be at the Church of God by Faith Community Learning Center 721 Old Lawtey Road. We reached out to all of the local candidates and we've received a confirmation that they're all going to be there. We have some that are running for state offices and other positions that are going to be there. So please come out. We're going to have light refreshments.

Commissioner Redding said I'm good, thank you.

Mayor Roberts said I would like to bring up something. I don't know that we need to vote on or give some direction. In the past we've given a break on irrigation meters. We've given a brief time, either 30 days or 60 days and we'll offer it at a discounted rate to our customers. I've talked to Mr. Crosby and Mr. Mullins and I think last time we did it the cost was about \$350 and that covers our cost. I'd like to offer that for at least 60 days. Is that something that you'd be willing to do. Commissioner Mortimer said yes. Mayor Roberts said I think it needs to be in the form of a motion. I'd entertain a motion to that effect. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to that effect. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 5-0.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:57 pm.