

Commission Meeting Minutes
August 6, 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 Commissioner Redding will lead us in prayer followed by the pledge.

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

This was the first regular meeting of the month. Members in attendance included Mayor Scott Roberts, Commissioner Janice D. Mortimer, Commissioner Danny Nugent and Commissioner Andy Redding. Also present were Executive Assistant Cathy Bradley, Operations Director Jimmy Crosby, City Manager Drew Mullins and Attorney Scott Walker. Commissioner Shannon Smith was absent.

Mayor Roberts asked if there are any additions or deletions to the agenda. Hearing none he entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Nugent made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Roberts asked the commissioners to look over the consent agenda. He entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Redding made a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Roberts said we are missing Commissioner Smith tonight. He is not in attendance.

Mayor Roberts said moving on to old business. There was none.

Mayor Roberts said I have no emergency items.

Mayor Roberts said the citizens request is the next up. 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 welcome. There were no citizen requests.

Mayor Roberts said at this point we'll move on to public hearings and the second reading

of Ordinance 2024-18. Attorney Walker said this is 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 the codification; and providing for an effective date. The appropriate motion is to pass Ordinance Number 2024-18 as read by title only. Mayor Roberts said you have heard the second reading of Ordinance Number 2024-18. I would entertain a motion to adopt the second reading. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-18 on second reading, as read by title only. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Roberts said there are no quasi-judicial hearings at this time.

Mayor Roberts said moving on to the city manager's report. Mr. Mullins said thank you, Mr. Mayor. I want to address number 10.B. Mr. Crosby said you have the report. The architect looked at it in pretty good detail and determined that we're probably looking at roughly \$350,000 to get the building even in condition to be a solid warehouse. It's right down in the middle of town. Staff recommendation is that we demolish the building and then we just go ahead and pave that whole thing as a nice parking lot for downtown. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to go forward with the demolition of the building. Commissioner Nugent made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. Mayor Roberts said any further discussion. Commissioner Redding said I just want to say that I'm in favor of this being demolished, but I really want to see that parking lot completed. Commissioner Mortimer asked if they have an estimate on what it's going to cost to demolish it or is that something that we can do ourselves. Mr. Crosby said I think we can do most of it ourselves. If we can't, we'll come back to you. If it is over our spending authority, we'll come back to you if it's not we will take care of it. Mayor Roberts said we have a motion and a second. The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Mullins said number C is a coordination with Mr. Crosby and Woodard & Curran because a lot of this has to do with grant work. Project Manager Amanda Boone with Woodard & Curran presented the Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to accept the Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan that we've been presented tonight. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 4-0.

Morgan French introduced Federal Fiscal Solutions Specialist Laura Tessier with Woodard & Curran. Mrs. Tessier presented the Community Change Grant funding opportunity. Mayor Roberts said did you need a formal vote for us to move forward on this or not? Mrs. French said just to make sure that we have the green light to proceed. The commissioners all agreed that they want to proceed. Mr. Crosby said we can do the heavy lifting on our end and that's primarily because you all allowed us to develop staff and to bring on staff that is of the quality that can perform at this level.

Mayor Roberts said Mr. Mullins do you have anything else? Mr. Mullins said I went to the

FMEA conference and I spoke about the benefits of having municipal electric. We are traditionally about \$23 less than co-ops and the IOUs investor-owned utilities. We're where we need to be and I mean industry standard. In the past five years alone our reliability has gone up and I'm sure you all noticed fewer power outages and that has to do with the staff that you have. I encourage you all to go next year if you want. It's going to be at Sawgrass.

Mayor Roberts asked Attorney Walker do you have an attorney's report or anything? Attorney Walker said all I've got to say is these are exciting times. I'm fascinated to hear what you've got in mind for Alligator Creek. That sounds like it's going to be a really interesting project.

Mayor Roberts said moving on to comments. Commissioner Nugent. Commissioner Nugent said last week, there was a gentleman that fell down in the middle of 16. I had to help him out of the road and called 911 and our fire department was there in less than five minutes and then the ambulance showed up right afterwards. It was a really fast response.

Commissioner Mortimer said I just have two things. When we approve these boot drives, we're giving the city's permission to collect money. A couple of weeks ago, there were two boot drives, one on 16 and one out on 144 and I witnessed the people down on the south end, they had children in the road with vest on collecting money. So, I pulled over and I brought it to their attention and then I called Captain Mueller and he sent somebody right out to correct the issue but I just think that we need to make sure that before we give these people permission to collect this funds that we are sure that they have an understanding of what they can and can't do because it could have been a very tragic event. We just have to make sure that these people understand what they're doing and no kids. The other thing is, I want to thank Mayor Roberts. I want to thank Vice Mayor Redding. I want to thank Mr. Crosby, and I want to thank Mr. Mullins for supporting me and the political forum that I co-sponsored on the 25th. It was a tremendous turnout. I really appreciate you guys taking time out of your busy schedules to come and participate. The Mayor participated as well as the Vice Mayor. So, I just want to say thank you guys. I appreciate it.

Commissioner Redding said the entire city staff did great during the storm.

Mayor Roberts said we got to this point to look at projects like we're looking at tonight because we're staffed like we are. What I would like to see is Mr. Mullins and Mr. Crosby to get together. We have been operating the last two and a half years. Working together and getting things done. I'd like to see that formalized in the form of an ordinance and brought back to us. If I could have you all to maybe get with legal and then we bring something back to basically solidify what we've already been doing. We've been basically doing it but we need to make it official with legal. So, if you all get with Scott Walker and get the language and then I think we can go forward with that. Commissioner Mortimer said can you have that ready by the 20th? Mayor Roberts said

the next meeting would be good. If there is no objection to them doing that, I think we'll go ahead and get that done. All the presentations were great. I appreciate the work everybody is doing. With that motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to adjourn.