

Commission Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2024
5:30 pm

Mayor Roberts said before we begin the official meeting of the City of Starke City Commission, there'll be a time of voluntary prayer and the pledge of allegiance. Those willing to do so are asked to stand and Commissioner Mortimer will lead us in a prayer followed by the pledge.

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

Members present included Mayor Scott Roberts, Commissioner Janice D. Mortimer, Commissioner Danny Nugent, Commissioner Andy Redding and Commissioner Shannon Smith. Also in attendance were Executive Assistant Cathy Bradley, Fire Chief Jason Clemmons, Operations Director Jimmy Crosby, Attorney Allison Folds, Deputy Clerk Lisa Heeder, City Manager Drew Mullins, Captain Kevin Mueller and Building & Zoning Official Kevin Powell.

Mayor Roberts asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Commissioner Mortimer asked to remove items 4B and 4D and put them under the city manager. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Redding made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Roberts called for the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the minutes of the August 20, 2024 Commissioner Meeting, Resolution Number 2024-48 agreement with Infrastructure Consulting & Engineering for Professional Engineering Services for the water line replacement CDBG Grant, the square use for the BFFL rib cook-off October 26, 2024 and the Commissioner bill review. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Redding made a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.

There were no emergency items.

Mayor Roberts said 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 time for personal accusations or derogatory remarks to or about city personnel. If you would like to address the City 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 limit your comments to three minutes. He called Brian Blake to come forward. Mr. Blake talked about bringing the recreation department back.

Mayor Roberts called Chris Russell to come forward. Mr. Russell said I'm with Woodard & Curran. I'm just here to represent utilities and answer any questions you may have this evening.

Mayor Roberts called for public hearings. Attorney Folds read Ordinance Number 2024-19 by title. An ordinance of the City Commission of the City of Starke, Florida, relating to Chapter 2, Article III; repealing and replacing the city manager with the position of the Chief Administrative Officer position in the City of Starke Florida; creating Chapter 2, Article III, Division 5, entitled the General Manager, creating the office, appointment, duties, qualifications, removal and compensation the same: updating of policies, procedures and handbooks; providing direction for qualification of this ordinance; repealing all ordinances in conflict; providing for severability; and providing an effective date. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2024-19. Commissioner Nugent made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Roberts called for Resolution Number 2024-46. Attorney Folds read Resolution Number 2024-46 by title. A resolution of the City of Starke, Florida approving that certain agreement between the city and James V. Crosby, Jr. for employment as the Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Starke; making certain findings of fact in support of the city approving said agreement; recognizing the authority of the Mayor to execute and bind the city to said agreement; recognizing the authority of the Vice-Mayor to execute and bind the city to said agreement in the absence of the mayor; directing the Mayor or Vice-Mayor, as appropriate, to execute and bind the city to said agreement, repealing all prior ordinances or all resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve Resolution Number 2024-46. Commissioner Nugent made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Roberts called for recreation. Commissioner Smith said we used to have a Parks and Recreation Director that was never replaced. He asked about having some workshops to look into getting the Parks and Recreation Director back and see what they can do for our kids in the community. He asked Mr. Blake to come back up. Commissioner Nugent said we had a Recreation Department for years and over 80% of the kids who participated were from the county but the whole burden was placed on the city. Mr. Blake said kids need community service hours for college applications and they have the ability to work on the fields. He volunteered his time to put the budget together. Commissioner Redding said he would like a workshop with a presentation. Mr. Crosby said we put \$100,000 in the budget for recreation for 2025. Commissioner Mortimer said I have always been a supporter of recreation. She would like to give Mr. Crosby an opportunity to lay out a plan and bring it back to them and invite the county. Commissioner Redding agreed. He asked Mr. Blake to do a presentation. Mayor Roberts agreed. He thinks they should let either Mr. Crosby or Mr. Mullins get back with them and come up with a date for a workshop.

Mayor Smith called for quasi-judicial hearings. Attorney Folds said A is not a quasi-judicial hearing. He read the title of Ordinance Number 2024-16 an ordinance of the City of Starke, Florida, amending the City of Starke Land Development Code, as amended, pursuant to an application, LDC 24-02, by the City Commission, relating to an amendment to the text of the Land Development Code; providing for amending Section 1-12 entitled definitions by adding definitions for above- ground fueling stations and electric distribution substation; providing for amending Section 4 by adding electric distribution substation as a permitted use in certain zoning districts in accordance with Section 163.3208, Florida Statutes, as amended; providing for amending Section 4 by adding above-ground fueling stations as an accessory use to electric distribution substations in certain zoning districts; providing for amending Division 4 entitled miscellaneous provisions by adding Section 4-219 entitled electric distribution substations by adding supplementary requirements consistent with policy A.1.28 of the Comprehensive Plan; providing for amending Division 4 entitled miscellaneous provisions by adding Section 4-220 entitled above-ground fueling, gas, or chemical storage tanks by adding supplementary requirements for above-ground storage tanks; providing for severability; repealing all ordinances in conflict; and providing an effective date. Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2024-16. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2024-16 as read by title only on first reading. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding for further discussion. Commissioner Nugent expressed concern over the tanks being so close to the hospital. He would like it to be an underground tank. Mr. Powell said we are trying to get the language for the state statute. He said where that fuel station is going is in a flood zone, so you are not going to get your tanks underground there. Commissioner Redding said the upper and lower explosive limits for diesel fuel is not going to meet a point that it is going to be a hazard for the hospital. Mayor Roberts said even the city itself has some above ground tanks. He called for a vote. The motion passed 4-1. Commissioner Nugent opposed the motion.

Mayor Roberts called for Ordinance Number 2024-20. Attorney Folds asked if any of the Commissioners had any ex parte communications regarding this. Commissioner Nugent said no, sir. Mayor Roberts said no, sir. Commissioner Smith said no, sir. Commissioner Mortimer said no, sir. Commissioner Redding said no, sir. Attorney Folds read Ordinance Number 2024-20 by title an ordinance of the City of Starke, Florida, amending the Future Land Use Plan Map of the City of Starke Comprehensive Plan, as amended, relating to an amendment of 50 or less acres of land, pursuant to an application, S240730A, by the property owners of said acreage, under the amendment procedures established under Sections 163.3161 through 163.3248, of the Florida statutes as amended; providing for a change in land use classification for medium density, residential (more than two and less than or equal to eight units per acre) to commercial on certain lands within the corporate limits of the City of Starke, Florida; providing severability; repealing all ordinances in conflict; providing an effective date. Attorney Folds asked anyone testifying to stand and raise their right hand. Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God. Mr. Powell said I do.

This is our second reading for this ordinance. Planning and Zoning does not have any additional information on this. Mayor Roberts asked if there are any questions. There were none. He asked if there was anyone who wanted to speak. There was not. He entertained a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2024-20 on second reading. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Roberts called for Ordinance Number 2024-21 on second reading. Attorney Folds read Ordinance Number 2024-21 by title an ordinance of the City of Starke, Florida amending the zoning map of the City of Starke Land Development Code, as amended; relating to the rezoning of less than 10 contiguous acres of land, pursuant to an application Z 24-02 by the property owners of said acreage; providing for rezoning from multi-family, medium density district (R-2A) to highway commercial district (B-3) of certain lands lying within the corporate limits of the City of Starke, Florida; repealing all ordinances in conflict; providing for severability; and providing an effective date. Mr. Powell said this is the second reading. Planning & Zoning does not have any new information. Mayor Roberts asked for any questions. There were none. He entertained a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance Number 2024-21. Commissioner Redding made a motion to approve Ordinance Number 2024-21 on second reading. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Roberts called for the General Manager's Report. Commissioner Mortimer said I had some questions on Resolution Number 2024-47 because it was my understanding that we aren't doing any more business with Andy Easton. Mr. Mullins said this was applied for a little under three years ago. It was awarded about two and a half years ago and the Department of Commerce finally got the grant agreement to us earlier this year. Commissioner Mortimer said this is closing out previous work. Mr. Mullins said yes. Commissioner Mortimer asked Mr. Russell to come up. She asked about the category of overhead costs for \$117,024. What falls under overhead costs. Mr. Russell said that is going to be for labor overhead. Mr. Mullins said overall this budget is actually a decrease from the previous year. Mayor Roberts said we will go back to Resolution Number 2024 - 47. He entertained a motion to approve Resolution Number 2024-47. Commissioner Nugent made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Redding. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Roberts called for the Woodard & Curran wastewater contract for year two operating budget. He entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Redding made a motion to approve the second year operating budget for Woodard and Curran. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Mullins said the phase two of the collection system project for line replacement is getting ready to start.

Commissioner Redding for an update on the SAFER Grant. Mr. Crosby said we are constantly checking on that. Chief Clemons said we should know by September 30th.

Mayor Roberts called for the Chief Administrative Officer report. Mr. Crosby said the Tentative Budget Hearing is September 5th at 5:01 pm and the Final Budget hearing is September 17th. The Northeast Florida League of Cities meeting is Thursday the 19th and if you want to attend you need to get that information to us by Thursday the 12th which is this coming Thursday.

Attorney Folds had nothing to report.

Mayor Roberts called for the Law Enforcement Report. Captain Mueller said he emailed the report. Commissioner Mortimer asked him to send it a little earlier. Commissioner Smith asked about semis parking on State Road 16. Captain Mueller said he will follow up.

Mayor Roberts called for the Commissioner's Reports. Commissioner Nugent had nothing further.

Commissioner Smith had nothing further.

Commissioner Mortimer had nothing further.

Commissioner Redding had nothing further.

Mayor Roberts had nothing further.

Mayor Roberts entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Redding made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm.