

Commission Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2025
5:30 pm

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

Members in attendance included Mayor Andy Redding, Commissioner Bob Milner, Commissioner Janice D. Mortimer and Commissioner Scott Roberts. Also in attendance were Attorney Danielle Adams, Executive Assistant Cathy Bradley, Building & Zoning Office Manager Lance Campbell, Chief Administrative Officer Jimmy Crosby, Executive Assistant Lisa Heeder, Finance Director James Hughes, Code Enforcement Officer Nick Krahle and General Manager Drew Mullins. Commissioner Danny Nugent was absent.

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

Mayor Redding called for the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the Minutes of the December 17, 2024 Commission Meeting and the commissioner bill review. Commissioner Milner made a motion to approve the consent agenda as he reviewed the bills and found everything to be in order. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 4-0.

There was no old business.

There were no emergency items.

Mayor Redding called for citizen's participation. Joseph Davis came forward and talked about the Small Business Administration and applying online for hurricane damage disaster loans.

Mayor Redding called for public hearings. Attorney Adams read Ordinance Number 2025-01 by title. An ordinance of the City of Starke, Florida, amending the Starke Firefighters' Retirement System, Chapter 78, Article IV, Division 3, as amended, by amending Section 78-171 "definitions" by adding a definition of "cancer"; by amending Section 78-182, "eligibility for disability retirement" by adding that cancer is presumed to have occurred in the line of duty; and by amending Section 78-185, "benefits payable to beneficiary upon member's death" by providing that death from cancer has occurred in the line of duty; providing for codification, severability, and conflicts; providing an effective date. Mayor Redding entertained a motion. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to adopt on second reading Ordinance Number 2025-01 as read by title only. It was seconded by Commissioner Milner. The motion passed 4-0.

Attorney Adams read Ordinance Number 2025-02 by title. An ordinance of the City of

Starke, Florida calling for a referendum question to be placed before the qualified electors of the City of Starke at the next special election which is scheduled for April 8, 2025; providing charter referendum question determining whether to adopt the proposed amendments to the charter for the City of Starke; providing for the full text of the proposed amended charter for the City of Starke; providing for requisite ballot language; providing for repeal of all conflicting ordinances; providing for severability and providing an effective date. Mr. Crosby said the language that will be on the ballot will be "shall the city charter be amended to remove any reference to the city clerk and respective role and powers and allow the city commission to appoint a chief administrative officer to perform any duties of the former city clerk position". Mayor Redding entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Roberts made a motion approve. It was seconded by Commissioner Milner. The motion passed 4-0.

There were no quasi-judicial hearings.

Mayor Redding called for the general manager's report. Mr. Mullins said CSX is doing some track maintenance. The bill comparison came out and municipalities are generally lower than IOUs. GIS of our roads, electric poles, transformers, street signs is going to be starting in the first quarter of this year. We are going to apply for a natural gas technical assistance grant that comes with GIS mapping of the natural gas system and leak detection equipment. Next is an energy improvements grant and I am including capacitors, AMI and electric metering. We've begun the process on septic to sewer, so we've identified those water-only accounts. I've sent that over to our engineers and we are looking for grant opportunities now. Last is marketing for our natural gas system.

Mayor Redding called for the chief administrative officer's report. Mr. Crosby said we want to get a picture of the commission on January 21st. Tomorrow, we will present to the legislative delegation for \$2,000,000 for a construction project on highway 16. Can we also include our support of the Concerned Citizens and the county's request for \$900,000. Commissioner Milner made a motion that we author a letter of support for the RJE project. It was seconded by Commissioner Robers. The motion passed 4-0

Mayor Redding said Captain Mueller is not here for this evening's law enforcement report.

Mayor Redding called for the attorney's report. Attorney Adams said at our last meeting we discussed doing the evaluation of the chief administrative officer and each of you submitted responses. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve a 20% increase in the chief administrative officer's salary effective now. It was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Redding called for the commissioner reports. Commissioner Mortimer said the MLK banquet is scheduled for January 18th at 6:00 pm at the Charlie Johns Conference Center. The city again is being given a table for eight as an appreciation for our support throughout the year.

Mayor Redding entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Milner. The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 pm.