

Commission Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2025
5:30 pm

Mayor Redding called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. He opened the meeting with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members in attendance included Mayor Andy Redding, Commissioner Bob Milner, Commissioner Janice D. Mortimer, Commissioner Danny Nugent and Commissioner Scott Roberts. Also in attendance were Attorney Danielle Adams, Executive Assistant Cathy Bradley, Building & Zoning Office Manager Lance Campbell, Fire Chief Jason Clemons, Executive Assistant Lisa Heeder, Finance Director James Hughes, Code Enforcement Officer Nick Krah, Grants Coordinator Becky May, General Manager Drew Mullins and Operations Director David Sparks.

Mayor Redding called for any agenda additions or deletions. Mayor Redding suggested adding Steven Goodman when he gets here. Mayor Redding entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Milner made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Redding entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. The consent agenda consisted of the minutes of the July 15, 2025 Commission Meeting and the commissioner bill review. Commissioner Milner said he reviewed the bills and made a motion to approve the consent agenda as published. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.

There was no old business.

There were no emergency items.

There was no citizen participation.

Mayor Redding welcomed Commissioner Nugent back.

Mayor Redding called for the General Manager Report. Mr. Mullins said he met with developers and there is some good news coming. He said the Florida League of Cities Conference is coming up this week. Mr. Mullins said at the FMEA Conference the video went extremely well. He has asked Jacob Williams to come to the September 9th meeting and make the same presentation. Mr. Mullins talked about the extremely high temperatures and the rising utility bills. Mr. Mullins recognized Steven Goodman in recognition and appreciation for ten years of outstanding service to the City of Starke. Mr. Mullins said the Planning & Zoning Board has had a vacancy for over a year now. Commissioner Milner said he would prefer to vote on this at the next meeting. Mayor Redding asked where we stand with the other members and their tenure; and asked if

the commission needed to open them all at once. Mr. Mullins said it would probably be good to do them all at once. Mayor Redding said the commission will table that until Mr. Mullins brings it back. Mr. Mullins said the wastewater treatment plant is online and the effluent is clear. He said substantial completion should have been in October of last year, but the contractor is obviously not following the contract. Attorney Adams said it was caused by a delayed delivery of the electrical switchboard in the motor control center that caused this. She said they were supposed to demobilize during that time, so they were not continuing to be paid. Attorney Adams has talked with Brian Martin, Project Manager for Woodard & Curran, and the commission has got a couple of options; 1) the commission can extend the contract the entire length of how long it takes them to complete it and do a change order to that effect, 2) Mr. Martin's recommendation is to grant them a 165-day extension and assess liquidated damages for the remainder of the time until substantial and final completion, and 3) pursue liquidated damages for the entirety of the delay. Attorney Adams thinks that would put the City in litigation for a long time. She requested feedback from the commission on how to proceed. Mr. Mullins said his recommendation is option 2. Mayor Redding entertained a motion. Commissioner Milner made a motion to go with option 2. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Redding called for public hearings. Attorney Adams read Ordinance Number 2025-12 by title. An Ordinance of the City Commission of the City of Starke, Florida, relating to Chapter 2, Article III; repealing and replacing the Chief Administrative Officer and General Manager positions with the position of the City Manager position in the City of Starke, Florida; repealing Chapter 2, Article III, Division 5, entitled the General Manager; assigning all duties of the Chief Administrative Officer and the General Manager to the position of the City Manager; updating of policies, procedures, and handbooks; providing direction for codification of this ordinance; repealing all ordinances in conflict; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date. Mayor Redding entertained a motion to approve this ordinance. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to table it. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. She said she made the second out of professional courtesy to allow Commissioner Nugent an opportunity to get his concerns addressed. The motion passed 5-0, it will be tabled until the next meeting.

There were no quasi-judicial hearings.

Mayor Redding called for the Attorney's Report. Attorney Adams said there were questions about the Suwannee River Water Management District Contracts. In 2010 the contract for the Edwards Bottomlands Restoration contract was originally an interlocal agreement between the Suwannee River Water Management District and the City. It established the Alligator Creek Edwards Bottomland Stream Restoration and Sediment Management Project. The City agreed to own the property, authorize access and take on the perpetual operation and maintenance of the restoration work required by the Environmental Resource permit issued by the Suwannee River Water Management District. The City's obligations under that contract include securing permits, paying for all operation maintenance, submitting annual inspection reports and granting the Suwannee

River Water Management District access for monitoring. In 2015 the City had an agreement called the Cooperative Mitigation Efforts agreement. This is an agreement from a consent judgment from 2006 and that 2010 Interlocal Agreement. Both required wetland mitigation for past dredging and filling activities with the planned FDOT US 301 bypass project. The Suwannee River Water Management District and FDOT needed mitigation sites. The agreement allowed the City to fulfill its 2010 contract and the consent judgment obligations by assisting with and hosting the FDOT mitigation project on City owned lands and on an additional property that was KOA property. The 2015 agreement replaces the City's original obligations for direct construction maintenance under that 2010 agreement. The Suwannee River Water Management District was to handle the construction, and they were going to discharge the City's perpetual operation and maintenance obligations under the permit once the FDOT project was completed. The 2015 agreement supersedes your 2010 agreement and the City's obligation. The City is responsible for discharge as soon as the FDOT project was or is completed. She was not sure the status of that project. It is completed when the City has been discharged by operation of that 2015 agreement. Attorney Adams can email the commission that documentation if they would like.

Sheriff Gordon Smith and Lieutenant Robbie Mosley reviewed the Law Enforcement Report.

Mayor Redding entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Commissioner Roberts. The meeting was adjourned at 6 :35 pm.