



City of Starke

"Forging Tomorrow's Small Town, Today"

Regular Meeting of City Commission Minutes

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 5:30 PM

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

Mayor Redding opened the meeting with a time of ²Voluntary Prayer and the ³Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Redding asked for ⁴Roll Call. Commissioner Dimple Overstreet was present, Commissioner Janice D. Mortimer was absent, Mayor Andy Redding was present, Commissioner Bob Milner was present, and Commissioner Danny Nugent was present. Additionally, City Clerk Chrissy Allen-Thompson was present, City Manager Drew Mullins was present, and City Attorney Leonard Ireland was present. Also in attendance were Executive Assistant Cathy Bradley, Building & Zoning Office Manager Lance Campbell, Fire Chief Jason Clemons, Executive Assistant Lisa Heeder, Grants Coordinator Becky May, Captain Kevin Mueller, and Assistant City Manager-Utilities David Sparks.

Mayor Redding asked for any agenda changes for the ⁵Approval of the Agenda. There were no changes. Mayor Redding entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Milner made a motion to approve the agenda as published. Commissioner Nugent seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Redding entertained a motion to approve the ⁶Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda consisted of: ^{6.a}Minutes of the January 6, 2026 Commission Meeting and ^{6.b}Commissioner Bill Review. Commissioner Milner reported he reviewed the bills, and they looked in order. He made a motion to approve the consent agenda as published. Commissioner Overstreet seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Redding asked for ⁷State Attorney Brian Kramer. State Attorney Kramer thanked the Commissioners for letting him be on the agenda and handed out business cards to the Commission. He said he just wanted to introduce himself and tell the Commissioners a little bit about himself. He decided to come to see every County Commission, City Commission, and Town Council in the Eighth Judicial Circuit, because he is the State Attorney for the Eighth Judicial Circuit. State Attorney Kramer has been a prosecutor for a little over 27 years and has worked for the State Attorney's Office for 25 of those years. He has been in practice for about 32 years, and has called Gainesville his home for his entire life, other than a few years when he was in Law School. He has been serving this area for many years and has served in many capacities prior to being the State Attorney. He was the Executive Director for nine years. He said that when he became the State Attorney, he didn't have an Executive Director, but after the last election he named Rebecca S hinholser to that role. He then introduced Executive Director Shinholser. The Eighth Judicial Circuit includes Alachua, Levy, Gilchrist, Union, Baker, and Bradford Counties. It runs from the Jacksonville border to the border of Crystal River. It's about 4,300 square miles with about 450,000 constituents. They prosecute about 17,000 individual criminal cases per year as that's their main

business. He said that if the Commission wanted to issue a bond, they would be required under State Law to sue him. One of the responsibilities of the State Attorney of the State of Florida is in bond validation matters, which was out of his area of expertise but they have learned how to do it. He employs about 140 people and has an office in each of the counties he serves. The vast majority of his employees are in Gainesville, but Bradford County is the busiest office in the circuit. They try more cases in Bradford County because of the number of people in prison, and is not the citizens of Starke who are creating the large workload. They have a judge here who's really excellent and moves cases along very quickly having really good results. They have developed an excellent relationship with the Department of Corrections and very successful prosecution with that agency. Other than to introduce himself, he wanted to stop by because he was reelected during the 2024 presidential election, and Bradford County supported him at unbelievably high levels. They enjoyed tremendous support from Bradford County. One of the things that they did during the election was to go around the circuit and tell people, he was a public servant and had the heart of a public servant by spending a lifetime in public service. Once the election was over, the question for himself and Executive Director Shinholser was now that they are not campaigning how to show the people in the circuit that they are here to serve the public. They decided to have business cards made with every way there is to contact him. He encouraged the Commissioners to put the card in their wallet or phone. He wanted to make sure that they knew he was available to help in any way he can. The City of Starke has an exceptionally good and very experienced City Attorney, which is far outside of his own area of expertise. Speaking of more practical problems, he gave a couple of examples: ^{i.e. 1:} He gave this same presentation to the City of Newberry, and not long afterward somebody stole all the flags at the VFW. One of the Commissioners in Newberry was going to go on the TV 20 News and talk to them about what happened. The Commissioner called State Attorney Kramer saying he did not know what he could say. They talked through what was going on with the investigation, how things were going, and how it was likely to proceed. When they were done talking, the Commissioner felt comfortable with talking to the news media. ^{i.e. 2:} In another example a friend called him and said he was a guardian ad litem, and he has a new ward. The ward was the person that they take guardianship over. This young man was 13 years old, and he's on psychotropic medications. He was just moved from one foster home to another and they didn't have any psychotropic medication for him, but they need to find medication that day. State Attorney Kramer knew people who worked there, so he was able to call and say this needs to happen today, and by the end of the day they got it done. He stated that if someone calls him with a problem, he wants them to know that he's not going to say "well, that's not the responsibility of the State Attorney." He emphasized that it is the responsibility of a public servant. He does not know everybody in Starke, but the Commissioners do. When they talk to people in the community and they have a problem, they can call him. He asked if the Commissioners had any questions. Commissioner Milner said he knows State Attorney Kramer and he does an excellent job. He asked for Executive Director Shinholser's card. He thanked him for coming and for what they do. Mayor Redding thanked State Attorney Kramer for his time and said if he needed anything from the Commissioners, please let them know.

Mayor Redding asked if there were any ^{8:}Emergency Items. There were none.

Mayor Redding asked for ^{9:}Citizens Request. He asked for Kari Hamende, Director of Community Relations at Santa Fe College at address 3000 Northwest 83rd Street in Gainesville. She was very grateful for the invitation to come and simply introduce herself. She started in the middle of September, and while she has an office at the Northwest Main Campus, she does serve the entire

service district. She does have a presence at all of Santa Fe College's seven physical campuses, and she has been hired to take on the pioneering role of Director of Community Relations to help develop and lead Strategic Initiatives for the college. She knows there's already an initiative underway with the Bradford ASN Partnership, and looks forward to continuing, introducing her self, and meeting people from Bradford County. Mayor Redding said he met Ms. Hamende at the MLK function the other night and invited her to come and address the Commission. He asked City Clerk Allen-Thompson, City Manager Mullins and Ms. Bradley to please get all of her contact information so they can keep her in the loop on things the City of Starke has going on. Mayor Redding asked if the Commissioners had any questions. Commissioner Overstreet asked what days Miss Hamende was at the Starke Campus. Miss Hamende said she comes to the Starke Campus when there are things on the schedule. Commissioner Overstreet asked if she called Miss Hamende could she come and meet with her. Miss Hamende agreed. Commissioner Milner asked Miss Hamende if she knew what the latest building that Mr. John Miller donated Downtown is going to be used for. Miss Hamende did not know. Commissioner Milner expressed appreciation for all the campuses Santa Fe College has in Bradford County and is looking forward to the Nursing Partnership Ceremony the next week. He thanked Miss Hamende.

Mayor Redding asked for ¹⁰New Business: ^{10.a}Site Plan. Mr. Campbell said they have a site plan for new construction. The packet contains the engineering report with a briefing on what they were doing. He also included the Suwannee River Water Management Report. There was a set of detailed plans to show specifically what they were doing on each individual apartment. City staff has done an in-depth review of this. It meets all of the Land Development Codes for site plan approval. The City will get more into the building aspects through the permitting process. Staff recommendation was to approve the site plan. He and the contractor were present to address any questions or concerns. Mayor Redding opened the floor for questions. Commissioner Milner asked if the entrance would only be on Weldon Street, or would it also be on Grand Street. Mr Campbell said Weldon Street would be the only entrance. Commissioner Nugent said the drawings were small and his only concern was that he doesn't see a retention pond or anything for the water runoff for these duplexes. Mr. Campbell said there were four drainage areas. Mayor Redding entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Milner made a motion to approve the site plan as submitted. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. There were no further discussions. Mayor Redding asked for public comments. There were none. Motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Redding asked for ¹¹Old Business: ^{11.a}Charter Review and ^{11.b}Impact Fees. He called for the ^{11.a}Charter Review. Clerk Allen-Thompson said the Charter Review Committee had a meeting earlier that day. It was very productive. The Board chose a Chair and a Vice Chair, and they're moving along. Commissioner Milner asked if they still planned to meet before the second Commission Meetings. City Clerk Allen-Thompson said they will meet two times a month moving forward, so the next meeting will be February 3rd, and the next will be February 17th. Commissioner Nugent asked who the Chair and Vice Chair were. City Clerk Allen-Thompson said Jeff Johnson was the Chair and Alvin Hunter was the Vice Chair. Mayor Redding asked for ^{11.b}Impact Fees. City Manager Mullins said Senate Bill 180 has proven to be very complicated to say the least, and there's pending litigation with that as well. That being said, the firm that they engaged needs some additional explanations and recalibrations of some of the calculations in the Impact Fee Study from Infrastructure Consulting and Engineering. They are scheduling a call with them once they get that clarification. As soon as that happens, City Manager Mullins will bring the Commission an ordinance. Mayor Redding thanked City Manager Mullins for the update. He asked for questions

from the Commissioners. Commissioner Nugent said there was a lot more going on with the bill. City Manager Mullins said there were current bills also in front of the legislature that can affect this as well.

Mayor Redding asked for ¹²Public Hearings. There were none.

Mayor Redding asked for ¹³Quasi Judicial Hearings. There were none.

Mayor Redding asked for ^{14.a}City Manager Report. City Manager Mullins said that last week himself, Ms. Bradley, and Commissioner Mortimer attended the APPA Joint Action Conference in Destin, Florida. There were very good discussions. Across the country, they have seen a lot of the electric bills skyrocket. He stated that he is from Virginia and the northern part of the state has the largest concentration of data centers in the world so there is a limited amount of capacity, along with generation. When there is limited supply and more demand, those prices start skyrocketing. They're seeing this in just electric bills, not in water, sewer, garbage, taxes, or anything else. They are \$600 to \$800 a month just for a regular 1,000 kilowatts. This is noticeable across the states, Utah, Wisconsin, and other agencies. That being said, they have been very fortunate here in Florida, even though there are data centers, our costs have been down for all 32 members of FMPA. FPL just increased their rates to the largest in US history. The last part of the week, City Manager Mullins was in Orlando at the FMPA Board Meeting where they discussed the future needs of power generation for the agency and potentially bringing on new members. They've got \$2 billion worth of assets at FMPA with only \$800 million in debt. From now until 2032 there are 600 megawatts for demand of what they currently have. There's a limited amount of time to come up with how they're going to move forward. He advised that was the conversation they're having in the FMPA Board Meetings. Mayor Redding asked for questions from the Commissioners. Commissioner Milner said no questions, but he is on the FMPA Policy Committee that do Zoom meetings before the board meetings. He's been in a couple of meetings recently where Jacob Williams did an excellent presentation. These data centers are requiring an unbelievable amount of electricity. As City Manager Mullins said, the capacity is only so much, and in the absence of nuclear, they are headed for a very serious time in the next five or less than five years. He elaborated that they've only had one nuclear plant, which was the one in Georgia, within the last 30 something years. Nationwide, there are going to be shortages of the availability or capacity of electricity to areas, simply because the data centers have the money they go to the IOUs, and they need it in three years or five years. That's impossible to compete with. City Manager Mullins is correct. FMPA has helped us tremendously and they're in good shape, but the reality is the time is coming where the availability of electricity nationwide is going to be seriously impacted by the number of data centers that are coming online. To put it in perspective, the City's consumption of electricity is about 70 megawatts. Just one data center consumes over one gigawatt. There are hundreds in the country. There is Meta, Google, Alphabet, and Amazon that are all fighting for this power. They're actually making their own generation from diesel to coal to natural gas, and even nuclear. So, one of the issues when it comes to natural gas and turbine is they're going on the market and buying every available turbine that they can which is producing long lead times and longer construction times. That's just where the world is at right now.

Mayor Redding asked for the ^{14.b}City Clerk Report. Clerk Allen-Thompson said Rural Counties Day is Wednesday and Thursday of this week in Tallahassee. She thinks everybody that is going already has their arrangements but if anyone else would like to go, please let her know.

Mayor Redding asked for the ^{14.c}.Public Safety Report. Captain Mueller said if you have any questions or concerns to call him. Fire Chief Clemons said all is well.

Mayor Redding asked for the ^{14.d}.Attorney Report. Attorney Ireland had nothing to report.

Mayor Redding asked for the ¹⁵.Mayor and Commissioner Reports. ^{15.a}.Commissioner Overstreet had nothing to report. ^{15.b}.Commissioner Milner had nothing to report. ^{15.c}.Commissioner Nugent is going to Rural Counties Day. He is going to write some letters and drop them off on issues that the Florida League of Cities is concerned about. He said these are some issues that he and City Manager Mullins have already spoken about as well as on property taxes. Next month, the City of Starke will be hosting the Northeast Florida League of Cities Dinner. He stated that he went to the Rod & Gun Club Dinner this month and they had to turn people away. There are 30 cities in the League and had about 150 people there. He is looking for the City of Starke to have a big crowd. He is hoping City Clerk Allen-Thompson has everything already under control. They already have a speaker coming in. Commissioner Milner helped contact the lady for him because Representative Chuck Brannan couldn't come as he's tied up in Tallahassee. Commissioner Nugent thanked Captain Mueller for the job he's doing. ^{15.d}.Vice Mayor Mortimer was absent. ^{14.e}.Mayor Redding said they had the MLK event over the weekend for the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County and it went very well. Judge Tatum Davis was the speaker and former Commissioner Scott Roberts was one of those recognized. Mayor Redding encouraged involvement in the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County. They do a lot and partner with the City on a lot. They're always there for us, to help out and step in at a moment's notice. He asked City Clerk Allen-Thompson for an update on the Veterans Park since she has coordinated with Norman Dowdy and Dale Tenley. City Clerk Allen-Thompson said they met with the monument movers today. They will have everything moved by the end of next week. Some of the monuments will be stored and freshened up, and some of them will have the lettering redone. A couple of new monuments have been ordered and the project is well on its way. They will be done within the timeframe for Dwight Hewitt, which was by February 1st. They will have Memorial Day at the new park with plenty of time to get the new monuments in and installed. Mayor Redding said speaking of Memorial Day, now that the stage is completed and they put the apron on the backside, they need to level the surface whether it's concrete or astroturf. He said that Mr. Dowdy and Mr. Tenley have concerns because when they get to that season of having some shade or a canopy, it needs to be finished. City Clerk Allen-Thompson said they were working on it.

Mayor Redding entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Milner made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nugent seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 pm.