



City of Starke

"Forging Tomorrow's Small Town, Today"

Regular Meeting of City Commission Minutes

Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 5:30 PM

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

Commissioner Nugent opened the meeting with a time of ²Voluntary Prayer and the ³Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Redding called for ⁴Roll Call. Commissioner Dimple Overstreet was present, Vice Mayor Janice D. Mortimer was present, Commissioner Danny Nugent was present, Commissioner Bob Milner was present, and Mayor Andy Redding was present. Additionally, City Clerk Chrissy Allen-Thompson was present, City Manager Drew Mullins was present, and City Attorney Derek Folds was present. Also in attendance were Fire Chief Jason Clemons, Executive Assistant Lisa Heeder, Assistant City Manager-Finance James Hughes, Code Enforcement Officer Nick Krah, and Assistant Finance Director Becky May.

Mayor Redding entertained a motion for the ⁵Approval of the Agenda. Commissioner Overstreet made a motion. Vice Mayor Mortimer seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Redding entertained a motion to approve the ⁶Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda consisted of: ^{6.a}Minutes of the April 7, 2026 Commission Meeting, ^{6.b}Resolution 2026-32 Declaring Certain Real Property as Surplus Property; Authorizing the Sale of Said Property, ^{6.c}Resolution 2026-33 Approving that Certain Amendment to the Traffic Signal Maintenance and Compensation Agreement with the State of Florida Department of Transportation for Maintenance of Certain Traffic Signals in the City of Starke, ^{6.d}Resolution 2026-34 Approving that Certain State Highway Lighting, Maintenance, and Compensation Agreement Work Order with the State of Florida Department of Transportation for Maintenance of Highway Lighting on the State Highway System within the City of Starke for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, ^{6.e}Florida Gas Utility 2026 Annual Meeting – Commissioner Milner, and ^{6.f}Commissioner Bill Review: Commissioner Overstreet. Vice Mayor Mortimer made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Overstreet seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Redding asked for ⁷Emergency Items. There were none.

Mayor Redding asked for ⁸Citizens Request. He stated he had one form. He asked if James Oswald was here. Executive Assistant Heeder stated he was not. Mayor Redding stated Mr. Oswald was going to inform the Commission about the State Tour for Byron Donalds candidate for Governor of Florida. They will have a function on April 27th at the Keystone Heights RV Resort if anyone would like to attend.

Mayor Redding asked for ⁹New Business: ^{9.a}Clerk Allen-Thompson asked to add Bradford Health Organization. The Pink Ladies were in attendance to present a check to the Fire Department. Chief Clemons came forward to take a few moments to recognize the Bradford Community and

Healthcare Auxiliary. Fire Chief Clemons said the auxiliary is all about giving back to their community through scholarships, volunteering their time, providing financial resources, and he thinks most importantly through being prayer warriors for this community's needs. The Auxiliary found out that the Starke Fire Department had a few various equipment needs and was kind enough to make a donation to provide the list of equipment that they have in front of them. These were just various tools and EMS supplies that the department uses on a daily basis. There are jump bags that the firefighters use for EMS calls. There was a fog gas detector that the firefighters use almost on a daily basis for gas leaks and gas smells that they respond to. All of this equipment is not something that's going to be left on a shelf but will be used daily for the department, and it's all very valuable. As the Commission can see, the total was \$3,417.58. It doesn't take long in the fire business to add up quickly. That's a short list of tools and equipment, but very valuable, and one that the Fire Department greatly appreciates. Linda Johns came forward to give a little history of the Auxiliary or Pink Ladies. The Bradford County Commissioners established a rural hospital in 1951 after the citizens voted to have a hospital. They called it the Bradford County Hospital. Construction began in 1954 and opened for the public on March 26, 1956; so it's been 70 years. The Bradford County Hospital was organized before the opening of the hospital in 1956 and has been actively participating in volunteer service since that time. However, they had a change and had to incorporate after the closing of Shands hospital. They became a nonprofit organization but before that, all the money that they made in the County went to the hospital. The hospital bought what they thought was needed. The Auxiliary gave the first Jaws of Life to Bradford County. They have been giving to Bradford County for over 70 years, and still want to give to Bradford County, but they want all of their money to go toward the needs. They've got the equipment to do what they need to do when they get to a citizen's house, just like they're at the emergency room. The Auxiliary bought those things for them. They just wanted the Commission and citizens to know that they don't spend their money foolishly. They only give it back when they feel like it's going to be used the way it should be. They incorporated and became known as the Pink Ladies for all these years. After the hospital closed, they didn't have anything to do and nobody wanted to take them. Bradford County Sheriff Gordon Smith asked them to join him in the community, because he already had a wellness program set up. People have to sign up for this program to participate. She requested that people pass the word around that if they sign up, they can talk to one of these beautiful ladies every morning and tell them all of their aches and pains. If they don't receive a call back by noontime, they're going to send an officer out to check on them. This is a wonderful program that needs to get out more in the community for them to know about it. Ms. Johns presented the check to the Fire Department. Mayor Redding suggested getting pictures in the lobby with the donated items.

Mayor Redding asked for ^{10.}Old Business: ^{10.a.}Charter Review and ^{10.b.}Impact Fees. He asked for ^{10.a.}Charter Review. City Manager Mullins said it will be addressed in ^{12.b.} Mayor Redding asked for ^{10.b.}Impact Fees. City Manager Mullins said there is nothing new.

Mayor Redding asked for ^{11.}Public Hearings: ^{11.a.}Ordinance 2026— Calling for a Referendum Question to be Placed Before the Qualified Electors of the City of Starke at the Next General Election which is Scheduled for Tuesday, August 18, 2026 – First Reading. He turned it over to legal counsel and asked her to introduce herself. Attorney Folds said her name is Derek Folds with Folds & Walker. She stated Allison Folds is her dad, but she's covering for Attorney Scott Walker. Attorney Folds said this was for first reading of Ordinance Number 2026-07. 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 general election, which is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18, 2026; providing a 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. Mayor Redding said they have heard the reading of the Ordinance by title only. He entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Nugent made a motion. Commissioner Overstreet seconded the motion. Mayor Redding stated the floor is open. He called for Commissioner Milner. Commissioner Milner said to Attorney Folds one of the things she said in her statement was they're providing for the full text. He stated that he is speaking for himself, not the other Commissioners, but when the packet came out on Friday with the full text, he had been in Tallahassee for three days. He has read it, and it's only six pages, which is a good thing. He stated that the Commission was voting on the Ordinance in terms of setting the date and so forth, but asked do they, over the next week or two, have time to reword the text itself before it gets voted on exactly how it's going to go to the voters. Attorney Folds said it depends on what the rewording would be. She furthered by saying if there are minor clerical changes or rearranging of some things, that's a minor change. If there are substantive changes to what the amendments are going to be to the Charter, it would need to come back for first reading again. Mayor Redding reminded the Commissioners that they are on a timeline where they have to get the Charter to the Supervisor of Elections by May 6th. That's the day after the next Commission Meeting. If they don't have two readings on this by then, they will have to have a special meeting. Then they would have to have a separate election, then they're going to have to pay additional fees and they're not going to get a voter turnout on it either. Commissioner Milner said he does not really have any substantive changes, but they're not Scriveners errors. For example, on page three, where it says "the City Clerk shall be responsible for the administration and oversight of municipal elections in accordance with applicable law." He stated he has no problem with that, except that he thinks they need to make it clear that the City Clerk, whether it's City Clerk Allen-Thompson or someone years from now, is actually the liaison with the contract with the Bradford County Supervisor of Elections the City Clerk has to have it, whether we contract it out to the County or not by municipal code, the City Clerk has to be the liaison. Mayor Redding said they have that option. It's one of those things that it's the way it's laid out. The City Clerk serves as the City's Supervisor of Elections for the City. They choose as a Commission, and with the cooperation of the City Clerk to contract it out to the Supervisor of Elections. He doesn't know that they can put it to them to make it their responsibility. Commissioner Milner said he just doesn't want to see a City Clerk two terms after City Clerk Allen-Thompson decide he or she is going to run the City Elections, and they would have the right. That has to be the Commission's decision. City Clerk Allen-Thompson said under Municipal Code and Attorney Folds was in the Charter Review Committee Meeting when this was brought up, if any City Clerk chooses to run the election, it would be their choice. Vice Mayor Mortimer asked if it would not be left up to the Commissioners. City Clerk Allen-Thompson said along with the Commissioners, but a municipality is charged to do their own elections. They can't ask the county or demand that the county run the elections, but they can contract it out. She said that she had originally asked to have it stricken, because she has no desire to run the elections. The answer from the attorney was that any City Clerk could choose to do their own election. It has to be in the Charter to do that. Commissioner Milner said he wants to make sure they reread the Charter. He continued with saying on page five, section seventeen, Returns - the last sentence of section seventeen says "the return shall managed," but he thinks it should be "shall be managed." He has found a couple of Scriveners errors. He suggested that all the Commissioners proofread the Charter. He doesn't have

anything he considers substantive issues. Mayor Redding said good point. Thank you. He opened the floor to the other Commissioners. Commissioner Overstreet said she is pleased with it. There are a couple of little things, but they will be corrected when it's turned over. Vice Mayor Mortimer said she doesn't have any substantive changes. She has a couple of inquiring-minds questions. On page two, section eight, the last paragraph, says "no person who is not a Qualified Elector of the City of Starke shall be eligible to any of said offices except an appointed office, and in case of a vacancy in an elective office, such vacancy shall be filled by an appointment by the Mayor, by and with the consent of City Commissioners." She asked for explanation by asking if her seat becomes vacant and she decides not to complete her term, then the Mayor has the authority to appoint someone, and the City Commission approves that or does the Mayor have the authority, along with the City Commission, to appoint someone. Attorney Folds said the vacancy shall be filled by appointment, by the Mayor by the consent of the City Commissioners, except members of the City Commission, which vacancy shall be filled by the remaining members of the City Commission. Vice Mayor Mortimer asked for further explanation. Commissioner Milner asked if that is talking about the Charter officers only. The City Manager and the City Attorney are the only Charter Officers. City Clerk Allen-Thompson said if a Commissioner's seat came available and the Commissioner did not wait until it was time for an election, the other four Commissioners would run without said Commissioner. Vice Mayor Mortimer asked so there would not be a special election. City Clerk Allen-Thompson said there is a section about special elections, if it was chosen. If the other Commissioners wanted to run a year without said Commissioner, it would be up to them. Vice Mayor Mortimer said that means that whatever district that has the vacancy, they wouldn't have a representative until the Commissioners decide how they want to fill it. City Clerk Allen-Thompson said or an appointment is made. Mayor Redding said or an appointment is made, approved by the majority of the rest of the Commission, because it says "by the Mayor and with the consent of the City Commissioners." So the Mayor can bring somebody forward, and then the Commissioners vote on it. Vice Mayor Mortimer asked what if it's somebody that the people in the district don't want. Mayor Redding said they're legally bound. Vice Mayor Mortimer asked if there was any language that addressed that previously. Mayor Redding said there was and it was pretty close to that. Vice Mayor Mortimer asked if it said anything about a special election as she thought it did. City Clerk Allen-Thompson said it did and it said that the Mayor would appoint. Mortimer thinks it was until the special election, but a special election would be held. City Clerk Allen-Thompson that's correct, but this is saying that the special election would not necessarily be done and given the people in the district the opportunity to select their representative. Mayor Redding clarified until the next appointed time. Vice Mayor Mortimer said the second question is on page three, section twelve, where it says that "the City Commissioners shall have power to elect a City Attorney." She stated that should be "appoint." City Clerk Allen-Thompson said that should have been corrected. That would be a Scriveners error, because that was in what was submitted to them to add. Vice Mayor Mortimer said she needs clarity on page three, still under the City Manager Section number five states "prepare and submit the annual budget, budget message and capital program." She asked what a budget message was. City Manager Mullins said the summarization of the budget. Vice Mayor Mortimer asked to clarify that the City Clerk is not involved in the preparation of the budget at all. City Manager Mullins said that according to this no. Vice Mayor Mortimer stated that in section fourteen, number six what is that last part of that sentence "make any such recommendations to the Commission concerning the affairs of the City as he or she deems desirable." Is the City Manager going to tell the Commissioners what they want us to know and not what they need to know? That's the way she's reading it. City Manager Mullins said that can be changed. Vice Mayor Mortimer asked for explanation of page four, section

fifteen the B Section – Adjustment of the existing terms. City Clerk Allen-Thompson said one of the major things that the Commissioners asked them to do in the Charter was to get the election cycles on Presidential and Governor races. This is the easiest and the cleanest way to get the City's elected officials to be on that cycle. One time, District Two, District Four and the City Clerk would be a three-year term after their completion of the four-year term of this year. They would run again in 2029 provided they wanted to. Then they would run for a three-year term. If they shortened it or lengthened it, they would have all five Commissioners and the City Clerk at the same time, and that would be detrimental to the City. Vice Mayor Mortimer asked that at the end of this four-year term whoever chooses to run would serve a three-years term, and then it would go back to a four-year term. City Clerk Allen-Thompson said that would put everybody on the correct election cycles for General Elections with the County. Vice Mayor Mortimer thanked City Clerk Allen-Thompson. Vice Mayor Mortimer said also on page four there are references of "he." City Clerk Allen-Thompson said it should say "he/she" and the one that was submitted was correct. Vice Mayor Mortimer said she thinks the one that was the one was submitted correctly. She said she had talked to Drew about it and he said that it was going to be corrected. She asked if the one she had was not the corrected one. Mayor Redding said the one in his packet says "he/she." Vice Mayor Mortimer said she looked at her working copy. She continued that in that same paragraph at the very last part of the sentence, "in case two or more persons receive an equal and greater number of votes within any one group, the results shall be determined as provided by Florida Statute, 100.81," and asked what that was. City Manager Mullins said it was a Government coin toss. City Clerk Allen-Thompson stated she wanted that taken out as well and that she would not be flipping a coin to see who won, but Attorney Walker said she would. She continued page five section 17. She asked Commissioner Milner if he pointed out the very last sentence, the return shall be. Commissioner Milner confirmed. Vice Mayor Mortimer said under Section 21 the Mayor, that very first section, explain it in layman's terms "each year at the first meeting following certification of the election and at the first meeting following the first Tuesday in November if there's no election for one or more vacant commission seats, the City Commission shall elect from the City Commission..." City Manager Mullins said if everything goes according to plan, October 1st the Mayor will be chosen, if not the runoff will be in November and it will be at the next November meeting. Vice Mayor Mortimer said they're still going to be selecting the Mayor the first meeting in October. City Clerk Allen-Thompson said with the General Election, they will always be on the primary, but if there's a runoff then it will put them into November. Commissioner Mortimer said thank you, and they've all been very helpful. Mayor Redding asked for Commissioner Nugent's questions. Commissioner Nugent had a question on another section, Section 21. He said he was reading about rules of procedure; expelling of member; quorum, meetings. He wanted clarification on that. Commissioner Mortimer asked what page. Mayor Redding said page six section 22. Commissioner Milner said expelling a member is under section 22. Commissioner Nugent is also using a working copy. Commissioner Nugent said the only problem he has with section 22 was one that Commissioner Mortimer asked about the City Clerk not being part of the budget. Only the City Manager will be doing the budget, but in their history they've always had them get together and work on the budget together along with the Finance Director. He's wondering why the big change. City Manager Mullins said there's actually no change from the old Charter to this one. The City Manager has always prepared the budget. Mayor Redding said in practice, it had been different in the past, but as far as the Charter language goes, nothing has substantially changed. They're saying that the practice was different than what the Charter said. City Clerk Allen-Thompson said they have been running with a City Manager for 20 plus years, and the Commissioners have tasked them to do it. The Charter said the City Clerk would do the budget. In

hindsight, it needed to be designated to who the Commissioners want it to be and that should be the City Manager. That does not mean she will not have input or help. Vice Mayor Mortimer asked what Commissioner Nugent's question was about expelling of a member. Commissioner Nugent said that was something else that was deeper in the packet. Mayor Redding asked if there were any other questions or comments from the Commissioners. There were none. He opened the floor to public comment. He said this process that was taken on was totally volunteerism, and it was taken on solely by their citizens. Several came forth. They willingly took on the task. It was quite extensive, and it was a lot to go through. So, kudos to them and what they've done and to their legal counsel and to City Clerk Allen- Thompson. They knew this whole time that they were on a time crunch. City Manager Mullins should get credit as well. From the beginning, City Clerk Allen-Thompson and our legal team took this on. So, he just wants to give them all the credit for that, because he couldn't imagine how many workshops they would have to have as a Commission to get to this and do the hard work that they did. City Clerk Allen-Thompson reiterated the same thing. They plan to have an award ceremony. City Manager Mullins and she were tasked to do that. They had 10 citizens who participated in every single meeting they had, and they knew they only had five months to do it. They had multiple meetings a week, or every other week. They never had anybody miss a meeting. Brenda Donaldson had an emergency, and they had a couple that would come in and out due to work, but to have 10 citizens donate their time and their energy, and to be at every single meeting and have input speaks volumes. From them wanting to help and make this right and knowing the deadline and knowing that every time it could be a different attorney, it could be different situations, and they took 67 pages and made it into six. They asked the best questions. They had City Manager Mullins and her on their toes at all times. She really appreciates them. She appreciates the Commissioners for allowing them to have all 10 members. They had such a variety of how to run things. After they have the first and second readings, and it passes, then she would like to have an award ceremony because they definitely deserve more than just a plaque to say thank you. Vice Mayor Mortimer agreed. It speaks volumes that the citizens are invested in this government and in making the City run as efficiently and effectively as they can. She thanked City Clerk Allen-Thompson. City Clerk Allen-Thompson said the members had even offered to come tonight. Mayor Redding called for a vote. Motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Redding asked for ¹²Quasi-Judicial Hearings. There were none.

Mayor Redding asked for ^{13.a}City Manager Report. City Manager Mullins said three hours ago, they had an issue at the Andrews Road lift station. Both of their pumps at the lift station ceased and he had to buy new ones. The two brand new pumps cost \$7,000 a piece. Crews will be watching overnight the bypass pumps are set up. The jail does empty into that one.

Mayor Redding asked for ^{13.b}City Clerk Report. City Clerk Allen-Thompson said she has the privilege to certify the City of Starke Notice of Elections. Notice is hereby given, provided by the Charter of the City of Starke, Florida, that an election will be held August 18, 2026 for the purpose of the election of the following City of Starke offices, Commissioner District One - four-year term, Commissioner District Three - four-year term, and Commissioner District Five - four-year term. The electors must qualify to become candidates between June 8th at noon to June 12th at noon at the Supervisor of Elections Office at the Bradford County Courthouse. The election will be held August 18, 2026, from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM at designated polling stations. Early voting this year will be held August 3rd through August 16th, 2026 from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM at the Supervisor of Elections Office. The Commissioners have their calendar of events through the next meeting. The

Beast Feast is this weekend at the Bradford Sportsman's Farm. There are Pension Board Meetings tomorrow. They start in the morning with the General Pension Board, then the Fire Pension Board, and the Police Pension Board. Anybody who would like to attend Rotary's Beast Feast. There are several fundraisers throughout the end of the month, and several service awards that you'll see on Facebook for different days. Mayor Redding said he will be in Lakeland on Thursday and asked if anyone was available to go to the Golden Bee Presentation on Thursday at HCA Healthcare at 9:00 AM. Vice Mayor Mortimer said she would attend.

For the ^{12.c}Public Safety Report, Mayor Redding said he received a call from Captain Mueller this evening. He regretfully would not be able to be here. They have a new hire that has just completed the academy and he was going to that. Mayor Redding said if they have any questions or concerns, to please let him know or call Captain Mueller directly.

Mayor Redding asked for ^{13.d}Attorney Report. Attorney Folds expressed appreciation for welcoming her.

Mayor Redding asked for ¹⁴Mayor and Commissioner Reports. ^{14.a}Commissioner Overstreet said it has been an interesting meeting. ^{14.b}Commissioner Milner attended the Ribbon Cutting at the Pavilion. He and Commissioner Overstreet attended the Northeast Florida League of Cities Meeting in Fernandina Beach last Thursday night. It was very good. He had two things. One he had requests from citizens, as all of us do from time to time, for a speed hump. The official name being traffic calming devices on Bay Street. He sat by a Strickland's Scoop for an hour. Suffice it to say, after watching some people run the stop sign on West Jefferson Street there was a good bit of traffic using Bay Street and Center Street as shortcuts. He did make a request to City Manager Mullins and the Public Works Department went out and installed the appropriate sized device so it doesn't drop the transmission out of your vehicle, but it does the job, and he appreciates it. The second thing is the Legislative Session got put off a week. Now it's going to start next week, and the Governor, the House, and the Senate are still not in agreement on much of anything, which is probably good for us. The Governor's called the first session regarding the mid-decade census, which has never been done in history, for the purpose of trying to get more Republican districts, truth be told. He has called for a second one on property taxes, and we all know what we've been trying to do the last two years to educate the citizens. And of course, the Legislature literally passed the law last year restricting what a Commission can say or do if it involves public money. They can do it privately. They cannot use their positions up there, or any public money to disagree with whatever the Legislature comes out with. He's saying they may have very late notice on a potential devastating impact on property tax reductions from the Legislature in the event it runs into May and June, and they make that decision. He knows the Commissioners read their League of Cities things that are coming out hopefully on emails every week, but it's one of the biggest impacts ever on municipalities in 150 years. ^{14.c}Commissioner Nugent said the Northeast Florida League of Cities Dinner is May 21st in Atlantic Beach. He thanked City Clerk Allen-Thompson for the Chalk Event. ^{14.d}Vice Mayor Mortimer said it is good to be back. She offered her condolences to Commissioner Nugent for the death of his brother. ^{14.e} Mayor Redding will be out of town for the next meeting. Vice Mayor Mortimer will be in charge.

Mayor Redding entertained a motion to adjourn. Vice Mayor Mortimer made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Milner seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.