Regular Meeting of City Commission Minutes
Thursday, September 3, 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 2. Voluntary Prayer and the 3. Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Redding called for 4. Roll Call. Commissioner Dimple Overstreet was present, Commissioner Bob Milner was present, Mayor Andy Redding was present, and Commissioner Danny Nugent was absent. Additionally, City Manager Drew Mullins was present, City Clerk Chrissy Allen-Thompson was absent, and City Attorney Scott Walker was present. Also in attendance were Fire Chief Jason Clemons, Administrative Assistant Lisa Heeder, Assistant City Manager – Finance James Hughes, Director of Building & Zoning Nick Krahl, Assistant Finance Director Becky May, Assistant City Manager – Utilities David Sparks, and Operations Assistant Shian Sparks.

Mayor Redding asked for 5. Approval of the Agenda. He asked for any agenda changes, additions or deletions. He asked to add under 10. New Business the Interim Appointment for Commissioner Mortimer's seat as 10.g. He entertained a motion to approve the agenda with requested changes. Commissioner Milner asked to add an item to 7. Emergency Items to discuss the potential closing of City Hall on Friday. City Manager Mullins stated that he would do under 14.a. Reports: City Manager. Commissioner Milner made a motion to approve the agenda as requested. It was seconded by Commissioner Overstreet. Motion passed 3-0.

Mayor Redding asked for the 6. Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda consisted of 6.a. Minutes of the August 18, 2026 Budget Workshop, 6.b. Minutes of the Commission Meeting, 6.c. 2026 Florida Rural Economic Development Summit – Commissioner Milner, 6.d. Great Pumpkin Escape Call Street Road Closure for October 31, 2026 from 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM from Water Street to US Highway 301, 6.e. Resolution 2026-44 – Approving that Certain Proposal from Woodard & Curran, Inc. for Professional Engineering Services to Amend the City's Drinking Water Facility Plan to Meet the Requirements of the Supplemental Appropriation for Hurricanes Helene and Milton and Hawai'i Wildfires (SAHM) Program, and 6.f. Commissioner Bill Review: Commissioner Nugent. Mayor Redding asked who did the Bill Review since Commissioner Nugent was absent. Administrative Assistant Heeder stated that Commissioner Nugent reviewed the bills earlier in the week. Commissioner Milner asked to change "Commissioner Mullins" on Page 4 to "Commissioner Milner" in the August 18, 2026 Minutes. Mayor Redding entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Overstreet made a motion to approve. Commissioner Milner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

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

Mayor Redding asked for 8. Presentations. There were none.

Mayor Redding asked for 9. Citizens Request. Paul Still came forward. Mr. Still stated his address as 14167 SW 101st Avenue, Starke. He stated that he wanted to address the Commission again about the conditions on Alligator Creek and the Suwanee River Water Management District's Edwards Bottomland Project. He's been out looking at that for the last couple of days, and the conditions there are much more significantly degraded than they were the last time he came to the Commission. This, he believes, is creating a serious potential problem for upstream flooding, and he thinks it's really important for the City to take action and try to force the Water Management District to clean that project up. He stated that they needed to remember that the City actually holds those permits. The Water Management District is not meeting the conditions in those permits. There is so much vegetation growing in the canal and along the edges of the canal that water simply will not be able to flow down Alligator Creek if they have a major flood. He continued that the City has been lucky and that they've been in a drought period, but the recent rains have now saturated the wetlands and any major rain event the City gets now will pour a whole lot more water into Alligator Creek. He stated he thinks now it's really important to try to force the Water Management District to do something about that. He said he's really concerned it's so serious that they will have a potential serious property damage and possibly even loss of lives if this doesn't get addressed. He reminded the Commissioners that the City holds those permits and that those permits are not being held in compliance. He thanked the Commission. Mayor Redding asked City Manager Mullins if he has had any communication with the Suwanee River Water Management District recently on any of that. City Manager Mullins stated not recently but that he'll reach back out to them. Mayor Redding stated they had past discussions about that corridor around Pratt Street with those ditches and whatnot. He asked for any other input. Commissioner Milner stated he's quite sure that Dr. Still is correct in his presentation relative to their responsibilities. He would ask that City Manager Mullins and the attorneys review the agreements. He stated he suspects they will agree with Dr. Still's assessment. He continued that Dr. Still did bring last time or furnished them, even the drone, that there was everything from washing machines to whatever else in the creek. - They have got to take some action, and it might be toward the Water Management District rather than them doing it themselves. He further stated that if in fact they are legally responsible for keeping that monstrosity they created clean, so that if they have an "Irmageddon" like they did in 2017, or even a tropical storm, they do not need to be flooding the rest of the City again. Commissioner Milner said that as Dr. Still said, downstream there's subsequent effects as well, so this has been passed around two or three times in the last year and they need to get off the pot, and it's their job to take some action. Mayor Redding agreed. Mayor Redding stated that they were moving on to former Commissioner Janice Mortimer. Mrs. Mortimer said "*Good Evening, Mayor and City Commissioners. For the record, my name is Janice Davis Mortimer. My address is 2763 Mortimer Way, Starke, Florida, and it's good to see you all today. First of all, I want to take a moment on behalf of myself and the residents of District 2 to extend our deepest and heartfelt condolences to our City Clerk Chrissy Thompson, to the Thompson family, and to the City of Starke on the passing of former City Clerk Ricky Thompson. Ricky dedicated more than four decades of his life to serving this City, having served alongside him as a Commissioner, I know firsthand his deep commitment to Starke. His loss leaves a profound void in our City, and we thank Ricky for his lifetime of service, and we pray that you all will find comfort, peace, and strength in the days ahead. As you know, I am the former City Commissioner for District 2. Having personally served this City and the residents of District 2, I know exactly what it takes to effectively hold this seat, and how vital it is. I'm trying to out talk the train, and how vital it is that our constituents do not experience a gap in strong, dedicated representation. It is*

with that unique perspective that I am here tonight to formally ask you that you appoint Reverend Alvin Green to temporarily fill the. District 2 vacancy until a special election is held. Reverend Green is a well-known, deeply rooted, and highly respected leader in our community. I am completely confident in his integrity and his ability to step into this role immediately to serve the people of District 2 and the City with fairness and distinction. It is important for you to know that Reverend Green has agreed to accept this temporary appointment and has made it abundantly clear that he will not run for the seat in the upcoming special election. As a former official, I deeply respect this decision because it completely eliminates any appearances of political bias or unfair incumbent advantage. It keeps the interim period focused strictly on steady service to District 2 and the City, while maintaining a completely level playing field for the candidates who will run eventually. I ask you, my former colleagues, to do what is best for District 2 and the City of Starke by appointing Reverend Alvin Green to this interim vacancy. Thank you for your time and your continued service and consideration of this request. I'm asking that this written request be made a part of the official record. I will provide a copy to the Clerk. Thank you all for allowing me to speak tonight." Mayor Redding thanked Commissioner Mortimer. He asked for any questions or comments. There were none.

Mayor Redding asked for 10.New Business. 10.a.Resolution 2026-45. Attorney Walker read the Resolution by title. This is Resolution 2026-45, a Resolution of the City of Starke Florida, changing the adjusted annual salary of the current sitting City Clerk, Chrissy Allen Thompson, to $80,000, pursuant to Section 2-169(C) of the Code of Ordinances; providing that such adjusted salary shall apply only to the current incumbent City Clerk and shall serve as the established salary for purposes of future cost-of-living adjustments during her tenure; providing that this Resolution shall not establish the salary for any future City Clerk; repealing all prior resolutions in conflict; and providing an effective date. Mayor Redding stated they've heard the reading of Resolution 2026-45. He entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Milner made a motion that they table this until all commissioners, including Commissioner Nugent, is here at the first meeting in October since one of them is not going to be here at the next meeting in September. He said he thinks City Clerk Allen-Thompson will be there presumably. So, unless providentially hindered, as long as all four of them and City Clerk Allen-Thompson convey that they will be here on the 5th of October, he respectfully suggests they table this item until October 5th. Commissioner Overstreet seconded it stating she thinks it needs to discussed a little more. Mayor Redding stated it would be October 6th. He asked for any further discussion. There was none. Mayor Redding stated for the record, that he respects both Commissioners and their positions. He explained that if there's any doubt in their minds about the work that's being put in, the diplomacy that City Clerk Allen-Thompson is providing for the City, or anything else, he challenges them to one look at her Facebook and they could tell that it's all day, every day. She is always doing something for the City. She's always going to some other civic organization till all hours of the night, all weekend, even with her dealing with Ricky's sickness and going through it. She manages to do everything. She is doing great political work for the City. Our staff is working diligently day in and day out, and City Clerk Allen-Thompson has too even with where the salary was set. Most people would say, "Hey, I'm going to give you that much effort." He continued that she's given twice as much in his opinion, but asks the Commissioners to keep that in mind as they move forward with doing this. He stated that he thinks she is more than deserving of it, and that salary is consistent with other City Clerks in their area of like-size municipalities. An audience member asked if citizens are allowed to ask questions. Mayor Redding stated he'll allow it, not normally for something like this, because all they're doing is making a motion to table it until October 6th. She stated she has

some general questions in regard to the Clerk's salary. She thanked Mayor Redding. She stated her name is Francis Bradley, 822 North Street. She's new to Starke, sort of. She's been here for two years, so she was at the previous meeting, and that's when she thought about started wondering things like, for elected officials, is there a starting salary. Mayor Redding stated yes ma'am. So previously it was set by Ordinance. So, they set it by Ordinance, and the minimum salary is $45,000. That's the starting salary. Ms. Bradley asked how they determine a change in salary. For instance, she hears what Mayor Redding is saying that City Clerk Allen-Thompson does a lot of things involved with the community. So, she's wondering would they be putting those kinds of things in the record or as a part of what her expected or any following City Clerk's expected duties would be should there be a change now. Mayor Redding stated the Clerk's duties are listed under the Charter, this includes what their responsibilities are and what's required of them. Mayor Redding explained that it was his opinion that those salaries were set a long time ago to deter people from wanting the office. He stated that he wondered who would work for a full-time eight-to-five job with the credentialing and the responsibilities that they have for $45,000 anymore. It doesn't really happen, but the previous clerk's salary was close to $80,000. So, that's consistent with what was previously being paid for that position, and it's consistent with the duties that go along with that. It's not a typical eight to five job. It requires a lot of civic functions and time after the fact and before hours and stuff like that. And it's consistent with other municipalities and what they pay. It's probably in his opinion probably on the lower end really for what it consists of. Ms. Bradley asked would it make sense to consider raising a starting salary for an elected official such as the City Clerk. Mayor Redding stated that would require an ordinance change. Ms. Bradley stated an ordinance change that would establish that, and then have some criteria built into what would win such an increase because they're talking about a $40,000 increase. She stated that she voted for her so she has no issues with that, but a $40,000 increase in three or four months. Ms. Bradley then asked when did they vote. Mayor Redding stated that was almost a year ago. Mayor Redding stated he understands where she was going, and the way the ordinance was written and the duties and responsibilities of what it had versus what she's actually doing, she's doing all those responsibilities plus an extensive amount more, so that is to get things consistent with what she's actually doing. It's kind of like additional duties as assigned kind of thing, or taking on other roles. Ms. Bradley asked who determines those additional duties and why haven't those been established by ordinance or however. Mayor Redding stated that it's a moving target, and things change day to day, or they have other roles that come up, or other needs that arise, so it's just trying to stay consistent, and that's why the resolution is written as that it only pertains to that person, that position. He continued the thing is, the next person that comes in may not have any of the knowledge, skills, and abilities that she has plainly because it's an elected position, and anybody with a heartbeat can put in to be City Clerk, whether they get elected or not. He stated this is the opinion from his seat. It doesn't mean that they may be ready to take on all those duties and all those responsibilities, and that may require staff to help out more and spend more time helping that person do their job and learn their job. That's why this resolution was specific only to this person in that position. That way as they go forward, it's not just a blanket whoever's in the position gets it just because they're there. Ms. Bradley suggested maybe some sort of community training. Mayor Redding stated there are other clerk certifications and courses and continuing education courses and stuff like that that are available for clerks. He said he's sorry, but they're going to have to move along. Commissioner Milner thanked Ms. Bradley and stated he's not going to go into all of his reasons for asking for it to be tabled, other than the absence of Commissioner Nugent, obviously, but one of them is exactly what Ms. Bradley brought up. He said he thinks the Charter, as voted on and amended by the voters back in August, and even prior to that, this Commission

and its predecessor had narrowed the duties working with their attorney to those things specifically relating to what the Charter required in today's terminology, hence they were asking the voters, as they did, to shed some 60 pages of nebulous stuff from the Charter. But he and a number of citizens who support City Clerk Allen-Thompson 100% also feel like he hears her expressing is let's make sure we know what we're expecting out of this person, irrespective of who holds it, whether it's her or someone subsequent. Because right now all they have is those few duties as outlined and required by the charter for her to fulfill, and if she does that, she doesn't do anything more than that. They can't require it. But if, as the Mayor has suggested, she's doing a lot of other things, he's just of the opinion that they need to have a good open discussion about what the realistic expectations of this Commission are, outside of the things mandated by the charter, and perhaps even from the citizens, and then with City Clerk Allen-Thompson, they can come to an agreement that if, if in fact, this Commission decides this raise is to be given, so that's why he wanted to wait till everybody's here and they can have a good open discussion. He thanked her for her input. Mayor Redding stated so, they've heard the input. They've had a motion and a second. Is there any further discussion. There was none. Motion passed 2-1 with Mayor Redding dissenting.

Mayor Redding asked for 10.b. North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Appointment, 10.c. General Pension Board Commissioner Appointment, and 10.d. FMEA Appointment. City Manager Mullins stated B, C, and D all have to do with former Commissioner Mortimer. She was appointed as alternates and as the representative of all three of these boards. As such, those have become obviously vacant. Particularly, the Pension Board needs an appointment sooner rather than later. He said he thinks there's a 90-day period to fill that seat, but in the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, Commissioner Mortimer was a very active member in that, and they have requested that seat be filled as soon as possible. That position has to be an elected official. Mayor Redding asked if it was to be an elected official for all three positions. City Manager Mullins clarified for the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council. Mayor Redding asked if the Commissioners have any interest in either of those three. Commissioner Milner stated he talked with City Manager Mullins about these. He's acutely aware of what each one of them are. He served on the North Central Florida Planning Council. He was chairperson years ago, but at the risk of sounding like he's kicking the can down the road, and he never does that, in the absence of Commissioner Nugent, he really thinks this is something they should do at the first meeting in October. It's not going to hurt anything. They can still be active. They still have one Pension Board member, Commissioner Nugent is on there, even in the absence of Commissioner Mortimer, and on the FMEA. He stated that he thinks what they want to do is just make sure going into the new fiscal year, effective October one, that each Commissioner has a chance for him or her to opine as to what they would like to serve on. Mayor Redding stated that's why he asked if either of the other commissioners had any interest in it because he was kind of anticipating postponing it, but at the same time, since Commissioner Nugent is already on the Pension Board, was anybody interested in being on the Pension Board. Commissioner Milner stated he wants them to look at that ordinance. He asked if it currently requires two members on the General Pension. City Manager Mullins stated yes. Commissioner Milner confirmed there's only five members on there. City Manager Mullins stated yes. Commissioner Milner stated he's of the opinion they only need one Commissioner on there and that it should be mostly City employees since it's their pension. He thinks one Commissioner is enough, and that is in no way downgrading what former Commissioner Mortimer did. She got her certification. She served as an excellent member. Mrs. Mortimer stated that she was as the Chair. Commissioner Milner stated he thinks that one Commissioner on the General Pension is enough. There are none on the police or the fire. They

have their own, and he just thinks one is enough. Mayor Redding stated they can postpone it till next time. That's an appointment by the Mayor, but if they want to talk about it more, he doesn't mind. That'll need to be the October 6th meeting because he won't be here on the 15th. Commissioner Milner asked if Commissioner Overstreet is ok with that. She said she's fine with it. Mayor Redding stated it doesn't require a vote, so they'll put it back on the agenda on the 6th.

Mayor Redding asked for 10.e. Utility Extension Project – Bid 2026-03 – Lowest Bidder Commercial Industrial Corp. City Manager Mullins stated they set bids up for the extension project, and those bids did come out a lot lower than what they initially anticipated. He stated that he believes Justin deMello, three or four months ago, came and gave a presentation. The estimated cost was closer to $12,000,000. He continued that he's happy to announce that the lowest bid was a little over $5,800,000. That's for both water and sewer extensions. Mayor Redding asked what the high bid was. City Manager Mullins stated close to $11,000,000. Justin deMello introduced himself, Principal and Professional Engineer with Woodard & Curran and statedhe appreciates the opportunity to come speak with them today. City Manager Mullins did a nice job of summarizing. This was presented to them back in June. The option to kind of move forward, get bids, move the utility extension forward to the bypass, which is a commitment that the City has made with the County as a shared commitment and funding. They were happy to first and foremost receive seven bids for the City of Starke, which is incredible given the history that they've had here in the City. He stated that he remembers not too long ago, four or five projects ago, they were begging to get one bidder. Part of what he describes as a drastic overestimate was based on the history of the projects and the bidders that they were selected to get, or that they anticipated getting, good news is there's seven bidders, three within $100,000 of each other. So really, really tight bids. He's really confident in them. Woodard and Curran on the City's behalf went and reviewed the apparent low bidder. They found that they had great reviews, great references from other communities, Gainesville is one, and other local communities as well. So, they did make the recommendation to award to Commercial Industrial Corp in the amount of $5,800,000 and some change. The goal is to get shovels in the ground this year and get that utility extension put in, get that ARPA money spent, and the balance of that funding is likely going to come through some legislative appropriations that they've secured over the years from the utility extension as well. So, best case scenario, it's going to be a $0 out of pocket for the City and the residents to get that extended utilities to the bypass. He stated that they'll be meeting with Assistant City Manager – Finance Hughes, City Manager Mullins, and the rest of the extended team on what are some backup plans in the event that legislative appropriations can't be amended and things like that. At the very minimum, he continued with he's very happy with the number, very happy with the contractor, and very excited to help move this project forward. One thing that he didn't mention is unrelated to this item but somewhat related, is that he is working with the City leadership to get a professional services during construction contract with the City to help administer that construction contract to be there onsite during the construction to oversee the construction as well as help them administer the grant funding, review shop drawings, pay reqs, project meetings, make recommendations for contractor payments. That's not currently included and will likely come before the Commissioners consideration at a future Commission Meeting. He asked for any questions. Mayor Redding said he appreciates all of their hard work and what they're doing. He said that this, and as they talked about earlier in the Budget Meeting with City Manager Mullins, a lot of what's going on and a lot of money is going underground in the City of Starke. That is not only as a preparation for the future, but it's also maintenance of what they have and working that forward. As he's learned the last several years, even more so. He understood it, but even during his first term they're a

geographical oddity when it comes to it. They're an hour from a lot of stuff, and they're convenient to a lot of things in 30 minutes or more. He's always wondered why don't they have the things in Starke, or why didn't they have things that other places have. And they see, it's growing, and they have amenities, and a lot of it comes to that, you know, infrastructure: that water, sewer, roads, electricity, capacities. They can say, "hey, we have a sewer plant, we have this, we have that. Why can't they do it." Well, it comes down to capacities and what they can handle, and when those companies are coming in and looking at them for development, and he doesn't want people to think about when they're talking about development that it's going to blow up overnight and they're going to walk rooftop to rooftop because that's a lot of things that people don't want. It's managed growth. It's responsible growth to where they take care of the people that are here, and then other people are looking in and saying, okay, they'd like to have a part of that. With this relationship with Woodard & Curran that they've developed through the years, Woodard & Curran is diligently always working on it, so City staff can do management, government operation stuff, and they can kind of bring things to them and then help them work it as they go. He appreciates that relationship they have and the efforts that are being put forth. Commissioner Milner asked for clarification before they vote , for the Commission and the public's enlightenment and edification, Mr. deMello mentioned the ARPA money, the agreement with the County Commission, and their full intent to get out to the bypass as soon as possible, and so forth, but the $23,000,000 grant they're receiving changed considerably what they were planning relative to the water. Mr. deMello said yes. It was a different item. Commissioner Milner stated that's the primary cause of the delay, and he knows they've explained that to the County and he thinks the Telegraph even covered it pretty well, but Mr. deMello mentioned something that's very important. Trying to get shovels in the ground this year, and number one, he knows they have time limits on the ARPA money and some other things, restrictions that they've got to meet, and they have to do it by then. But obviously, they are satisfied. He read who was present during the bid conference from their side, and he thinks they were very well represented by competent individuals, several of them are here tonight. So, he feels good about that bid. But also, the fact that they're moving forward as efficiently and expeditiously as possible with a major water upgrade for the whole City. So, he appreciates what they have done. Appreciates the work of the committee. He was thrilled when he first saw the number and the quality of the people, because he remembers those projects where they had nobody apply. Commissioner Overstreet thanked Mr. deMello. Mayor Redding stated they need to make a formal motion to accept their bid and staff recommendation for Commercial Industrial Corp. He entertained a motion to approve the bid for Commercial Industrial Corp for $5,857,842. Commissioner Overstreet made a motion. Commissioner Milner seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0. Mayor Redding thanked Mr. deMello.

Mayor Redding asked for 10.f.Applications for Grants to Nonprofit Organizations. City Manager Mullins stated this is something he brought to them at the end of July, This is the nonprofits grants. He stated they had six applicants and all the paperwork. Two were located outside the City limits, but they did work inside the City. Three they had funded in the past, and one did not qualify. That would be the Chamber of Commerce. They are 501(c)(6), and their Resolution states 501(c)(3) are eligible. His recommendation is to fund Concerned Citizens, Communities for Schools, and the ARC at $10,000 apiece and that was budgeted for. Mayor Redding stated he thinks they had a total budget there of $50,000, with a max award of $10,000. He entertained a motion to approve the recommended entities of Bradford Community for Schools, the ARC, and the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County at a maximum of $10,000 for each. Commissioner Milner asked City Manager Mullins about the $500 for Episcopal Children's Services that's not being recommended

for approval. City Manager Mullins stated if they want to approve it, that's fine. He was just wanting to point out they are not within the City limits of Starke. He stated that they do work within the City limits, and again, it's only $500. Commissioner Milner stated the services they provide, from what he knows personally, are here in the City of Starke. City Manager Mullins said yes. Mayor Redding stated he can make that part of the motion. Commissioner Milner asked Mayor Redding if he was ready to entertain it. Mayor Redding said yes. Commissioner Milner made a motion as recommended by staff that they approve for 2026-2027 fiscal year $10,000 each for Bradford Community for Schools, the ARC, Concerned Citizens of Bradford County, and $500 to Episcopal Children's Services. Commissioner Overstreet seconded the motion. Mayor Redding asked for any further discussion. He wanted to note that because of the property tax measures, the City of Starke has been very blessed and fortunate because they have their enterprise funds between water, sewer, and gas versus what other municipalities and other counties are dealing with right now. They're in a good position, and when they start looking at tightening their budget and things like this come up, and they come on the radar. Not because they want to do less for anybody, but they still have to run the machine. He stated his company invests heavily in one of these entities that put in, and it means a lot. He asked Alicia McMillian how many children did Concerned Citizens have camp for this year. Mrs. McMillian stated 50 kids. Mayor Redding stated so that's 50 kids in their community that during the summer could have been somewhere doing something else, but they're getting education. They're getting nourishment from these volunteers that put out every day for their kids. So, they never want to cut back on stuff like that. They're reinvesting in the community, just like their Bradford Sports United and stuff like that. So, these are great measures that are going on every day in their City, to where they're continuing to try to take care of their children and their future, and not because one day they'll just say, well, they like Starke because they're from there. It's they like Starke because they took care of them, they took care of their family, and they invested in their future. So, these are good measures that they're doing for their community. Mayor Redding called for a vote. Motion passed 3-0.

Mayor Redding asked for 10.g. Interim Appointment. Former Commissioner Mortimer brought up the desire to have an interim in her absence. He thinks that it is the reasonably prudent thing to do for their community that the constituents of that district have representation. He thinks that it's really good that this individual is interested but is not looking to have that position in the future. That way, there is no illusion of somebody being favored as they go forward. But they are here to basically be here as an unbiased party to work for that community. So, it is his recommendation that Reverend Al Green is the interim for that position until they can have a special election, which would tentatively be somewhere around March. So that way, that gives staff and everybody time to get everything in place for the election. Mayor Redding asked Attorney Walker to shed any light on that. He knows that they've had some discussions as to how these things normally transpire, that the Mayor would bring that forward, and then it's approved by the Commission. Attorney Walker stated this is very typical in charters of other cities, and in fact, this area was not changed. It's the language that was in your 1927 Charter, and it's followed through in the current scenario as well, there it is slightly confusing. He thinks if he had to redraft it again, he would probably change it a little bit because it is slightly confusing. He read it. No person who is not qualified as an elector of the City of Starke shall be eligible to any offices, and that relates to anyone that are qualifying to be Commissioners here in Starke have to be qualified electors. Essentially, what that means, except an appointive office. So, if the Commission is appointing a City Attorney, for example, that City Attorney does not have to be qualified elector of the City of Starke. In the case here it's the operative language. In the case of the vacancy of any elective office,

such vacancy shall be filled by an appointment by the Mayor, by and with the consent of the City Commissioners, and then here's where it gets a little slightly confusing. Except members of the City Commission, which vacancy shall be filled by the remaining members of the City Commission. So, at the end of the day, there needs to be a nomination of an appointment, and it needs to be ratified by the Commission. If there's a Commission of four, then you're going to need three votes. If there's three like tonight, you would need two votes. Mayor nominates somebody as the Commission just did, and that it needs to be ratified by two votes if it's done tonight, or needs to be three votes if it's four Commissioners. Commissioner Milner asked to hear from Reverend Greene. Reverend Greene stated that Commissioner Milner had the pleasure of training him back in the day, but they come and put this position because their District needs to be represented. He's lived in Starke for all 74 years of his life. He's been married to his wife for 51 years, retired from the Department of Corrections with 33½ years, and right now he's the Pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Lake City, Florida. He's been there now for 25 years as a Pastor. It is important to him that in their District in Starke, they need representation. He comes to stand before them not a politician, but as a person who believes in transparency in this appointment. He's not going to do more for one side of the place, than the other side. Everybody needs to have the same representation. The first thing he would like to do in these first few months, is call a meeting with District 2, just to get them to know him and get to know them, and then if they see some things that need to be done as a representative he will bring it to the board, bring it to the Commission, and do the best job that he could possibly do. He's not looking for a pat on the back. The only thing he wants to do is make sure that their district, their community, is well represented, well taken care of, and for the time that he's appointed, he will do that with everything that he has inside of him. Mayor Redding thanked Reverend Greene. He asked for any questions or comments for Reverend Greene. Commissioner Milner stated former Commissioner Mortimer stated in her recommendation of him, that he had stated he will not seek the full-time Commission seat in the subsequent special election, which will probably be next Spring, just because of the elections that are already going on with the County. They cannot do it this year. He's just asking, based on what she said, if that is his intent to not to seek the full-time position. Reverend Greene stated that's his intent. Commissioner Milner simply added that he thinks, clearly, District 2 deserves great representation, which they've had for many years. He has got big shoes to fill. He's known Reverend Greene for 40 years or something. As he said, they both worked for the Department of Corrections. He's known him in his role as a pastor. Clearly, this lady's put up with him for half a century. They heard the years that he mentioned he's been married, that he's lived here in Starke all his life, the years he's been with St. Paul's Missionary Church, 30 plus years with the Department of Corrections. He thinks they're looking at somebody who not only is dedicated to Starke and his district, but there's consistency of the dedication there, and he thinks it speaks a lot. Clearly, come next spring, the citizens of District 2, as they always do, will have the opportunity to elect whomever they believe will represent them well, but in the meantime, he's of the opinion that Pastor Greene has all the capabilities of doing that. Mayor Redding stated well said. Commissioner Overstreet asked to speak. She stated she is very honored that Reverend Greene is willing to take them on. She thinks it's wonderful. But now to keep something in mind, he's going to be up here with her. Commissioner Milner stated based on the Attorney's reading of their capabilities and within their legal requirements to do so, he will recommend that Reverend Alvin Greene of Starke be appointed by this Commission to serve representing District 2 on the Starke City Commission until the next Special Election is called to fill that seat. Commissioner Overstreet seconded the motion. Mayor Redding asked for any further discussion. There was none. He asked for any public input. There was none. Motion passed 3-0. Mayor Redding asked Attorney Walker

when that will take effect. Attorney Walker stated at the next meeting. Mayor Redding stated that Commissioner Milner will Chair.

Mayor Redding asked for [11.]Old Business. There was none.

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

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

Mayor Redding asked for the [14.a.]City Manager Report. City Manager Mullins asked Director of Building & Zoning Krahl to give the Building & Zoning and Code Enforcement Report. Director of Building & Zoning Krahl went over some numbers from August. They did 32 residential permits, 10 commercial permits, 26 contractor verifications, and 54 inspections. They had three zoning applications. Code Enforcement had five cases open, 10 cases closed, and 13 public contacts. He was open to any questions or anything. There were none. Mayor Redding asked for questions or comments. Commissioner Milner asked City Manager Mullins if he informed the Commissioners about the change in personnel in Zoning & Code Enforcement. City Manager Mullins stated individually. Lance Campbell had left that position, and Director of Building & Zoning Krahl has now been promoted to the Director position. Director Building & Zoning Krahl has taken a little bit of a learning curve with things. The Planning & Zoning Board has not met yet, but they should next month. Commissioner Milner congratulated Director of Building & Zoning Krahl and stated he knows he'll do a good job. Former Commissioner Mortimer had a question for City Manager Mullins and Director of Building & Zoning Krahl. The City is advertising now for a Code Enforcement Officer. She asked what the plan was to address Code Enforcement issues while Director of Building & Zoning Krahl is in the learning curve for zoning, because there are a number of Code Enforcement issues, specifically in District 2 that she's been working with Director of Building & Zoning Krahl on, that really don't need to sit any longer than necessary. Specifically, Crum Street has been an eyesore and a detriment to the community, so she's really interested in knowing what's the plan going forward for Code Enforcement. City Manager Mullins stated in the immediate, he's taking applications. So, depending on qualifications with those that he gets dictates what he would do beyond that. He doesn't want to get into anything open yet because he doesn't know whether the person would be interested in helping out once this new position is hired, but they knew the individual well. He doesn't know if he's interested in it or not, but if not, there will be a short delay. Director of Building & Zoning Krahl is also going to be doing Code Enforcement work as well, but obviously it's going to take a little bit more time on the Building & Zoning. Rest assured, they will be taking care of everything.

Mayor Redding stated City Clerk Allen-Thompson is not present for [14.b.]City Clerk Report.

Mayor Redding stated they don't have a [14.c.]Public Safety Report tonight.

Mayor Redding asked for [14.d.]City Attorney Report. Attorney Walker stated it's his understanding from City Manager Mullins that they received an email. They haven't received the formal report from Jay Nordqvist of GSE, but he's given them the green light to go ahead and proceed with the transaction of ending the Codes Enforcement lien that they have by taking the property. So, he'll follow up with Mr. Nordqvist and make sure they get the formal report, and they'll proceed onto taking the property. Mayor Redding asked if they came back with a clean bill of health on that.

City Manager Mullins stated they went back and forth with this. They did the same thing with the Jarmon building. With this property, there was a lot more extensive background data that was provided as a state requirement since it had to do with the former gas station, they included various reports and mitigations that had been taking place throughout the years. They don't have the official report just yet, but he does feel comfortable moving forward with it. Mayor Redding stated he looks forward to further information on that as they move forward.

Mayor Redding asked for 15.a. Commissioner Overstreet. Commissioner Overstreet stated she is tickled with the full room tonight. She thanked everyone, and encouraged everyone to come and get involved, that it helps them and it helps the Commissioners. She welcomed Reverend Greene. Mayor Redding asked for 15.b. Commissioner Milner. Commissioner Milner congratulated Reverend Greene and stated that he looks forward to having him up there in a couple of weeks. He stated they all know that current City Clerk Allen-Thompson's husband, former City Clerk Ricky Thompson, passed away Wednesday. His service will be Friday at 2:00 PM at Jones Gallagher Funeral Home. A number of their employees have asked, that would normally be working, if they could attend, and he thinks that it's only proper. He's recommending that they close City Hall from 1:00 to 5:00 PM tomorrow afternoon. They can adequately notice the public tonight via social media and their website. They could also check with Dave Krieger at WEAG. He's very good about doing things like that first thing in the morning and put adequate notices on the doors. And part of his recommendation is, there'll be no cut-offs as a result of this. They're closed Monday for Labor Day, and so we pick back up on Tuesday. City Manager Mullins stated cut-offs will start occurring next week. Commissioner Milner stated and then people, as usual, have their utilities for this month aren't late until the 21st, but the point being, they would ensure that tomorrow's closure, if they approve it there would be no cut-offs of anybody's utilities as a result of the inability to pay their bill tomorrow afternoon. Mayor Redding entertained a motion to close City Hall for Mr. Thompson's service from 1:00 to 5:00 PM tomorrow, and no cut-offs will occur. Commissioner Milner made that motion. Commissioner Overstreet seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0. Mayor Redding stated 15.c. Commissioner Nugent is not here. 15.d. He doesn't have anything other to add other than please keep City Clerk Allen-Thompson's family in their prayers. He welcomed Reverend Greene. And even though he's not officially on here yet, till next meeting, does he have a Commissioner Report. Reverend Greene did not have a Commissioner Report, but he wanted to make it aware he's scheduled to have another hip replacement.

Mayor Redding entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Milner made a motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 PM.