

CITY COMMISSION MEETING

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Mayor Tommy Chastain announced that if anyone in attendance wishes to speak regarding a motion he asked for them to stand or raise their hand and he will acknowledge them for their comment.

Mayor Tommy Chastain called the meeting to order. Present were Commissioner Janice D. Mortimer, Commissioner Danny Nugent, Commissioner Wilbur Waters, Police Chief Jeff Johnson, City Attorney Dan Sikes, City Manager Bob Milner, and Fire Chief Gary Wise. Commissioner Travis Woods and City Clerk Ricky Thompson were absent.

Commissioner Waters gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mayor Chastain requested any agenda additions and deletions.

Item 3 Section 11 E, request to appoint City Manager Milner as primary representative of the city to the FMPA Executive Committee & Board of Directors.

Item 3 Section 11 F request to appoint City Manager Milner as the primary city representative to Florida Gas Utility Board of Directors.

Commissioner Nugent made the motion to approve the changes to the agenda, second by Commissioner Waters; passed 4-0.

Mayor Chastain entertained a motion to adopt the minutes from Commission Meeting February 20, 2017.

Commissioner Waters made the motion to accept the minutes with the corrections, second by Commissioner Mortimer; passed 4-0.

The Starke Shrine club submitted a request for their Annual Boot Drives be held on US 301 for the following dates: Saturday, April 15 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm with a rain date of April 22; and Saturday, September 16 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm with a rain date of September 23. They are to provide insurance and forms. A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Nugent and seconded by Commissioner Waters. It was approved 4 – 0.

Mayor Chastain asked for any citizens wishing to address the commission complete a request card and then recognized Ms. Jacquelyn Totura who had submitted a form. Mrs. Totura addressed the Commission regarding her neighbors conducting open burning in their back yard which she believes violates the city

ordinance and Division of Forestry rules. She said that the Starke Fire Department comes out but refuses to enforce the law. She requested a Cease and Desist Order be served on her neighbors. City Manager Milner stated that Fire Chief Wise had been to the Totura's neighbor's house and met with the homeowner to discuss the situation and informed them of state laws preventing most open burning and provided literature from the Division of Forestry. City Manager Milner advised that Fire Chief Wise will be bringing proposed changes to our fire code in the near future for consideration and approval by the City Commissioners. Mr. Milner stated the Starke Fire Department will continue to enforce the Division of Forestry rules regarding open burning. The issue should now be resolved.

Stephen Browning of the Florida Department of Transportation gave an update on the railroad overpass on SR 100. DOT and CSX Railroad want to close the railroad crossings at Adkins Street, South Street and one other crossing elsewhere in the state. The city would be paid \$7,500 per closure but closures would start this calendar year. If the city declines closures, they won't occur until 2020 but the city will receive no money for them at that time. Commissioner Mortimer asked if the third closure could be in the county but out of the city. Stephen Browning said they had already looked into closures outside the city in other parts of Bradford County and none of them would work. Crossings will be kept open and DOT will put utilities underground when the closures occur in 2020. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to accept that the railroad crossing closures would not occur until 2020. Commissioner Waters seconded the motion passed 4-0.

Fire Chief Wise left the meeting early but City Manager Milner stated that the Chief had nothing to report.

Police Chief Johnson had nothing to report.

City Manager Milner said he has had an enjoyable first week, advising that he has found most of the employees willing and ready to work and that he has received excellent support from City Clerk Thompson. In the absence of the City Clerk, Mr. Milner then gave updates on the following items:

-The Edwards Bottomland Project is in the public comments phase for 45 days. It will rebuild the banks of Alligator Creek between US 301 and the City Wastewater Treatment plant. . It should be totally funded by the Suwannee River Water Management District and the Florida Wildlife Commission and is being designed to prevent flooding.

-Local contractor John Crawford is building 10 duplexes (total of 20 units) on Southern Villas Drive immediately adjacent to SR-16 west. Mr. Milner advised that he and staff have met with Mr. Crawford several times and things are going fairly smooth. The city will have to run water and sewer lines and provide connections for the same.

-City Manager Milner would like to put in a key card access control system to replace hard keys and a new paperless time sheet system into place. He will advise when these are installed.

-WCA does not provide recycle service for commercial properties. Mr. Milner wants to establish a paper and cardboard recycle program for the city as well as the Bradford County School system as he suspects these two entities are large producers of paper products going to the landfill.

-City Manager Milner, Commissioner Nugent and Commissioner Mortimer will attend the Florida League of Cities dinner and meeting Thursday, March 9 in Green Cove Springs.

-Mr. Milner advised that we have received the pyrotechnics to drive vultures away near the RJE center as recommended by a bird expert. The Starke Fire Department will deploy the devices each evening in an attempt to disturb the sleeping patterns of the vultures and hopefully result in their relocating. Commissioner Mortimer will be advised of the starting date and city employees will distribute fliers to neighbors near the area to allay any concerns of the noise.

-The control panel for the pump at the Edwards Road Complex has been replaced and the toilets are now operable. Portables were brought in for the weekend so that scheduled games were able to take place.

-Mr. Milner advised that city hall was occasionally receiving calls from customers alleging sporadic low water pressure. Mr. Milner stated that Water Dept. supervisor Kyle Jerrells had investigated and determined this is apparently due to fire hydrants being opened by the contractor examining the sewer lines for leaks. There is no apparent on-going problem with water pressure city wide.

-A request has been made to cancel the March 21st Commission Meeting because several commissioners will not be able to attend due to Ethics training and a League of Cities meeting in Tallahassee on the same date. Commissioner Waters moved to cancel the March 21 meeting, Commissioner Mortimer made a second and the vote passed 4-0. These items completed the report of the City Manager

Commissioner Mortimer reviewed the bills along with two of the three Bond Trustees and initially stated she would move to pay all the bills except one for the purchase of Tasers by the police department. After some discussion, it was determined the Tasers will be paid out of fines and forfeitures and in fact this purchase has already been approved. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to pay all the bills, seconded by Commissioner Nugent. Motion approved 4-0
City Attorney Sikes read an ordinance of the City Commission of the City of Starke Florida amending Section 102-44 of the City of Starke Code of Ordinances to include privately owned lift stations; providing for the repeal of conflicting provisions; providing for severability; providing directions to the codifier; and providing for an effective date. Commissioner Waters made a motion to adopt and Commissioner Nugent seconded it; passed 4-0.

Mr. Sikes stated he needed direction regarding the purchase of property across Edwards Road from the planned Water Splash Park for which the city was recently awarded a grant. We need to know if the title is clear, whether it is in a corporation's name or that of a family trust. City Manager Milner will meet with the family members as well as explore another possible location nearby.

The commissioners discussed the need for a meeting prior to the next one in April to discuss and vote on issues relating to a possible special referendum election regarding a Charter change which would delete the requirement for an elected City Clerk. After some discussion, it was decided to call for a special workshop at 6 pm on March 14 with a special called commission meeting at 7 pm to take action on any related items. City Attorney Sikes will have to call into the meeting because he will be on military duty. City Manager Milner will ask Supervisor of Elections Terry Vaughn to attend and explain the procedures and timelines necessary to accomplish such an election prior to the time candidates will qualify in June.

Commissioner Waters had nothing further.

Commissioner Woods was not present.

Commissioner Nugent had nothing further.

Mayor Chastain opined that it may be time for the City Commission and Bradford County Board of County Commissioners to meet regarding any areas of mutual concern such as annexation, extending utilities outside the current city limits given the possibility of a new super school and an economic plan. He offered that he and Mr. Milner could meet with the County Administrator and Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners informally first to establish an agenda. The Mayor asked

what was the pleasure of the other commissioners, all of whom stated they would rather have a meeting between both full boards. Mr. Milner will contact Mr. Carter to determine their interest and possible meeting dates.

Mayor Chastain stated he recommended City Manager Milner be named as the official representative with FMPA. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to appoint Mr. Milner, Commissioner Nugent seconded; passed 4-0.

Likewise, the Mayor recommended City Manager Milner represent the city with Florida Gas Utilities. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to accept. Commissioner Waters seconded it; passed 4-0.

There were no other concerns and the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bob Milner.

Commissioner Mortimer made the motion to adjourn, second by Commissioner Waters; passed 3-0.

Tommy Chastain, Mayor
Commissioner Daniel Nugent
Commissioner Janice D. Mortimer
Commissioner Wilbur L. Waters
Commissioner Travis V. Woods

Attest: _____
Ricky Thompson, City Clerk