

## 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, and City Manager Bob Milner.

Commissioner Travis Woods and City Attorney Sikes joined the meeting by telephone conference.

For the record, shortly after the meeting was convened, the connection with Commissioner Woods was lost and he was unable to be reached despite calls to his cell and home phone.

Mr. Milner gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mayor Chastain briefly explained the purpose of the special called meeting (following the just completed workshop) and Mr. Sikes explained the procedures for adopting the ordinance he had distributed prior to leaving for military duty.

There were comments by Mr. Sikes and Mr. Milner that the ordinance (and all future documents) should use the proper term of “City Commission” rather than Council as is frequently used by the public and some commissioners since the City of Starke formally adopted the City Commission form of government by ordinance over 35 years prior.

Mr. Milner made mention to Mr. Sikes that in the absence of the City Clerk and Deputy Clerk, there was not an Ordinance Number on the proposed ordinance as distributed.

Mr. Sikes opined that the Ordinance Number and effective dates of the special election could be included after the fact but prior to advertising and second reading and prior to actual adoption. Such changes/language he suggested are “procedural and not substantive”.

Mr. Sikes advised he would meet with Mr. Milner the following week upon his return from military duty to ensure the ordinance was technically and legally worded.

Mr. Sikes advised the commission that because the workshop and meeting tonight were legally advertised for the specific purpose of discussing and voting on an ordinance for the special referendum, that the commission could conduct their first reading and vote tonight if they so desired. It was pointed that Mr. Vaughan had stated in the workshop that his office would need the exact language and enabling ordinance by April 3 to get the ballots printed and distributed for the June 6 election date.

Mr. Sikes opined that the commission could vote tonight and again at the next regularly scheduled meeting of April 4 and comply with state and city requirements regarding the adoption of ordinances.

Commissioner Mortimer then made a motion to adopt the ordinance as presented and explained by Mr. Sikes; Commissioner Nugent seconded the motion. After some discussion and more recommendations by Mr. Sikes, Mrs. Mortimer polled the other commissioners as to their preferences of a mail in ballot versus traditional election method.

Commissioner Nugent stated he was OK with either method.

Commissioner Waters offered that he believed most citizens would prefer a normal walk in election versus by mail.

After Commissioner Mortimer stated that she preferred a normal one day election, she amended her motion to specify a general election day of June 6 rather than the by mail method as offered by Mr. Vaughan.

Commissioner Nugent seconded the amendment to the original motion. Mr. Milner and Mr. Sikes clarified the language regarding the dates.

The Ordinance number and the specific sentence that will appear on the ballot as a single issue subject.

Mayor Chastain then called for a vote on the amendment regarding language and one day election, and the motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Chastain then asked for further discussion on the original motion regarding the amended ordinance as explained and suggested by Mr. Sikes, which Commissioner Mortimer had motioned and Commissioner Nugent had seconded; the vote to adopt the ordinance passed 4-0.

Mr. Sikes and Mr. Milner will work to ensure the wording and legal requirements prior to advertising the ordinance and a second vote by the commission at their next regularly scheduled meeting of April 4.

There being no further business, Commissioner Mortimer made the motion to adjourn, second by Commissioner Waters; passed 3-0.

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

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ricky Thompson, City Clerk