

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 Travis Woods, Commissioner Danny Nugent, Commissioner Wilbur Waters, Police Chief Jeff Johnson, Fire Chief Gary Wise, Waters, City Attorney Dan Sikes, and City Manager Bob Milner. City Clerk Ricky Thompson was absent due to medical reasons.

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

Mayor Chastain asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Mr. Milner requested removing Item 10-B relating to the Code Enforcement telephone complaint line as this was approved at a previous commission meeting and is just now being installed.

Commissioner Waters made the motion to accept the changes to the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Nugent; passed 5-0.

Mayor Chastain asked for acceptance of the minutes from the April 4, 2017 Commissioner Meeting.

Commissioner Waters made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Nugent; passed 5-0.

Mr. Milner advised that during the last two power outages which occurred hours apart on the same day, it was determined there are only two numbers in the local phone book for the City of Starke: the nonemergency number for the fire department and the number for the sewer plant. Both of these were overloaded with calls during the outage. The web site needs to be updated to allow easier access to department phone numbers. Mr. Milner also would like a recording that would automatically be played for all callers during a utility emergency explaining the situation but allowing the caller to reach their intended party if the call was for some other reason. Mr. Milner stated he would work with Clerk Thompson and his staff to ensure the website is updated and the information is provided to Century Link.

City Attorney Sikes read the Paint the City Purple Proclamation.

Commissioner Nugent made a motion to accept the proclamation, second by Commissioner Mortimer; passed 5-0.

Esther Lawson and Melanie Fuhrman appeared before the commission representing the Cancer survivor walk which will occur this Friday, April 21 at the Bradford High track and extended their appreciation.

Fire Chief Wise updated the commission on the USDA grant for the new fire truck that has been ordered through E-1 in Ocala.

They are performing a survey for areas of the city with less than ideal fire hydrant coverage. Chief Wise is looking into a “looped” system to maximize water pressure across the city, although this will require substantial financial investment. It was decided that Mittauer & Associates will be asked to do an evaluation in addition to their contracted scope of services.

Police Chief Johnson advised of a meeting with CSX regarding the train that stopped during the Strawberry Festival. Also, representing the city at that meeting were Mayor Chastain and Mr. Milner. There is a sensor indicator on the train that indicates that something is being dragged under the train. When this indicator goes off the train is required to stop. CSX was very apologetic. The two representatives of CSX provided 24-hour phone numbers for the trainmaster as well as the Public Relations personnel and advised those present to call regarding any future blockages.

City Manager Milner requested that Walmart be allowed to set up a tent in their parking lot for Dealer 1 Stop for a 5-day auto sale. The applicant has paid all applicable fees but the ordinance requires the city commission to approve a tent as a variance.

Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve, second by Commissioner Nugent; passed 5-0.

Mayor Chastain asked if they are required to have a license for the event. Manager Milner said they had to acquire a dealer’s license through the Tax Collector’s Office.

Bradford High School is requesting to close Adkins Street between Orange Street and Broadway Street May 5, 2017 between 5:00 and 9:00 pm for their Concert on the Green event.

Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve, second by Commissioner Nugent; passed 5-0.

The police and fire departments are aware and will assist in placement of cones and ensure that residents on the street can exit as well as appropriate vehicles.

Mr. Milner requested that his contract be amended to reduce the cell phone allowance from \$100 per month to \$60 per month and to include a \$300 per month car allowance. He had originally agreed to the state approved mileage reimbursement amount but this has proved cumbersome with daily required paperwork. The previous two managers received the \$300 a month vehicle allowance and Mr. Milner is requesting the same. Commissioner Woods asked Mr. Milner if there was not a city vehicle available somewhere that could be assigned to the manager and Mr. Milner stated not at this time. Commissioner Waters stated that his opinion is that the old spare vehicles available would not be safe or satisfactory to be driven out of town. Commissioner Woods opined that in the future, he believed that the city manager's contract should require the use of a city vehicle and gave his reasoning.

Commissioner Waters made the motion to approve the changes to the contract, second by Commissioner Nugent; passed 5-0.

Mr. Milner requested emergency approval for \$4,950 to repair the Waste Water Treatment Facility since portions of the equipment have been shutting down. Commissioner Mortimer made the motion to approve the emergency repair, second by Commissioner Waters; passed 5-0.

Mr. Milner brought up the need for an ordinance regarding fees for the use of the square. After reviewing minutes from previous workshops with the City Clerk, it was determined that there is a special event ordinance but not one specifically outlining the regulations for use of the city square, just a request form completed by the applying organization. Some considerations include a deposit, meter fees, street closures, restrooms and other considerations. Mr. Milner will work with Clerk Thompson and Attorney Sikes to draw up a sample ordinance to be presented to the commission. We already have 3 applications for May and June.

Mr. Milner advised the commission that we are beginning to receive requests from citizens to have speed bumps installed on their streets. Mr. Milner advised that based on the Church St. and Pine St. operations, this could become an expensive proposition. Commissioner Waters received a request to have speed bumps installed on Epperson Street. The City Manager's Office will ask other cities of similar size what they do in response to requests for speed bumps and report back to the commission with a recommendation.

The Bond Trustees reviewed the bills earlier today and have submitted them for approval.

Commissioner Woods made a motion to pay the bills, second by Commissioner Mortimer; passed 5 -0.

Attorney Sikes is working on finalizing the deal to purchase the Schrader property on Edwards Road since it was determined there was an existing mortgage on the property. The financial institution with the mortgage has advised Mr. Sikes they would be willing to release the mortgage on that particular section of the Schrader property. He is trying to wrap it up before our next meeting.

Commissioner Waters had nothing further

Commissioner Woods had nothing further

Commissioner Nugent had nothing further

Commissioner Mortimer had nothing further

Mayor Chastain wanted to follow up on demolishing the old Badcock building. Additional funds have been designated to deal with removal of asbestos. Mr. Milner stated he would work with Clerk Thompson to bring back a recommendation in May.

Commissioner Waters made the motion to adjourn, second by Commissioner Woods; passed 5-0.

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

Attest: _____
Ricky Thompson, City Clerk