

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

Mayor Chastain gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mayor Chastain asked if there were any changes to the agenda. With no changes, Commissioner Waters made the motion to accept the changes to the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Woods; passed 4-0.

Mayor Chastain asked for acceptance of the minutes from the April 18, 2017 Commissioner Meeting.

Commissioner Waters made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Nugent; passed 4-0.

Fire Chief Wise addressed the burn ban that went into effect on Wednesday afternoon, April 26, 2017. There were fires Thursday ranging in size from 3 acres to 200 acres. Fire departments from Camp Blanding, Clay County, Lawtey, Melrose and Putnam County assisted.

The fire department has received 90% of the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Grant. They are still waiting to receive the generator.

Chief Wise updated the commission on the USDA grant for the new fire truck that has been ordered through E-1 in Ocala. They will receive the final drawings and check off list tomorrow. The new truck should be finished sometime in November.

Police Chief Johnson addressed the nine-vehicle accident that occurred Thursday in front of the Walmart. There were 3 people seriously injured. It is a miracle everyone survived. We had help and the city was never vulnerable.

Chief Johnson is working on a Bullet Proof Vest grant to be completed by the end of August. The new proposed homestead exemption will affect us greatly.

We will have a Concert on the Green at Bradford High School Friday, May 5, 2017 at 6:00. There will not be any fireworks due to the burn ban. There will be an Old-Time Gospel Sing at The Square Saturday, May 7, 2017 starting at 10:00 am.

Mr. Milner requested the ratification for Change Order # 1 to increase by \$5,050.00 and Change Order # 2 to increase by \$9,950.00 to J & H Waterstop Utilities. These repairs are in addition to the original contract regarding the camera and smoke project being performed to detect leaks and infiltration into the sewer system.

Commissioner Nugent made a motion to accept the increase. Commissioner Waters seconded it. The vote was 4-0 to approve the changes to the contract.

A new work truck for the Public Works Squad should arrive at Murray Ford within two weeks and be ready for delivery around June 1, 2017.

Mr. Milner advised that DOT would be sending us a list of traffic loops that need to be repaired, 13 in all. 301 at Pratt Street and 100 at Orange Street are the worst. Summerville Electric will be brought in to address these. The audible warning signal at Madison Street and Pratt Street has been lowered so it can't be heard inside the surrounding houses.

Mr. Milner and Clerk Thompson met with Megan Richardson from Dynamic Corporate Solutions to discuss the Policy and Procedure and Personnel Manual to review and send us a scope of services. They come highly recommended by other municipalities.

Mayor Chastain, Mr. Milner and Clerk Thompson will be meeting with J & H Waterstop and Mittauer, the city's contracted engineering group. There are 50 manholes that cannot be located. Most of them have been paved over. The Gene Drive lift station has been repaired. The Southgate lift station will be finished within the next few days. There are 6 more. Fire hydrants are being replaced under provisions of a grant from Suwanee River WMD. We will come in under budget by using our staff. We have been looking into other cities policies on speed bumps and overtime pay. We lack consistency on overtime and on-call policies. Commissioner Waters brought increasing the size of the water mains up for discussion. Roger Slora from the wastewater department addressed the issue of the water tower filling up. The altitude valve has been repaired so it should be at full capacity.

Clerk Thompson reported 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 Nugent; passed 4 -0.

Clerk Thompson certified that the terms of the following officials will expire on September 30, 2017: Commissioner Mortimer, Commissioner Chastain, City Clerk Thompson and Police Chief Johnson. Qualifying dates will begin on June 26, 2017 at 12:00 pm and end June 30, 2017 at 12:00 pm. The election date will be Tuesday, September 5, 2017 from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. If required a run-off will be Tuesday, September 19, 2017 from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Clerk Thompson presented the above for certification. Regarding the call for the general election Commissioner Waters made a motion to accept. Commissioner Woods seconded. Approved 4-0.

Regarding the June 6, 2017 Commission Meeting a motion was made by Commissioner Woods to cancel the meeting due to the Clerk Referendum election that day. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. After discussion, it was decided to hold the first meeting in June on Thursday, June 1, 2017. The vote was 4-0 to accept.

Regarding the NEFLC dinner in Atlantic Beach on May 18, 2017, Clerk Thompson asked for names of everyone planning to attend.

Attorney Sikes is working on the Schrader property purchase on Edwards Road. He is hoping to bring it before the commission at the next meeting. Mr. Sikes opined that the City Charter provision requiring a run-off election does not conform to current state statute and Division of Elections administrative code, which the city must conform to based on the decision to let the Bradford County Supervisor of Elections be the administrator of future elections. We need to clean up the Charter to conform to state requirements and Mr. Sikes will be working with Mr. Milner to complete the same.

Commissioner Waters brought up turning the little used hand ball court at the Edwards Road complex into restrooms. It will be added to the next agenda. Mayor Chastain expressed concern for parking at the complex. The Hercules property would be ideal. We have \$40,000 budgeted for parking.

Commissioner Woods mentioned building a second story on the hand ball court to convert them into restrooms. Commissioner Woods also expressed appreciation for the Starke Police Department for transporting the kids from Starke Elementary school to the Arbor Day Celebration.

Commissioner Nugent 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