

CITY COMMISSION

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In Attendance were Mayor Travis Woods, Commissioner Carolyn Spooner, Commissioner Tommy Chastain, Commissioner Danny Nugent, Commissioner Wilbur Waters, Chief Jeff Johnson, Chief Tom Rowe, City Clerk Ricky Thompson, City Manager Tom Ernharth, City Attorney Dan Sikes and John Theisen

Mayor Woods called the Commission meeting to order and asked if anyone in the audience had anything they wanted to bring before the commission to please step forward, state their name and address. No one came forward.

The invocation and the pledge of allegiance to the flag was lead by Commission Waters.

Mayor Woods: Do I have a motion to accept the minutes of July the 28th?

City Clerk Thompson: Do to the quick turnaround of the meetings the minute are not available at this time. I request that we table the minutes until the next meeting due to the short turnaround.

Mayor Woods: Okay, can we go ahead and do the workshop minutes from the 18th
Do I have a motion to accept the minutes of July the 18th?

Commissioner Nugent: I make the motion

Mayor Woods: I have a motion from Commissioner Nugent do I have a second?

Commissioner Waters: I second.

Mayor Woods. I have a motion and a second. All for say aye.

Commissioners: Aye

Motion passed 5-0

Commissioner Spooner: I don't have any objections. I was just going to say that when you get to the citizen's participation that I have a comment from a citizen who called.

Mayor Woods: Okay, I'll deal with it in just a second. I'd like to make a...before we move on. I know we are having workshops and I know that we are...all basically my head is looking at my figures, and my numbers too and you all have to forgive me if I don't look up when you've got your hand raised, or you want my attention or something and if I'm looking down and don't see your hand would you please call my name, do something. Because I'm not trying to ignore anyone, any one of you, if I have my head down, so if I don't recognize you just say something. Would you do that? And that way then sometimes I get my head buried in this agenda also and I don't see you with your hand up or whatever. So if you'll do that if I'm sitting here continuing to ignore you, say something. Okay?

Alright, moving right along. We'll get to citizen participation and Ms. Spooner you said you had something you wanted to—

Commissioner Spooner: Yes, I received a call from Ms. Petteway, she could not be here because her husband is very ill and she is at the hospital with him, but she sent a message asking if we, the City would consider allowing the RJE Reunion Parade that is scheduled to come September—

Tom Ernharth: Labor Day, right?

Captain Barry Warren: September 5th

Commissioner Spooner: Labor Day weekend, September the 5th and she said, here it is, that the parade would line up at Shands, heading West on Call Street, to Water Street...it would be the same parade route from last year. They would turn right on Water Street at the Pest Control going down to Brownlee. A right on Brownlee and down to Old Lawtey Road turn left down Jenkins to beside RJE and the parade would end at the RJE parking lot. The parade would start at 12:00 pm instead of 10:00 am because they are going to have a cookout afterwards. She asks that you all please consider allowing for that. They have been in touch with the police department's Captain Warren.

Mayor Woods: I think we've allowed for this every year, so I don't think we need a motion

City Clerk Thompson: but is the start time 10, did you say?

Commissioner Spooner: It's at 12:00 pm normally it's a 10:00am, because they're having a cookout they're wanting to do it later.

City Clerk Thompson: And it's a rolling parade, Chief?

Chief Johnson: Yes

Commissioner Spooner: and the date is September 5th.

Mayor Woods: Before we move on from Citizen's Participation, do you want to go ahead and put anything on the agenda for tonight or—?

City Clerk Thompson: I think we can wait until the next meeting if we need the outside legal.

Mayor Woods: Okay, I'll agree with you, our meeting with DOT was fine, I don't know what we're going to have to say or do about it, but...I'll agree with you. So, moving right along, anything else under Citizen's Participation? Okay. Chief Rowe.

Chief Tom Rowe: I do have something for tonight Mayor. The MDA boot drive will be on the first Saturday in September so it'll be on the 5th also. It's not on the agenda, but I just wanted to remind y'all. I'll put it on the agenda for the next meeting to be voted on. It'll be that Saturday that we'll do the boot drive. We'll be on SR100 for MDA. We'll put it on the agenda for the next meeting and that's all I've got to say.

City Attorney Dan Sikes: Well, before you go can I turn on the fire department. Well we do need to schedule, I thought I had asked to have scheduled it for tonight, but it didn't happen. So we do need to have the Executive Meeting with the Fire Department so we do need to schedule that. I had a meeting scheduled for the 11th with them because I thought I was going to have the meeting tonight, so I'm going to have to reach out and reschedule with them, but I need to have an Executive Meeting with the City Council so if I can get this—

Chief Tom Rowe: on the 18th?

City Attorney Dan Sikes: That's fine I just need to have it as soon as possible. It's my mistake, I thought I had it scheduled for tonight, but I didn't get it taken care of so...I'll take that hit, but I would like to get that scheduled at the earliest possible convenience.

Tom Ernharth: That would be at the end of the meeting.

Mayor Woods: Right.

City Attorney Dan Sikes: Whatever is convenient...however you want to do it is fine by me, we just need to get it done.

Mayor Woods: Yeah, because we usually do it Dan afterwards that way everybody's here and the rest are gone.

Attorney Dan Sikes: Okay, that's good.

Mayor Woods: Anything else?

Chief Tom Rowe: That was all I have.

Mayor Woods: Okay, Chief Johnson.

Chief Johnson: I'm good.

Mayor Woods: You're good?

Chief Johnson: Yes, unless anyone's got any questions. Had a great time at the park Saturday. Rained all day. It's been raining ever since, I think. Saturday morning we had a pretty good showing, until it rained, well til the hard rain and then it thinned out, but it was good. It was good for the 631st, nobody went to the hospital, everybody—

(laughter)

Chief Johnson: but we had a great time and appreciate the city and what we, you know, it was just really good. We had a really good time. This is going to be an annual event, Mr. Nugent, I'm sure. It'll be around the same time next year and um I think it was great, we had a great time. If there are no other questions.

Mayor Woods: Okay

Commissioner Spooner: I would like to commend the Police Department for their officers that assisted with the funeral service. It was a very congested time on 301 and they did an excellent job.

Chief Johnson: Yes ma'am, thank you. They both deserved it, Alice and Willie, they were good people.

Mayor Woods: Okay, Tom.

Tom Ernharth: The first one on the agenda is flow monitoring, a permission to bid. Under this is one kind of an apology. At the last meeting I recommended the awarding of an RFP for this project and what happened was since the RFP came in over \$15,000, it's my understanding that it needs to be bid. We cannot go through The RFP process if it's over \$15,000. I worked with Midtower the engineer on this, we sent out 7 RFPs to contractors and only received 2 back. The lowest was \$17,400 to do the sewer system evaluations, however it is over the \$15,000, so it needs to be a public bid. We need to work whatever magic we can to do to get permission for me to bid it.

Mayor Woods: Okay, so we've got to have it, so do I have a motion to go ahead and have Mr. Tom bid this out for the \$17,400?

Commissioner Chastain: I so move.

Mayor Woods: Commissioner Chastain

Commissioner Spooner: I second

Mayor Woods: Motion was made by Commissioner Chastain and seconded by Commissioner, Ms. Spooner. All in favor say aye.

Commissioners: Aye

Motion passed 5-0

Tom Ernharth: Second on the agenda is the contribution policy the resolution reads—

City Attorney Dan Sikes: All you have to read is the title

Tom Ernharth: that's what I'm reading...hopefully. The Resolution of the City Commission of the City of Starke, Florida establishing a policy and procedure for making contributions to non-profit organizations within the corporate limits of the City of Starke, Florida providing findings of the City Commission, providing direction to the City Clerk, and providing an effective date.

Mayor Woods: Before we move on with this, do we need to table this? Dan, do we need to table this since in fact it says in it that we've got \$5,000 and we've got the thousand dollar deal, so can we...I think we've got plenty of time until we get into next year's budget to see if we can put the \$10,000 in it, if we do, then we'd need to have that changed. Or just adopt this and go back and change it or what?

City Attorney Sikes: I'd rather you table it and fix it in one fell swoop.

Mayor Woods: We'll table this and go through the budget and if we've got room for \$10,000, then that's what we'll put in for.

Tom Ernharth: So, I won't put it back on the agenda until after the budget is approve or just about approved.

Mayor Woods: then we can put in the right numbers

City Clerk Thompson: So you're tabling this until the 18th?

Mayor Woods: Until after the budget.

Tom Ernharth: for whatever night the budget is approved

City Clerk Thompson: gotcha

Mayor Woods: By then we should know the numbers

Tom Ernharth: Next we have a resolution for the FRDAP Grant and it reads: A Resolution approving an addition for the 5 year capital improvement schedule of the comprehensive plan to provide recreation improvements at the Edwards Road Sports and Recreation Complex, providing state and/or federal grants for such additions and permits are received and providing an effective date.

We did have a public hearing on this on the FRDAP grant at 5:30 pm and no one was in attendance, so we quickly closed it and moved on.

Mayor Woods: Okay, you've heard the resolution 2015-11, do we have a motion?

Commissioner Nugent: I'll make the motion

Mayor Woods: motion made by Commissioner Nugent. Do I have a second?

Commissioner Waters: Second

Mayor Woods: Seconded by Commissioner Waters. All for say aye.

Commissioners: Aye

Motion passed 5-0

Tom Ernharth: Next we have an ordinance, our grease trap ordinance. The caption of it reads: an Ordinance adopted by the City Commission of the City of Starke, Florida which establishes objectives to deter abnormal accumulation in the city collection system. Establishing requirement of new facilities to install grease traps. Establishing reporting requirements allowing for extension of reporting requirements. Establishing standards of the maintenance. Establishing reporting procedures. Establishing methods of enforcement and establishing an effective date.

Mayor Woods: Okay, you've heard the ordinance, so do we have a motion to accept?

Commissioner Spooner: so move

Mayor Woods: so moved by Commissioner Spooner, do we have a second?

Commissioner Chastain: second

Mayor Woods: seconded by Chastain, all for say aye

Commissioners: aye

Motion passed 5-0

Mayor Woods: Mr. Tom

Tom Ernharth: Alright, next is, under me, under my bi-monthly report couple quick items. The easy one is the... I give you the waste water plant option on page 2. We start at the comments from Paul Still concerning taking our waste water to essentially to Camp Blanding and eventually taking it down to the lakes region. We have a meeting with Paul Still tomorrow at 9:00 am to talk about these options and to talk about the project and the potential to do something with it. The only other thing on here is the Badcock lift station update, everything is in bid. The advertisements have been placed. We are actually opening the bids on the 18th of August and we're also awarding it that evening. So that project is moving forward. Like you said, they're scheduled to move in or they want to move in December, so that gives us plenty of time to in which to get the project completed. The only questionable thing is if we get it in this year's budget or next year's budget, so we need to get that done.

Do we want to get into the sewer on Grand Street? Ricky, should we get into the sewer on Grand Street or just skip over that?

City Clerk Thompson: I'm not seeing need to discuss it

Commissioner Chastain: I'd like to know about it

Tom Ernharth: Okay, in my report we had a resident approached, came in an approached the City about her well went dry. She lives at the end of Desue Street. The closest water line was about 1,700 feet away. She said that her well went dry and she needed to look to the city for assistance. We ran the numbers, got estimates from purchasing as to what it would cost in materials. She made a contribution of about \$8,500 for the project. We've ordered the materials, we've gone through DEP asking for the permit and that permit didn't require any extensive engineering. It simply a JS map with a line on it showing depth of the water line and the size of the water line. We're currently working through the permitting process. On that, when I put this in there, I looked at it and thought we were doing a good thing for a resident. I didn't realize I needed the Commission's approval to proceed with that. We've run into some issues a couple of times before. So I think it's something we should probably discuss or get approval for to keep the auditors happy the next time they come in, so they don't have to write us up a second time on it. Like I said, I didn't realize that we needed to do that because I looked at it as

a good thing and I put it in as a “hey, look what we’re doing” and then I got slapped around a bit.

(uproar of laughter)

Commissioner Chastain: *laughing* Okay, it’s a learning experience.

(laughter)

City Attorney Sikes: No good deed goes unpunished.

(laughter)

Tom Ernharth: But anyways, that’s where it stands with that. We, like I said, since we’ve been extending this water line, we’ve had 3 other residents alone along Grand and Desue approach us to say that, “hey we want to add on, we put on too” and they have made contributions to the project of about \$1,700 a piece. So, we got everything in gear, in motion to get this done, and help out this resident. All I need is your approval to say, “Hey Tom, go ahead and get this done.”

Mayor Woods: Okay, this is part of what I wanted on the agenda, in the beginning of the agenda and I forgot which one it was. Basically we can...I don’t know how big of a rush this is, but if we can put it off for 2 weeks, we can put it out for advertisement and we can do it that way and hold off or since everything has basically been set in line to do so, we can absolutely hold up on it and bid it out.

Tom Ernharth: There’s actually no bidding involved, because we are doing it with our own forces, the Public Works Department was going to put the water line in, so there’s actually no bidding required for this or materials used to install the water line.

Mayor Woods: So you’re going under, if it’s all going to cost you is

Tom Ernharth: \$8,500

Mayor Woods: \$8,500 to do that

Tom Ernharth: Under our policy, I need, at least how the auditors read, Commissioners’ approval in order to extend the water line to these residents.

City Clerk Thompson: I did that back in 2012 and the auditors caught it and wrote me up for it.

Tom Ernharth: So, all I, what I need is to bring it up before you and for you to see a request has been made from a resident asking for water. We've negotiated with them as to their contributions for extending the line. Do we want to continue with this project?

Mayor Woods: Do we need to go ahead to put this off and make an official vote on this or can we declare it as an emergency and let him move ahead with it and that way we've got the auditors squared away.

City Attorney Sikes: You can do it either way. It's how you prefer to do it. Do you really want to declare it an emergency?

(several people speak at once)

Mayor Woods: It's not on the agenda.

(more people speaking at once)

Mayor Woods: So what are you saying? You want us to hold up 2 weeks or do you want to do it now?

City Clerk Thompson: I can put it under Tom's right now.

Mayor Woods: Let's do this, let's let Mr. Thompson go ahead and put it under Tom's now. That way we will be all covered and everything will be alright.

City Clerk Thompson: Mayor, I would like to add to our agenda tonight, non-emergency item, under City Manager, we'll call it item F, water line extension special project.

Mayor Woods: and you said it's about \$8,500 what it'll cost to do. Tommy, you have a question.

Commissioner Chastain: Ms. Spooner had one. Go ahead.

Mayor Woods: Oh, I'm sorry

Commissioner Spooner: The other thing too, one of the things we've talked about was ways to expand city services so that we can get revenue coming in. This is a good example of adding needed service for people of Grand Street and the people on the fringes on the city.

Tom Ernharth: What we've always done in the past it to extend a 2 inch line, a 2 inch line can't support fire hydrants and it can't support expansion. What we are doing is putting in a 6 inch line in these areas that can be developed if someone comes in the future and do that. We can add fire hydrants for protection if we want. So we are actually improving the area instead of just providing public water

Commissioner Spooner: and it's a health issue, if you don't have water.

City Clerk Thompson: Within the finding or write up from the state auditors, they would like for the Commission to come up with and approve a policy on how we are going to do this. The way we did Walmart, was by... anybody that connects onto that line, the first person or whoever, if there's 5 they're going to pay whatever the cost of that project is. Count the number of available add-ons or connections and then as they add on that portion per item share is refunded to the ones that actually contributed to put that in since the city isn't contributing.

Mayor Woods: okay

City Clerk Thompson: Does that make sense?

Several speakers said yes

City Clerk Thompson: We can have that by the next meeting

Tom Ernharth: yet another policy

Commissioner Chastain: Mr. Ernharth, as we're sitting here talking and I'm thinking, have our engineers been involved in this at all?

Tom Ernharth: Like I've said they've completed the fill in the blank application for DEP and they did the JS map with the lines showing where the lines were going to be and we've submitted that to DEP.

Commissioner Chastain: Where I'm going with that is, sometimes we have problems with water pressure. How will the water pressure play into putting in a 6 inch line with 3 hydrants into that area?

Tom Ernharth: It's a dead end line that will serve 3 to 4 homes in the survey now. There were no issues with water pressure with the staff.

Commissioner Chastain: with whom?

Tom Ernharth: the water staff

Commissioner Chastain: so you have definitely discussed that

Tom Ernharth: yes, we have

Commissioner Waters: I've got a question. You're talking about hook ups not hydrants, right?

Tom Ernharth: yeah, there are 3 hook ups and we have the potential to put in 3 hydrants as well.

Commissioner Waters: if you need to, but for right now you're just putting in the hook ups

Chief Johnson: No you're putting in the hydrants now

Tom Ernharth: I'm sorry. Yes, we are putting in the hydrants now. We're putting the hydrants in now

City Clerk Thompson: Tom, the code is for every 300/400 ft apart.

Chief Tom Rowe: every 600 feet

Commissioner Waters: I make a motion we declare an emergency—

Mayor Woods: it's not an emergency, Ricky added it to the agenda and I should have done it in the Citizen's part but I forgot. It's been added, so we just need a motion to go ahead and continue with the water line extension on Grand and Desue.

Commissioner Spooner: I second

Mayor Woods: motion made by Commissioner Waters, seconded by Commissioner Spooner. All for say aye

Commissioners: Aye

Motion passed 5-0

Mayor Woods: We're going to recoup the fees anyway sooner or later if they stay long enough so—

Commissioner Waters: I just want to make one remark.

Mayor Woods: okay, go ahead.

Commissioner Waters: I appreciate you looking out for the people like you say I wouldn't have known to put out for bids. I would have thought we could just run it out, but I still appreciate you taking care of it and getting the lady the water.

Tom Ernharth: Yeah, I looked at it as an essential public service and that's kind of what we're in business to do and it's a—

Commissioner Chastain: We'll forgive you this time.

(laughter)

Tom Ernharth: That's my key word for the night

(more laughter)

Mayor Woods: we can't blame it all on Tom, I sat right here and didn't catch it either.

City Clerk Thompson: and it wasn't the first time that's happened, that would be on me.

Mayor Woods: Anything else?

Tom Ernharth: no I don't, thank you.

Mayor Woods: okay, Mr. Ricky.

City Clerk Thompson: I'm kind of disappointed I have the alphabet all the way up to "O" again. So, let's make this short. The Bond Trustees met along with Commissioner Waters and recommended we pay the bills.

Mayor Woods: Motion by Commissioner Waters, do I have a second?

Commissioner Nugent: I second

Mayor Woods: Seconded by Commissioner Nugent, all in for say aye.

Commissioners: Aye

Motion passed 5-0

City Clerk Thompson: Thank you, item B, surplus city parcel, the one we talked about in the last meeting over in Green Acres parcel number, requesting a motion to approve surplus that property.

Mayor Woods: I think that's been taken care of.

Chief Johnson: I've talked with Will, he has no intentions of ... apparently there was some miscommunication and he didn't explain it real good. When I talked to him, he has no intentions of wanting to buy the parcel. What he is wanting to do is to get permission to get on the parcel and clean it further back, away from his mom's house. The kids are playing in back and if you'll take a look it's really infested back there and he was just wanting to be able to clean it out back. I don't know if that has to be an agreement or what.

Mayor Woods: Is that the parcel in front of her house or?

Chief Johnson: Behind her

Mayor Woods: Behind her house

Chief Johnson: It's my understanding that it's the parcel behind her house.

Mayor Woods: we'll have we were looking

Chief Johnson: if you're sitting at Cathy's house straight across the road is Mr. Riggs. Will owns the place to the left.

Mayor Woods: Okay

Chief Johnson: The lot at the cul-de-sac, I believe he owns that lot, but he is concerned about the lot also behind his mother's

Several people speaking over one another

Chief Johnson: needing permission

City Attorney Sikes: Wait a minute, wait a minute. If we own the lot and it's becoming a public nuisance...if it were private property, we could require the owner to clean it up. We don't have to keep it perfect, but I tell you, we have an obligation that if it's becoming a public nuisance that we take a team to go clean it out.

Chief Johnson: But you have to go across private property to access it.

City Attorney Sikes: Here's what I'm hearing, if there's snakes and health concerns on that property, if there is, then we have certain obligations to fix that

Chief Johnson: and he was just asking to do that

City Attorney Sikes: he can do that, but if he does then he accepts the liability for doing that

Chief Johnson: Right

Mayor Woods: Do we need to get something in writing that says he does accept that responsibility. I know what you're saying —

Chief Johnson: Cause people do that all the time to city property. They'll mow it or

City Attorney Sikes: What worries me is that it's like you're saying that it's a health and safety hazard and that's where my intent is

Chief Johnson: and that's what he indicated. You know Mr. Hardy lives down at the end of the road and the woods back up to his place too, so he has snakes and such. I went up there and rode and there is absolutely no way to get to this property

Commissioner Nugent: My concern is the liability, I'd rather they give us permission to cross their property to clean up our own parcel with a crew so that way we don't have to worry about somebody getting hurt on our property.

City Attorney Sikes: If we did at least a baseline cleaning and then afterward if he wanted to maintain it

Chief Johnson: he could keep it mowed

City Attorney Sikes: yes, he could keep it mowed, but for purposes, I would rather have us do a baseline cleaning and what he wants to do afterward is fine. But I would suggest that be the better way to do it.

Mayor Woods: Which way would be better to go in? Mr. Hardy's or the other way?

Chief Johnson: Right now, no way.

Mayor Woods: yeah well it's wet

Chief Johnson: I'd think it would be in between Larry White's and Cathy's

Commissioner Spooner: I think we should send him a letter thanking Will for his willingness to clean it up

City Attorney Sikes: I still think we need to do a base line cleaning

Mayor Woods: I think we'll just table B for now and Tom would you get this done and you can call Will or send him a thank you note or short letter saying we appreciate the offer of him cleaning up the weeds, we need to make the initial clean up and if he wants to mow it from there on out, they have our blessings.

Chief Johnson: He does realize, weather permitting

Tom Ernharth: I'll include in there about needing access to the property through his.

Mayor Woods: Exactly, so I think you know what we need

Tom Ernharth: yes

Commissioner Chastain: Table both of them?

City Clerk Thompson: yeah, there's no sense in bringing up C is B is out.

Mayor Woods: Alright Mr. Dan

City Clerk Sikes: My only thing is I want to make sure that the Executive Meeting is scheduled for the next meeting on the 18th and we're good.

Mayor Woods: We have

City Attorney Sikes: That's it, I have nothing else.

Mayor Woods: I don't have anything else. I've gotten all mine taken care of. Mr. Waters?

Commissioner Waters: I'm going to leave it alone too

Mayor Woods: Okay, good alright. Mr. Nugent?

Commissioner Nugent: I just like to thank all the local people who helped with the function this weekend. It's good for the community people to get together and the different agencies and I would like to thank the Commissioners that came down there, I know some of you couldn't make it, I know we can't make all the events. So that's all I have tonight. Thank you.

Commissioner Spooner: Mine is brief too. Chief and the Commissioners too, the little strip of land on McCollum that runs along and up to RJE ball park. Last evening the kids were park along the highway because the ground is too muddy. If you want to roll a chair, a wheelchair, or even a motorized one, you can't because it's just so muddy. The strip is about the distance from this corner to the corner here. I would like us to look at paving that section so there's access for the handicap, access for the vehicles, and it would reduce the number of vehicles along the highway. It's a safety issue as well as the access and I would like that to be considered. The area where the field is too wet, even the cars can't park around there without getting stuck.

(several people speak at once)

Mayor Woods: Wilbur and Danny will be next

Commissioner Waters: Since you brought that up, and talking about paving that, I think we've got about half a million dollars (\$500,000) in the fund for paving now. We should have close to \$700,000 before long. We need to, I would offer the suggestion that we start looking to turn our lists into Tom on the streets we'd liked to get paved.

Commissioner Spooner: This isn't a redo, it's a dirt road

Commissioner Nugent: Is it a City road or a private road?

Commissioner Spooner: it's absolutely City, it's McCollum. It's the last section of McCollum.

(several people speak at once)

Commissioner Nugent: can we do that on a dirt road? Resurface and basically—

Mayor Woods: No, it's my understanding that the money is for resurfacing and not building a complete road. Does it have any kind of surface on it at all?

Commissioner Spooner: It's dirt and grass

Mayor Woods: Plain old dirt and grass. I know that'll be sort of questionable as to how we can use that money. I know we can use that money to resurface a road, but to build one that's—

Commissioner Spooner: but the impact—

Mayor Woods: I know what you're saying, but we're going to have to look at to make sure we're all legal in spending that money the way we need to spend it.

City Clerk Thompson: and don't forget about the grant too.

Commissioner Nugent: If it's legal I'd like to see Ms. Spooner be able to use her money for that and if not do we have funds where we can put like a lime rock or

something like that in? Resurface it with some lime rock and know the County does that sometimes.

Mayor Woods: If we can do it legally and get it done legally and use her part of the money, her share of the money then that's what we'll do.

Commissioner Waters: Ricky?

Mayor Woods: Go ahead Wilbur

Commissioner Waters: Is this road tax money or impact fees?

City Clerk Thompson: Impact fee is probably on road paving is probably zeroed out if I'm not mistaken.

Commissioner Waters: okay then, this would be road tax money. You can do a new road with the road tax money. You can do a new road with the road tax.

City Clerk Thompson: Absolutely, with that 1 mil you can pave roads with it. There's about \$500,000 and the 1 mil will generate close to another \$200,000 this year.

Mayor Woods: We have to have \$200,000 in there for the road paving, right?

City Clerk Thompson: Right and we've got \$500,000 right now.

Mayor Woods: We can look at it and then if we can do it legally then you know I don't have a problem with it, but Carolyn you can add that to your part and we can move on with it.

Commissioner Nugent: I had something for Tom. Tom, remember the amounts for the paving. Can you make sure we all get a copy so we can bring them to you? It'd make it a lot easier when they turn them into you and you'll have the location on them.

Tom Ernharth: Okay.

Mayor Woods: Anything else Ms. Spooner?

Commissioner Spooner: no, that's all

Mayor Woods: Commissioner Chastain?

Commissioner Chastain: Yes. Today we met with DOT on the overpass and they are will to come to our next meeting

(multiple people said yes)

Mayor Woods: The 18th.

Commissioner Chastain: That's our next meeting.

Mayor Woods: Did I write it in the wrong thing?

Tom Ernharth: Their meeting is on the 17th, ours is on the 18th.

Commissioner Chastain: and they are going to come to us on the 18th for a workshop prior to ours.

City Clerk Thompson: We changed the dates (for the Commission meetings) in September

Mayor Woods: Okay, that's what's fouled me up. Go ahead Tommy.

Commissioner Chastain: Is everyone agreeable to coming to a workshop at 6:00pm for DOT overpass?

Tom Ernharth: The only question I have is about the budget. We still need to hammer at that budget.

Commissioner Chastain: An idea for the budget is, we can pick another night during the week and spend more than an hour on it.

Commissioner Waters: spend more than an hour on what?

Commissioner Chastain: the budget

Commissioner Waters: oh okay, I started to say they've (DOT) already have their minds made up

(multiple people in agreement)

Commissioner Chastain: Which leads me to another question, do we pursue, I think I've said this before, going to battle with them over this or just allow it to take place?

Commissioner Spooner: So there's another meeting on the 17th, public meeting

Mayor Woods: at the fair grounds

Commissioner Chastain: Today, I asked them about the feasibility study, which they've promised us for August. They postponed today and said it might be in September, then in October and when we finished talking today they said it probably wouldn't be until November...but they're going to make their decision in January. So again, we do know an attorney in Tallahassee that seems to do well in battling them. I don't know if that's a consideration, or not.

Chief Johnson: It ought to speak loud and clear that they only brought one drawing to this. There was only one brought today.

Mayor Woods: There was only one drawing brought today, but they said 144th Street was not taken completely off the list

Tom Ernharth: they said if we go with 144th Street, they're not going to spend that money in 2020 and there are other cities so we'd have to fight for that money whenever we feel 144th was necessary. So, I felt that was kind of questionable...a veiled threat.

Mayor Woods: and I guess Tommy and I don't know, I'm just thinking out loud, after we, and I asked Ricky, we talked about this before the meeting if he wanted to add this on there what we were talking about getting an attorney. We would probably after the 17th probably know what they're going to tell us and then we can decide if, like you said, fight this, on the 18th we could make our decision then.

Commissioner Waters: Mr. Mayor may I?

Mayor Woods: Sure

Commissioner Waters: The remarks I made to him, he said well we'll just take the 20 million dollars and put it somewhere else.

Mayor Woods: That's exactly what he said

Commissioner Waters: exactly what he said so, if you don't want it...that's telling you it's going to go SR100.

Mayor Woods: That's what I'm saying, we would have time on the 18th to decide whether or not we want to fight it or not.

Commissioner Chastain: Right, and maybe we fight it a little bit to use that as leverage to get something else from them in the package whether it be paving Call Street and some of our other side streets or whatever it may be, but I think we should at least try, but maybe I'm wrong.

Commissioner Spooner: We should go to the public meeting and state our petition.

Commissioner Chastain: I'll be there

Tom Ernharth: We'll be there.

City Clerk Thompson: I have one comment. I think we need to figure out how many businesses we're going to lose, which means how much revenue we're going to lose from the 5 or 6 businesses they're closing with our electric, water and utilities. That's going to be a pretty large chunk of change.

Commissioner Chastain: Tom's working on that.

City Clerk Thompson: Oh okay.

Commissioner Nugent: When they're relocated they'll be relocating within the city, so we still keep the customers, right? We can use that as leverage to get more, like you said, more for the city out of it.

Tom Ernharth: That's kind of a "to be determined" it would be up to the business owners as to if they want to relocate or just take the money and run.

Mayor Woods: May I make a suggestion? Let's go ahead and put on the agenda and let's see what the results are from the 17th meeting and whatever we find out between now and then put it on the agenda to move forward with hiring an attorney

and then if we get to the point on the 18th we don't really want to do that, table it and take it off and be through with it. Would that be satisfactory?

Commissioner Chastain: Yeah, that's fine, but are we still going to invite them to come

Mayor Woods: Yes. Yes, the reason I'd like to see them come is for more publicity, they're going to be here on the 17th at the fairgrounds. There are some people that aren't going to be able to go to the fairgrounds and if we have our workshop and we have them here at 6:00pm, with all their maps and what have you and what not, then we will give them that hour and hope that the ones not able to go on the 17th will come on the 18th it'll probably be a small crowd and they can talk to them more. The more publicity we have on this and get this out to our residents then I think that's what we should do.

Commissioner Spooner: I'd say we put on there to get an attorney to hear the State's position rather than take a... I don't know. You've already said you're going to fight before hearing all the options.

Commissioner Chastain: well, at that time you can either vote yea or nay for it so—

Mayor Woods: You don't have to say you agree with them, I know we don't agree with them. If we decide we want to do that then we have the opportunity to and if not, then we will just table it.

Commissioner Nugent: My big concern is to hear what the citizens have to say about it. They're not here to tell you what they want to do. You know, get the groups in like Tom said, we need to have the citizens' voices heard as to what they want.

Mayor Woods: Well, when we go back to the workshop thing that we had here with the citizens, I think it was about 5 to 1 to put it on 144th Street. I mean, you know, that's what I was hearing from the citizens on that night. We may have another one and it may be different, you know what I'm saying?

Commissioner Waters: I've got a question for the attorney. Dan, if they decide they want to put it on SR100, do we really have a say so?

City Attorney Sikes: Let me make sure I'm fair, just and put everything on the table. One of the routes involves where my office is, would have an impact on my office. So one of the things is, you see me keeping my mouth shut is because I'm off of one of the roads and so I just want to make sure anything that I say, I'm trying not to steer the City Council one way or the other. Generally speaking, FDOT, they can make that call and we get no impact. Insofar as us hiring a lawyer, they can try to find something but realistically speaking I don't know of any legal grounds on which we can object. The City Council can make a show of force by voting in favor of this or in favor of that, but in the end, we really have no specific say so in it, but when I say that it's with the caveat because I have an input and I don't want people think that I'm improperly trying to influence this one way or the other. You guys, if you want to hire an attorney, you can hire an attorney. If you want to do a resolution to vote for it, you can do a resolution and vote for it, but in the end, it's not up to us, it's up to FDOT.

Commissioner Waters: That's right, it's their road.

Mayor Woods: I look at it too as we can put it on the agenda and make a copy of the agenda and they come here and on the 17th they go hey if y'all are going to fight us all the way then we're not going to do it.

City Attorney Sikes: and they can do that.

Commissioner Waters: Approximately 2 years ago, the State came in and did a water drainage and they acted like they didn't know anything about it when I brought it up to them today. That was probably done in line with the overpass. Where's the water going to go? But they said no.

Mayor Woods: But neither knew anything about it.

City Attorney Sikes: The right hand didn't know what the left hand was doing.

Commissioner Waters: but you answered my question.

Commissioner Chastain: What they brought today is very pleasing to the eye. I mean they have gone back and done some work and the traffic flow is a lot better. So, I mean we got something out of them that we originally did not get at the first presentation.

Mayor Woods: and too, after everybody left, I stood right there and was just talking with them and they did promise me that they would help Walgreen's out with everything that they could do. Possibly to get them what they wanted. Remember how the road cuts down here off of 100 and comes through here, it's always been a dangerous situation. They were talking about one coming from Keystone and cutting it off shorter and not making them come in and out the same road and they were talking about changing that intersection to be a lot safer than what it shows on the map now and work on that.

Commissioner Waters: I'm like Tommy, the drawings and everything were outstanding. It looked great, but I'm not for it.

Commissioner Nugent: Something I'd like to put out. When they do it, it's going to mess up our traffic flow for a while, with the construction, so those numbers have to be figured in to for the police department for funds because it's going to cost them some hours, so we need to have that taken into account.

Chief Johnson: That'll be in 2020.

Commissioner Nugent: It still needs to be taken into account.

Chief Johnson: If I heard right, they're not going to start this project until the bypass is done.

Mayor Woods: 2020

Chief Johnson: Now, do we really think that bypass is going to be done by 2020?

(several people speaking at once and laughter)

Chief Johnson: Really? I've got a steak dinner for everyone if it is.

City Attorney Sikes: Isn't gambling illegal here Chief?

(laughter)

Chief Johnson: and I'll grill the steak.

Captain Warren: I heard mention the feasibility study. The one question I have and what I've heard is the numbers haven't been provided. My question is based on

population alone with the majority of the population being South of 100 in Bradford County as well, is how many emergency calls are actually down there compared to other areas? 144th may be more feasible way to go

Mayor Woods: I've asked that earlier and haven't gotten an answer.

Captain Warren: The numbers need to be provided by emergency services, if it does, then we have a little more knowledge. That would answer one question that I had pertaining to what it actually serves.

Mayor Woods: I've asked that same question about, we need to get a number of where are most of those calls from

Commissioner Waters: and I'll shut up.

(laughter)

Commissioner Waters: It's not about the emergency, it's about getting that traffic on 100 through Starke and over without causing delay. They can say they're building it for the emergency, but they're not. They are building this thing to get the traffic on 100 straight on toward Keystone.

Mayor Woods: That's exactly right. I agree. Okey dokey, Mr. Chastain you can go on.

Commissioner Chastain: Are we going to put this on the agenda for—

Tom Ernharth: Yes, next time.

Commissioner Chastain: Okay.

Mayor Woods: Okay do we have more open discussion? Which I like having just so everyone can talk and say what they want to say and not be so formal. That's where we are right now.

(lots of talking and laughter)

City Clerk Thompson: I think what would help more than anything would, if you really want to convince them to consider another location to contact your legislators and senators. You could probably get a lot of support.

City Attorney Sikes: Adkins and VanZant are running...and Bradley, so you might want to call and talk to them.

Commissioner Chastain: Based on what he just said, I've been thinking, should we invite the Chamber and have a workshop with the Chamber again and invite these people you just referred to Ricky to that same workshop, where they send a representative or come themselves and tell them that we're concerned that this may destroy Starke as we see it.

City Clerk Thompson: You could do it like a Town Hall meeting with that subject as you highlight of the meeting

City Attorney Sikes: I've met Charlie VanZant, and his wife said he'd be a good person to call

Commissioner Chastain: What does everybody think about that?

Mayor Woods: I think if we do that we ought to do it, probably not before a commission meeting, but on another night or something.

Commissioner Waters: After the 18th so that we can see what happens on the 17th.

Mayor Woods: That would be fine with me because I can't do it the week before either. We can do it afterwards. We can still have our workshop on the 18th if you want to or we could hold off on it...and give Mr. Thompson a chance to invite them.

Commissioner Spooner: May I ask another question? What would the feedback on the meeting at the Chamber on SR16?

Tom Ernharth: They said 16 was off the table.

Commissioner Spooner: under what direction

Tom Ernharth: They hadn't heard anything positive, nobody was pushing for it. Nobody really wanted it, so they scrapped it.

Commissioner Waters: the other thing was they didn't want to use the residential Sinclair Street and Pratt Street. That was asked today, because I asked it.

Chief Johnson: He said, and Commissioner Waters and y'all can tell me, but he said if there is a different route, such as 144th there is a possibility the money will be pulled and you won't get an overpass.

Mayor Woods: Exactly

(sounds of agreement)

Chief Johnson: Now that's what he said. Now he was almost a politician when he was saying that. He was saying that 144 was not taken off the table, he said that, but in turn he said that if you cause, if you fight this, this particular route and want the 144 that the money could be taken from this project and there are a lot of other cities that want the money. Is that what he said?

Group: Yes!

Chief Johnson: I tell you came here with one map (pounding sound), they've got one idea (pounding sound), and that's going to be it (pounding sound).

Mayor Woods: I agree.

Chief Johnson: That's my opinion.

Mayor Woods: So it's up to the Board if we want to sit here and dispute back and forth with DOT as to where we want it, and as our attorney has told us, we don't really have any say so. If they want it on 100 they can put it on 100.

Commissioner Waters: They can put it right top of City Hall if they want to.

Mayor Woods: It's their choice but we can actually fight it and run the risk of maybe losing the overpass and probably if we lose it, never get it offered back.

Chief Johnson: I think if they're going to put it on 100 we need to fight for all the improvements they'll give us. Fight for everything they'll repave, all the utilities they'll upgrade. Let's get everything we can get from them

Tom Ernharth: but they won't pay for a fountain

Chief Johnson: No, no water fountain.

(laughter)

Mayor Woods: They did promise us today, that's a good thing is, our underground lines and all that they would upgrade all of that.

Chief Johnson: That they would upgrade

Mayor Woods: To me, they were a lot more willing to do things than what I expected they would do.

Chief Johnson: The pictures were beautiful.

Commissioner Waters: I'll mention this and Travis the others over there heard, I told them that it's going on 100 cause you've done made up your mind, and he didn't like that remark, but still, he brought up to me Lake City 441 that they put it years ago and now everything's fine. I said yeah, but we'll be dead and gone by that time.

(laughter)

Commissioner Waters: But he brought up Lake City on 441

Mayor Woods: and he did mention the overpass there has helped Lake City grow and expand.

Captain Warren: They've got the 2 interstates there.

Mayor Woods: Exactly. So you know...they've got a little bit more than we've got but anyway. Any more discussion?

Commissioner Waters: I make a motion to adjourn

Commissioner Nugent: second

Mayor Woods: Meeting adjourned.

City of Starke
Commission Meeting
August 4, 2015
Recordings #dcr_20150804_165829
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Travis V. Woods, Mayor
Commissioner Tommy Chastain
Commissioner Daniel Nugent
Commissioner Carolyn B. Spooner
Commissioner Wilbur L. Waters

Attest: _____
Ricky Thompson, City Clerk