

Commission Meeting
August 1, 2017
6:30 pm

Minutes of August 1, 2017 Starke City Commission Meeting

This was the first regular meeting of the month. Members present: Mayor Tommy Chastain, Commissioner Mortimer, Commissioner Nugent, Commissioner Waters and Commissioner Travis Woods. Also present were Police Chief Jeff Johnson, City Manager Bob Milner and City Clerk Ricky Thompson. City Attorney Dan Sikes was absent due to military leave but attended telephonically.

Mayor Chastain called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm. Commissioner Waters offered a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Chastain asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were no changes.

Mayor Chastain asked for acceptance of the minutes from the June 20, 2017 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Chastain asked for acceptance of the minutes from the July 11, 2017 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Woods made a second. The motion passed 5-0.

There was no citizen participation.

Mr. Milner presented the Florida Municipal Electric Association Restoring Communities Award to Line Crew Supervisor Kris Kadlec and Line Crew Members Brandon Demers, Gaige Griffis, Robbie McGee, Todd Stenner and Loren Turner. Twenty communities from the State of Florida were selected to receive the award after Hurricanes Hermine and Matthew caused chaos across Florida. Mr. Milner read the plaque. This Restoring Communities Award is presented to the City of Starke in recognition of the extraordinary efforts and dedication provided by Florida Municipal Electric Utility who helped to restore power to communities in emergency situations.

Carol Mosley addressed the proposed phosphate mine in Bradford and Union Counties. She expressed concern for the health of Bradford County residents and the Santa Fe River. She would like the commissioners to adopt a resolution opposing the mine. The resolution failed for a lack of a motion. Kristin Rubin, Al Clements, Jim Tatum, Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson and Jane Blais also expressed opposition for the proposed phosphate mine. Commissioner Waters and Commissioner Mortimer asked to have the people proposing the phosphate mine present their side at the next meeting.

Mayor Chastain called for a five minute recess. The meeting was called back to order at 7:14 pm.

The Consent Agenda contained two items. The first was approving the Contract for Services with Christy Ramos-Vargas. The second was approving the Contract for Services with Wiley Sweat. Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Commissioner Woods seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

Police Chief Johnson addressed the expenditure from the Investigative Fund. He is looking into purchasing some tablets to replace laptops. The fund has around \$12,000.00 in it. The tablets would cost around \$4,000.00. Ten percent of the fund must be used before the end of the fiscal year. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve. Commissioner Mortimer seconded it. The motion passed 5-0. The next item was donation of sick time to David Bukowski. Seven city employees volunteered to donate a combined total of one hundred and forty-four hours of sick leave. Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve. Commissioner Woods seconded it. The motion passed 5-0. Chief Johnson addressed the problems with traffic loops. They should all be fixed in the next six months.

City Manager Milner addressed the following issues:

- 1) Mr. Milner addressed the approval of the twenty-year extension of the franchise agreement with Clay Electric Cooperative. Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve. It was seconded by Commissioner Woods. The motion passed 5-0.
- 2) Mr. Milner asked to delete item B. the approval of the small cell antenna agreement with Mobilitie until additional information is available.
- 3) Mr. Milner addressed the repairs of the Thomas Street Park building. Repairs have been made by inmate crews under the direction of Jay Hodges.
- 4) Mr. Milner addressed the demolition of the old Badcock building. The asbestos removal has been completed. The demolition of the building was scheduled to start tomorrow. If they can't finish by next week they need to remove equipment taking up parking space. The parking will be needed for the Bike Fest that will start on August 11th.
- 5) Mr. Milner gave an update on Bike Fest. We are in good shape for the upcoming event.
- 6) Mr. Milner gave an update on the sewer system project. August 31st is supposed to be the completion date.
- 7) Mr. Milner gave an update on the fire hydrant replacement project. Hydrants are being replaced when there is time.

- 8) Mr. Milner addressed the changes made to the Meter Department. We have around 2,700 electric customers and about 500 go on the cutoff list. Mr. Milner would like to increase the late fee and the reconnect fees.

City Clerk Thompson addressed the following issues:

- 1) Commissioner Waters met with the bond trustees earlier this evening. He made a motion to approve paying the bills. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woods. The motion passed 5-0.
- 2) The next item was the tentative millage rate. John-Paul Ledford addressed the Commission. We historically use the roll back rate while most similarly sized cities use the same or higher millage rate.
- 3) The next item was to set two public hearing for September 12th and 26th. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The motion passed 5-0.
- 4) The next item was a Boot Drive Request. The Pop Warner Cowboys would like to hold a Boot Drive on August 5th and August 19th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Highway 301 and State Road 100. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve both dates contingent on paperwork. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0.
- 5) The next item was the Hercules property to be used for parking for the Splash Park. Ricky has attempted to contact them twice. He will send a letter by Certified Mail.
- 6) The next item was the Road Paving Resolution. We need to fix the infrastructure before paving the roads.
- 7) The next item was Ordinance 2017-0471 to Modify Charter Election Inspectors. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to adopt. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.
- 8) The next item was Ordinance 2017-0472 to Modify Charter Election Notices. Commissioner Waters made a motion to adopt. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0.
- 9) The next item was Ordinance 2017-0473 to Modify Charter Election Qualified Elector. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to adopt. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.

10) The next item was Ordinance 2017-0474 to Modify Charter Election Returns. Commissioner Waters made a motion to adopt. It was seconded by Commissioner Woods. The motion passed 5-0.

11) The next item was Ordinance 2017-0475 to Modify Charter Early Voting. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to adopt. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Waters had nothing further.

Commissioner Woods had nothing further.

Commissioner Nugent mentioned that there is a big pot hole on Colley Road.

Commissioner Mortimer asked about speed humps at Church Street and Pine Street.

Mayor Chastain asked the commissioners if they would like to draft a letter regarding the proposed phosphate mine that could be signed by the commissioners if they agreed. There were no objections

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.