

Commission Meeting
August 15, 2017
6:30 pm

Minutes of August 15, 2017 Starke City Commission Meeting

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

Mayor Chastain called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Commissioner Woods offered a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Esther Kelly addressed the commissioners on behalf of Concerned Citizens of Bradford County. They are asking for a donation from the city for their program that helps Bradford County students stay in school and graduate. Mayor Chastain stated that the commissioners would look into it at their upcoming budget workshop. Commissioner Mortimer commended Mrs. Kelly and the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County for the outstanding presentation they provided for the commissioner's lap tops and the excellent work they do for the children in our community.

The next item on the agenda was the contract with John Cooper to be the Interim City Attorney while Dan Sikes is on military leave until the beginning of April. Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.

Gerald Goodman addressed the commissioners regarding an issue he has with the Building Department. He lives at 1415 Estelle Street. He has remodeled a building on his property he would like to use as a man cave. He would like to have a separate meter on the building. He was told in June by the Building Department that he can't have a separate meter. He feels that LaJuan Whittle has a personal vendetta against him. Commissioner Nugent asked if Mr. Goodman had pulled a permit for the remodel. He has not. Commissioner Nugent asked if Mr. Goodman had the building inspected could he get a separate meter. Commissioner Woods asked why Mr. Goodman needed a separate meter for a storage building. Mr. Goodman stated that he does not want any conflict with his house. Commissioner Mortimer asked for documentation supporting denial of the separate meter. Mayor Chastain asked if the Electric Department had been to the property. Mr. Goodman stated that they had and have no problem with the separate meter. Mr. Whidden who is the Building Official for the city responded. He has been to the property and the building is a nonconforming building because it does not meet the setback requirements. That is why he has refused the additional meter. Mayor Chastain asked if there were other accessory buildings in the city with separate meters. Mr. Whidden stated that he has never allowed one. Commissioner Mortimer asked for a copy of the Land Development Regulation. She has been waiting for one for 2 weeks. Mr. Whidden will get

Commissioner Mortimer a copy. Commissioner Nugent asked if he could get the additional meter if he got a permit. Mr. Whidden stated that he could. Mayor Chastain asked if Mr. Milner, Mr. Cooper and Commissioner Mortimer could meet and come up with a recommendation before the next meeting. They agreed. Mr. Milner wants to discuss how people are adding buildings without permits. Commissioner Mortimer asked the size of the building. It is a 20' x 20' building.

Mayor Chastain asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Mr. Milner had an additional item 11. D. Sludge Hauling Bid Rejection. He also had item 11. E. Confirm Upcoming Budget Workshops. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Chastain asked for acceptance of the minutes from the August 1, 2017 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Woods made a motion to accept the minutes. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0.

There was no citizen participation.

Leda Carrero presented Fire Chief Wise with a Pet Oxygen Mask Kit. She lives in High Springs and several animal's lives have been saved by their firemen using this kit. The kit was paid for by Dannel Henderson of High Springs. Chief Wise expressed gratitude and stated that the fire fighters could have used these masks on several occasions.

Police Chief Johnson stated that everything is going well. Commissioner Mortimer asked about the signs on US Highway 301 about construction starting on August 23rd. Chief Johnson confirmed that FDOT will be repaving US Highway 301 beginning later this month. He stated that most of the work will be done at night.

City Manager Milner addressed the following issues:

- 1) Mr. Milner addressed the Sewer System Evaluation Change Order No. 3. The net change will be \$27,600.00. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0.
- 2) Mr. Milner addressed the Sewer System Evaluation Change Order No. 4. The net change will be \$42,600.00. Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0.
- 3) LaJuan Whittle from the city's Building and Zoning Office addressed the rezoning throughout the City of Starke. There are many issues around the city. Commissioner Mortimer asked why mobile homes are not allowed in her district. Mayor Chastain asked to table this until we can have a workshop to discuss it further. We will have a workshop on September 12 at 6:00 pm. Commissioner Mortimer asked that her district be rezoned R1D. Nora stated that when the city adopted the Land Use Act in

1996 we tried to make the zoning consistent with the Land Use Act. Nora agreed to attend the Workshop.

- 4) Mr. Milner addressed rejecting the only Sludge Hauling Bid we received. He suggested doing more advertising to attract more bids. Commissioner Waters made a motion to reject the bid. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 4-1. Commissioner Woods was opposed to rejecting the bid.
- 5) Mr. Milner addressed holding a budget workshop on August 21st and August 28th. The time was set for 6:00 pm. Commissioner Waters asked if they could get the budget on Friday for review. Mayor Chastain asked for 3 years historical data along with the current year.

City Clerk Thompson addressed the following issues:

- 1) Commissioner Waters met with the bond trustees. 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 2020 Census Local Update of Census Addresses Operation. Commissioner Mortimer asked if we could notify citizens beforehand. We will notify citizens before the census begins. Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve. It was seconded by Commissioner Woods. The motion passed 5-0. Commissioner Mortimer will they go door to door? We need to protect our citizens. Clerk Thompson stated that we will notify our citizens beforehand.
- 3) The next item was the Hercules land purchase or lease. We would like to purchase or lease approximately 7 acres to be used as parking for the Splash Park. Mayor Chastain asked if we would need to get the property appraised. Attorney Cooper suggested getting the land appraised. Commissioner Nugent asked if there would be a contaminated soil contingency. Attorney Cooper said there would be. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The motion passed 5-0.
- 4) The next item was the FRDAP Grant for the fiscal year 2017-2018. This grant for \$500,000.00 is for the Splash Park. We are making applications for \$50,000.00 grants for both Thomas Street Park and Wainwright Park with no match. This item was informational only.

Commissioner Waters had nothing further.

Commissioner Woods had nothing further.

Commissioner Nugent had nothing further

Commissioner Mortimer had nothing further.

Mayor Chastain had nothing further.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm.