

City Commission Meeting  
December 5, 2017  
6:30 pm

Mayor Mortimer offered a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

This was the First regular meeting of the month. Members present included Mayor Mortimer, Commissioner Chastain, Commissioner Waters and Commissioner Woods. Also present were Interim City Attorney John Cooper, City Manager Bob Milner, City Clerk Ricky Thompson and Police Chief Jeff Johnson. Commissioner Nugent was absent due to vacation.

Mayor Mortimer called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

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

The items on the Consent Agenda included the November 7, 2017 Commission Meeting Minutes, the December 9, 2017 Christmas in the Square and Christy Ramos-Vargas contract renewal. Mayor Mortimer asked the commissioners if there were any items they wanted removed from the consent agenda. There were no items to be removed. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Commissioner Chastain made a motion. Commissioner Waters seconded it. The motion passed 4-0.

Mayor Mortimer read the statement for citizen requests "The City of Starke welcomes you to this meeting. This time is set aside for our citizens and general public to address the commission. This is not a question or answer time. It is not a political forum, nor is it a time for personal accusations or derogatory remarks to or about city personnel. If you would like to address the commission please complete a form, come to the podium when you are called, speak into the microphone and state your name and address for the record. Please also limit your comments to not more than 3 minutes. Your participation is welcomed." There was no citizen participation.

Mayor Mortimer asked for the City Manager Report.

City Manager Milner addressed the following issues:

- 1) Mr. Milner gave an update on the parking lot at the former Badcock Building. He spoke to Mittauer and Associates who referred him to someone. He also contacted North Central Florida Regional Planning Council. He will meet with both to see about getting an engineer to design the new parking lot. Commissioner Chastain said the north side of the lot needs to be cleaned up. Mr. Milner mentioned an iron pipe that needs to be cut off. Commissioner Waters mentioned removing the exclusive reserve signs. Commissioner Woods recalled those spots having been paid for. Mr. Thompson will find out if S & J Fitness paid for the spots. Chief Johnson mentioned the 2 hour parking for the apartments. He stated that there is an ordinance on 2 hour parking but enforcement was never determined. Mr. Cooper will look into the ordinance.

- 2) Mr. Milner addressed the ARP Legislative request for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. We are asking for \$500,00.00 over a 4 year period. The Project Request has been filed. The money will be used to revamp the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- 3) Mr. Milner addressed the Veteran's Day observance. There will be a celebration Friday, November 10, 2017 at Veteran's Park at 11:00 am. There will not be a parade this year.

Mr. Milner asked the commissioners to look over the City Manager Activity Report and let him know if they have any questions.

City Clerk Thompson addressed the following issues:

- 1) Commissioner Chastain 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) Mr. Thompson mentioned the FMPA Residential Bill Comparison. We were the lowest out of 33 cities.
- 3) Mr. Thompson addressed the Retiree Health Care Program. It is a GASB requirement. It is strictly for the healthcare for retirees. GASB 45 has been replaced by GASB 75. The commissioners can approve this contract or ask for additional quotes. Mayor Mortimer asked the commissioners for their comments or questions. Commissioner Woods asked if this has been reviewed by the Retirement Board and have the actuaries been looked at. Mr. Cooper stated that the contract is an actual actuarial study specific to retirees. Commissioner Woods asked if our actuaries have looked at it. Mr. Cooper stated that he did not know. Commissioner Chastain stated that this is something new. It is on the retiree's health insurance which we have never had to address before. His first question was should we bid it out or does the Pension Board need to look at it first before the commissioners vote on it. Commissioner Nugent stated that he would like the Pension Board to look at it. Commissioner Chastain stated that it is going to cost an additional \$9,000.00. Mr. Thompson stated that it would be an increase of \$3662.00 and \$6,950.00. Chief Johnson asked if this only pertained to the General Pension or if it was for everyone. Mr. Cooper stated that he did not know. Commissioner Woods stated that he would like Pension Attorney Ron Cohen and our actuaries to look over it. If they are ok with it then Commissioner Woods would not mind voting on it or advertising it. He thinks it should go before the Pension Board. Mr. Thompson stated that the Pension Board had already met before we got this. Mayor Mortimer asked when the Pension Board will meet again. Mr. Thompson said the next meeting will be January 24, 2018. Mayor Mortimer asked if it would be alright to wait on this that long. Mr. Thompson stated that he believes we can wait on it. The commissioners agreed to wait on it. Mr. Thompson stated that Attorney Cohen said it needed to come before the commissioners. Commissioner Woods stated that it needs to be on the agenda.

- 4) Mr. Thompson asked if the commissioners wanted to cancel the November 21, 2017 Commission Meeting due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. Mayor Mortimer asked about the bills being paid. Mr. Cooper stated that paying the bills can be authorized within the cancellation. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to cancel the meeting and authorize paying the bills. Mayor Mortimer asked if Commissioner Chastain would be available to review the bills with the bond trustees. He stated that he would unless he was out of town. Mayor Mortimer asked what would happen if Commissioner Chastain was out of town. Mr. Cooper stated that it would fall to the Mayor. Mayor Mortimer stated that she would be available if Commissioner Chastain was out of town. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Waters made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.
  
- 5) The next item discussed was hosting the Northeast Florida League of Cities Dinner at the Governor Charley E. Johns Convention Center on February 15, 2018. Mayor Mortimer congratulated Commissioner Woods for being elected President of the Northeast Florida League of Cities. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the dinner. Commissioner Nugent made a motion. Commissioner Chastain seconded it. Commissioner Woods pointed out that this dinner costs the City of Starke no money. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Mortimer addressed the emergency items.

- 1) The Victory Chapel Boot Drive was added to the emergency items. Mayor Mortimer asked if they had insurance. Mr. Selph stated that he would bring in a copy of the insurance. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to declare it an emergency. Commissioner Chastain seconded it. The motion passed 5-0. Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve the boot drive. It was seconded by Commissioner Woods. Commissioner Chastain asked if Chief Johnson was comfortable with the boot drive on a holiday weekend. Chief Johnson stated that his officers would monitor it and shut it down if any children are in the road. The motion passed 5-0.

Chief Johnson addressed the contract with Joan Hall. Mark Lowery was going to fill Mrs. Hall's position but he had triple bypass surgery and will not be able to return to work. Chief Johnson would like to pay Mrs. Hall \$18.00 per hour for up to 32 hours per week until Bo Harrison can obtain his state certification. Chief Johnson is hoping that Mr. Harrison will have his state certification by January of 2018. Mayor Mortimer asked Mr. Cooper to address the language in the contract. Mr. Cooper does not like the use of the words independent contractor. Mr. Cooper would like to add a requirement for insurance. Mr. Cooper would like to reword the contract. Commissioner Chastain would like to read the new contract before they vote on it. Commissioner Chastain attended the Pension Board Meeting and has a concern about employees retiring and collecting their pension but returning to work under contract and not contributing to the pension fund. Mr. Cooper stated that they cannot contribute to the pension fund if they are not an employee of the City of Starke. Mayor Mortimer expressed concern over

employees retiring and returning to work under contract. Commissioner Nugent would like the term of the contract to only be 3 months. Commissioner Woods stated that employees were to go into DROP and retire from DROP. That leaves a position for another employee to come into the system and contribute to the retirement system. On the other side you have good employees who do not need to be trained but they understood when the finished DROP they were through. Commissioner Woods stated that we need to look at it both ways but once you retire from DROP you should be done. Mayor Mortimer stated that we can't wait until an employee is at the end of the DROP program before we hire someone because the new person will require training. She also stated that this could be an opportunity to give a current employee a promotional advancement but we cannot wait until the end of DROP. We need to be more efficient and effective in our management of employees. Commissioner Waters agreed with Commissioner Woods. Commissioner Woods stated that he is concerned about the long-term effects on the pension fund. We need to make sure the unfunded balance is paid. Chief Johnson addressed construction. He stated that Mrs. Whitehead with American Paper and Chemical Company was upset because the dump trucks were using her parking lot. The City of Starke Police Department has run the Whitehurst Company trucks out of every parking lot in the city. Mr. Milner stated that he contacted Whitehurst Company and they will address the issues tomorrow. Chief Johnson stated that the work is supposed to be done at night but it is being done during the day. Commissioner Nugent mentioned that a load of dirt had been dumped on State Road 16.

Commissioner Waters attended the Water Management Meeting last night. A lot of frustration and aggravation was expressed over flooding during Hurricane Irma. Commissioner Waters asked Mr. Milner if the county was going to get back to us on this. Mr. Milner said the Suwannee River Management District was looking at a possible draw down of Crosby Lake. The ditches around the city need to be cleaned out. Commissioner Waters mentioned Dupont dumping millions of gallons of water on us. It needs to be diverted. Mayor Mortimer thanked Commissioner Waters for attending the meeting and representing the commission.

Commissioner Woods would like to have a workshop to discuss City Manager vs Operational Manager. He does not know that we need a City Manager. Commissioner Waters and Commissioner Nugent stated that they do not wish to have a workshop. Commissioner Woods does not believe we need a city manager at this time. It is not a reflection on Mr. Milner. He just believes our city is too small to need a city manager. Commissioner Woods believes that Mr. Milner is doing a good job. Commissioner Woods is trying to save the city some money. He asked Mr. Milner about the status of the time sheets. Mr. Milner will be sending a recommendation to each of the commissioners tomorrow. Commissioner Woods asked if the recommendation was for a CPA firm. Mr. Milner stated that it is not. Commissioner Woods mentioned that the vote at the previous meeting had been for a CPA firm and that is the way he would like to proceed. Mr. Chastain asked if Mr. Milner had numbers from a CPA firm. Mr. Milner stated that he did not. Commissioner Chastain asked Mr. Milner to get numbers from a CPA firm and bring it before the commission. Mr. Milner is going to listen to the recording of the last commission meeting to determine if a CPA firm was specifically requested.

Commissioner Chastain asked for an update on the 311 number. Mr. Cooper has been in contact with the company and they are running tests. Commissioner Chastain asked about the

Christmas Parade and about asking the School Board and the County Commissioners to participate. Mr. Milner stated that the date for the parade is December 9, 2017 at 6:00 pm. Mayor Mortimer thanked Commissioner Chastain for suggesting they invite the School Board and the County Commissioners to participate. She asked Mr. Thompson to extend the invitation. Commissioner Chastain asked about the funding of \$5,000.00 in the general side that we would reward applicants with \$1,000.00 amounts. He asked if that was budgeted for this year. Commissioner Nugent stated that the recipients had to agree to do a fund raiser to fund the next years recipients. Commissioner Chastain asked about inmates going on private property. He asked if that was allowed. Mr. Milner stated that it was very limited.

Commissioner Nugent asked the commissioners to attend the Veteran's Day functions.

Commissioner Waters asked if we would have the new fire truck before the Christmas Parade. Mr. Milner said that we would but it will not be totally operational. Mayor Mortimer asked if it would be parade ready. Mr. Milner stated that it would.

Commissioner Nugent asked if the hanging wire by the post office could be lifted up. Mr. Thompson said that it could.

Mayor Mortimer appointed Commissioner Nugent to Communities in Schools. She appointed Commissioner Mortimer to the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council. She appointed Commissioner Chastain to the Transportation Board. She appointed Commissioner Waters to the Library Board. She appointed Commissioner Nugent and Commissioner Woods to the General Pension Board. Mayor Mortimer once again congratulated Commissioner Woods for being elected President of the North Florida League of Cities. Mayor Mortimer wished a happy Thanksgiving to everyone and safe travels.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.