

City Commission Meeting  
January 16, 2018  
6:30 pm

Commissioner Woods offered a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Mortimer called the meeting to order at 6:39 pm.

This was the second regular meeting of the month. Members present included Mayor Mortimer, Commissioner Chastain, Commissioner Nugent, Commissioner Waters and Commissioner Woods. Also present were City Attorney John Cooper, John-Paul Ledford, CPA, City Manager Bob Milner and Police Chief Jeff Johnson. City Clerk Ricky Thompson was absent due to illness. Mayor Mortimer asked that we keep Mr. Thompson in our prayers as he is preparing to have neck surgery.

Mayor Mortimer asked to make item 8. E. item 8. B. and move the other items down. She asked if the commissioners were ok with the change. They said they were. She asked if there were any other changes to the agenda. Commissioner Chastain asked if the proclamation they received should be added to the agenda. Mayor Mortimer asked Attorney Cooper where it should be added. Attorney Cooper said it should be item 7. A. under citizen participation. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the agenda with the changes. Commissioner Nugent made a motion. Commissioner Chastain seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

The only item on the Consent Agenda was the January 9, 2018 Commission Meeting Minutes. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda item. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 9, 2018 meeting. Commissioner Waters seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Mortimer asked if there were any emergency items. There were none.

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." Raymond Hunt Commander of American Legion Post 56 addressed the commission speaking on behalf of veterans asking the commissioners to proclaim the first Sunday in February each year Four Chaplains Sunday. This is in honor of four U. S. Army chaplains who in 1943 on a ship in route to Greenland with 920 men onboard was torpedoed by a submarine. The chaplains surrendered their life jackets to four soldiers and sacrificed their lives. Mr. Hunt is also asking local churches to honor the chaplains during their February 4, 2018 services. Mayor Mortimer thanked Mr. Hunt for his service to our country. Attorney Cooper read the proposed proclamation. Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Waters seconded it. The motion passed 5-0. There was no further citizen participation.

Mayor Mortimer asked for the City Clerk Report. Mr. Milner addressed the Bond Trustees Report. Commissioner Nugent met with the Bond Trustees and made a motion to pay the bills. Commissioner Chastain seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Ledford addressed the commission concerning the first quarter budget. The first page of the handout is the summary of the detail line by line budget the commissioners received on Friday. The second page is the advertised budget. The budgeted revenue for electric is at 21.1 percent and expense is at 19.0 percent. The budgeted revenue for water is at 24.2 percent and expense is at 15.2 percent. The budgeted revenue for sewer is at 22.3 percent and expense is at 16.7 percent. The budgeted revenue for gas is at 24.0 percent and expense is at 22.5 percent. Mayor Mortimer thanked Mr. Ledford. She asked Commissioner Waters if he had any questions. Commissioner Waters said everything is inline. He is happy with the budget. Commissioner Woods had no questions. Commissioner Chastain asked Chief Johnson if the Police Department was fully staffed. Chief Johnson said they are and there is still quite a bit of money to be received for Hurricane Irma. Mr. Ledford said the FEMA money for Hurricane Irma is going to be significant for the city. Mr. Milner said he is going to have an update on Hurricane Irma FEMA money in February and it will be hundreds of thousands of dollars. Commissioner Chastain asked if the \$400,000.00 figure he had seen was the expected return to the city from FEMA. Mr. Milner said it was. Commissioner Nugent thanked Mr. Ledford for completing the budget. Mayor Mortimer thanked Mr. Ledford for the budget and said the commissioners look forward to receiving it on a regular basis because it is critical for them to make decisions. She asked if the city was in good shape financially. Mr. Ledford said it was. Mayor Mortimer asked Mr. Milner what the timeline is for receiving the FEMA money. Mr. Milner said they are approximately 90 percent finished with the FEMA paperwork. Commissioner Nugent asked if the sewer budget took into account repairs that need to be made. Mr. Milner said it did not. Commissioner Chastain asked if improvements to the wastewater treatment plant had been budgeted. Mr. Milner said they had budgeted for a number of the items needing repair.

Mr. Milner addressed Trenton Humphrey's Satisfaction of Mortgage. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to approve the Satisfaction of Mortgage. Commissioner Woods seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Milner addressed the Pop Warner Cowboys Boot Drive for March 24, 2018 and April 21, 2018 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Mayor Mortimer asked if there was anyone in the audience representing Pop Warner. Mr. Taylor stood to represent Pop Warner. Commissioner Nugent asked if they were going to have a rain date. Mr. Taylor said they would be having a meeting on February 5, 2018 to set rain dates. Mayor Mortimer asked if the commission could approve the boot drive contingent on receipt of the proof of insurance. Chief Johnson said they could. Mr. Taylor said he would provide the insurance documentation tomorrow. Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve the boot drive contingent on receipt of the \$1,000,000.00 liability insurance policy. Commissioner Nugent seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

Esther Kelly addressed the commission regarding the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County. She is asking for a \$5,000.00 donation. The Concerned Citizens of Bradford County provides various activities to keep kids off the streets after school. Mrs. Kelly said they will be in a bind

without the donation. Commissioner Waters asked Mr. Ledford if the \$5,000.00 is in the budget. Mr. Ledford said that it was. Commissioner Nugent asked if the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County had received the \$1,000.00 donation they normally receive. Mrs. Kelly said not for this budget year. Mayor Mortimer said she wholeheartedly supports the work done by the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the donation. Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve the donation. Commissioner Nugent seconded it. Commissioner Chastain said he is expecting the city to have some difficult times in the future and he voted against the donation to Communities in Schools. The motion passed 4-1. Commissioner Chastain opposed the motion.

Mayor Mortimer asked for the City Manager Report. Mr. Milner said the city is tentatively scheduled to receive the new firetruck next Monday. He invited the commissioners to schedule a tour of the new truck. Mayor Mortimer asked Commissioner Waters to share with the commission the response the City of Starke Fire Department provided to the Tatum Sawmill fire in Lawtey. Lawrence Mosley told Commissioner Waters that if the Starke Fire Department had not responded to the fire Charles Tatum would have lost his entire maintenance building. There was nothing they could do to save the sawmill because of the amount of sawdust that was burning so they decided to keep the fire from spreading. Mr. Tatum is very appreciative of their efforts.

Mr. Milner provided the tentative letter to local elected officials inviting them to the Northeast Florida League of Cities dinner on Thursday, February 15, 2018 here in Starke. Mayor Mortimer asked if the provider of the attitude adjustment hour could also provide decorations. Commissioner Woods asked that his name be on the letter because he is the President of the Northeast Florida League of Cities. Mayor Mortimer asked that an RSVP be included in the letter.

Mr. Milner addressed the City Manager Contract and Evaluation. Commissioner Waters said he compared Mr. Milner's contract with Mr. Ernharth's contract and the city will be saving money. Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve the contract and evaluation. Commissioner Nugent seconded it. Commissioner Chastain asked what the point of the evaluation was. Mr. Milner said it is an opportunity for him to hear from each of the commissioners concerning the job he is doing. Commissioner Chastain said he would like to advertise for the position and Mr. Milner is welcome to apply. Commissioner Nugent said he is fine with the contract. Mayor Mortimer said she has seen improvement in the city since Mr. Milner has taken the city manager position. She is looking forward to the city making the advancements that the city is capable of making. Mayor Mortimer called for a vote. The motion passed 3-2. Commissioner Chastain and Commissioner Woods opposed the contract and evaluation. Commissioner Woods said that his opposition to the contract has nothing personal to do with Mr. Milner.

Mayor Mortimer asked for the Police Chief Report. Chief Johnson said there is ongoing construction and roads and sidewalks will be blocked. Chief Johnson said there was a horrific crash just outside of the city limits on Sunday morning. The Starke Police Department were the first ones to respond on the scene. The accident was at Edwards Road and SR 100. There is a large pond there and the vehicle rolled over into the pond. Everyone who responded to the call went into the water to attempt to save the occupants of the vehicle. Unfortunately, a 33 year-

old female and a 19 year-old female passed away. Commissioner Chastain asked Chief Johnson about the take home vehicle policy. Chief Johnson asked if the commissioners had each received a copy of the Police Department's policy on taking vehicles home. Mayor Mortimer said she did not get one. Chief Johnson said he would provide her with one. Commissioner Chastain asked the commissioners if they would like to have Attorney Cooper look at the policy. Mayor Mortimer asked Attorney Cooper to look over the policy. Chief Johnson asked for prayers for the families of the crash victims.

Attorney Cooper said all is well.

Commissioner Waters had nothing further.

Commissioner Woods had nothing further.

Commissioner Chastain asked if the manhole covers are being marked. Mr. Milner said there are 7 different sizes of manhole covers. They are doing inventory of the manhole covers and ordering new ones as needed. Commissioner Chastain asked if the manholes are being GPS mapped. Mr. Milner said they are. Commissioner Chastain asked Attorney Cooper if he would look into something to protect our citizens from auto dealers from outside of Starke. Mayor Mortimer said that even after the commissioners denied the tent sale the auto dealer held one anyway. Attorney Cooper will create something to keep this from happening in the future. Commissioner Chastain said that years ago the Department of Transportation brought in a device called a spider to cleanout Alligator Creek. Mr. Milner said he is looking into having something like that done again. Commissioner Chastain asked if the 2016/2017 Budget had been closed out. Mr. Ledford said he is working on it. Commissioner Chastain asked when it would be closed out. Mr. Ledford said March. Commissioner Chastain asked about the number of contracted workers still working for the city. Mr. Milner said there are 4 that he knows of. Mayor Mortimer asked for an accurate number at the next meeting. Commissioner Chastain asked how long the contracts are in effect. Mr. Milner will find out.

Commissioner Waters said we need to pray for Mr. Thompson's neck surgery. Commission Waters asked what we would do if Mr. Thompson is out for an extended period of time. Mr. Ledford said there is a stamp to sign checks.

Commissioner Nugent said the Martin Luther King Junior Parade went well.

Mayor Mortimer thanked Major Warren for his participation at the banquet and for directing the parade.

The next meeting date was set for February 6, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm.