

City Commission Meeting  
January 9, 2018  
6:30 pm

Commissioner Woods 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 Nugent, Commissioner Waters and Commissioner Woods. Also present were Interim City Attorney John Cooper, City Manager Bob Milner and Police Chief Jeff Johnson. City Clerk Ricky Thompson was absent due to illness.

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

Mayor Mortimer asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Mr. Milner added item 9. B. Changing the Wastewater Treatment Plant Workshop from Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 5:30 pm to Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 5:30 pm. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the agenda with the changes. Commissioner Chastain made a motion. Commissioner Nugent seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

The only item on the Consent Agenda was the December 19, 2017 Commission Meeting Minutes. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda item. Commissioner Chastain made a motion. Commissioner Nugent 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." There was no 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 Waters seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Milner addressed the commission regarding Trenton Humphrey's fulfilled contract. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve the contract. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The motion passed 5-0.

Esther Kelly addressed the commission regarding the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County. She asked for a \$5,000.00 donation this year instead of the \$1,000.00 donation the city usually gives. Mrs. Kelly pointed out that \$1,000.00 is only \$3.00 per day. The Concerned Citizens of

Bradford County provides various activities to keep kids off the streets after school. Mayor Mortimer thanked Mrs. Kelly. Mayor Mortimer said that Mrs. Kelly had come before the commission around August to request this money. Mayor Mortimer said that Resolution 2015-09 requires other charitable organizations wishing to receive a contribution from the city come forward to request a donation. There are two organizations that are exempt from this requirement. Communities is Schools and the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County. Mayor Mortimer said she has met with Clerk Thompson and John-Paul Ledford, CPA and the \$5,000.00 has been budgeted. Because no other charitable organization has requested a donation Mayor Mortimer believes the money should go to the Concerned Citizens based on the city's policy. Commissioner Waters had met with Mr. Ledford and Mr. Thompson and there is \$5,000.00 budgeted. Commissioner Waters suggested giving that \$5,000.00 to the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County to use for the good work they do. Commissioner Chastain said that the commission was told by the auditors that it was not acceptable to give away tax payer money to charitable organizations. Commissioner Nugent said he thought there was \$5,000.00 to be given to Communities in Schools automatically because they were directly tied to the Bradford County School System. Then another \$5,000.00 was available for other charitable organizations to be given out in \$1,000.00 increments. Mayor Mortimer said the \$5,000.00 is still in the budget and no one else can apply for it so it should go to the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County. Commissioner Waters said there is no reason the available \$5,000.00 could not be given to the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County. Commissioner Chastain said that they have yet to see a line item budget so the commissioners do not know what the spending is in reference to the revenues. They have been promised a line item budget next week. Commissioner Waters asked if this item could be tabled until next week when they will have reviewed the line item budget. He then asked Mr. Milner when the budget would be made available to the commissioners. Mr. Milner said they would have the budget by Friday, January 12, 2018. Mayor Mortimer asked Mrs. Kelly if she would be willing to wait until the next Commission Meeting on January 16, 2018 for a vote. Mrs. Kelly said she would and expressed appreciation to the commission. Mr. Baker asked what the policy was for the deadline for receiving the budget. He asked if it was October 1<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Chastain said it is.

Mayor Mortimer asked for the City Manager Report. Mr. Milner asked if they could address Item B. before Item A. Mayor Mortimer said he could. Mr. Milner asked to move the Workshop on the Wastewater Treatment Plant from Thursday, January 11, 2018 to Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 5:30 pm. Mayor Mortimer asked for a consensus. The commissioners agreed to move the workshop. Mr. Milner thanked the commissioners.

Mr. Milner addressed the City Manager Contract and Evaluation. Commissioner Waters said he is fine with the contract and the evaluation. Commissioner Woods said that contract employees are not eligible for pension benefits, healthcare benefits or liability coverage. Mr. Milner is asking for these benefits in his contract. Commissioner Woods spoke to the Pension Board Attorney and the actuary and both agreed a contract employee is not eligible for pension benefits. He also spoke to a retired city manager from Orange Park who said he has never received these benefits. Commissioner Woods said that Mr. Milner is asking for a pay increase from \$60,000.00 per year to \$72,000.00 per year which is a 20% increase. He is also asking for 10% of his salary to be contributed to a separate fund. Commissioner Woods spoke to Mr. John Ferguson of the International City Managers Association regarding the separate fund.

Commissioner Woods will provide Mr. Ferguson's phone number if any of the other commissioners wish to speak to him. Commissioner Woods would like Mr. Milner to drive a city owned vehicle and save the \$300.00 per month he receives for using his personal vehicle. Commissioner Woods said that Mr. Milner is in an interim contract. He asked if we should advertise for the city manager position. Commissioner Chastain said that Mr. Milner is requesting a 5% per year annual performance evaluation. He is also asking for 2 months severance pay. Commissioner Chastain asked if it would be best to advertise and let Mr. Milner apply if he wishes to. Commissioner Nugent said he believes Mr. Ernharth had an option to drive a city vehicle or receive compensation for use of his personal vehicle. Commissioner Nugent has no issues with the contract. Mayor Mortimer asked why Mr. Milner has decided not to use a city vehicle. Mr. Milner said he wants the other city employees to have the best city vehicles. He has no problem driving a city vehicle if a dependable one is available. Commissioner Woods asked about the \$3,500.00 in the contract for travel expenses. He asked if the existing travel expense account would suffice for what Mr. Milner need. Mr. Milner said that the last 2 city managers had \$3,500.00 in their contract for travel expenses. Commissioner Woods would like Mr. Milner to use the existing travel expense account. Mr. Milner said that the existing travel expense account does not cover membership dues. Commissioner Chastain said that the commission just asked the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County to hold off on the \$5,000.00 they were asking for until the commissioners receive the budget. He asked if the commission should hold off on Mr. Milner's contract as well. Mayor Mortimer said that it is a viable option. Commissioner Waters said that he is ok with waiting until next week but he does not want to advertise for another city Manager. Commissioner Waters feels like Mr. Milner is doing a fine job. Commissioner Woods spoke to Larry Wilson who is our actuary. In 2008 and 2009 the market crashed and the city has to pay back the money that was lost from the retirement account. That is why the percentage that the city has to pay into the retirement account is so high.

Mayor Mortimer asked for the Police Chief Report. Chief Johnson addressed the problem with Washington Street and US Highway 301. The loop has been cut and not been replaced east and west bound on Washington Street causing traffic to backup. Chief Johnson addressed the construction on US Highway 301. The temperature has to be at least 45 degrees and rising for the paving to be done. The cold weather is slowing down progress. Mayor Mortimer asked why the turn light at Washington Street and US Highway 301 holds so long. Chief Johnson said that is because of the school crossing. Chief Johnson said the problem is being addressed. Commissioner Chastain asked about the Vehicle Take Home Policy for the police department. Chief Johnson said the police cars will not be taken outside of the county unless officers have a legitimate requirement to leave the county for department business. This will save maintenance, gas and wear and tear on the vehicles. Commissioner Chastain asked if the resolution had ever been completed regarding taking city vehicles home. He would like it to be brought before the commissioner for a vote. Chief Johnson was told he could implement the Take Home Vehicle Policy for his department and he has. Chief Johnson will provide the commissioners with a copy of his policy. Attorney Cooper will look into the policy.

Attorney Cooper addressed Ordinance 2018-01 Regulation of Adult Arcade Amusement Centers. The old ordinance has been brought into compliance with the law. Attorney Cooper

read the title of the ordinance. This was the first reading. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to approve the first reading. Commissioner Waters seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Waters addressed drainage problems on Orange Street. He had previously thought the drainage ditch belonged to the Florida Department of Transportation but it does not. There is a large pipe sticking out of the ground. There are also two leaning trees that need to be removed before they do damage to homes or vehicles.

Commissioner Woods addressed a tree that needs to be removed at Parkwood Street and Pratt Street before it falls. Mr. Milner asked which side it is on if you are heading west. Commissioner Woods said the right. Mr. Milner said he will look into it.

Commissioner Chastain mentioned starting a spending and hiring freeze if they do not receive a line item budget before the next meeting. He also asked Mr. Milner about getting additional lighting on the grapple truck. Mr. Milner said he will look into it. Commissioner Chastain asked about the invitation letters for the Florida League of Cities Dinner in February. Mr. Milner said he will have one for review tomorrow. Commissioner Chastain asked about the audit on the Starke Police Department and VyStar time sheets. It is supposed to start in January. Mr. Milner said it has already started.

Commissioner Nugent had nothing further.

Mayor Mortimer asked if any of the commissioners wish to attend the Florida League of Cities Legislative Days. She asked that they let Mr. Milner know if they plan to attend. Mayor Mortimer extended an invitation from the Concerned Citizens of Bradford County to the Martin Luther King Junior Banquet on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at 5:30 pm. There will be a Meet and Greet with the new Bradford High School Principal Dr. Vinnie Blye. The parade will be Monday, January 15, 2018. Line up will begin at 9:30 am and the parade will begin at 10:00 am.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.