

Commission Meeting
June 1, 2017
6:30 pm

Minutes of June 1, 2017 Starke City Commission Meeting

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

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

Mayor Chastain asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There was an addition for item 9. B. Badcock Demo/Asbestos Bid for item 9. C. Ordinance/Charter Runoff and item 9. D. Commission Meeting Time Change. Commissioner Waters made a motion to accept the changes. Commissioner Mortimer seconded it. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

A motion to accept the agenda was made by Commissioner Waters and was seconded by Commissioner Woods. The vote was 4-0 to accept.

Mayor Chastain asked for acceptance of the minutes from the May 16, 2017 Commission Meeting. Deputy Clerk Brenda Wiggins pointed out that the interest rate of 2.79% for the fire truck was incorrect. The correct rate is 2.83%. Commissioner Woods made a motion to accept the amended minutes. Commissioner Mortimer seconded it. The vote was 4-0 to accept.

There was no citizen participation.

Police Chief Johnson addressed the request to allow employees to donate sick leave to other employees. Mayor Chastain questioned Joan Hall's proposed donation of sick leave to Thomas Bo Harrison. Her donation will be removed. Barry Warren will donate 3 hours. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to accept the donation. It was seconded by Commissioner Woods. The vote was 4-0 to accept. Chief Johnson addressed the need for a light duty policy for the Starke Police Department. Manager Milner and Clerk Thompson are aware of the need.

City Manager Milner addressed the following issues:

- 1) Mr. Milner addressed the traffic signal problems within the city. Allen Suko of Summerville Electric will meet with Public Works Supervisor Danny Griffis to address these issues. Mayor Chastain asked that anyone working with hot asphalt make street repairs in front of Showcase Advertising. Chief Johnson mentioned that many

manhole covers are too low. Mr. Milner stated that the city workers can install risers where necessary to bring the manhole covers to the proper height.

- 2) Florida Rural Water Association will perform a Hydraulic Pressure Test for “donation” of \$2,750 donation since the city is a member. Normal rates for such testing would be around \$10,000. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to accept. It was seconded by Commissioner Woods. The vote was 4-0 to accept.
- 3) In regards to the Franchise Agreement with Clay Electric to renew the rate for a 30 year period, commissioner Woods made a motion to discuss it. Commissioner Waters seconded it. Commissioner Waters asked if they would make an agreement for fifteen years. Commissioner Woods agreed. The motions to discuss were withdrawn. Mr. Milner believes they would agree to the 15 year term. A motion to request Clay Electric to make the term 15 years rather than 30 was made by Commissioner Waters and seconded by Commissioner Woods. The vote was 4-0 in favor. Mr. Milner will respond to Clay Electric.
- 4) Mr. Milner reminded all commissioners to please let Brenda Wiggins know if you will be attending the joint conference of FMEA/ FMPA and Florida League of Cities. There will be a Pension Conference June 25th – 28th.
- 5) Commissioner Woods reviewed the bills along with the Bond Trustees and made a motion to approve the bills. Commissioner Waters seconded and the motion was approved 4-0.
- 6) Richelle Davis, John Paul Ledford, Bob Milner and Brenda Wiggins met to discuss the bid to demolish the Badcock building. Bids ranged from \$58,000 to \$217,000. They narrowed it down to 2 contractors. Contractors were asked to provide insurance and called their references. They decided to go with Brico Contractors for \$69,800. B & M Land Construction gave the lowest bid but it did not include the abatement for the asbestos. Commissioner Waters made a motion to accept. It was seconded by Commissioner Woods. The vote was 4-0 to accept. Commissioner Woods asked when they would start. Clerk Thomson will get with them tomorrow. It should be completed by August. Mayor Chastain reminded everyone of the Bikefest in August and hoped the project would be completed prior to that event. Commissioner Waters asked if the back block building would be left. Mr. Milner stated that it will.
- 7) Attorney Sikes read the Ordinance required to delete the runoff election as stated in the City Charter and to bring the Charter into compliance with existing state statues and administrative rulings. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to accept. It was seconded by Commissioner Woods. The vote was 4-0 to accept.

- 8) The item to change future Commission Meetings start time to 6:30 was mentioned by Mayor Chastain. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters to make future commission meetings at 6:30 pm. Brenda Wiggins asked that we make sure the citizens are made aware of the change. The vote was 3-1 to accept. Commissioner Woods wanted to leave the time at 7:00.

Attorney Sikes mentioned the EOC right to sue letter regarding employee Bridgett Underhill. If anyone wants to discuss it they can contact him.

Commissioner Waters has received calls about the noise at the sewer plant. Can the alarm be shut off at 5:00 or 6:00 every day? Mr. Milner advised we are looking at building a structure over it to muffle the sound. This will cost between \$3,000 and \$5,000. Mr. Milner is getting bids. Commissioner Waters has also been asked who organized the rally at college where Mr. Milner and Commissioner Mortimer answered questions regarding the upcoming vote to eliminate the elected position of the City Clerk. It was not put on by the City of Starke. It was put on by a group of citizens. Mayor Chastain asked why we are not moving forward with the enclosure for the blower at the sewer plant. Mr. Milner said we are waiting on bids but will be moving forward soon.

Commissioner Woods had nothing further.

Commissioner Mortimer voiced concern about the light on Larry Street. The gentleman who has a concern about it is in rehab but will be out in 7 – 9 days. Mr. Milner gave it to the Electric Department. It should be repaired soon. She also expressed her appreciation for the thoughts and prayers during her and her sister's illness. They are both doing well.

Mayor Chastain asked about a budget workshop. Mr. Milner asked if they could meet on the 12th. The actual budget meeting will be the beginning of July.

Mayor Chastain had nothing further but asked if anyone else did. Teracina Kittles came forward to address a city employee who was rude to her when she was paying her electric bill on Tuesday. The employee raised her voice and pointed at her. Mrs. Kittles asked to speak to her boss. She asked how the city handles this type of situation. Mr. Milner was not aware of this situation but will get with Clerk Thompson. Mrs. Kittles stated that there is a rooster on the street behind Broadway Street that wakes her up at 4:30 every morning. Mr. Milner will get with code enforcement. Commissioner Mortimer apologized for the alleged rude treatment of Mrs. Kittles.

Mr. Milner informed the Commissioners that the new truck for Public Works is in the parking lot across the street.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm.