

Commission Meeting  
June 20, 2017  
6:30 pm

Minutes of June 20, 2017 Starke City Commission Meeting

This was the second 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 8. B. Donation of Sick Time for David Bukowski with the Police Department for item 10. H. July 4<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting Change to July 6<sup>th</sup> for item 10. I. Police & Fire Dispatch Services Increase for item 10. J. Health Insurance Renewal Rates 2017-2018 for item 11. B. Ordinance to Modify Charter Elections Inspectors for item 11. C. Ordinance to Modify Charter Election Qualified Elector for item 11. D. Ordinance to Modify Charter Election Notices for item 11. E. Ordinance to Modify Charter Early Voting and for item 11. F. Ordinance to Modify Charter Election Returns Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to accept the changes. Commissioner Woods 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 June 1, 2017 Commission Meeting Commissioner Waters made a motion to accept the minutes, Commissioner Woods seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 to accept.

Victory Chapel Church has requested to hold a Boot Drive on Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup> with a rain date of July 15<sup>th</sup>. Police Chief Johnson pointed out that there would be extremely heavy traffic on US Hwy 301 because of the upcoming July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday. He suggested they hold the boot drive on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Woods made a motion to accept the Boot Drive request for July 15<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

A group of people opposing the proposed phosphate mine in Bradford and Union Counties spoke during citizen participation. Carol Mosley addressed the proposed phosphate mine in Bradford and Union Counties. She expressed concern for the health of Bradford County residents and the Santa Fe River. She would like the commissioners to draft a letter opposing the mine. She has asked to be put on the agenda for the next meeting. Terry Phelan, Kate Ellison, Chris Mericle and Jane Blair also spoke in opposition of the phosphate mine.

Carolyn Crews addressed the commission regarding the article in the Telegraph and WEAG coverage of Bridget Underhill being released from employment with the City of Starke. She said it was an embarrassment.

Mayor Chastain called for a 5 minute recess. The meeting was called back to order at 7:05.

Chad Caudill from Mobilitie addressed the commission regarding a small cell antenna the company wants to put on city owned utility poles on Colley Road near the hospital and one on South Walnut Street near the AutoZone. The small cell antennas are designed to improve the speed of the networks of various cell phone companies. Mayor Chastain asked that a vote be delayed until after Commissioner Nugent has returned from military duty. Mr. Milner will place the item on a future agenda.

Police Chief Johnson asked the commission to approve a donation of 37 hours of sick leave from Barry Warren to Officer Harrison and a donation of 40 hours from Tom Gorman to Officer Harrison. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the donations. It was seconded by Commissioner Woods. The vote was 4-0 in favor. Chief Johnson then asked the commission to approve a donation of 10 hours of sick time from James Hooper to David Bukowski and a donation of 40 hours from Paul King to David Bukowski. Commissioner Waters made a motion to accept the donation. It was seconded by Commissioner Woods. The vote was 4-0 in favor. Chief Johnson had nothing further.

City Manager Milner addressed the following issues:

- 1) Mr. Milner addressed the commission regarding the NCFRPC Contract amount for 2017-2018. The annual contract is \$10,000.00 with dues of \$1,600.00. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the contract. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The vote was 4-0 in favor.
- 2) Commissioner Woods reviewed the bills with the Bond Trustees and made a motion to approve the bills. Commissioner Mortimer seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 to accept.
- 3) Mr. Milner addressed the Inter local Agreement Amendment #1 Internet Access and Connectivity. Mr. Milner met with Ricky Thompson and Bradford County to have Bradford County Technicians provide support for internet access and connectivity and will actually be at a lower cost than the city is currently paying. Commissioner Waters made a motion to accept the agreement. It was seconded by Commissioner Woods. The vote was 4-0 in favor.
- 4) The community group known as Concerned Citizens of Bradford County asked for a donation of \$1,000.00 for the Afterschool Club. This is an annual request and is included in the 2016-17 budget. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve. Commissioner Waters seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 to approve.

- 5) The U.S. Water Services Corporation was contracted to perform upgrades to four lift stations. The first pay request is for \$189,063.36. Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve the check. Commissioner Woods seconded it. The vote was 4-0 in favor. The Second change order is for an additional \$16,702.00 for a casing for the Edwards Road lift station. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to accept. It was seconded by Commissioner Woods. The vote was 4-0 in favor. Commissioner Waters asked if all the lift stations will be up to date. WWTP Supervisor Kyle Jerrels addressed the commission regarding the 15 lift stations and advised that several more will need upgrading. Mr. Milner will be meeting with engineers from the Mittauer Group to begin the process of applying for any grants that may assist with the additional lift station upgrades.
- 6) The next item was WCA's request for fiscal year 2017-2018 for commercial customers only. Skip McCall addressed the commission regarding the waste contract as WCA is seeking an increase based on the CPI of 3.1% effective October 1, 2017. Commissioner Woods made a motion to accept. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The vote was 4-0 to accept.
- 7) The next item regarded voting on a delegate for the Florida League of Cities Conference August 16-19. Commissioner Mortimer and Commissioner Woods are attending. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to nominate Commissioner Woods as the delegate. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The vote was 4-0 to accept.
- 8) The next item was a project list update. The cleaning of the sewer system is 57% complete. The smoke testing of the sewer system is 49% complete. Manhole inspections are 56% complete but 62 manhole covers cannot be located. The public works crew and the line crew will work together to locate and mark the missing manholes. Commissioner Waters asked about badges for the contracted employees knocking on resident's doors. Mr. Milner will contact representatives of J&H Waterstop to ensure all employees are properly identified when approaching residences. Mayor Chastain asked about the demolition of the old Badcock building. Mr. Milner stated that demolition should begin on June 26<sup>th</sup> or shortly thereafter.
- 9) The next item was to move the July 4<sup>th</sup> Commission Meeting to July 6<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Waters will be out of town so he asked to move the meeting to July 11<sup>th</sup>. A motion to accept was made by Commissioner Waters. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The vote was 4-0 in favor.
- 10) The next item was the increase for Police and Fire Dispatch. The Bradford County Sheriff's Office is asking for an annual increase of \$2,700.00 annually to provide dispatch services after hours for the city. Commissioner Waters made a motion to

accept the increase. Mayor Chastain passed the gavel to Vice Mayor Waters and seconded it. Commissioner Mortimer asked that we table this until after the budget meeting. The vote was 3-1 in favor of approving the increase with Commissioner Mortimer voting against. Commissioner Mortimer stated that she did not vote “no” because she does not want to pay it. She just wants to look at the budget first.

- 11) The next item was the Health Insurance Renewal Rate for 2017-2018. City employee Brandon Demers came forward to state that he found insurance with lower premiums and suggested the commission look into alternative health insurance. The commissioners decided to table this until they can look into other options.

City Attorney Sikes addressed the following issues:

- 1) Attorney Sikes read Ordinance 2017-0740 Abolishing a Runoff Election. Mayor Chastain mentioned that this is the second reading of this ordinance and Attorney Sikes agreed and stated that a yes vote would pass the ordinance. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to adopt. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The vote was 4-0 in favor.
- 2) Attorney Sikes read the Ordinance to Modify Charter Election Inspectors. Commissioner Woods made a motion to advertise. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The vote was 4-0 in favor.
- 3) Attorney Sikes read the Ordinance to Modify Charter Election Qualified Elector. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to advertise. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. Commissioner Woods wanted to clarify that that the person running for office must live in the district for the position they are seeking. Attorney Sikes said that is correct. The vote was 4-0 in favor.
- 4) Attorney Sikes read the Ordinance to Modify Charter Election Notices. Commissioner Waters made a motion to advertise. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The vote was 4-0 in favor.
- 5) Attorney Sikes read the Ordinance to Modify Charter Early Voting. Commissioner Waters made a motion to advertise. It was seconded by Commissioner Woods. The vote was 4-0 in favor.
- 6) Attorney Sikes read the Ordinance to Modify Charter Election Returns. Commissioner Waters made a motion to advertise. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The vote was 4-0 in favor.
- 7) Attorney Sikes mentioned a letter about Medical Marijuana Dispensaries. He suggested having a workshop to discuss it and the legalities.

- 8) Attorney Sikes mentioned that commissioners need to be careful when discussing any litigation against the city. Speaking to citizens about litigation against the city could make you a witness. He urged the commissioners to use caution when responding to citizen's questions.
- 9) Attorney Sikes has received orders that he will be deployed to Ft. Stewart Georgia as early as July 1<sup>st</sup>. He is requesting a military leave of absence effective July 31<sup>st</sup>. He has asked Frank Maloney to cover the July meetings. He suggested having a workshop to discuss hiring an Interim City Attorney once he has the dates for his deployment.
- 10) Mayor Chastain mentioned that the current charter calls for beginning salaries for the City Clerk and the Police Chief starting at \$45,000.00. He suggested increasing those salary ranges. He asked for salary ranges to be on the agenda for the next meeting. Mayor Chastain wants the Fire Chief's salary range reviewed also.

Commissioner Waters asked about the enclosure for the sewer plant blower to prevent the extremely loud noise. Mr. Milner stated that we have the drawings and estimates. He is seeking "soft" and they will be presented at a future commission meeting.

Commissioner Woods had nothing further.

Commissioner Mortimer expressed her gratitude for the new security light installed by the liner crew on Larry Street.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.