

City Commission Meeting  
October 16, 2018  
6:30 pm

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

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

This was the second regular meeting of the month. Members present included Mayor Nugent, Commissioner Chastain, Commissioner Mortimer, Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Waters. Also present were Police Chief Jeff Johnson, City Attorney Dan Sikes, Deputy City Clerk Lisa Terry and Executive Assistant Dan Williams. City Manager Bob Milner was absent due to a family commitment and City Clerk Ricky Thompson was absent due to medical reasons.

Mayor Nugent asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. There were none.

Mayor Nugent asked the commissioners if there was anything they wanted removed from the consent agenda. There was not. The items on the consent agenda consisted of the October 2, 2018 Swearing-In Meeting Minutes, the October 2, 2018 Commission Meeting Minutes, the Great Pumpkin Escape October 27, 2018 with road closure, the Bradford High School Homecoming Parade November 2, 2018 with road closure, the Bike Fest November 9, 10 and 11, 2018 with road closure, the Relay for Life November 10, 2018 with road closure and the Christmas Parade December 8, 2018 with road closure. Mayor Nugent entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the consent agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. Commissioner Mortimer asked if the insurance and road closures were in order for the upcoming events. Mr. Williams said they were. The motion passed 5-0.

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

Mayor Nugent 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 city 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." Commissioner Mortimer said a lady had come in but not completed the citizen participation form. Mayor Nugent suggested moving forward with the agenda items while she fills out the form.

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

Ms. Terry addressed the Standard Grant Agreement for improvements to Wainwright Park. Mayor Nugent entertained a motion to approve the agreement. Commissioner Waters made a

motion to approve the agreement. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 5-0.

Ms. Terry addressed the Standard Grant Agreement for improvements to Thomas Street Park. Mayor Nugent entertained a motion to approve the agreement. Commissioner Mortimer made a motion to approve the agreement. It was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 5-0.

Ms. Terry addressed the update on the Edwards Road property. Ms. Terry said Jason Wilkes, owner of Vacuum Systems Specialist, stopped by to let her know he is moving forward to purchase the property he currently leases. He would like to sell 8 or 9 acres of the property to the city to use as parking for the splash park. Commissioner Waters said if we can agree on a price. Ms. Terry agreed. Mayor Nugent asked for an update on the property Mr. Milner has been working on purchasing. Mr. Williams said he is not aware of any progress.

Eulinda Russ the Manager of Pine Forest Apartments addressed the commission regarding the ditch near the apartments that is holding water and attracting snakes. Commissioner Waters said he has been out there on several occasions. He said the problem lies with CSX Railroad. Commissioner Waters said a letter was sent to CSX Railroad when Commissioner Mortimer was the Mayor. The letter requests an additional pipe to be put in under the railroad tracks to provide a place for the water to drain. Commissioner Waters said the property belonged to the Florida Department of Transportation but they deeded it back to the city. He said the equipment needed to make the repairs would sink because the land is so saturated. Commissioner Smith asked if the Florida Department of Transportation could be held responsible for the repairs. Attorney Sikes said he will look at the paperwork. Commissioner Waters said Bobby McClellan with the Florida Department of Transportation kept the ditches mowed until he retired. Chief Johnson said there were 2 drainage pipes under SR 100 but CSX Railroad was concerned about the railroad tracks and blocked 1 of the pipes. Mayor Nugent asked Mrs. Russ to get with Mr. Milner to discuss the issue. Commissioner Smith asked if a crew could see if 1 of the pipes is blocked.

Mayor Nugent asked everyone to come down for the presentation of the plaque for Commissioner Woods 30 years of service. Mayor Nugent presented the plaque to Travis Woods in recognition of 30 years of service as a commissioner. Mayor Nugent said Mr. Woods should be commended for everything he has done for the city. He said it is an honor to present the plaque. The other commissioners thanked Mr. Woods.

Ms. Terry addressed the discussion on increasing water rates. She explained the increase is a 5 percent increase on the base charge and the variable rate. Ms. Terry said the increase will amount to around 3 or 4 dollars per month for residential customers. Commissioner Mortimer asked how much the increase would be to commercial customers. Ms. Terry said around 8 dollars per month. Commissioner Chastain asked Attorney Sikes if this needs to be voted on. Attorney Sikes said it does and suggested voting on the resolution addressing the increased water rate at the same time. Attorney Sikes read the title of Resolution No. 2019-03 amending the water rates. Commissioner Waters made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-03. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 5-0. Commissioner Smith asked if the

increase brought us in line with water charges for similarly sized cities. Ms. Terry said we will be increasing the water rates over time. She also said the 10,000 gallons included in the base rate is not in line with other cities whose base rate covers 2,500 or 5,000 gallons. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Nugent asked for the City Manager Report. Mr. Williams said Mr. Milner did not want to miss the meeting but had a family obligation. He addressed the memo regarding the citizen review committee for City Attorney and Magistrate. Mr. Williams said Danielle Judd, Zach Smith and Tony Mangol are able and willing to serve on the committee. He said Mr. Milner will have the committee meet and make recommendations before the next commission meeting. Commissioner Chastain asked that former City Clerk Linda Johns be added to the committee. Mayor Nugent, Commissioner Mortimer and Commissioner Waters wanted to use the 3 people recommended by Mr. Milner. Commissioner Smith said he does not believe they need a committee. Commissioner Chastain asked if Mrs. Johns could serve as a backup in case one of the other members was unavailable. The commissioners agreed to have Mrs. Johns serve as a backup. Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve the committee with Mrs. Johns as a backup. It was seconded by Commissioner Mortimer. The motion passed 4-1. Commissioner Smith opposed the motion.

Mayor Nugent asked for the Police Chief Report. Chief Johnson said there are several upcoming events plus the ongoing construction. He said he appreciates the prayers. Chief Johnson said his home in Wyoming was completely burned down. He addressed the metal plate on US Highway 301 at Edwards Road. It is not properly secured and is a safety hazard. Chief Johnson has contacted the Florida Department of Transportation 3 times. Mayor Nugent asked Chief Johnson to make sure safety practices are in place at the upcoming events.

Mayor Nugent asked for the Attorney's Report. Attorney Sikes had nothing further.

Commissioner Waters had nothing further.

Commissioner Chastain asked about the meeting with the county. Mayor Nugent said the meeting is November 13, 2018. Commissioner Chastain said the commission needs to discuss the hourly rate for fire services. He asked about having a short meeting before they meet with the county so the commissioners are on the same page. Commissioner Mortimer asked to have it added as an agenda item for the next meeting. Commissioner Chastain asked to have the pension fund on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Williams said the other cities they have contacted are using other means for retirement. Commissioner Chastain asked Mr. Williams to ask Mr. Milner to provide a bi-weekly activity report. Mayor Nugent asked Mr. Williams to have Mr. Milner meet with Mr. Sikes regarding the issues with Pine Forest Apartments.

Commissioner Smith had nothing further.

Commissioner Mortimer reminded the other commissioners about Mr. Milner's performance evaluation. She emphasized the importance of having the commissioners provide feedback on Mr. Milner's job performance.

Mayor Nugent appointed Commissioner Mortimer to the General Pension Board.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm.