

Commission Meeting  
October 17, 2017  
6:30 pm

Minutes of October 17, 2017 Starke City Commission Meeting

This was the second regular meeting of the month. Members present: Mayor Mortimer, Commissioner Chastain, Commissioner Nugent, Commissioner Waters and Commissioner Woods. Also present were Interim City Attorney John Cooper, City Manager Bob Milner, City Clerk Ricky Thompson, Police Chief Jeff Johnson and Fire Chief Gary Wise.

Mayor Mortimer called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. Commissioner Waters offered a prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Mortimer asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Mr. Milner had an additional Item 8. D. Emergency Manhole Repair and Item 8. E. Bradford High School Homecoming Parade Road Closure October 27, 2017. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Mortimer moved for acceptance of the minutes from the October 3, 2017 Swearing In Meeting. Commissioner Waters made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Woods. The motion passed 5-0. Mayor Mortimer moved for acceptance of the minutes from the October 3, 2017 Final Budget Hearing. Commissioner Waters made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0. Mayor Mortimer moved for acceptance of the October 3, 2017 Commission Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Chastain made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.

There was no citizen participation but Mayor Mortimer read the statement concerning citizen participation which stated "The City of Starke welcomes you to this meeting. This time is set aside for our citizens to address the commission. This is not a question and 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 come to the podium, speak into the microphone and state your name and address for the record and limit your comments to not more than 3 minutes. Your participation is welcome." Mayor Mortimer then asked if there were any citizens who wished to address the commission. There were none.

Mayor Mortimer asked for the report from the Fire Department. Chief Wise stated that the department's air packs are 14 years old and need to be replaced. They applied for a FEMA grant to purchase the air packs. They qualified but did not get a high enough score to receive funding. The air packs will cost \$86,096.45 which is \$16,000.00 cheaper than the original bid and includes masks. Mayor Mortimer asked where the money would come from. Chief Wise stated that there is approximately \$65,000.00 left from the loan for the new firetruck and they are selling an old firetruck to the city of Trenton for \$32,000.00. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve the purchase. Commissioner Waters seconded it. Chief Wise stated that the PO needs to be issued by Friday to get the reduced pricing. Commissioner Waters asked if there

was any value in the old air packs. Chief Wise stated that they work but do not meet chemical, biological, nuclear or radiological defense. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Mortimer asked for the report from the Police Department. Chief Johnson mention the Homecoming Parade. It is the same route as last year. He stated Officer Mark Lowery had triple bypass surgery and asked that we keep him in our prayers. Chief Johnson also stated that the construction on US Highway 301 will be moving.

City Manager Milner addressed the following issues:

- 1) Mr. Milner addressed the Communities in Schools donation use. The City of Starke made a donation of \$5,000.00 to CIS for scholarships. Executive Director Shannon Rowe addressed the commission asking them to approve using the donation for general operating expenses. They were able to recycle \$89,000.00 into their scholarships program. They would like to use it for their Dropout Prevention Program at the high school. Mayor Mortimer asked the commissioners for comments. Commissioner Chastain stated that it was tax payer money and was designated for scholarships. Commissioner Nugent stated that he appreciates what CIS does for the community. Mayor Mortimer asked Mr. Cooper if the commission could approve this. He stated that they could. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to approve the onetime transfer. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The motion passed 4-1. Commissioner Chastain opposed the motion.
- 2) Mr. Milner addressed the Mobilitie Pole Attachment Agreement. Chad Caudill from Mobilitie addressed the commission. He stated that the pole attachments would improve Sprint's communications and capacity. Mr. Caudill stated that the state allows attachments to be up to 28 cubic feet. Their attachments are 1.41 cubic feet. Mr. Caudill addressed the fees for the attachments. The fees have been increased to \$1236.00 with a 3% annual increase. There is also a \$500.00 permit fee. Mr. Caudill asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Chastain asked if they have located the ten sites they want to use. Mr. Caudill stated that they only have 1 site off of Walnut Street near the AutoZone. They are looking at 4 sites on Colley Road near Southside Elementary School. Mr. Cooper stated that plans for additional sites must be submitted to the City Manager and Building and Zoning for approval. Commissioner Nugent asked if they would only use existing poles. Mr. Caudill stated that they would whenever possible but if they could not they would use a pole very similar to the other poles. Mr. Milner stated that the attachments use a small amount of electricity. We can put a meter on the pole but they should not use enough electricity reach the \$9.00 per month minimum charge. Commissioner Waters asked if we could use a set amount so we don't have to put a meter on the pole. Mr. Milner stated that they can charge a set yearly amount. Commissioner Woods would prefer a 30 day notice instead of a 60 day notice. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to approve the agreement with a 30 day notice. Commissioner Woods seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

- 3) Mr. Milner addressed the Cell Tower Easement. The cell tower is located at the end of the sprayfield. The easement will be for up to 36 months during the bypass construction. Sandy McDonald addressed the commission. She is a consultant to the Department of Transportation. She stated that it is a temporary easement of 1525 square feet. Commissioner Waters wants a temporary easement. Commissioner Woods does not mind a temporary easement. He asked that the land be returned to the way it was when the temporary easement ends. Commissioner Chastain is fine with a temporary easement. Commissioner Nugent is ok with the temporary easement but asked if there would be a gate to restrict access. Mr. Milner stated that the public would not have access to the easement. Commissioner Nugent made a motion for a \$100.00 temporary easement. Commissioner Chastain seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.
- 4) Mr. Milner addressed the emergency manhole repair. Last Friday a city employee notified Mr. Milner of a manhole at Glendale Street and Evergreen Street that is sinking down several inches. It has been covered and surrounded by caution tape but needs to be repaired. Mr. Milner got a bid of \$8,745.00 from the company that repaired 3 other manholes recently. Mayor Mortimer asked where the funds would come from. Mr. Milner stated that it would come from the fund for road repairs. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to declare the manhole an emergency. Commissioner Woods made a motion. Commissioner Waters seconded it. The motion passed 5-0. Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve the repair. Commissioner Woods seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.
- 5) Mr. Milner addressed the road closure for the Bradford High School Homecoming Parade. Chief Johnson stated that it is the same route as previous years. Commissioner Nugent made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Woods. The motion passed 5-0.
- 6) Mr. Milner addressed the continued cleanup efforts from Hurricane Irma. He expressed appreciation to the staff for their efforts.
- 7) Commissioner Chastain mentioned selecting a date for Trick or Treat. The Great Pumpkin Escape is October 28, 2017. Pam Whittle mentioned that the streets will be closed for the Great Pumpkin Escape making Trick or Treating safer on that night. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to have Trick or Treat on October 28, 2017. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. Commissioner Woods asked Mrs. Whittle about the time. She stated it was 5:00 to 9:00 pm. The motion passed 5-0.
- 8) Mrs. Whittle mentioned Envision Bradford on October 26, 2017 at Cedar River Seafood from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.
- 9) Mr. Milner addressed the zoning issues and the Nuisance Ordinance. He asked the commissioners to come up with 5 properties in their districts that would be considered a nuisance and give the addresses to LaJuan Whittle.

City Clerk Thompson addressed the following issues:

- 1) Commissioner Chastain met with the bond trustees. He made a motion to approve paying the bills. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woods. The motion passed 5-0.
- 2) Mr. Thompson read the title of Resolution No. 2018-03 – Suwannee River Water Management District Permit Fees. Commissioner Chastain made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.
- 3) Mr. Thompson read the title of Resolution No. 2018-04 – Environmental Protection Permit Fees. Mayor Mortimer asked if this was an annual fee. Mr. Thompson stated that it was. Commissioner Waters made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 5-0.
- 4) Mr. Thompson read the title of Resolution No. 2018-05 – Amending the Water Rate. Commissioner Nugent made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The motion passed 5-0.
- 5) Mr. Thompson read the title of Resolution No. 2018-06 – Amending the Sewer Rate. Commissioner Waters made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 5-0.
- 6) Mr. Thompson addressed the Fuel Adjustment. He recommended that the fuel adjustment remain at 0.4550. Commissioner Woods made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. Commissioner Chastain asked if the Rate Stabilization Fund had any money left. Mr. Thompson stated that it did. Commissioner Chastain asked if Mr. Thompson would buy the rate down if it spiked. Mr. Thompson stated that he would. The motion passed 5-0.
- 7) Mr. Thompson recognized Retiree Sheryl Crabtree. He presented her with a plaque for 21 years of service to the city. Commissioner Woods stated that he appreciates everything Ms. Crabtree has done. Ms. Crabtree stated that she appreciates the commissioners and the time she worked for the city.

Interim City Attorney John Cooper read the title of Resolution No. 2018-07 – Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to Execute Contracts. Commissioner Waters made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Waters had nothing further.

Commissioner Woods had nothing further.

Commissioner Nugent had nothing further.

Commissioner Chastain asked if we had heard from the North Central Florida Planning Council concerning the Flood Ordinance. Mr. Thompson stated that we have not. Commissioner Chastain mentioned the 311 number to report code enforcement violations. It does not work from cell phones. Mr. Thompson is to provide Mr. Cooper with the contact information in order to pursue it. Commissioner Chastain mentioned medical marijuana. He stated that we need to put a plan in place.

Mayor Mortimer asked LaJuan Whittle to talk about zoning issues. She stated that there are issues all over the city. She suggested changing everything at one time. Mayor Mortimer stated that we need to do a Workshop on Zoning Issues. The Workshop was set for Tuesday October 24, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.