

Commission Meeting
October 3, 2017
6:30 pm

Minutes of October 3, 2017 Starke City Commission Meeting

This was the first 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 6:42 pm. Commissioner Chastain 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 9.F. Introduction of New Staff. He had an additional item 9.G. Recognition of Retirees. He had an additional item 9.H. Emergency Manhole Repair. 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 September 26, 2017 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Chastain made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The motion passed 5-0.

Walter Laun addressed the commissioners regarding the former Starke Lanes. He stated that the building is owned by Dr. Bishai and has been an eyesore for 28 years. Mr. Laun would like to turn the old Starke Lanes into a multi-functional facility including mini golf and a ballroom. Mr. Laun would like to use inmate crews to restore the building. Commissioner Waters informed him that inmate labor cannot be used on private property. Mr. Laun stated that Tom Ernharth put in writing that they could use inmate crews to restore the building. Mayor Mortimer asked if Mr. Laun had contacted the Department of Corrections regarding inmate labor. He stated that he has not.

During citizen participation Tommy Bryan addressed the commissioners with concerns about the budget and where the town is going. He stated that remodeling abandoned buildings would be better than demolishing them to create parking lots.

Forrest Rogers also addressed the commissioners during citizen participation. He lives at 360 N Water Street. He stated that every time it rains the sewer overflows onto his property and flows into Alligator Creek. He asked what the city was going to do about it. Mr. Milner stated that that area is the worst in the city. Mr. Milner stated that J & H Waterstop Utilities has been doing extensive testing to identify areas where sewer repairs need to be made. He also stated that this will not be an easy fix. The entire pipe needs to be replaced but the problem will eventually be fixed. He also stated that we do everything the Department of Environmental Protection requires when a sewer overflows. Mr. Rogers asked where the water is getting into the sewer. Mr. Milner stated that it is all over the city and that is why the commissioners

authorized the testing. Mayor Mortimer assured Mr. Rogers that the commission is taking this issue very seriously.

Mayor Mortimer asked for the report from the Police Department. Chief Johnson stated that construction has commenced on Highway 301. They will be working on sidewalks at night. He stated that sidewalks and driveways will be temporarily closed during this time. He also asked that we pray for Las Vegas.

City Manager Milner addressed the following issues:

- 1) Mr. Milner addressed the Contract for Services with Tish Bryant as the FEMA coordinator. Mrs. Bryant and her husband Jerry moved here a couple of years ago. Mrs. Bryant retired from Disney after working in security for many years. Mrs. Bryant introduced herself. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to approve. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.
- 2) Mr. Milner addressed the Contract with Reddish & White for the Audit of the Police Time Sheets. Mr. Milner contacted 3 audit firms from out of town but they wanted between \$8,000 and \$11,000. John-Paul Ledford, Mr. Milner and Mr. Thompson met with Reddish & White to make sure there was not a conflict since they are our auditors. Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. Mayor Mortimer asked if the commissioners had any questions. Commissioner Woods stated that he has talked to Mr. Cooper and Mr. Thompson and does not think it is a good idea to use Reddish & White because they will be auditing their own work at the end of the year. He stated that the city had been written up for this in the past. He asked Mr. Cooper to respond. Mr. Cooper stated that Reddish & White are certified auditors so they would know if there was a conflict. Commissioner Woods advised that he has no problem with Reddish & White. He is just concerned about a conflict. Mayor Mortimer asked if the commissioners would like Mr. Milner to look for other auditors. Commissioners Nugent and Waters withdrew their motions. Beverly Durrance questioned why Mr. Milner was allowed to spend \$9,000 to have her daughter investigated. Mayor Mortimer thanked her for her comment. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to authorize Mr. Milner to spend up to \$5,000 on the audit. Commissioner Woods seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.
- 3) Mr. Milner addressed the Great Pumpkin Escape to be held on October 28, 2017 from 3:00 to 10:00pm. Commissioner Woods made a motion to approve the road closures and use of the square. Commissioner Nugent seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.
- 4) Mr. Milner addressed the Mobilitie Pole Attachment Agreement. They are asking to put small cell antennas on 2 poles on Colley Road about a quarter of a mile from Southside Elementary School. They are no larger than 3 feet x 3 feet. Our line crew supervisor has looked at them and has approved them being attached to our poles.

Commissioner Woods made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. Commissioner Chastain asked about the franchise fees. Mr. Cooper stated that the city has the authority to enter into a franchise agreement. Commissioner Chastain stated that the agreement does not state the size of the attachments. Mr. Cooper stated that they have to submit designs and specifications for our approval. Commissioner Chastain mentioned the length of the contract being 10 years and renewing for 5 years for 4 consecutive terms. This means we could be stuck with the attachments for 30 years. Mayor Mortimer agreed with Commissioner Chastain. Commissioners Waters and Woods withdrew their motions. Commissioner Nugent would like to see a description and would like a termination clause. Commissioner Waters stated that he would like a 3 to 5 year contract. Mr. Cooper stated that he would contact Mobilitie regarding the commissioner's concerns.

- 5) Mr. Milner gave the commissioners a copy of City Manager's Activity Report for the month of September and asked them to let him know if they have any questions.
- 6) Mr. Milner introduced Tonya Wainwright who will be working for him 30 hours per week while he advertises for a permanent person.
- 7) Mr. Milner recognized retiree John Sasser. Mr. Sasser was employed by the City of Starke for 32 years. Mr. Milner presented Mr. Sasser with a plaque. Mr. Milner recognized retiree JW Whittle. Mr. Whittle was employed by the City of Starke for 33 years. Mr. Milner presented Mr. Whittle with a plaque.
- 8) Mr. Milner addressed the Emergency Manhole Repair. The manhole at Georgia Street and Grand Street is caving in. The repair will cost \$16,118. Mayor Mortimer asked Mr. Thompson where the money would come from. He stated that it would come out of the wastewater contingency fund. Commissioner Nugent made a motion to declare it an emergency. It was seconded by Commissioner Woods. The motion passed 5-0. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to approve the bid. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The motion passed 5-0.
- 9) Mr. Milner mentioned that the debris removal from Hurricane Irma will continue. They have been piling the debris on a city lot. The debris will need to be burned in small piles. Jay Hodge will be doing the burning. Commissioner Waters mentioned getting a tractor with a rake to separate the piles.

City Clerk Thompson addressed the following issues:

- 1) Mr. Thompson called Mrs. Alicia McMillian up to recognize her as a retiree. He presented her a plaque for 33 years of outstanding service to the City of Starke.
- 2) Commissioner Waters met with the bond trustees. He made a motion to approve paying the bills. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 5-0.

- 3) The Mr. Thompson passed out a handout on electric rates. Our rate is the 7th lowest out of 33 cities. He stated that the fuel adjustment is down. Commissioner Chastain stated that we need to set the fuel adjustment rate for the current fiscal year and asked if it would be on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Thompson stated that it would be.

Interim City Attorney John Cooper stated that things are going well.

Commissioner Waters stated that all is well.

Commissioner Woods had nothing further.

Commissioner Nugent had nothing further.

Commissioner Chastain had nothing further.

Mayor Mortimer thanked Commissioner Chastain for serving as mayor for the past year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.