

City Commission Meeting  
September 11, 2018  
6:30 pm

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

Mayor Mortimer called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.

This was the first regular meeting of the month. Members present included Mayor Mortimer, Commissioner Chastain, Commissioner Nugent, Commissioner Waters and Commissioner Woods. Also present were Police Chief Jeff Johnson, City Manager Bob Milner, City Attorney Dan Sikes and Deputy City Clerk Lisa Terry. City Clerk Ricky Thompson was absent because of medical reasons.

Mayor Mortimer asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. Ms. Terry asked to change item 11. B. from a motion to approve to a motion to approve for publication. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the revised agenda. Commissioner Chastain made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Mortimer 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 Minutes from the August 14, 2018 Budget Workshop, the minutes from the August 21, 2018 Budget Workshop and the Minutes from the August 21, 2018 Commission Meeting. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Chastain made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Woods. The motion passed 5-0.

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

Mayor Mortimer asked for citizen participation. There was no citizen participation.

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

Mayor Mortimer asked for the City Manager Report. Mr. Milner introduced Jessica Bowen. Ms. Bowen is the new customer service representative. Mr. Milner asked Ms. Terry if she had anything to say about Ms. Bowen. Ms. Terry said Ms. Bowen is doing an awesome job. Mayor Mortimer welcomed Ms. Bowen.

Mr. Milner introduced Greg Thomas. Mr. Thomas is the new employee in the Public Works Department. Mr. Thomas graduated from Bradford High School. Mayor Mortimer welcomed Mr. Thomas.

Utility Director Chuck Oliver introduced Michael Wieber. Mr. Wieber is the new apprentice lineman. Mr. Wieber graduated from Middleburg High School, enlisted in the US Marine Corps and served for 4 years. Mr. Wieber then attended trade school as an apprentice lineman. He

said it is a blessing to work for the City of Starke. Mayor Mortimer welcomed Mr. Wieber and thanked him for his service to our country.

Mr. Milner addressed the service agreement with iWorQ. He said they bought out Zone Pro the software previously used for the Building and Zoning Department. Mr. Milner said the contract is for \$2,000 per year. Commissioner Chastain made a motion for discussion only. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. Commissioner Chastain asked if the contract should be bid out. Attorney Sikes said a contract is required to be bid out if it is greater than \$15,000 but the commissioners can decide to bid it out. Commissioner Chastain asked about the additional charges mentioned in the contract. Mr. Milner said it would be for work exceeding the scope of the contract. Mayor Mortimer asked if that was industry standard. Mr. Milner said it is. Mayor Mortimer asked if training would be given to someone as a backup for LaJuan Whittle. Mr. Milner said he is working on backup and redundancy training. Commissioner Chastain withdrew his motion for discussion. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the agreement with iWorQ. Commissioner Chastain made a motion to approve the agreement. It was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Milner addressed the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Agreement for Comprehensive Planning Services. Mr. Milner said the cost is \$10,000 per year. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the agreement. Commissioner Waters made a motion. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Milner addressed setting a date for an Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining for Local Firefighter's Union 3120. The date was set for September 25, 2018 at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Milner gave an update on assistance from Gainesville Regional Utilities. Mr. Milner said GRU has been helping the City of Starke for a month. Mr. Milner said we are down to 1 foreman, 1 apprentice and one truck from GRU. Mr. Milner said we are paying \$4,000 per week. Mr. Milner said Mr. Oliver is in the process of hiring a line crew supervisor and 1 more apprentice lineman.

Mayor Mortimer asked for the Police Chief Report. Chief Johnson addressed parking on the city right-of-way. He said an ordinance to deal with enforcement was started but never put into effect. Attorney Sikes asked Chief Johnson to meet with him so they can address the issue. Chief Johnson wants to mirror the state highway right-of-way parking enforcement. He said a red sticker is placed on the vehicle indicating when it was ticketed giving the owner 24 hours to move the vehicle.

Mayor Mortimer asked for the Attorney's Report. Attorney Sikes said Lucas Feng Shi was given a notice by the clerk's office on September 30, 2018 suspending their license for 90 days. Attorney Sikes asked if they had filed an appeal. No one has received an appeal. Attorney Sikes asked if they were still operating. Chief Johnson said there are still cars in the parking lot but the doors are closed.

Commissioner Chastain asked Attorney Sikes if we need a contract with GRU. Attorney Sikes said it would be good to have a contract. Commissioner Chastain asked if it should be an

emergency item. Mr. Milner said there is a contract between the City of Starke and FMPA. Attorney Sikes said he would review the contract and advise the commissioners at the next meeting.

Attorney Sikes read the title of Ordinance No. 2018-37 to amend the Code of Ordinances for street tree maintenance. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the first reading. Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve the first reading. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 5-0.

Attorney Sikes read the title of Ordinance No. 2018-38 to modify the Code of Ordinances for adult arcade amusement centers. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve for publication. Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve the ordinance for publication. It was seconded by Commissioner Chastain. The motion passed 5-0.

Attorney Sikes read the title of Ordinance No. 2018-39 to modify the Code of Ordinances to delete adult arcade amusement centers. Mayor Mortimer entertained a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2018-39. Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve the first reading. It was seconded by Commissioner Nugent. The motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Waters addressed the 48-inch pipe between Orange Street and Myrtle Street that has come up out of the ground. He said it is going to cost \$178,000 to repair and it badly needs to be fixed. Commissioner Nugent asked if it might be the Florida Department of Transportation's responsibility. Commissioner Waters said DOT has been out to look at it several times. Mr. Milner said accessing the pipe to make the repairs is going to be difficult. He said there are concrete basins at each end that need to be modified. Mr. Milner said it will need to be engineered. He has asked 2 groups to come out and look at it. Mr. Milner said Patrick Webster from Suwannee River Water Management District has been out to look at it as well. He is looking into grants that we might qualify for to help with the cost. Commissioner Waters will check back with Mr. Milner.

Commissioner Woods asked if he could get a picture with the other commissioners since this is his last meeting. Mayor Mortimer said they are having pictures taken at the second meeting in October. She invited Commissioner Woods to come to the meeting and be in the picture and receive his official plaque. He asked Chief Johnson, Attorney Sikes, and Ms. Terry to be in the picture as well.

Commissioner Chastain said electric cars are becoming more popular. He asked if a car charging station should be added somewhere in the city in the next year. Commissioner Chastain said with the bypass coming a car charging station might draw people into the downtown area. Chief Johnson said DOT mentioned having charging stations in the parking lot. Mr. Milner will check into charging stations and pricing.

Commissioner Chastain asked when the repairs at the wastewater treatment plant will be completed. Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor Kyle Jerrels said Synagro came in and dewatered and removed 500,000 gallons of sludge from the plant. US Submergent came in to perform the grit removal process which took about a week. Diffusers were then placed in the

bottom of the aerators. Mr. Jerrels said 17 tons of grit was removed and the bill came in at \$89,000 well below the estimated cost of \$106,000. Mr. Jerrels said they ordered 50 aerators to replace bad ones and they will order another 50 to replace all the aerators. He would like to use inmate labor to replace the diffusers. Mr. Jerrels said they had a malfunction of the north clarifier's rotator assembly. The rotator assembly cannot be repaired. It is 24 years old and parts are not available. The new one will cost around \$100,000 but they will make sure it can be integrated into a new plant if that is the direction the commissioners decide to go. Commissioner Chastain asked if there were any other upgrades that need to be done. Mr. Jerrels said they are looking into updating the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition or SCADA system so it can be rolled into a new plant as well. Mr. Jerrels said overall things are going well. He thanked the commissioners for committing to the repairs and said they will be well worth it in the end.

Mayor Mortimer asked Mr. Milner about the meeting with Bradford County. Mr. Milner said it will be September 13, 2018 at 6:00 pm and the commissioners can ask for items to be added to the agenda. Mayor Mortimer asked Chief Johnson and Attorney Sikes if they will be there. They said yes.

Mr. Milner said the International Economic Development Council will be in town September 24<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>. He encouraged the commissioners to meet with them.

Commissioner Nugent had nothing further.

Mayor Mortimer thanked Commissioner Woods for his service adding that he will be missed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.