

Commission Workshop  
March 19, 2019  
5:30 pm

Mayor Nugent called the workshop to order at 5:30 pm.

Members present included Mayor Daniel W. Nugent, Commissioner Tommy Chastain, Commissioner Janice D. Mortimer, Commissioner Shannon Smith and Commissioner Wilbur Waters. Also present were City Manager Bob Milner, City Attorney Dan Sikes and Deputy Clerk Lisa Terry. City Clerk Ricky Thompson was absent due to illness.

Attorney Sikes said the attorneys know the meeting is public record but the commissioners would like the opportunity to speak to them individually. He said the attorneys do not have to go to the lobby but that is the request of the commissioners.

Attorney Sikes asked representatives from Folds & Walker to enter the commission room. Mayor Nugent said each firm has 15 minutes with questions. Scott Walker introduced himself. He said the firm has added partner Rich Maltby and changed their name to Folds, Walker and Maltby. Mr. Walker said Mr. Maltby practices Corporate Law. Mr. Walker said Andrea True will be assisting with municipalities. He said Scott Whitaker has joined the firm and has been practicing law for 43 years. Mr. Walker said Clay Martin has experience in all levels of government. Mr. Walker said if selected he and Mr. Martin will be doing most of the work for the City of Starke. He asked Mr. Martin to speak to the commission. Mr. Martin said he has worked for the Legislative Branch, the Executive Branch and the Judicial Branch of Government. He said he will be working with the commissioners as well as the staff. Mr. Martin is a lifelong Floridian and served as a commissioner for the City of Newberry. Mr. Martin asked for questions. Commissioner Waters asked what range the requested monthly fees would be in. Mr. Walker said they would have a monthly retainer fee. A big project outside of the retainer would cost more. Commissioner Chastain asked how much the monthly retainer is for other cities they represent. Mr. Walker said Newberry is \$7,000 per month, High Springs is \$6,000 per month, Archer is \$3,500 per month and Micanopy is \$2,000 per month. Commissioner Chastain had no questions. Commissioner Smith asked if they would send the same attorney to every meeting. Mr. Walker said it would be himself and Mr. Martin attending the meetings. Commissioner Mortimer asked Mr. Walker to share a time when he had to give a client bad news and what his approach was and how it impacted him. Mr. Walker said their standard operating procedure is to notify clients immediately of any issues. He said if there was something adverse he would meet with the client in person and give them options on how to deal with the situation. Mr. Walker said anything that affects their clients affects them. Commissioner Mortimer asked how many minorities are employee at the firm. Mr. Walker said they have 10 females, 1 African America and 1 Filipino. Mayor Nugent asked if the attorney could be here a couple of hours before the meeting. Mr. Walker said they could.

Attorney Sikes asked the representative from Jimerson Birr to enter the commission room. Patrick Krechowski introduced himself. Mayor Nugent said the time limit is now 17 minutes

because Folds & Walker ran over. Mr. Krechowski said Jimerson Birr is based in Jacksonville Florida. He said he specializes in local government law. Mr. Krechowski has 21-year experience practicing law. He has worked with the Urban Land Institute. Mr. Krechowki represents the City of Neptune Beach and has for 9 years. He asked for questions. Mayor Nugent asked if Mr. Krechowski could be here 2 hours before the meetings. Mr. Krechowski said he would have no problem with that. Commissioner Mortimer asked how he would deal with giving a client bad news and how it would affect him. Mr. Krechowski said in one degree or another he has to deliver bad news almost every day. He believes in being truthful and factual. Mr. Krechowski said when delivering bad news he tries to give his clients a way to move forward. Commissioner Mortimer asked how many minorities are employed by his firm. Mr. Krechowski said 1 or 2. Commissioner Smith asked if Mr. Krechowski would be the one attending the meetings. Mr. Krechowski said he would and he would be the lead. Commissioner Chastain asked if the City of Neptune Beach pays on a retainer basis. Mr. Krechowski said when he first started working for Neptune Beach he was paid a monthly retainer fee with an hourly rate for litigation or human resource issues. Mr. Krechowski is now an employee of Neptune Beach but he is going to resign his position to pursue private practice. He said a monthly retainer with an additional hourly rate for litigation is how he would charge the city. Commissioner Smith asked if Mr. Krechowski will still be working for Neptune Beach. Mr. Krechowski said he is stepping away. Commissioner Waters asked if someone would be available if they needed questions answered. Mr. Krechowski said the commissioners would each have his cell phone number. Mr. Krechowski said he didn't grow up here but he believes that could bring a new perspective. The commissioners thanked Mr. Krechowski for his time.

Attorney Sikes asked Paul Sanders to enter the commission room. Mayor Nugent said he would have 17 minutes like the other attorneys. Mr. Sanders said he grew up here and his practice is on Call Street. He has been an attorney here for 9 years. He began practicing in Jacksonville because his father was a judge in Starke so he could not practice locally. He said he served this commission in 2014. He is familiar with the city and would like to serve the city. Commissioner Waters asked what the retainer fee would be. Mr. Sanders said the current fee is \$4,000 per month and he would stick with that. He said his office consists of himself and his secretary. Outside of office hours his office phone is transferred to his cell phone. Commissioner Smith asked if Mr. Sanders would be the sole attender of the meetings Mr. Sander said he would. Commissioner Mortimer asked about a time when he had to give a client bad news, how he delivered it and how it affected him. Mr. Sanders said he gives clients bad news fairly frequently. He said he gives his clients a realistic outcome from the initial meeting. Mr. Sanders said he delivers the news as well as possible. Mayor Nugent asked if Mr. Sanders could be here 2 hours before the meetings. Mr. Sanders said he could. Mayor Nugent asked what would happen if Mr. Sanders was unable to attend a meeting. Mr. Sander said he would have another attorney cover the meeting for him. Mr. Sanders asked the commission what they expect form their attorney. Commissioner Mortimer said she expects sound legal advice. She said she expects each commissioner to receive the same information and she expects honesty. Mr. Sanders said he would answer any commissioner's questions immediately and if another commissioner called him he would give them the same answer. Mr. Sanders said he does not play politics.

Mayor Nugent asked if the commissioners would like to pick a backup to which ever attorney they select. That way if negotiations don't workout with the first choice they could go to the second. Commissioner Mortimer asked if that would avoid having to advertise again. Attorney Sikes said the motion should be made that way so it is on the record. Commissioner Waters asked if they could avoid saying who the second choice is. Attorney Sikes said they could reserve the right to call back one of the others.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:21 pm.