

Commission Workshop
October 17, 2017
6:00 pm

Minutes of October 17, 2017 Starke City Commission Workshop

This workshop is to discuss the new parking lot. 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 and City Clerk Ricky Thompson.

Mayor Mortimer called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Mr. Milner addressed the commission regarding the new parking lot. The storage building on the property was opened to the public this afternoon. Mr. Milner stated that the reason for this workshop is to hear from citizens, business owners and the commissioners their preference for the use of this property. Commissioner Waters stated that he would like to add bathroom facilities to the property. Commissioner Woods stated that he would like the building used for storage and would like to add restrooms. Commissioner Chastain stated that Dr. Berry had suggested to him that they use the property to build office space. Commissioner Chastain stated that office space would generate revenue for the city. Commissioner Nugent would like to add restrooms, an additional power source and separate handicapped and standard parking. Mayor Mortimer asked how much space we have. Mr. Milner stated that the property is approximately 250' x 100'. Mayor Chastain stated that we had the property surveyed. Mr. Milner stated that he had called Patrick Welch last week to ask for the survey but he has not received it yet. Pam Whittle with the Chamber of Commerce addressed the commission. She stated that the parking lot is already being used and she is concerned about the potholes and the different levels. She also expressed concern about the cost of maintaining bathrooms. She mentioned that the Tourist Development Council visited a city with a nice bathroom facility that registered with a bus line bringing tourists to their downtown area. Commissioner Chastain asked Mr. Milner to have barricades put up for the levels and potholes. Mrs. Whittle stated the Chamber would still have to use port-a-potties for their events. Commissioner Waters stated that the bathrooms would only be opened during special events. Mrs. Whittle expressed concern over lighting in the parking lot. Mark Williams addressed the commission. He is opening a yogurt shop downtown and does not believe a bathroom is the best use of the space. He stated people who work downtown are taking up parking spaces. He stated that we should get an expert opinion. He also stated that Thompson Street is a 1 way street which might mean we need an entrance and an exit. Commissioner Chastain stated that construction on the overpass will begin in 2020 and Thompson Street will be a 2 way street. Commissioner Woods agreed that we need to hire an expert. Mr. Milner is to contact the North Florida Regional Planning Council and Mittauer & Associates.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 pm.