

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY
COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD IN THE
COMMISSION CHAMBER AT CITY HALL, June 16, 2015, AT 6:00 P.M.
The Meeting was held in the Port St. Joe Fire Department Meeting Room due
to a request for accessibility from a citizen.**

The following were present: Mayor Pro tem Buzzett, Commissioners McCroan, Patterson and Thursbay. City Manager Jim Anderson, City Clerk Charlotte Pierce and Attorney Tom Gibson were also present.

Mayor Magidson was absent due to a family medical emergency with his mother and Mayor Pro tem Buzzett presided until the new officials were sworn in.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

A Motion was made by Commissioner Thursbay, second by Commissioner McCroan, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on June 2, 2015 and the Special Meeting of June 10, 2015. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

Swearing in of Elected Officials: Mayor Patterson, Commissioners Thursbay and Ashbrook

Gulf County Judge, Tim McFarland, administered the Oath of Office to Mayor / Commissioner James C. Patterson while his wife held the Bible for the ceremony.

Judge McFarland also administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner William P. Thursbay who was surrounded by his family as his wife held the Bible for the ceremony.

Judge McFarland also administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Commissioner, David A. Ashbrook as his son, David, held the Bible for the ceremony and his wife stood with them.

Port St. Joe Redevelopment Association (PSJRA), Gail Alsobrook

The premier showing of the BP funded documentary on the relocating of the Cape San Blas Lighthouse will be shown on Thursday, July 30, 2015, at the First United Methodist Church. More information will follow.

The \$350,000 grant to assist with the purchasing of the Port Theatre was approved by the legislature and the process for renovation is expected to begin soon.

Ms. Alsobrook publicly tendered her resignation as Executive Director of the PSJRA and noted the reasons for her resignation.

Citizens Advisory Task Force (CATF) Public Hearing – Bruce Ballister

Resolution 2015-02 Community Development Block Grant Application (CDBG) was not read or approved due to a publication error by the Port St. Joe Star. All documentation was provided to the Star for publication of the CDBG Second Public Hearing but due to the error of omission by the Star's staff, the advertisement was not published. This error eliminates the City from applying for \$650,000 in funding during the current grant cycle. There is a possibility that a new grant cycle will open in November or December for submittal in January and the City may apply for funding then.

Mr. Ballister conducted a Fair Housing Workshop for elected officials in preparation of the upcoming grant. This Workshop was publicly noticed in the Star.

CITY ATTORNEY – Tom Gibson

Ordinance 514: Overnight Parking Update will be on the Agenda for the July 7, 2015, Meeting.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – Jim Anderson

Old Business

Gulf Pines Hospital Site – Wrap up of the site is anticipated this week as more dirt still needs to be hauled. Upon completion at the site, the project will be turned over to Preble Rish for the survey and plat work.

Mr. Gibson noted that Deed Restrictions would need to be discussed and a plat approved before advertising the sale of the lots. Commissioners are to get their suggestions to Mr. Anderson for discussion and a Workshop will be held before advertising begins.

Affordable Housing Update – The PACES Foundation has submitted their plans to the Building Department for review. The PDRB will review the request for a Development Order on July 14, 2015, and a recommendation will be made to the City Commission at their July 21, 2015, Meeting.

Flushing Program Update – The beaches will be completed this week and the crews will move to the Overstreet area. This will conclude the flushing project for this year.

4th of July Fireworks and Street Dance – Fireworks have been ordered, the old paper mill site has been secured for the fireworks, and the display is scheduled to begin at 10:00 P.M.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Thursbay, second by Commissioner Buzzett, to approve the Street Dance Permit to be held July 3, 2015, from 9:00 P.M. until July 4, 2015, at 2:00 A.M. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Summer Youth Programs – The Washington site and STAC House are open and being enjoyed by numerous young people.

Commissioner Thursbay expressed his appreciation to all the workers for their help with the students.

City Budget Update – Staff is working on the upcoming budget and are currently waiting on revenue projections from the state and the Gulf County Property Appraiser's office. These figures should be available around the first of July,

Yard Debris Laydown Yard – Mr. Anderson will be meeting with a company tomorrow concerning the possibility of chipping the yard debris which could be a large savings to the City.

New Business

Utility Rate Study Review Proposal – Money is in the current budget for a review. A Motion was made by Commissioner McCroan, second by Commissioner Thursbay, to have Burton and Associates provide a review of the current rates at a cost of \$14,300. All in favor; motion carried 5-0.

League of Cities Annual Conference – A decision will be made at the next Meeting as to who will attend the Conference.

20th Street Stop Signs: Mayor Patterson – This is still under review and will be addressed at a later date.

Pedestrian Bridge Between 18th and 19th Streets: Mayor Patterson – After a review by Staff, their recommendation is to remove the bridge and possibly replace it at a later date. A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Buzzett, to remove the bridge. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Utility Write-Off Policy: Mayor Patterson – A Motion was made by Commissioner Thursbay, second by Commissioner McCroan, to require a statement from a Certified Plumber that a leak had occurred.

Robert Farmer shared his concerns about requiring a Certified Plumber. Commissioner Buzzett noted that if a person was having problems paying their water bill the additional expense of a Certified Plumber would make the situation worse.

After discussion and other input, Commissioner Thursbay withdrew his Motion and Commissioner McCroan withdrew his second. Commissioner Thursbay asked for a list of all write-offs for the past six months.

Public Works – John Grantland did not have anything to share.

Surface Water Plant – Larry McClamma did not have anything to report but invited Commissioner Ashbrook to tour the plant.

Wastewater Plant – Lynn Todd noted Algae bloom is causing an odor at the plant and complaints have been received from residents of Highland View. Solutions for the problem are being researched and Ms. Todd hopes to have this resolved soon. A Workshop, to discuss and review the options, is being considered.

Staff is also waiting on prices to repair the effluent line.

City Engineer – Clay Smallwood, III, did not have anything to discuss.

Code Enforcement

Mr. Burkett's report was reviewed, no action was taken.

Police Department – Chief Herring did not have anything to share.

City Clerk – Charlotte Pierce shared the legislature approved funding for the first 32 grant requests on the 2016 Special Category Recommended Funding List and the Phase III Cape San Blas Lighthouse Relocation Project was number 35. An additional \$575,000 would be required to fund the local project.

Citizens to be Heard

Gulf County Commissioner Joanna Bryan encouraged the Commissioners to find a solution to the odor at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Constituents in her district have asked for her help in resolving the issue. Ms. Bryan has spoken with Bill Evans of FL DEP and he was not aware of the problem.

Lynn Todd noted she had spoken with the Regional DEP Office personnel about the issue and they are aware of it.

David R. Musselwhite shared his concerns about repairs that have been made to the Frank Pate Park Boat Ramp. Mr. Musselwhite provided several pictures of the site and encouraged erecting signs stating "No Fish Cleaning".

Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Thursbay welcomed Mayor Patterson and Commissioner Ashbrook to the Commission. He also expressed his appreciation to former Mayor, Mel Magidson, Jr., for his service to the City and to Staff for their hard work and dedication.

Commissioner Ashbrook thanked all the voters for voting in the recent elections, noted that one vote does count, shared he will be very accessible and that his cell phone number is available to everyone.

Commissioner McCroan offered his congratulations and welcomed the recently elected Commissioners to the Board.

Commissioner Buzzett suggested that, in the future, the position of Mayor Pro tem be filled on a rotating basis. He has served in this capacity for five years and feels that Commissioners would benefit from serving in this position. He requested that this item be on the next Agenda.

Mayor Patterson expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve as Mayor. He noted there had been many "Naysayers" who do not feel that he can get the job done but he intends to get jobs for the City, make the Port a reality, and work hard on the water issues. He shared that he will be holding office hours at City Hall and they will most likely be on Tuesdays and Thursdays for three hours each day.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Thursbay, second by Commissioner McCroan, to adjourn the Meeting at 7:37 P.M.

Approved this 7th day of July 2015.

James "Bo" Patterson
James "Bo" Patterson, Mayor

Charlotte M. Pierce
Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

7/8/2015
Date

7/8/15
Date