

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD AT 2775 GARRISON AVENUE, September 5, 2017, AT 6:00 P.M.

The following were present: Mayor Patterson, Commissioners Ashbrook, Buzzett, Lowry, and Thursbay. City Manager Jim Anderson, City Clerk Charlotte Pierce, and Attorney Clinton McCahill were also present.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

A Motion was made by Commissioner Buzzett, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to approve the Minutes of the Special Commission Meeting of August 14, 2017. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Thursbay, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to approve the Minutes of the Workshop Meeting held on August 24, 2017, with a Scribner's revision. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

DAR Proclamation, Constitution Week – Mabel Hodges

Mayor Patterson read the Proclamation proclaiming the week of September 17 through September 23, 2017, as Constitution Week. Master Frederick William (Freddy) Wynn, dressed as a Revolutionary Soldier, accepted the Proclamation for the DAR.

PORT ST. JOE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (PSJRA)

Extension of Current CRA – Commissioner Buzzett shared that they are nearing the end of the renovations on the Keepers Quarters, Eglin, in Core Park. The PSJRA is considering requesting an extension of an additional 30 years for the CRA and would like to have a Workshop on this. They continue to work on the Budget for next year.

CITY ATTORNEY

Attorney McCahill requested that Ordinance 542 Seventh Street Road Abandonment be moved up in the Agenda

Ordinance 542 Seventh Street Road; Abandonment Public Hearing, and First Reading –

Public Hearing - Mayor Patterson asked if anyone from the public would like to address this issue. No one from the public wished to speak.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Buzzett, to read Ordinance 542 by Title only. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney McCahill read Ordinance 542 by Title only.

Easements: Wimico Timber and Commerce Park Lot

Wimico Timber – Attorney McCahill shared there had been no change since the last meeting as he has not talked with anyone from American Forestry.

Commerce Park – Attorney McCahill noted the Quit Claim Deed terminating an Easement for the Premier Chemical, LLC pipe that crosses the City Commerce Park Lot has been recorded.

Medical Marijuana – A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Thursbay, to extend the current moratorium, which expires in October, for twelve months while issues are being worked out on the state level. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 535 Voluntary Annexation of Parcel 06077-000R; Public Hearing, Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption –

Public Hearing - Mayor Patterson asked if anyone from the public would like to address this issue. No one from the public wished to speak.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Thursbay, to read Ordinance 535 by Title only. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney McCahill read Ordinance 535 by Title only.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Thursbay, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to adopt Ordinance 535. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 536 Zoning Change of Parcels 06067-000R and 06077-000R; Public Hearing, Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption –

Public Hearing - Mayor Patterson asked if anyone from the public would like to address this issue. No one from the public wished to speak.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Buzzett, to read Ordinance 536 by Title only. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney McCahill read Ordinance 536 by Title only.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Buzzett, to adopt Ordinance 536. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 537 Multi-Family in Certain Areas of the C-1 District; Public Hearing, Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption –

Public Hearing - Mayor Patterson asked if anyone from the public would like to address this issue. No one from the public wished to speak.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Thursbay, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to read Ordinance 537 by Title only. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney McCahill read Ordinance 537 by Title only.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Lowry, to adopt Ordinance 537. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 538 Amendment to Section 3.21 of the LDR; Public Hearing, Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption –

Public Hearing - Mayor Patterson asked if anyone from the public would like to address this issue. No one from the public wished to speak.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Buzzett, to read Ordinance 538 by Title only. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney McCahill read Ordinance 538 by Title only.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Buzzett, second by Commissioner Thursbay, to adopt Ordinance 538. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 541 Commissioners Salary; Public Hearing and First Reading –

Public Hearing - Mayor Patterson asked if anyone from the public would like to address this issue.

Greg Johnson stated his feelings had not changed about a raise and feels that the proposed increase to \$1,000 per month is exorbitant. A \$500 raise would be sufficient.

Christy McElroy shared that she agrees with Mr. Johnson and in addition to the current salary of \$300 per month the Commissioners receive health insurance coverage in the amount of \$700 which is paid by the City. She encouraged the Commissioners to be leaders, and realize that it is all about public service.

Chester Davis stated that he felt a raise was needed, questioned how fast it should be done and suggested that it be put out to the public to decide.

Mayor Patterson shared that the Commission was not volunteers, they were elected officials and needed a raise and it should be done now.

Commissioner Buzzett noted there were options to consider, and he felt \$575 would equate to COLAS over the past 20 years. He stated that he would reluctantly accept that amount.

Commissioner Lowry felt that the original amount needed to be reduced, he was open to options but felt the raise should be done now.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook to make the salary for Commissioner \$1,000 per month beginning with the next election. The Motion died for the lack of a second.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Thursbay for Commission Salaries to be \$1,000 per month beginning with the new fiscal year.

Mayor Patterson passed the Chair to Commissioner Lowry to second the Motion.

Commissioner Lowry stated the Motion and Mayor Patterson, Commissioners Thursbay and Lowry voted in favor of the Motion. Commissioners Ashbrook and Buzzett voted no. Motion passed 3-2.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – Jim Anderson

Old Business

Administrative Leave Policy – Commissioner Ashbrook

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Buzzett, second by Commissioner Thursbay, to allow a maximum of 104 annual hours of Administrative Leave for City employees serving on the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners or the Gulf County School Board. All leave must be approved by the supervisor and City Manager and will become effective October 1, 2017. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

FRDAP Update – Mr. Anderson advised the Commission that there is no funding allocated for FRDAP Grants this year and they are not accepting applications

Stormwater at 1111 Garrison Avenue – Rebecca Durden

Ms. Durden did not attend the meeting but Commissioner Lowry noted that he had received a message from her that she was satisfied with what has been done.

New Business

Bi-Annual Hazardous Waste Collection – Mr. Anderson noted this will be held on September 16, 2017, from 8 A.M. until 12 Noon at the Waste Pro Transfer Station located at Five Points and is for city residents to dispose of household hazardous waste.

Public Officials Fair Housing Workshop – Bruce Ballister

Mayor Patterson paused the meeting for Mr. Ballister to conduct a Public Officials Fair Housing Workshop. Mr. Ballister provided a handout, *Reasonable Accommodations Under the Fair Housing Act*, and provided information as to how reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities may be met. He also noted that four activities are required per year by HUD on aspects of Fair Housing. One will be for elected officials, another for the region's real estate and financial professionals and two others that reach out to the community.

RFP 2017-09 CDBG Water Line Project: A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Lowry, to award RFP 2017-09 to North Florida Construction in the amount of \$549,026.00 pending approval by the Department of Economic Opportunity. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to advertise for bids for Alternates A and B of the CDBG Project. All in favor; Motion carried.

RFP 2017-10 Long Avenue Water Line Materials: By consensus of the Commission, this was Tabled.

RFP 2017-11 Long Avenue Water Line Bores: By consensus of the Commission, this was Tabled.

SCOP Grant Approval – Mr. Anderson announced that the City had received notification SCOP Grants funds will be provided to pave Garrison Avenue from 16th Street to Madison St.

Port Authority – Commissioner Buzzett shared there are several opportunities where the City may possibly receive TRIUMP Funds and encouraged the Commission to request a place at the table when meetings are held. Areas of interest are a floating dry dock at the mill docks and the possible renovation of approximately 200' of the low docks for the docking of boutique cruise ships.

Mr. Anderson shared that Duke Energy will be bringing power down tomorrow night for upgrades to the sub-station, and noted that the City is monitoring Hurricane Irma.

Commissioner Thursbay requested that Duke Energy look at transformer issues that continue within the City and to see if the City is eligible for SCRAP Grants.

Public Works – John Grantland

Backflow Preventers – Mr. Grantland reminded the Commission that the mandate and charge of \$50 on Backflow Preventers is from DEP. Letters are being prepared for Irrigation System owners and Commercial users.

Surface Water Plant – **Larry McClamma** did not have anything to discuss.

Wastewater Plant – **Kevin Pettis** noted spraying is continuing and the plant continues to push water out to the spray fields.

Finance Director – Mike Lacour

2017 – 2018 Budget Update – Mr. Lacour shared that the Budget is balanced across all funds, reminded the Commissioners of the First Public Hearing on September 14, 2017, at 5:01 P.M., and provided updated Budget Handouts to the Commission.

City Engineer – Clay Smallwood, III

Project Updates -

Frank Pate Park Boat Ramp Improvements – Cleanup has begun, they are in a holding pattern due to the weather, and plans are being formulated for additional improvements.

Long Avenue Water / Sewer / Road Paving – This was covered earlier and has been Tabled.

Jones Homestead Sewer – Dewberry / Preble-Rish continues to engineer the sewer lines for the project and plans are close to being submitted to DEP.

Code Enforcement –

General Update – Mr. Burkett's report was reviewed, no action was required.

Police Department – **Sgt. Jake Richards** shared there were four car burglaries over the weekend and encouraged citizens to lock their cars and remove valuables from sight.

Mayor Patterson questioned the frequency of visits by the Police Department to Gateway Apartments and Sgt. Richards responded that it is walked twice per shift by officers.

City Clerk – Charlotte Pierce did not have anything to discuss.

Citizens to be Heard –

Chester Davis noted that the NPSJ PAC had attended a meeting of the TRIUMP Group in Panama City and talked with them about funding. He wanted the Commission to know of their visit and attempt to gather funds. Mr. Davis also shared that WastePro has contacted him and he will be the liaison between WastePro and the City as well as Gulf County. He also asked if signs could be placed at previous amnesty sights directing them to the current sight on September 16, 2017. Mr. Davis also questioned the possibility of a police officer living full time at Gateway Apartments.

Discussion Items by Commissioners

Neither Commissioner Thursbay nor Ashbrook had anything to discuss.

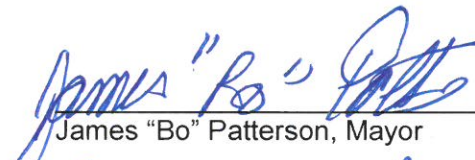
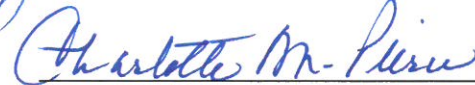
Commissioner Lowry announced that the Gulf County SHIP Program will be hosting a Workshop on Home Rehabbing or Purchasing Assistance on September 11, 2017, from 2 P.M. – 3 P.M. or 5 P.M. – 6 P.M., in the Gulf County Board of Commission Meeting Room.

Commissioner Buzzett encouraged citizens to be prepared for Hurricane Irma, watch the news for updates and remember those in Houston that had been effected by Hurricane Harvey.

Mayor Patterson noted the lunch being provided by Woodman Life for First Responders on September 11, 2017, at First Baptist Church.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Thursbay, second by Commissioner Buzzett, to adjourn the Meeting at 7:32 P.M.

Approved this 19th day of September 2017.


James "Bo" Patterson, Mayor

Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

9/19/2017
Date
9/19/17
Date