

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY
COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD AT
2775 GARRISON AVENUE, June 18, 2019, at Noon.**

The following were present: Mayor Patterson, Commissioners Ashbrook, Hoffman, Langston, and Lowry. City Manager Jim Anderson, City Clerk Charlotte Pierce, and Attorney Adam Albritton were also present.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Lowry, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 4, 2019, and the Joint Workshop with the County on May 30, 2019. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Swearing in of Elected Officials: Mayor Rex Buzzett, Commissioners Ashbrook and Langston

Gulf County Judge, Tim McFarland, administered the Oath of Office to Mayor / Commissioner Rex Buzzett while his grandchildren, Gannon and Jack Buzzett and Alatia and Oliva Croker, held the Bible for the ceremony.

Mayor Buzzett present outgoing Mayor Patterson with a plaque of appreciation from the City.

Mr. Patterson thanked those who had supported him during his tenure on the Commission and noted that he had enjoyed his service to the City.

Judge McFarland administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner, Eric D. Langston. His aunt, Cheryl Quinn, held the Bible as his daughter, Kharisma, looked on.

Judge McFarland also administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner David A. Ashbrook who was surrounded by his family as his wife, Joy, held the Bible for the ceremony.

Mayor Buzzett thanked those present for attending, talked about working together as a community, and stated he will be working for the entire City to rebuild and move forward.

Clerk Pierce recognized Mexico Beach Mayor, Al Cathey, former Commissioner and Mayor for the City of Chattahoochee, Jerry Wynn, Mayor Rex Buzzett, and Temple Watson. She shared that the three mayors are members of the Port St. Joe High School Class of '65. Mr. Watson was one of their class sponsors and also their Democracy Teacher that helped them have a great understanding of the subject.

Mayor Buzzett requested a 10 minute recess for guests to be able to leave.

The meeting reconvened at 12:30 P.M.

Building Department Update – Kelly Simpson updated the Commission on the number of permits that have been issued by the Building Department since the last meeting: Demolition Permits 0; Residential Reroof 9; Commercial Reroof 0; Residential Remodel 4; Commercial Remodel 0; Temporary Power Poles 1; Electric Service Repair 3; Accessory Structures 1; New Single Family Structures 2; Temporary Structure Permits 0, and Increased Cost of Compliance Letters 0.

Port St. Joe Redevelopment Agency Update – PSJRA Chairman, David Ashbrook, did not have any updates for the Commissioners.

City Attorney –

Boat Dockage Agreement Update –

Commissioner Hoffman voiced his concerns about the document, and asked for additional time to review the proposed agreement.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Lowry, to approve the agreement. Motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Hoffman voting no.

Staff is to come up with figures for a fair rental fee for the boat owners that are docking at the City bulkhead.

Mike v/s City of Port St. Joe update –

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to accept the settlement offer of \$28,500 to dismiss the case. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Ordinance 558 Marijuana –

A Motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, second by Commissioner Langston, to have the First Reading and advertise Ordinance 558. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney Albritton read Ordinance 558 by Title only.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – Jim Anderson

Old Business

July 4th Events

July 3rd Concert at Nathan Peters Park 12 – 9 PM

After discussion by Commissioners, Nathan Peters, Jr., and Christy McElroy, a Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Langston, to deny the request as all requirements of the application had not been met and there was insufficient security. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0. A flyer for the event was provided by Ms. McElroy.

July 3rd Street Dance – County Commissioner Sandy Quinn has taken care of this and all paper work has been provided.

July 4th Fireworks 10:00 P.M. -

Fireworks will be displayed from Clifford Sims Park.

July 5th Concert at Washington Gym –

All requirements for this event have been met.

FEMA Damage Assessment Report Update –

Staff continues to work with the Building Department and Code Enforcement on this. There are 102 letters that will need to be mailed to homeowners once the language for the letters is approved by FEMA.

MLK Corridor Zoning Change – Consideration of Adoption of August 6, 2019 –

Nathan Peters, Jr., and Amy Rogers shared her concerns that citizens object to this and their voices need to be heard before a decision is made. Chester Davis, Marvin Davis, and Letha Mathews shared of the work that has been done on this project and did not see the need to delay it.

Grant Writer –

Attorney Albritton continues to work on this and is drafting Continuing Contract language for the agreement.

Garbage Contract – Discussions have been held with WastePro about the poor service. They are not agreeable to termination of the contract and have been encouraged to live up to their contract.

Larry Rich asked for clarification about the flyer that had been sent out by BCC. He was told that City residents did not have to register with BCC.

Tan Smiley questioned if the rates will be going up. The answer to this question was “Yes.”

New Business

City Representative for the TDC and EDC –

Commissioner Ashbrook volunteered to be the representative to the TDC and Commissioner Lowry agreed to serve on the EDC.

Scallop Festival August 30 – September 1

Mr. Anderson shared the event will be smaller and their application is being worked on.

RFP 2019-04

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Lowry, to award RFP 2019-04, in the amount of \$59,800 to Land Roofing Company. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Public Works – John Grantland left the meeting earlier and Mr. Anderson shared that Public Works Employees are working at the Frank Pate Boat ramp, will be working on the Jones Homestead Sewer System, and then get back to the alley between 6th and 7th Streets for Stormwater Improvements.

Surface Water Plant – Larry McClamma did not have anything to update the Commission on.

Wastewater Plant – Kevin Pettis was on vacation and Mr. Anderson shared that maintenance will be done this month in lieu of spraying.

Finance Director – Mike Lacour noted that he has received the completed 2017 – 2018 Audit and will have it in Staff mailboxes. There were no findings in the Audit. STANTEC is still working on the wholesale sewer rates, May Financials are complete and he will have a rough draft of the budget shortly.

City Engineer – Clay Smallwood, III

Frank Pate Park Task Order Update – The contractor is making repairs to the North side of the dock and is adding 10' to it.

Trail Lighting / Upgrades Grant Update – This is on the Agenda for the next County Commission meeting.

Code Enforcement no action was required.

Police Department – Chief Matt Herring thanked the Commissioner for standing up for the community on events. He shared there is a special recognition service Sunday at Mt. Carmel Church for all Police Officers, First Responders, and Gulf CI Officers.

City Clerk - Charlotte Pierce reminded the Commissioners that their Financial Disclosure Forms are due by July 1, 2019.

Citizens to be Heard –

Chester Davis thanked the Commission for their help with the Juneteenth event and noted he would like to see more participation from city officials.

Robert Branch inquired as to why City workers are maintaining County property.

Attorney Albritton noted there is pending litigation on this issue and advised the Commission not to engage in conversation about it.

Mr. Branch also questioned why the bridge was still out on the walking trail. Mr. Anderson and City Engineer, Clay Smallwood, shared that the bid quote for replacement was approximately \$250,000 and they are looking at other ways to provide a bridge. Mr. Branch also reminded the Commission they were to look out for the interest of the City. Mr. Branch provided proof of ownership of the property.

Christy McElroy shared that Robert Branch was not trying to be controversial, and encouraged the City to let the County use their resources as they are not providing any services. Ms. McElroy provided an email concerning "Ball fields consensus for many in neighborhoods of impact."

Amy Rogers questioned if the City had any property for FEMA Trailers. Mr. Anderson responded that there is space available at the Beacon Hill Park. Ted Lakey, a FEMA Representative, was in attendance and able to help answer questions.

Dan Dordy asked if a site for a new ball field had been selected. Mayor Buzzett reminded him that his choice has always been the "Field of Dreams" area.

Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Langston asked that repairs be made to the gazebo in Peters Park, and have the flower beds on MLK cleaned up before the July 4 events. He also asked if any progress had been made on the turning lane from Highway 98 onto Avenue C as you come down the overpass. He encouraged the Commissioners to take a look at the situation.

Chief Herring noted DOT will not do a Traffic Study unless there is crash data indicating a need for the study. He shared that if the City wants to do a Traffic Study, the cost is approximately \$8,000.

Commissioner Ashbrook did not have anything to update the Commission on.

Commissioner Lowry requested that Staff please work on cooling the meeting room down, and noted a water fountain at the Washington Site needs repairing.

Commissioner Hoffman stated that air conditioning for the meeting room needs to be a priority. He reminded everyone to vote today for the FL House of Representative District 7 Seat and noted there is a reception at Joe Mama's at 6:30 tonight.

Mayor Buzzett shared that he is looking forward to working with Staff and fellow Commissioners, and asked that the time for meetings be on the next Agenda.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 P.M.

Approved this 2nd day of July 2019.

Rex Buzzett
Rex Buzzett, Mayor

7/2/19
Date

Charlotte M. Pierce
Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

7/2/19
Date