

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY
COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD AT
2775 GARRISON AVENUE, September 17, 2019, at 5:01 P.M.**

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 3, 2019, and the Emergency Meeting of August 30, 2019. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

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 1; Residential Reroof 4; Commercial Reroof 2, Residential Remodel 2; Commercial Remodel 1; Temporary Power Poles 0; Electric Service Repair 3; Accessory Structures 0; New Single Family Structures 0; Temporary Structure Permits 0, and Increased Cost of Compliance Letters 0.

Mayor Buzzett requested that this report be given cumulatively each quarter.

Long Term Recovery Committee Update – There was no representation from the committee present.

PSJRA Update – There were no new updates at this time.

City Attorney –

Ordinance 563 Ad Valorem Property Taxes 2019 – 2020, Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Langston, to have the Second Reading of Ordinance 563. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0. There was no input from the public.

Attorney Albritton read Ordinance 563 in its entirety.

The Ad Valorem Property Tax Millage Rate for Municipal Purposes to be levied on the taxable property within the City limits of the City of Port St. Joe for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2019, and ending September 30, 2020, is set at the rate of 3.5914 mills. The percentage by which this millage rate to be levied is less than the rolled-back rate of 3.8288 mills (computed pursuant to Florida law) is -6.20%.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Langston, to adopt Ordinance 563. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

Ordinance 564 Budget 2019 – 2020, Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Langston, to read Ordinance 564. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0. There was no public input.

Attorney Albritton read Ordinance 564 by Title only.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Langston, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to adopt Ordinance 564. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Buzzett thanked City Staff for their work on the budget and noted that the City runs a tight ship.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – Jim Anderson

Old Business

Capital City Bank Lease Agreement -

An email has been received from Ramsay Sims, Metro Banking Executive of Capital City Bank, requesting that the monthly rent of their temporary office on city property be reduced to \$2,000 per month rather than the \$3,000 approved by the Commission September 3, 2019. After discussion, consensus was to leave the rent at \$3,000.

New Business

BCC Contract – Mr. Tunnell is working on the contract and it should be on the October 1, 2019, Agenda.

Lighthouse Lights – A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Langston, to allow the group that put white lights on the lighthouse last year to put them up again this year. The lights will be turned on October 10, 2019, and remain up through New Year's. All in favor; Motion passed 4-0.

Public Works – John Grantland did not have anything for the Commission.

Surface Water Plant – Larry McClamma did not have anything new for the Commission.

Wastewater Plant – Kevin Pettis stated his department is pushing water this month and will begin the filter replacement next month.

Unacceptable levels of grease are being found in the First Street Lift Station and Commissioner Hoffman asked that restaurants be contacted to stop placing the grease in the sewer. Mr. Anderson noted restaurants have been contacted and a plan of action is being created for violators.

Finance Director – Mike Lacour thanked the Commissioners and City Staff for their work on the Budget. He noted that delivery of BCC Garbage Containers will begin next week.

City Engineer – Clay Smallwood, III

Trail Lighting / Upgrades Grant Update – Duke Energy is finalizing new numbers for the lights.

Road Bond Money – The contractor is gathering prices for the patch work to be done.

FDEM Grant – The grant is for \$25,000,000 to be used in 5 counties and has very stringent guidelines. Numerous suggestions were offered by Commissioners and City Staff will again review the application. Mr. Anderson noted there is a very short turn around time on this and the project must have been declared ineligible by FEMA to be considered.

Code Enforcement – This is to be removed from the Agenda.

Police Department – Chief Matt Herring shared that he has a new hire that will be coming to work on October 7, 2019.

City Clerk - Charlotte Pierce

Christmas Parade – December 14, 2019: Clerk Pierce shared this is a work in progress and thanked the Commission for their willingness to be in the parade.

Ghosts on the Coast – October 31, 2019 at the Football Field Parking Lot: Mr. Anderson and Mrs. Pierce are working with Superintendent Jim Norton on this project. Updates will be given as available.

Citizens to be Heard –

Letha Mathews received a letter from the Code Enforcement Officer, stated she had done work on her property, it has been trashed since then, and asked how this would be handled. She also shared her concerns for low hanging lines in her area. Suggestions were given to Ms. Mathews as this is private property.

There is an issue with a structure on the property being a substandard structure and in a state of disrepair. Attorney Albritton suggested that Ms. Mathews talk with the Code Enforcement Officer.

Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Langston did not have anything to discuss.

Commissioner Ashbrook suggested offering an incentive to builders in the form of a reduction of fees as was done before.

Commissioner Hoffman and *Mayor Buzzett* were not in favor of this at the current time. *Mayor Buzzett* reminded the Commission that no relief was given to the PACES Foundation and it would be hard to deny them and grant others relief.

Commissioner Hoffman asked that a flag pole be place in Buck Griffin Lake. He requested that City Staff check into the possibility of a Disc Golf Field.

Commissioner Hoffman noted that after reading emails, should the Gulf County Attorney *Jeremy Novak* sue the City, claiming damage to his law office, and City Attorney *Albritton* has stated he has a conflict of interest in this, who would represent the City. It was noted the City will need to hire an attorney to represent the City.

Mayor Buzzett requested that research be done to determine how teeth can be put in Code Violations. Attorney *Albritton* responded that outlying areas are using Special Assessments.

A Motion was made by *Commissioner Ashbrook*, second by *Commissioner Hoffman*, to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 P.M.

Approved this 1st day of October 2019.



Rex Buzzett, Mayor

10/1/19

Date



Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

10/1/19

Date