

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD AT 2775 GARRISON AVENUE, December 7, 2021, at Noon.

The following were present: Mayor Buzzett and Commissioners Hoffman, Langston, and Lowry. City Manager Jim Anderson, City Clerk Charlotte Pierce, and City Attorney Clinton McCahill were also present. Commissioner Ashbrook joined the meeting at 12:07.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Buzzett read a Proclamation from Governor Ron DeSantis in honor of Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day,

Minutes

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Lowry, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 16, 2021, and the Workshop Meeting of November 17, 2021. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

City Engineer – Josh Baxley

Maddox Park Gazebo

Bids for this project will be received on December 21, 2021.

First Street Lift Station and Long Avenue Water / Sewer Project

The project is under construction.

First Street Sewer Repairs and Paving

This is currently in design and is at 90% complete. Submittal to FDOT for review is anticipated the week of December 13, 2021. Mr. Baxley shared that an Extension to June 30, 2022, has been received from FDOT for the SCOP Grant to pave First Street.

Commissioner Ashbrook joined the meeting at 12:07 P.M.

Clifford Sims Park Plan

This project is currently in design.

City Hall Complex

Dewberry will be working with MLD Architects to prepare a Task Order for design.

Christy McElroy shared her concerns about the applications for the Gulf County Water Transmission lines and Booster station. She noted that she had reviewed the 186 page document and feels there is a conflict of interest with Dewberry representing both the City and County.

City Attorney –

Food Truck Ordinance Update

Attorney McCahill noted there has been a preemption by the state legislature on food trucks and the City cannot license, ban, or set a fee for them. He is working on an Ordinance that can regulate food trucks and has sent the draft to each Commissioner for their input. Mr. McCahill asked that Commissioners review the draft, get back with him on their questions, and recommend that a January Workshop be held on the issue.

Old Business

City Projects

Mr. Anderson shared that projects are ongoing and noted that the Buck Griffin Lake Fishing Pier, Buck Griffin Lake Sidewalk, and 16th Street Drainage Repairs have all been completed. He also noted that a Task Order to Engineer the resurfacing of Avenues C and D, as well as Long Avenue, should be forthcoming.

Covid-19 Update Mayor Buzzett

Mayor Buzzett reminded everyone to get vaccinated or get their booster shots and cautioned that there is a new strain of Covid floating around.

New Business –

Boat Slip Rental Agreement, William Little – Commissioner Hoffman

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to rewrite the lease agreement to protect the City and boat owners, and include a 30 day contract termination clause. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

PSJRA Membership

A list of applicants was provided, and it was noted that Commissioners Ashbrook and Langston would remain on the PSJRA Board. Consensus was to see who attends the training Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 11 A.M., before making any appointments to the PSJRA Board.

Community Garden – Kim Miller

Mrs. Miller updated the Commission on the progress that has been made at the Community Garden. She thanked the Commission for their support of the project and noted that all plots have been adopted.

The Commission expressed their appreciation to Mrs. Miller for the work that she has done with the garden.

Workforce Housing

Mr. Anderson shared that the draft MOU was received today for the housing project.

Public Works – John Grantland

Mr. Grantland noted that the Monument Avenue Sidewalk Project will begin next month and the Park Point Sewer will be next month as well. The Task Order for the Washington Gym Sidewalk Awning has been executed.

Surface Water Plant – Larry McClamma

Mr. McClamma was running the plant and unable to attend the meeting.

Wastewater Plant – Kevin Pettis

Mr. Pettis was out due to a medical issue and Mr. Anderson reported the plant is working on the Sonic Disrupter, Solar Bee, and pump replacement cost.

Finance Director – Mike Lacour

Mr. Lacour shared that the Buck Griffin Lake and Wastewater Treatment Plant projects have been completed, and we are waiting on \$106,000 reimbursement for the bridge replacements. The FRDAP Projects are on hold awaiting surveys. Maddox Park and Clifford Sims Park are the two remaining projects still open.

Code Enforcement –

Mr. Anderson noted that town is being cleaned up for the holidays.

Commissioner Hoffman shared that FWC will be restock Buck Griffin Lake in the early spring, and the lake aerators were provided free of charge by FWC.

Mayor Buzzett announced that George Duren and Piggly Wiggly would like to sponsor fishing tournaments when the lake is up and running.

Police Department – Chief Richards

Chief Richards advised that his department is working on the Christmas Parade and that Reid Avenue will be closed at 3 P.M. to allow time to clear the street.

City Clerk – Charlotte Pierce

Grants Update –

Clerk Pierce reported that City Staff continues to work with our grant writers on possible grants for the City.

Christmas Parade

Ms. Pierce reminded the Commissioners of the Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 11, 2021, and that, should any Commissioner need the required training, the last Ethics Class will be a Virtual Offering on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, from 10 A.M. until 3:30 P.M.

Citizens to be Heard –

Cheryl Steindorf shared a draft letter that will be provided by the Pioneer Bay Community Development Corporation concerning youth and issues they are facing in NPSJ.

Billie Jo Sanders Johnson shared what the Community Action Team, through Life Management, is doing to work with youth ages 11 – 21 in the NPSJ Community. Johana Pittman and John Mahoney who are members of the team were with Ms. Johnson.

Chester Davis representing the NPSJ PAC and as a pastor, thanked Ms. Steindorf and Ms. Johnson for their updates on the NPSJ Projects. Mr. Davis asked if the City had any property in North of Port St. Joe available for Workforce Housing to which Mayor Buzzett responded, “No.” He also expressed his concerns about trash on Avenue A from Broad Street to Highway 71.

Letha Mathews stated that six Christmas lights in NPSJ are not working and requested that they be fixed. Mr. Grantland will check on this.

George Foxworth asked about garbage and trash pickup in NPSJ and questioned if an amnesty day for furniture and household items could be held. Mr. Grantland explained that this has been looked into and there are a number of challenges with having it. Items to be disposed of have to be separated, you would need a location where disposing can be supervised to prevent the landfill from rejecting the roll off, and hours of operation would have to be considered.

Christy McElroy reiterated her concerns for removing the oak tree on Monument Avenue. The Garden Club has been contacted, the tree is very healthy, and she requested that the Commission reconsider their decision to remove the tree because it is obstructing a view.

Ms. McElroy referred to the letter received by Mr. Anderson in reference to the request from the County for a new water plant and noted that information provided in the Local Mitigation Strategy Report contained outdated information. She feels that a letter should be written to the County concerning the LMS Report and object to their pursuing a water plant or booster station.

Eddie Fields shared that in the past, the Washington Gym was always open for the NPSJ Youth, Fun Nights were held for the youth, and funding was needed for projects.

Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Langston shared that repairs to the bathrooms should be starting the first of the year and that the involvement of the Workforce with the gym has taken the City out of the loop.

Commissioner Ashbrook shared that the legislative session starts in January and home rule is being challenged in numerous areas.

Commissioner Lowry did not have anything to discuss.

Commissioner Hoffman suggested that work be done to the parking lot on Williams Avenue and move forward with paving. He noted that Panama City had received a grant to replace trees destroyed by Hurricane Michael and asked that the City check into the project. Commissioner Hoffman referenced the printout provided for an End of Year Bonus that would cost between \$10,000 to \$17,000 and asked that it be placed on the Agenda for next week's meeting. He would like to see a fulltime position created between the City and the County that would handle sports events, baseball and football for youth, and coordinate volunteers for the programs.

Mayor Buzzett did not have anything else to share with the Commission.

Motion to Adjourn –

There was no other business to come before the Commission and Mayor Buzzett adjourned the meeting at 1:30 P.M.

Approved this 14th day of December 2021.



Rex Buzzett Mayor

12/14/21

Date



Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

12/14/21

Date