

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD AT 2775 GARRISON AVENUE, July 19, 2022, at Noon.

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

Swearing In of Newly Elected Commissioners Scott Hoffman and Brett Lowry

Gulf County Judge, Timothy J. McFarland, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Brett C. Lowry as his daughter, Brooklyn, held the Bible for the ceremony.

Judge McFarland also administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Arthur S. Hoffman, as his wife, Sharon, held the Bible for Commissioner Hoffman as the Oath of Office was administered.

Recognition of John Ford Fire Chief Retirement

Mayor Rex Buzzett recognized retiring Fire Chief, John Ford for his 33 years of dedicated service to the City of Port St. Joe as a Fireman and Fire Chief. Mayor Buzzett presented a plaque to Chief Ford for his years of service.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Langston, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 21, 2022, and the Special Meeting of July 1, 2022. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

City Engineer – Josh Baxley

Long Avenue Water / Sewer Project, Drainage Improvements Task Order:

This project is under construction. Dewberry is working on final water line tie-ins with sidewalk and driveway replacements. They are working to schedule an update meeting with the contractor.

Long Avenue Paving – Resurfacing plans were completed and provided to the City for review on June 1, 2022. Dewberry was asked to address drainage issues from First to Third Street and Highway 71 to Sixth Street including contribution basins along Sixth Street. A Task Order has been provided for the additional services which include topographic survey and drainage design. Dewberry expects to provide the City with an updated plan set for review the week of July 25, 2022.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Langston, to approve the Long Avenue Drainage Task Order in the amount of \$13,700 with Dewberry. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Avenues C, D, and Dr. Joe Parking Lot Paving Bid Specs

The City will have a 60% completed plan set for review by the end of the week.

First Street Paving

We are waiting on a response from FDOT for additional funding.

Downtown Utility Improvements, Potable Water Task Order:

SRF has requested that this project be “bid ready” to apply for construction funding. A Task Order has been provided to meet the requirements of SRF.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Lowry, to approve the Downtown Water Lines Replacement Task Order in the amount of \$17,250 with Dewberry. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Buzzett requested that Mr. Baxley check on the potholes that have occurred in the road on First Street since the work has been done on the First Street Lift Station.

City Attorney –

ESAD Sewer, Interlocal Agreement

Attorney McCahill noted that the attorney for Mr. Seifert is still reviewing the contract for ESAD.

An agreement was received from the county that was not what was sent to them by Attorney McCahill. A Motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to approve the agreement written by Mr. McCahill. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0. The change is "The County further agrees that this Agreement is also contingent upon the County conveying to the City the Solid Waste System for Beacon Hill (also know as Integras) as well as the necessary perpetual easements and/or deeds necessary for the City to own and operate the Beacon Hill Sewer System." The Agreement will be updated and returned it to the county for their approval.

Christy McElroy shared her concerns and asked about the City's responsibility for cleanup of the three lift stations on the ESAD site. Mr. Grantland shared that those are Mr. Seifert's responsibility as the City would not be using them.

Boy Scout Building Lease Agreement

Bill Van Der Tulip, Alen Wetzstein, and Ben Welch spoke on behalf of the Boy Scouts and asked that they be allowed to discuss the lease because of some concerns in the agreement. Mr. McCahill will meet with the gentlemen to discuss the lease and it will be on the Agenda August 2, 2022, for consideration of adoption.

Ordinance 598 Food Truck Amendment, Second Reading and Adoption

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Langston, to have the Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 598 prohibiting Food Trucks on Reid Avenue other than for special events. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney McCahill read Ordinance 598 by Title.

Resolution 2022-07 Rental Rates

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to adopt Resolution 2022-07 Rental Fees. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0. The change in this Resolution impacts For Profit Rentals only.

Edward Earl Williams questioned why there was no longer a traffic light at the Intersection of Avenue C and MLK Boulevard and also asked about a pipe near the old entrance to the A N Railroad site.

Old Business

City Projects

Mr. Anderson reviewed the projects and there were no questions by Commissioners.

Joint City / County Workshop

The Commissioners agreed to a Joint City / County Workshop on Thursday, August 25, 2022, at 5:00 P.M. in the City Commission Chambers. This will be to discuss the Field of Dreams opportunities.

New Business –

Tentative Millage Rate

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to set the Milage to start the Budget planning process at 4.5914 Mills. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0. The Milage rate can come down but it cannot be increased once it is set. The first Public Hearing date will be September 13, 2022, at 5:01 P.M. in the Commission Chamber.

Juneteenth Holiday – Commissioner Hoffman

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Langston, to add the Juneteenth Holiday to the City Calendar of paid holidays for City employees. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Business Tax Discussion

After discussion, no action was taken to make any changes to the current Business Tax License.

City Representation on local boards

Commissioner Ashbrook has asked that he be removed from several boards that he serves on due to work requirements.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Langston, for Commissioner Hoffman to serve on the Gulf County TDC. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Lowry, for Commissioner Langston to serve as Chairman of the Port St. Joe Redevelopment Association. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Public Works – John Grantland

Septic to Sewer Grant Update

Mr. Grantland noted they are pushing forward with the grant and several customers have taken advantage of the opportunity this week.

Surface Water Plant

Mr. McClamma was running the plant and Mr. Anderson shared there has been an issue with a pump, but parts have been ordered, and should be in shortly.

Wastewater Plant – Kevin Pettis

Mr. Pettis stated the plant has lost a foot in the lagoon, they are pumping 16 hours a day, and there are issues with a crack in the interior wall of the hypo tank which will be replaced. He also shared that the pad for the new back-up pump at the headworks has been poured and they are waiting on the arrival of the pump.

Finance Director – Mike Lacour

FEMA Update

The Clifford Sims Park Project has been moved from Step 3 to 5 and we are still waiting on approval of the project.

Maddox Park Gazebo

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Lowry, to move forward with this project using insurance money that has been provided for this site. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0. Monolith Construction has agreed to honor their bid of \$218,332.88 for RFP 2021-08.

2022-23 Budget Update

The first Budget Workshop will be held on August 2, 2022, at 11:00 A.M., prior to the City Commission Meeting.

Code Enforcement –

Mr. Anderson shared that several houses have been torn down, Code Enforcement Hearings are moving forward, and campers are being moved.

Christy McElroy questioned if a new FL Statute requires that a person filing a complaint must be identified. She asked that Code Enforcement look at things, reminded the Commission that it has been almost 4 years since the hurricane, and it is time to clean our town up.

Police Department – Chief Richards

Speed Bump Policy

Chief Richards has created a Speed Bump Policy based on other policies in this area. He asked that the Commissioners review the policy, shared that each speed bump would cost between Five and Ten thousand dollars and the costs would be an addition to the budget. Chief Richards noted that Avenues A, Garrison, Long, and Monument would not qualify for Speed Bumps.

City Clerk – Charlotte Pierce

Grants Update

Clerk Pierce noted that City Staff continues to work with our grant writers providing needed documents for applications.

Citizens to be Heard –

Marquita Thompkins asked that enforcement officers be equipped with cameras. Chief Richards will look into costs, noted it was extremely expensive in the past, and there are a number of issues to consider.

Christy McElroy asked for signs on the walking path prohibiting e-bikes and other engine driven vehicles. She also requested that the path be monitored for violators.

Chester Davis shared his concerns about a PSJRA Advisory Committee. Mayor Buzzett responded that the Commission accepted applications for the PSJRA Board, but not on an Advisory Board to the PSJRA. Citizens are always welcome to make recommendations.

Mr. Davis also noted that on August 1, 2022, the Brownfield Committee would be meeting in Port St. Joe, and in September the EPA will hold a meeting here. He mentioned the Regenes meeting went well.

George Foxworth asked about the application he provided and Mayor Buzzett noted that was for membership on the PSJRA Board and not an advisory committee.

Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Langston did not have anything to discuss with the Commission.

Commissioner Ashbrook stated that there was a large contract awarded while he was out and he was hurt that he was not aware of it. Mayor Buzzett responded that it was in the Agenda for the Regular Meeting on June 21, 2022, that was distributed on Friday prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Lowry mentioned that two Commissioners and the City Manager were absent when the contract was awarded. He also thanked the public for returning him to office again unopposed.

Commissioner Hoffman thanked Carla Riley and Bonnie Durham for their help with the reception today, expressed his appreciation to the public for returning him to office again, and asked about an open FRDAP Grant. He noted the growing number of golf carts without a decal on them and asked that the Police Department take note of the violators.

Mayor Buzzett offered his congratulations to Commissioners Lowry and Hoffman and shared that he is looking forward to working with them. He encouraged the Commissioners to get the budget wrapped up.

Motion to Adjourn –

There was no other business to come before the Commission and Mayor Buzzett adjourned the meeting at 2:00 P.M.

Approved this 2nd day of August 2022.



Rex Buzzett, Mayor

8/2/22

Date



Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

8/2/22

Date