

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY  
COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD AT  
2775 GARRISON AVENUE, February 7, 2023, at Noon.**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Minutes**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Langston, to approve the Minutes of the Workshop Meeting January 17, 2023, the Regular Meeting of January 17, 2023, and the Workshop Meeting of January 31, 2023. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

**City Engineer – Josh Baxley**

*Long Avenue Water / Sewer*

The pre and post videos of the Water / Sewer Lines have not been reviewed. Some files were received, but they were corrupt and unviewable. Mr. Baxley is working on this.

*Long Avenue Paving*

A lengthy discussion was held on this. Commissioners expressed their dissatisfaction with what has been done, \$197,000 has been paid to Dewberry for inspection services, and some of the laterals were not done. The quality of inspection services was also questioned.

Chris Kirkland, the L&K Contractor for the project, assured the City he would be advocating for the City and has the City's best interest at heart. He will be working with John Grantland to address the issues of concern.

*Avenues C and D Paving*

Patching has been completed on Avenue C and the contractor is currently working on Avenue D.

*Dr. Joe Parking Lot Paving*

The Contractor is working on this, and Mr. Baxley anticipates that it may be completed today.

*First Street Paving*

The drainage structures are to be delivered on February 16, 2023.

*Beacon Hill Sewer Design*

The Notice to Proceed was issued and work is to start on February 15, 2023. Materials have been ordered and are on the way.

### *SCOP Grant Application 2023*

No action was taken on this item.

### **City Attorney**

Mr. McCahill did not have anything specific for the Commission.

### **Old Business**

#### *City Projects*

Mr. Anderson noted the progress that is being made on City Projects. He shared that Duke Energy is willing to work with the City on an easement for Workforce Housing.

Commissioner Langston asked about the study done to determine the structural integrity of the Washington Site buildings. Mr. Anderson shared that the study is being reviewed and a copy was given to the Commission as well.

### **New Business –**

#### *Legislative Request 2023*

Mr. Anderson asked the Commissioners to review the list that Commissioner Hoffman previous provided and decide what requests need to be submitted. Lobbyist Clark Smith is reviewing the list and will let the Commissioners know which items he feels will have the best chance of being funded.

#### *City Manager's Contract Extension*

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to extend the City Manager's contract, as presented, for an additional three years. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0. Mayor Buzzett stated that Mr. Anderson has done a wonderful job, encouraged citizens to look at what has been accomplished through his leadership, and the progress that has been made since Hurricane Michael.

Christy McElroy addressed the Commission and shared how fortunate the City is to have Mr. Anderson as the City Manager, that he is a straight shooter, and does not have any hidden agendas.

#### *Downtown Water Line Replacement*

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Lowry, to approve Phase I of the Downtown Water Line Replacement. Funding will be through the Department of Economic Opportunity.

### **Public Works – John Grantland**

Mr. Grantland shared that we are waiting to hear from the state on the CCTV opportunity for the CDBG-DR Grant, Public Works will be pressure testing the ESAD Sewer System in a few days, and he anticipates the downtown sidewalk repairs will begin tomorrow.

### **Surface Water Plant – Larry McClamma**

Mr. McClamma did not have any updates for the Commission.

## **Wastewater Plant – Kevin Pettis**

Mr. Pettis shared there is 2.5 feet of freeboard in the lagoon, the plant is not discharging because of filter issues, the DEP Permit Modification has been received and this gives the City room for more time in working with the lagoon. Mr. Pettis wants to go back to the nylon filters since the steel ones have not lasted as long. He would like to discuss this with staff this week.

## **Finance Director – Mike Lacour**

### *FEMA Update*

Mr. Lacour has not received any updates on the Clifford Sims Park Project and it is still in Stage 6 of 8 with the state for review. He has reached out to Lobbyist Clark Smith to see if he can help with this issue.

### *COVID Relief Funds*

Mr. Lacour reminded the Commission that these funds must be obligated by December of 2024.

## **Code Enforcement –**

Special Master Hearings have been held, bids are advertised to demolish 2 houses, and quotes are being received to relocate two sheds that have been improperly placed.

## **Police Department – Chief Richards**

Chief Richards shared that a couple of the newer Explorers are having transmission issues, they are in the shop, and Sheriff Harrison has given the PSJ PD a surplus vehicle. The department is in the process of stripping the vehicle insignia and will have it ready to be repainted shortly. Chief Richards does have a new vehicle on order to keep his fleet current and is waiting for the delivery of it.

Chief Richards noted that Body Cameras are being tested, he is trying several brands and will be selecting the line that is the best overall all in price and workability for his department.

## **City Clerk – Charlotte Pierce**

### *Grants Update*

Clerk Pierce shared that city staff continues to work with our grant writers on the availability of grants and opportunities of funding for the city.

### *City Election Time Line*

Clerk Pierce referenced the time line that provides all the deadlines and pertinent information for seeking office in the upcoming election to be held on May 9, 2023.

## **Citizens to be Heard –**

*Marvin Davis* asked about the bathrooms being open at Peters Park. Mr. Anderson responded that the Workforce Center has the keys and he will contact them about having the facilities open.

*Christy McElroy* shared her concerns about the LNG Project. Mayor Buzzett responded that this is a moot point until a Development Order is requested by LNG, stated that the City will do their due diligence at the proper time, and encouraged citizens to look at the documents and to be involved for the right reasons.

*Charles Gathers* feels that there are FERC issues with LNG. He also asked about the ballpark at Peters Park and noted the need for available water at the cemeteries for people beautifying plots there.

*Chester Davis* apologized for accusations concerning LNG, stated he felt things got off on the wrong foot when the discussions started, and asked everyone to continue to be transparent. He also encouraged reaching out to Harold Mitchell to use his knowledge and support to tap into Federal Infrastructure Funds for Port St. Joe.

*Jimmy Garcia* asked how needs will be met as the City grows. Mayor Buzzett responded that issues are being worked on and the City is aware of them.

### **Discussion Items by Commissioners**

*Neither Mayor Buzzett, Commissioners Langston, Lowry, nor Hoffman* had any other issues to discuss with the Commission.

*Commissioner Ashbrook* requested that Attorney McCahill check into the possibility of rezoning the area from North Garrison Avenue to CVS as Mixed Use rather than Industrial.


### **Motion to Adjourn**

There was no other business to come before the Commission and Mayor Buzzett adjourned the meeting at 1:25P.M.

Approved this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February 2023.

  
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Rex Buzzett, Mayor

2/21/23  
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Date

  
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Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

2/21/23  
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Date