

**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 21, 2023, at Noon.**

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

A Motion was made by Commissioner Langston, second by Commissioner Lowry, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 7, 2023, and the Special Meeting of February 10, 2023. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

Planning Board Recommendations

St. Joe Company – Windmark Beach North Phase I Parcel #04229-003R

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Lowry, to approve the Plat for Windmark Beach North Phase II Parcel #04229-003R. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

City Engineer – Josh Baxley

Long Avenue Water / Sewer

At the instance of Public Works Director, John Grantland, Dewberry reviewed the post construction video and compared it with the pre-construction video. It was discovered that 18 laterals that were identified as “active” were reinstated into the mainline with no lining or replacement. The contractor has agreed to video the laterals in question and either replace or cap.

Long Avenue Paving

Drainage structures for First Street are on-site. There is a drainage issue at the intersection of Long Avenue and First Street. Dewberry is working on this as it involves fiber optic that was not properly identified earlier.

Avenues C and D Paving

The contractor is currently working on patches for Avenue D.

Dr. Joe Parking Lot Paving

The parking lot is completed. The parking area is currently closed as the contractor allows a 30-day cure time before applying the thermoplastic striping. Oil and dirt from vehicular traffic can cause issue with the thermoplastic cohesion and application. The striping is scheduled for March 8, 2023.

Beacon Hill Sewer Design

Dewberry is in the process of finalizing the low-pressure design.

SCOP Grant Application 2023; Resolution 2023-01

A Motion was made by Commissioner Langston, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to approve Resolution 2023-01 for the SCOP Grant Application. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0. This will be used to resurface Avenues C and D from Highway 98 to MLK Blvd.

City Attorney

Mr. McCahill did not have anything specific to discuss with the Commissioners.

Old Business

City Projects

Mr. Anderson shared that the City is replacing stormwater pipe on Tenth Street.

Workforce Housing Update

Mr. Anderson noted that the MOU has been signed, and he continues to work on securing an easement for the access road.

Leesa Haire, Port St. Joe Garden Club Trees and Signs on Reid Avenue

Ms. Haire updated the Commission on recommendations from an arborist which included not to remove the oak trees, trim them, raise the canopy, and replace the four dead trees with Drake Elms and Palm Trees.

Ms. Haire requested that signs be added to flower beds along Reid Avenue to direct people to the stores. The cost of the sign slats will be covered by the respective businesses that want a sign.

At a previous meeting, a Motion was made to allow H & H Trees to remove the Oak Trees. A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Lowry, to rescind that Motion. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Lowry, to pay for the trees to be trimmed by Gulf Coast Tree Specialist for \$6,100. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0. The costs of signs slats will not be paid for by the City.

Commissioner Hoffman requested that the Commission consider adding a line item to the budget for the Port St. Joe Garden Club to cover work done downtown.

New Business –

Hazard Mitigation 75/25 Grant Approval

A Motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, second by Commissioner Langston, to approve the Hazard Mitigation 75/25 Grant. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0. This will provide funding to elevate the control panels for 12 lift stations damaged by Hurricane Michael.

Highway 98 Beautification Grant Award

A Motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to sign the Highway 98 Beautification Grant. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0. The Port St. Joe Garden Club will be assisting with this project.

Williams Avenue Parking Spots Paving Quotes

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Langston, to approve the quote from Jason White Construction, LLC in the amount of \$4,500 to asphalt the parking area near This is Garden Food on Williams Avenue. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

High School Manhole Replacement

A Motion was made by Commissioner Langston, second by Commissioner Lowry, to accept the quote of Mainline Construction in the amount of \$22,098.43 for replacement of the Port St. Joe High School Manhole. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0. The Gulf County School Board has agreed to pay one half of the cost of these repairs.

Cheryl Steindorf Gulf County Citizens Coalition for a Healthy Future

Ms. Steindorf stated the coalition was created because of the concerns about LNG and No Petro. She asked about plans to clean up the property across from the Farmacy and Mama Dot's, and looking at the MLK Blvd., infrastructure.

Public Works – John Grantland

RFP 2022-20 Public Works Storage Building

A Motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to accept the low bid of \$500,275 from C. Lawrence Construction. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0. \$400,000 was budgeted for construction and the remaining funds will come from other sources.

Surface Water Plant – Larry McClamma

Mr. McClamma did not have anything to update the Commission on.

Wastewater Plant – Kevin Pettis

Bar Screen Replacement – Request to Bid

A Motion was made by Commissioner Langston, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to advertise for the Bar Screen Replacement. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0. This item is in the budget and on the current CIP.

Mr. Pettis shared there is 1.7" freeboard in the lagoon, the plant will begin discharging on March 6, 2023, and four workers will be attending a CEU class.

Finance Director – Mike Lacour

FEMA Update

Mr. Lacour has spoken with FEMA, the project is still in review step 6 of 8, and they anticipate a decision will be made on the review no later than April 15, 2023.

Mr. Lacour shared that reimbursement in the amount of \$165,000 is close to approval from FEMA for repairs to the Wastewater Treatment Plant from Hurricane Michael.

Code Enforcement – *Request for Demo*

A Moton was made by Commissioner Langston, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to approve the request to demo the house of Brenda Fisher, 214 Avenue E and a house located behind the Knights

of Pythias Lodge on Avenue C. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0. The County will help with these projects, the City will pay for the tipping fees and lien the properties to recover these costs.

Police Department – Chief Richards

Chief Richards did not have anything to update the Commission on.

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.

High School Art Project Request

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Langston, to approve the request of the Port St. Joe High School Art Class to paint selected fire hydrants downtown. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

Citizens to be Heard –

Jim Sickels requested help in having the railroad tracks declared exempt for vehicles to stop at. Commissioner Langston, Mr. Anderson, and John Grantland shared that the request would need to come from the railroad owners as FL DOT does not accept requests from the City.

Akojua Gyamfuah, Executive Director Pioneer Bay Community, reviewed their programs and asked about being included in the PSJRA. Mayor Buzzett shared that PSJRA Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 11 AM, prior to the City Commission Meetings and everyone is invited to attend.

The following individuals shared their concerns and opposition to a LNG Plant in Port St. Joe: Suzanne Lyon, Jim Mowbray, Donna Murnan, John Miller, and John Ehrman.

Charles Gathers thanked the Port St. Joe Fire Department for the outstanding job they did to keep the fire from spreading during the recent fire on MLK Blvd. He also asked if the property purchased from the St Joe Company could be cleaned and still used.

Chester Davis asked about an Open House meeting to discuss LNG and allow transparency, noted the training programs they are having at their center, and questioned why the City does not purchase vacant property in NPSJ for workforce housing.

Marvin Davis commended the Port St. Joe Fire Department for their work with the fire on MLK Blvd., while saving two other structures that night, and asked about dealing with a 3 or 4 story building. He stated he felt there was room for improvement.

Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Hoffman advised those present that the City has never sent a letter of support nor endorsed the LNG Project. He stated that he would not support any permit approval that bypasses FERC, and reminded everyone to stick to the facts.

Commissioner Hoffman referenced a document written by Dannie E. Bolden, A Tale of Two Communities “The White South - & - Black North” & The Failure of Black Elected Leadership Port St. Joe, Fla. He stated that this document made him sick to read and that if you support this letter, don’t support him. He shared that he was hurt by the letter, and that it was very unprofessional. He requested that a copy of the document be included with the minutes.

Commissioner Lowry stated that he has received a lot of information on the LNG project, he will be fair to the company, noted that the City has not received a proposal or application, and that he will hear them out.

Commissioner Langston stated that he will not support anything to hurt this community.

Mayor Buzzett is comfortable with the remarks shared by the Commissioners. He noted that if a Development Order Request is received, due diligence will be done, that he has been 100% transparent and will not do anything to harm the bay or City. The Mayor also shared that, after hearing about the LNG Project and because of the continuous questions, he requested a meeting with LNG representatives. This was a fact finding meeting, and no decisions or commitments were made. He will listen to all sides, study the issue before making a decision, and he will continue to do what is best for the City.

Motion to Adjourn

There was no other business to come before the Commission and Mayor Buzzett adjourned the meeting at 1:50 P.M.

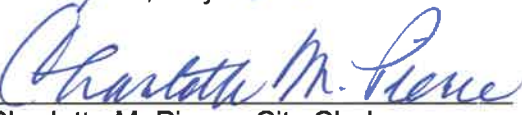
Approved this 21st day of March 2023.



Rex Buzzett, Mayor

3/21/23

Date



Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

3/21/23

Date