

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY
COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD AT
2775 GARRISON AVENUE, September 26, 2023, at Noon AS A
CONTINUATION OF THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, MEETING DUE TO THE
LACK OF A QUORUM OF THE COMMISISON.**

The following were present: Mayor pro tem Brett Lowry and Commissioner Hoffman. City Manager Jim Anderson, City Clerk Charlotte Pierce, and City Attorney Clinton McCahill were also present. Mayor Buzzett and Commissioners Kerigan and Langston were absent. The meeting was chaired by Mayor pro tem Brett Lowry.

Continuation from the September 19, 2023, meeting.

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 Kerigan was absent.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

A Motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, second by Commissioner Langston, to approve the Minutes of the Workshop Meeting, and the Regular Meeting, both on September 5, 2023. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

Planning Board Recommendation

Ordinance 603 – First Reading; Small Scale Map Amendment and Rezoning Request Parcel #s 04855-001, 04855-004R, and 04855-050R – Rish Cottages LLC

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Langston, to have the First Reading of Ordinance 603. Commissioner Lowry announced that he would be abstaining on this item as he has a personal interest in this development. All in favor; Motion carried 3-0 with Commissioner Lowry abstaining. Form 8B Memorandum of Voting Conflict For County, Municipal, and Other Local Public Officers, as completed by Commissioner Lowry, is attached. This Ordinance will change the zoning from C1A to Residential R2B.

Attorney McCahill read Ordinance 603 by Title only.

City Engineer –

In the absence of Mr. Baxley, Mr. Anderson gave an update on the projects.

Beacon Hill Sewer

The Contractor, Mainline, has the lift station operational.

Downtown Water Line Replacement Phase I

The Contractor, Monolith, is scheduled to begin work on October 16, 2023.

Madison Street Scop Grant – RFP 2023-12 Request to Award

A Motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to accept the low bid of \$497,100 from C. W. Roberts. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

Wastewater Sprayfield Task Order

A Motion was made by Commissioner Langston, second by Commissioner Lowry to approve the Task Order with Dewberry in the amount of \$25,000. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

City Attorney

Resolution 2023-10, Opposing Consolidation of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Langston, to adopt Resolution 2023-10. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

Old Business

City Projects

Work is in progress on Clifford Sims Park with a completion date of approximately 60 days.

Survey and Topo work is being done for the proposed City Hall Complex.

New Business

Covid Funds / Sports Complex – Commissioner Hoffman

Commissioner Hoffman reiterated his concerns about the Tenth Street Ballparks at Benny Robert Park, his appreciation for the offer of help from Gulf County both financially and with labor, and the need to provide a quality complex for our children. He requested that the \$1,000,000 from Covid Funds be used at the complex rather than the Field of Dreams as it is not financially feasible at this time to do anything there.

Commissioner Lowry stated that he was 100% behind this project and appreciated Commissioner Hoffman bringing it up.

Commissioner Langston added that he wants the City to move forward with a complex the kids can enjoy and be proud of.

Mayor Buzzett noted that he is a proponent of the Field of Dreams Project, that it is a future facility for the city and county, but he wants to move ahead with a quality complex now at the Benny Roberts Park, and that we need to get started on it.

Christy McElroy expressed her concerns about the site, flooding issues, and general over all displeasure with the idea of improving the Tenth Street Complex.

Robert Branch shared his concerns about flooding, referenced the LDR, Flood Plain Management, and that it is time to build the fields on another site.

Grant Rish stated the fields do not bother him, growing up he played in the parks, thinks the Field of Dreams is a long term plan, and that the City is doing a great job.

Josh Dailey shared that he agrees with Commissioner Hoffman in that we do need safe fields for the children, he wants to see action and not talk on this issue, and all improvements can be made at the Tenth Street Complex.

Gulf County Commission Chairman Sandy Quinn commended the City Commission for their efforts to move forward on the Tenth Street Complex, stated he supports the project, is confident the engineers will make good decisions, and he stands in support of the effort.

City Manager Jim Anderson reminded everyone that this area has been recreational space for citizens for decades, this City has made drastic improvements in the storm water discharge, and the ballfields are in need of improvements.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Lowry to use the Covid Funds for improvements to the Tenth Street Complex at Benny Roberts Park. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Buzzett requested a five minute recess at 12:43 for guests to be able to leave. He resumed the meeting at 12:48.

Gulf County Commission Chairman Sandy Quinn and County Attorney Jeremy Novak presented the City with a check for \$750,000 to be used towards the purchase of the ESAD Sewer System.

Special Permit Request – Faith Christian Parent League

More information is being requested on this as the area the parent league is requesting to use is not zoned for outdoor sales. Mr. Anderson will contact the league about this.

Public Works – John Grantland

Water Meter Replacement

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Langston, to accept the bid of Consolidated Pipe and Supply Co., Inc., in the amount of \$184,632.94 as a Sole Source Vendor to continue Water Meter replacements in our system. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0. Funds for this are in the current budget.

HMGP Task Order

A Motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, second by Commissioner Langston, to approve the Hazzard Mitigation Grant Program Task Order in the amount of \$59,825 and utilize City funds for payment. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0. This is to design a plan to elevate the 11 lift stations and control panels that were destroyed by Hurricane Michael. If additional funds are required, the City will take care of the cost.

Mr. Grantland shared that the new metal storage building has been completed and requested that the old metal storage building be declared surplus and torn down. This request will be on the next Agenda.

Surface Water Plant

There was no update from the Surface Water Plant as Mr. McClamma was out.

Wastewater Plant

In the absence of Mr. Pettis, Chief Operator Joe Harris noted the plant did not discharge last week, staff is cleaning filters, and after the 4" of rain last night, there is 20" of freeboard in the pond.

Finance Director – Mike Lacour

FEMA Grants Update

This project is moving forward.

Grants Reimbursement Update

Mr. Lacour did not have any updates on reimbursements.

Mayor Buzzett thanked Mr. Lacour for his work on this over the past year.

Code Enforcement

Mr. Anderson shared there have been several additional requests for demolition assistance on older homes and that the new Code Enforcement Officer is working out well.

Police Department – Chief Richards

Dispatching Services Contract

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Langston, to approve the Dispatching Services Contract with the Gulf County Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$85,000. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0. This is for salaries and benefits for two dispatchers from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024.

City Clerk – Charlotte Pierce

Grants Update

Clerk Pierce shared that City Staff continues to work with grant providers, compile monthly and quarterly reports, and review opportunities for new grants.

Planning Board Membership Applications

A Motion was made by Commissioners Hoffman, second by Commissioner Lowry, to appoint Chris Karagiannis to the PDRB to replace Letha Mathews who resigned. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

Citizens to be Heard

Christy McElroy offered her opinion on the area behind her house being wetlands and stated that it was important for Commissioners to attend Resilient Florida Workshops. She questioned if the Covid Funds were a federal grant and Mr. Lacour responded funds were sent to the state and that our grant application request included a sports complex.

Ms. McElroy also questioned the charge for a Public Records Request she made and felt the charge was unreasonable.

Clerk Pierce shared that per F.S. 119 you may charge for an employee's time to do the research and .15 per page is the acceptable rate for copies.

Robert Branch shared his concerns about pesticides and spraying of trees in the park area.

Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Hoffman asked if the trimming of palm trees is covered by a grant. Mr. Anderson responded that other than those covered by an FDOT Grant, City employees take care of them.

He also asked if there were any updates on purchasing portable bathrooms for the City. Mr. Anderson will follow up on this.

Commissioner Lowry commended everyone for their work on the ESAD Sewer closing.

Commissioner Langston expressed his appreciation for the work that has been done at the Washington Gym, asked about having a sink installed behind the gym, and wanted to know if the City could cut trees in the alleyway that are hanging on a church roof. Mr. Grantland will look at the tree issue.

Mayor Buzzett shared that the Workforce Housing Project is still in the forefront and the easement issue is being addressed.

Motion to Adjourn

There was no other business to come before the Commission and Mayor Buzzett adjourned the meeting at 1:27 P.M.

Approved this 3rd day of October 2023.



Rex Buzzett, Mayor

10/3/23

Date



Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

10/3/23

Date