

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY  
COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD AT  
2775 GARRISON AVENUE, May 21, 2024, at Noon.**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Minutes**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Langston, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 7, 2024. All in favor; Motion carried 3-0.

**City Engineer**

In the absence of Mr. Baxley, Mr. Anderson shared that the Clifford Sims Park, Phase I Downtown Water Project, and Centennial Building are ongoing. He anticipates completion of these in the next 30 days and expects the Phase II Downtown Water Project to begin shortly.

**City Attorney**

Attorney McCahill did not have anything specific for the Commission today.

**Old Business**

*City Projects*

Contract work has started on Zone 3 of the Sprayfields, and bids for the Lift Stations repairs under the CDBG-DR are being prepared.

**New Business**

*Washington Gym Grant Application*

A Motion was made by Commissioner Langston, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to authorize the University of Florida to apply for the grant in the amount of \$1,000,000. All in favor; Motion carried 3-0. The City will administer the grant and the UFHP services are Pro Bono. A 25% match will be required and is determined by the amount applied for. Gulf County Commissioner Sandy Quinn is checking to see if the funding the county has received can be counted as the match.

*Washington Gym Concert Request*

A Motion was made by Commissioner Langton, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to grant the request for the concert to begin at 9:00 P.M., on July 3, 2024, and last until 3 A.M. on July 4, 2024. All in favor; Motion carried 3-0.

Mayor Buzzett noted his concerns about the current rental deposits and requested the Commission revisit the rate schedule soon. He feels that extensive repairs are being made to the Centennial

Building and Washington Gym and deposits should be higher. If everything is okay after the event, the deposit will be returned to the renter.

#### *Oil Exploration*

At the May 7, 2024 meeting, Deborah Mays requested that a Letter of Objection be sent to the FL Department of Environment Protection opposing the drilling for oil in the Apalachicola Region which is upstream of the City's drinking water supply.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Langston, to write a letter objecting to the oil drilling. All in favor; Motion carried 3-0.

#### *County Budget Request*

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Langston, to request \$200,000 from the TDC Budget to be used for bathrooms or the purchase of land. All in favor; Motion carried 3-0.

#### **Public Works – John Grantland**

##### *RFQ 2024-09 Planning Services Downtown Waterlines Replacement Phase II*

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Langston, to Table this while information is gathered. All in favor; Motion carried 3-0.

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

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

#### **Wastewater Plant – Kevin Pettis**

Mr. Pettis shared there is 13" of freeboard in the pond, they are very pleased with the new forklift, and he has been meeting with companies that build new Wastewater Treatment Plants. Mr. Pettis shared that the current construction prices are \$25 - \$28 Million per million gallon of plant size. The City would need a minimum plant of 3 million gallons.

#### **Finance Director – Mike Lacour**

##### *FEMA*

Mr. Lacour is still waiting on reimbursements from FEMA.

##### *Grants Reimbursement Updates*

FRDAP has not scheduled a site visit, they continue to state they are understaffed, and this is an ongoing issue.

##### *Excessive Force Policy – CDBG-DR Grant and Anti-Fraud, Waster and Abuse Policy CDBG-DR Grant*

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Langston, to adopt the Excessive Force Policy and Anti-Fraud Water and Abuse Policy for CDBG-DR Grants. All in favor; Motion carried 3-0. This is to amend the current City Policies and bring them up to date.

**Code Enforcement**

There were no updates from Code Enforcement.

**Police Department – Chief Richards**

Chief Richards noted it was a busy weekend as the department received 40 calls in three days. He anticipates it will be a busy summer.

**City Clerk – Charlotte Pierce**

*Current Grants Update*

Clerk Pierce shared that City Staff continues to work on compliance and grant opportunities.

**Citizens to be Heard**

*Robert Branch* and *Christy McElroy* voiced their concerns about the proposed county airport.

*Marvin Davis* asked if the City contributed to the Gulf County Library. Mr. Anderson responded that the City contributed \$8,000 last year.

**Discussion Items by Commissioners**

*Neither Commissioner Hoffman* nor *Langston* had any additional information to share with the Commissioners.

*Mayor Buzzett* recognized and congratulated the Port St. Joe Garden Club and *Melissa Watson* for their volunteer hours on Reid Avenue to improve the appearance and make it a more appealing location to our residents and guests.

**Motion to Adjourn**

There was no other business to come before the Commission, and Mayor Buzzett adjourned the meeting at 1:03 P.M.

Approved this 4<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024.

*Rex Buzzett*  
Rex Buzzett, Mayor

6/4/24  
Date

*Charlotte M. Pierce*  
Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

6/4/24  
Date