

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY
COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD
IN THE COMMISSION CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL, JANUARY 18,
2011 AT 6:00 P.M.**

The following were present: Mayor Magidson, Commissioners Gingell, Johnson, Stephens and Buzzett. City Manager Charlie Weston, Attorney Tom Gibson and City Clerk Jim Anderson were also present.

Consent Agenda:

Distinguished Service Award-Elder Jessie L. Hawkins Sr.:

Mayor Magidson presented Elder Jessie L. Hawkins a Distinguished Service award for serving as Pastor of the Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church for twenty-five years.

Minutes:

Motion by Commissioner Johnson, 2nd by Commissioner Stephens, to approve the December 21, 2010 and January 4, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes with corrections. All in Favor; Motion carried 5-0.

City Attorney, Tom Gibson:

No Update

City Manager, Charlie Weston:

Langston Drive:

Mr. Weston indicated that a meeting was held last week in regards to the road. We have experienced a setback and he is currently working with County Administrator Don Butler in reference to utilizing heavy equipment needed for the project to move forward.

North Florida Child Development – Sharon Gaskin:

Mr. Weston noted that an application has been submitted, along with the fees, for a Development Order Request.

Mr. Kennedy would like to begin the bid process on the road and is ready to start as soon as approval is given by the City.

Motion by Commissioner Johnson, 2nd by Commissioner Gingell, to advertise the Bid for construction of Field of Dreams Avenue. All in Favor; Motion carried 5-0.

BP Claim Update:

Mr. Weston indicated that City Staff worked with our legal representation about two hours on a data request this week.

EDC Update:

Mr. Tom Graney addressed the Board. He is pleased with the water rates, quality and couldn't be happier. From the EDC standpoint, the current City Water and Sewer Rates are a bargain. He appreciates the time to come and speak to the City Commission. He is not here to ask for money, but noted that EDC has a budget issue with the County. The EDC has \$65K committed for activities and \$69K from in-kind contributions. The EDC is currently competing with sixty-six other FL Counties along with Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi.

Progress Energy is a \$5,000 partner and helps promote Gulf County. Premier Chemical was looking at investing in one of its plants. The end result was a business decision that closed the plant. We have also worked with Haiti as a business partner which still exists, but Haiti has no resources. Concept Construction is building a Dollar Store at St. Joe Beach. They build retail facilities and rent them out. The Bio-Mass Plant is still committed to locate in Gulf County. They are currently working on their Air Permit, funding and an upgrade in technology. The proposed Green Energy Industrial Park is underway with three additional companies. Alaska Light Industrial is here and working in Gulf County.

Sacred Heart Hospital is up and running along with Gulf Coast Community College. Bluemanta a new IT company has also been established with seven jobs. Mr. Graney also expects great things out of the proposed Broadband Towers.

Planning and Development Review Board Membership:

Mr. Weston noted that the term of Mark Godwin and Patti Blaylock has expired. Each of these members has indicated that they would continue to volunteer if the Commission so desires. Jeremy Novak has resigned due to taking the position of County Attorney.

Commissioner Gingell has spoken to Aaron Farnsley who is willing to serve on the Board.

Mayor Magidson noted that he has spoken to Aaron Farnsley as well.

Motion by Commissioner Gingell, 2nd by Commissioner Johnson, to appoint Aaron Farnsley to the Board as the replacement for Jeremy Novak. All in Favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Buzzett asked, "Should we advertise the other two vacancies in the newspaper?"

Commissioner Johnson indicated that new members will have a long learning curve and feels that Mrs. Blaylock and Mr. Godwin have done a great job.

Motion by Commissioner Johnson, 2nd by Commissioner Gingell, to appoint Mark Godwin and Patti Blaylock to a new three year term. All in Favor; Motion carried 5-0.

City/County Joint Commission Meeting:

Mr. Weston noted that February 10th or February 17th are the tentative dates for the Joint Workshop to begin at 10:00 with a working lunch at the EOC Building. We plan to have five to seven topics and Mr. Weston will provide a fact sheet to each Commissioner three to four days in advance of the meeting.

Mayor Magidson feels that it would be a good idea for each Commissioner to give Mr. Weston their proposed topics by February 1, 2011.

Mr. Weston would like to have a guest speaker during lunch. He also noted that the meeting will be open to the public and has talked with Bruce Ballister concerning the request from County Commissioner Bill Williams to hold a meeting concerning utilities. Mr. Ballister has agreed that the meeting he was asked to mediate is not necessary since the joint meeting has been scheduled.

4th of July Fireworks:

Mr. Weston indicated that the TDC has agreed to take the lead in the Fireworks. He would like to see some type of community event to raise the funds.

Broadband Tower:

Mr. Weston is working with the County to locate a 5,000 sq. ft. parcel of land for construction of the tower.

Jerry Stokoe:

Mr. Stoke thanked the City for allowing him to utilize the STAC House for storage during the Christmas Program preparation. Between seven to eight hundred children were helped and over 1,500 families were give meals by eighty five volunteers. He also received help from local churches and Sacred Heart Hospital.

Florida League of Cities 25% Discount on dues:

Mr. Weston noted that the City received a rebate of approx. ninety dollars.

Public Works, John Grantland:

Entryway Signs:

Mr. Grantland indicated that sign mock ups have been made for three locations. Matt Fleck has taken pictures at each location and the next step is to get FDOT

Permits. The 2008 Landscaping Permits from DOT included signs so the permits should be approved.

Mr. Weston noted that the mock up will not work at the Industrial Road and Hwy 98 Intersection. We may want to reface the existing large sign.

Surface Water Plant, Glenn Davis:

Mr. Davis reminded the Commission that we are under a Consent Order for discharge into the Gulf County Canal. The consent order must be addressed by 12/5/12.

Mr. Davis also noted that our Pre-Treatment Ordinance is almost inactive because we have lost our significant industrial users.

Commissioner Buzzett asked, "Have we received an analysis from CDM in reference to the water plant?"

Mr. Davis responded, "We are starting to piece it together, temperature plays a big factor. The clarifiers are working much better."

City Engineer, Bill Kennedy:

Water Study:

Mr. Kennedy indicated that the model is finished and the study should be complete by the end of the month. We have also identified cross sections that need to be replaced.

Baseball Complex:

Mr. Kennedy indicated that the City has fallen behind in the baseball programs available for eleven and twelve year olds. The Dixie Youth Program has changed and the league is changing to the Ozone Program which will require modification to the field. He is asking permission to change the field at no cost to the City.

Motion by Commissioner Buzzett, 2nd by Commissioner Stephens, to allow the fields to be upgraded at no cost to the City. All in Favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Gingell asked, "Is Dixie Youth no longer here?"

Mr. Kennedy responded, "Dixie Youth is geared more toward seven and eight year olds."

Mr. Johnson noted that he is concerned about liability and asked that the volunteers keep this in mind while doing the upgrades.

Multi-Use Path:

Mr. Kennedy noted that the project should be completed in a few weeks. The asphalt is done, striping will take place tomorrow and Kiosks will be constructed in the next few weeks.

Commissioner Johnson asked, "Is the Electrical Contractor caught up?"

Mr. Kennedy responded, "He should be done by Friday."

Commissioner Gingell asked, "Will the lights get any brighter?"

Mr. Kennedy responded, "Maybe a little brighter." He also noted that a walk thru is scheduled with Greenhorne and Omara with the official walk thru to follow in a few weeks.

Code Enforcement, Richie Burkett:

Mr. Weston indicated that we are pushing the joint venture to remove several old structures. We plan to meet within the next week and hope to make some real progress.

Police Department, Chief Barnes:

First Street - No Turn on Red:

Chief Barnes noted that when the Intersection at First Street and Hwy 98 was modified the stop line was moved. Currently you can't make a legal Right Turn on

Red. Previously three wrecks have taken place at the Intersection. Since the No Turn on Red was implemented, there has not been a wreck.

Commissioner Johnson stated that he asked that he requested this item be placed on the agenda. The sight line is somewhat limited, but people are running the red light every day.

Commissioner Buzzett noted that we currently have one way streets turning off of Hwy 98 into the down town sector with the exception of First and Fifth Streets. This is the only No Right Turn on Red Sign.

Chief Barnes indicated that we now have a Left Turn Lane off Marina Drive making the Right Turn on Red too dangerous.

Mayor Magidson noted that additional traffic will be another dynamic when the new CVS Store is complete. The greater issue is the Commission getting involved in Public Safety. He feels that we should not be overriding our Police Chief on Public Safety Issues. Not everyone is going to use caution when turning.

Commissioner Stephens agrees with Mayor Magidson, he is against removing the sign.

Motion by Commissioner Johnson, 2nd by Commissioner Buzzett, to remove the No Turn on Red Sign. Motion failed 3-2; Commissioner Stephens, Nay, Commissioner Gingell Nay and Mayor Magidson Nay.

Salvation Army:

Chief Barnes noted that \$2,800 was collected by seventy-one volunteers during the Red Kettle fund raiser.

Grants, Charlotte Pierce:

Health Fair:

Mrs. Pierce noted that she has received numerous positive comments on the Health Fair. She also provided the Commission with a handout showing a breakdown of participation by City Employees.

Grants Activity:

Mrs. Pierce gave the Commission a handout with the breakdown on Grant activity for the past two weeks.

PSJRA, Matt Flack:

Commissioner Buzzett would like to review the landscape design for Cecil G. Costin Sr., Blvd.

Mr. Fleck indicated that the design is on the PSJRA Website and he can also print out copies if needed.

Citizens to be heard:

Bobby Smith:

Mr. Smith would like to resale four Cemetery Lots to the City for the price paid for them plus the cost of improvements.

Mayor Magidson indicated that he is not sure we have the funds available to buy back lots with improvements. He also asked, "Do we have a waiting list for Cemetery Lots?"

Mrs. Pierce responded, "We have had some inquires for lots in the old section of the Cemetery."

Mayor Magidson noted that we will try to come up with a solution to the problem.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Gingell asked, "Have we looked at a security fence around the CVS Project?"

Mr. Weston responded, "I have sent Mr. Burkett a message to contact the Building Inspector."

Motion by Commissioner Stephens, 2nd by Commissioner Gingell, to adjourn at 7:25 P.M.

Approved this 1st day of February 2011.



Jim Anderson, City Clerk



Mayor Magidson