

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY  
COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD AT  
2775 GARRISON AVENUE, December 5, 2017, AT 6:00 P.M.**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Minutes**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Buzzett, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting of November 7, 2017. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

**PORT ST. JOE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (PSJRA)**

*MLK and Avenue C Sidewalks* – PSJRA Chairman, Rex Buzzett, requested that this be Tabled until the next meeting.

**CITY ATTORNEY –**

Attorney McCahill requested that Ordinance 544 be moved ahead of the Attorney General Opinion issue.

*Ordinance 544 Parcel #04939-000R, 208 7<sup>th</sup> Street – Residential in a C-1 District, Public Hearing, 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading and Consideration of Adoption:*

Mayor Patterson asked if anyone from the Public wished to speak on this issue. No one from the public responded.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to have the Second Reading of Ordinance 544. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Lowry, to adopt Ordinance 544. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

*Attorney General Opinion* – A Motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to request an opinion from the Attorney General concerning how the charter reads in Commissioner Thursbay's situation. All in Favor Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Buzzett asked Attorney McCahill's interpretation of the Charter.

Attorney McCahill responded that it is fairly straightforward for what it says, that if a commissioner is convicted of a crime, he shall forfeit his office. He has found nothing in his research that would say that we would go against that at this particular time, nothing that says that the Charter is wrong or shouldn't be interpreted as far as what it says.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – Jim Anderson**

**Old Business**

*19<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge* – Commissioner Lowry did not have any updates for this.

*Centennial Building Train* – Commissioner Buzzett noted this is a hard decision. The train repairs need to either be taken up by a group as a restoration project or fenced to prevent access to it.

*Core Park Rentals – Workshop Scheduled for 12/12/17 at Noon at Core Park:* Mr. Anderson reminded the Commissioners of the Workshop.

*Replacement of Water Meters* – A Motion was made by Commissioner Buzzett, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to purchase Water Meters from Consolidated Pipe and Supply Company, Inc., in the amount of \$234,825.20 and installed by Central Plant Technology, Inc., at a price of \$44,700. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

## **New Business**

*Bruce Ballister – 1<sup>st</sup> CDBG Public Hearing:*

Mr. Ballister informed the Commissioners that this was an advertised First Public Hearing to take public comment on the possibility of a new grant application to DEO's CDBG for the next cycle. That cycle may open in the April to June time period next year, pending adoption of another rule change.

The Citizens Advisory Task Force had met earlier in the day and concluded that the North Port St. Joe neighborhood was the most likely area to be funded due to the demographics and the concentration of low income families there. The need to continue replacement of the high maintenance sewers was suggested.

The Commissioners agreed that North Port St. Joe was probably the only neighborhood that could be successful when scored on family income. Mr. Ballister reminded the Commission that this meeting was an opportunity for the public to come forward with any possible other projects that might include drainage, paving, utilities or community facilities.

Mayor Paterson asked the members of the public in attendance if there were any other proposals that might be put forward for discussion. There were no responses from the public.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Lowry, to pursue a grant to improve infrastructure in North Port St. Joe, probably sewers. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

*FRQ 2017-02, Professional Planning Services* – A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Buzzett, to accept the proposal of Stantec for RFQ 2017-02 Professional Planning Services. This will be done by Task Order and renewable on an annual basis. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

*NWFWMD Funding Request 2018 / 2019* – Mr. Anderson anticipates a spring application time for this. Commissioner Buzzett suggested that the down town area be considered. Staff will begin work on a plan.

*Port City Trail Grant – Update; Solar Lighting* - Commissioner Ashbrook had requested that a presentation be made to the Commission but the presenter had a family emergency and was unable to attend.

The Commissioners discussed the holiday schedule and consensus was to have the scheduled Regular Meeting on December 19, 2017, and cancel the January 2, 2018, meeting.

## **Public Works – John Grantland**

*Holiday Lighting* – Mr. Grantland requested that the Commissioners provide him with their list of where lighting is needed so that he can produce a master list for consideration.

*Odor Scrubber* – A Motion was made by Commissioner Thursbay, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to purchase an Odor Scrubber for the St. Joe Beach Lift Station near Atlantic and Americus Avenues from Pump and Process in the amount of \$24,830. This Motion also required that \$2,000 per year be escrowed for filter replacements. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Charles Gathers cautioned that here are other areas that are bothered by odors from lift stations and the cost is rather high for one station.

Joe Mazerick, a resident of St. Joe Beach, thanked the Commission for their action and invited them to sit in his gazebo to see how bad the smell has been.

*Stan Peters* asked if the MLK and Avenue C Sidewalks had been discussed and was told that the issue was Tabled earlier in the meeting.

*Water Line Replacement Project – Update:* The CDBG Water Line Replacement will begin tomorrow at Avenue A and Highway 98.

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

*Update* – Mr. McClamma shared that the plant passed the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter and Yearly Disinfectant by Products test. He also noted that Travis Burge has passed the Class A Operator Test.

Commissioner Buzzett requested Mr. McClamma talk with Complete Industrial Maintenance while they are here to see what a third coat of paint for Clarifiers 3 and 4 would cost.

Mr. McClamma noted that approximately one-half of the lid for the St. Joe Beach tank has been demoed. He anticipates that it will be a week or so before the new lid is put on.

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

*Update* – Mr. Pettis shared there had been no spraying in November but that had resumed in December. He also noted interviews had been conducted today with three people and he was confident a good employee was in the group.

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

*Update* – November Financials will be in the Commissioner's City Hall Mail Boxes on Thursday. The City is waiting on the first AD Tax money from the County.

#### **City Engineer – Clay Smallwood, III**

Project Updates -

*Frank Pate Park Boat Ramp Improvements* – A Walk Around has been scheduled for 9:00 A.M. tomorrow at the boat ramp.

*Long Avenue Water / Sewer / Road Paving* – The Budget Request has been submitted for the project.

*Jones Homestead Sewer* – Some responses have been received from the letter provided by the City. More signups are needed.

Mr. Smallwood noted that the CDBG Project is going well, there is pipe in the ground, and could possibly be completed by the end of December

#### **Code Enforcement**

*General Update* – Mayor Patterson noted Mr. Burkett is working several Saturdays a month and that his reports are being received by the Commissioners.

**Police Department – Chief Matt Herring** did not have anything to update the Commission on.

#### **City Clerk - Charlotte Pierce**

*Christmas Parade* – Clerk Pierce noted that line up should be completed by 5 P.M. as the judges will begin their review then. The Christmas Parade will begin at 6 P.M. and participants appear to be equal to or even greater than last year.

#### **Citizens to be Heard –**

*Letha Mathews* noted there is a speeding problem on Broad Street and asked for help in eliminating the problem. Chief Herring noted they are monitoring the area and will continue to do so.

*Stan Peters* shared he is trying to open a restaurant and there are issues with the sidewalk. After a lengthy discussion between Mr. Peters, Mayor Patterson, Commissioner Buzzett, and Mr. Grantland, it was determined that Mr. Peters and Mr. Grantland would meet on site to look at the situation as the area includes sidewalks and fire protection systems. Originally, the PSJRA was to provide funding and the City would provide the labor but the PSJRA Board directed the funds be paid to the NPSJ PAC for consulting fees.

Mr. Grantland is to project cost for the project and see if possibly, a private contractor would do the work for what the labor from the City would cost.

*Steve Womack* discussed his concerns about the footbridge on 19<sup>th</sup> Street. He feels the bridge should be for pedestrian traffic only; there are sight safety issues, a golf cart crossing is too expensive, and the money required for a golf cart crossing could be better used elsewhere.

Mr. Womack addressed the issue involving Commissioner Thursbay and suggest that he should resign his position on the Commission.

Mark Manley asked for help with the Speed Limit on Garrison Avenue near his home.

**Discussion Items by Commissioners**

Neither Commissioners Buzzett, Lowry, nor Ashbrook had anything else to discuss.

Commissioner Thursbay read the following statement.

Guys, I am sorry. I am sorry to you Mr. Mayor, I am sorry to my fellow commissioners for the embarrassment, the trouble and waste of time I have brought to this Commission. I am sorry to all present, not present today for my poor judgement and my improper conduct which occurred several weeks ago after leaving this very place. Most of all I am sorry for the humiliation and the pain that I have caused my wonderful wife of 25 years, my parents, and my children, they especially did not deserve this and I want to publically ask for forgiveness to accept my apology. Throughout my life, I have battled with demons from time to time, most of this caused by poor decisions I have made but some things totally beyond my control. Several weeks ago, during a personal low point in my life, I consumed alcohol, that combined with my cancer medication led to my misconduct and the subsequent arrest of myself. I should have known better and I take full responsibility for my actions. To my fellow Commissioners and my family who have been so supportive, I ask for your forgiveness for this senseless act I committed. To my many friends, voters and supporters, who have stuck by me and offered their continued support thank you for this even though I may not deserve it. To those of you who have not supported me and have not voted for me, I am sure I have reinforced the negative opinion you may have had towards me. I would especially ask for your forgiveness and understanding. You may rest assured that I will spend the rest of my life, public and private, to change your opinion of me. In the past on many occasions, I have been judgmental of other people especially those who have disagreed with me. I am respectfully asking you not to make the same mistake I have made by passing judgement on me because of my improper conduct. I appear before you as an imperfect man but also a man with a renewed desire to be the husband, the father, the Christian, the friend, and Commissioner I should have been all along. Thank you.

Mayor Patterson shared that all people make mistakes, let the people vote Commissioner Thursbay out. He noted that Commissioner Thursbay has run three times, the first was an overwhelming victory, the second time he had no opponent, and the third time people got someone to run against him, but he still won by a 2-1 vote. Mayor Patterson feels that the people should make the decision as to whether Commissioner Thursbay should be removed from office, when his term comes up again, vote him out if they want to. He reminded everyone that we are all human and make mistakes, he does not condone anything that Mr. Thursbay has done and asked "Where, where would we be if Jesus didn't give us a second chance?" He feels that citizens need to show some Christian love instead of hate on people.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Lowry, to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 P.M.

Approved this 19<sup>th</sup> day of December 2017.

  
James "Bo" Patterson, Mayor

  
Date

  
Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

  
Date