

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD IN THE COMMISSION CHAMBER AT CITY HALL, June 15, 2012, at Noon**

The following were present: Mayor Magidson, Commissioners Gingell, Patterson and Kennedy. City Manager Jim Anderson, City Attorney Tom Gibson, and City Clerk Charlotte Pierce were also present. Commissioner Buzzett participated by telephone.

The purpose of the Special Meeting was to address the issue of Fireworks for the Fourth of July.

Dana Boyer addressed the Commission on her personal endeavors to raise funds for the Fourth of July Fireworks. Numerous residents, merchants and City Commissioners have contributed to the fund and over \$5,000 has been raised.

Mrs. Boyer has been successful in fund raising efforts in past years to establish the Mexico Beach fireworks and she offered to spearhead a fund drive, beginning in September, to collect funds for next year's City fireworks.

Mayor Magidson noted that City residents would be paying twice for the fireworks as the citizens pay City and County taxes and with budget constraints what they are, blowing up \$5,000 was not a prudent use of City funds. He feels that this is a TDC issue and, as a member of that board, he will bring this issue to their attention. Mayor Magidson expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Boyer and Mr. and Mrs. John Parker for their efforts to raise the funds for this year's fireworks.

Commissioner Buzzett commend Mrs. Boyer and Mr. and Mrs. Parker for their efforts. He also expressed his strong displeasure of statements made by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners concerning the City Commission and their leadership. Commissioner Buzzett stated "Honestly, I feel like the county commission made the most vindictive, spiteful, childish decision I have ever heard come out of the county court house to make us look like bad guys when we are trying to be frugal with tax payer dollars. I did not appreciate it at all. I feel like they were trying to intimidate us into making a decision that we could not afford to make. Nobody said that the City had been providing fireworks for 20 -25 years or for however it has been going on. Now that we are trying to watch our pennies and dollars we are made out to look like bad guys."

Commissioner Gingell reminded the Commission that there was to have been a fund raising effort by the Gulf County TDC and Gulf County Chamber of Commerce to raise funds for the fireworks and thus the City did not include the expenditure in our budget. She did acknowledge that both entities had been through a number of changes this past year and the event may have been lost in the process. Commissioner Gingell commended the fund raising group for their incredible efforts.

Commissioner Kennedy expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Boyer and everyone involved in the fund raising efforts and offered his assistance to help raise funds for the coming year.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kennedy, second by Commissioner Patterson, for the City to contribute \$500 to the fireworks fund for this year. The motion also stipulated that the fireworks must be held in the City of Port St. Joe. All in Favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Towan Kopinsky, Gulf County Grant Coordinator, has contacted both Pyrotecnico and Pyro Shows to see if they would be available on July 4, 2012. Pryotecnico was booked but Pryo

Shows was available and did provide the New Year's Eve show this past year. Mrs. Kopinsky will be meeting with a Pyro Shows representative on site Saturday.

Mr. Anderson indicated that the Fireworks have not gone out for bid and this is a contractor that we have never dealt with before.

Attorney Gibson agreed that this would be either an exceptional purchase or emergency and is okay with the process.

The City will handle the contract for the event and Mr. Anderson is working with Jorge Gonzalez of the St. Joe Company to use the old mill site for the venue. A Certificate of Liability Insurance is needed from Pyro Shows and Mrs. Kopinsky will obtain that.

The county and TDC will each be providing \$5,000 for a total of \$10,000 to the City for the fireworks.

Mayor Magidson adjourned the Special Meeting at 12:22 P.M.

Approved this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June 2012.

  
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Mel C. Magidson, Jr., Mayor

  
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Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk