

**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 20, 2016, 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 Tom Gibson were also present.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chris Holley, Executive Director of the Gulf County Economic Development Coalition, updated the Commissioners on current opportunities for Gulf County and encouraged everyone to work together as good times are ahead for this area.

Minutes

A Motion was made by Commissioner Buzzett, second by Commissioner Thursbay, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on September 6, 2016, and the Special Meeting of September 7, 2016. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Port St. Joe Redevelopment Association (PSJRA) - Bill Kennedy There was no update from the PSJRA.

CITY ATTORNEY – Tom Gibson

Resolution 2016-07 Nonviolent Demonstrations – A Motion was made by Commissioner Thursbay, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to adopt Resolution 2016-07. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Shipyard Cove LLC Hearing – A Notice of Hearing has been received requesting payment of attorney's fees by Bill Koran. Mr. Gibson is to contact Mel Magidson, Jr., to see if he will be representing the City and if there will be a charge for his services.

Sale of City Property:

Ward Ridge Building – There was no update on this issue.

Commerce Park Lot – An appraisal has been received in the amount of \$65,000. Clarification was requested as there was also a figure of \$58,000. There is no contract with a realtor for this property.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – Jim Anderson

Old Business

Propane Gas Vehicles – Mayor Patterson did not have any updates on this, but will be talking with Jason Shoaf prior to the next meeting.

Patton Park Lots Update – Lot #5 is under contract at the full price. Lot #4 has received a counter offer but the City is firm on the price and condition of the lot.

FEMA Flood Maps – Commissioner Lowry shared that a committee has been formed, a chairman has been selected, and they are working with the Northwest Florida Water Management District. The clock has been stopped on the Flood Map review as the group is trying to help the residents that will see a change in their property status. He anticipates the new maps will become effective in January, 2018.

Fountain Replacement – A Motion was made by Commissioner Thursbay, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to purchase four fountains. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0. The TDC funds will pay for three of the fountains and the fourth will be paid for using Boat Ramp fees as that fountain will be placed near the boat ramp. The cost is \$3,328 per pump.

2016 / 2017 Budget Update – The Final Budget Hearing and adoption of the FY '16 – '17 Budget will be at 5:01 tomorrow.

Joe Company Impact Fees – A response has not been received from them in reference to the City's letter.

Charitable Contributions – Commissioner Buzzett would like to have the final draft of this on the next Agenda for a vote.

Business Licenses Application - 507 Tenth Street – Whatley Funeral Home:

Casey Whatley, Ruby Gilmore, Frank Catalano, Jack Collingsworth, and Charles Gaddy spoke in favor of granting a Business License for Whatley Funeral Home.

Chad and Lacey Mack shared their concerns about the funeral home, the impact it would have on the neighborhood, and the devaluation of their adjoining property.

After a question and answer period between the Commissioners and Mr. and Mrs. Mack, a Motion was made by Commissioner Thursbay, second by Commissioner Lowry, to grant the business license to Whatley Funeral Home. A roll call vote was taken on the issue and Mayor Patterson, Commissioners Buzzett, Lowry, and Thursbay voted in favor of the Motion and Commissioner Ashbrook voted no. The Motion carried 4-1.

New Business

Chamber Request – A Motion was made by Commissioner Buzzett, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to grant the \$500 request from the Chamber for funds to be used in preparing "Welcome Bags" for new residents. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Off Premise Signs – Mayor Patterson requested that reminders be given to the business owners that are not removing the signs at the close of business each day. He noted that one business is complying with the request and three others are not.

Commissioner Thursbay shared that he has spoken with Ronnie Butler and the owner of the property where his sign is displayed has given him permission to leave his sign there rather than have to remove it.

Jones Homestead Sewer – Staff will be meeting with Mr. Smallwood tomorrow on the scope of work for the project. A recommendation will be available at the next Commission meeting.

WIG Building Lease Agreement – This was Tabled to allow time for the WIG Committee to review the agreement.

Fee Waiver Request – Junior Service League: A Motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, second by Commissioner Buzzett, to grant the Fee Waiver Request and update the Resolution to reflect that a \$200 clean up deposit be required for Non-Profit organizations. The deposit is refundable if the facility is properly cleaned after the event. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Public Works – John Grantland was not present and Mr. Anderson noted that the Water Project for Highways 71 and 98 is wrapping up and should be completed in a week or so.

Surface Water Plant – Larry McClamma did not have anything to report.

Wastewater Plant – Kevin Pettis noted they are waiting on the pump from Morrow. He also shared there is no Algae on the pond and the chemicals, at this time, appear to be resolving the Algae issue.

City Engineer - Clay Smallwood, III,

Golf Cart Crossing Update – Per FDOT, the letter has been prepared and should be signed by the proper official shortly.

Project Updates:

Garrison Avenue Paving – No update was given on this project.

6th and 7th Streets Drainage – This is still under review.

Frank Pate Park Boat Ramp Improvements – Mr. Smallwood presented an overview of this project, noted he would be happy to meet with anyone with questions concerning the project, and asked for guidance on where step downs to boats should be placed. He anticipates having this back to the Commission in two weeks.

Code Enforcement – Mr. Burkett's report did not require any action.

Police Department – Chief Matt Herring

Explorer Program – Chief Herring shared that funds, in the amount of \$5,000, have been provided by the duPont Foundation. A partnership, that will administer the funds, has been established with the duPont Foundation, St. James Episcopal Church, and the Mount Carmel Baptist Church. The program will be available to students ages 12 – 17.

JAG Grant Application – A Motion was made by Commissioner Thursbay, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to approve the purchase of an F150 Super Crew Cab 4 Wheel Drive vehicle, on the state contract amount of \$25,280, by combining the grant funds of \$15,510 and the City's contribution of \$14,000. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0. The difference in the cost and total of funds provided will be used to equip the truck with the necessary Police equipment.

Caleb Kesterson was introduced as the new Police Officer hired in August. The Commissioners welcomed Officer Kesterson to the City and wished him well with the Police Department.

City Clerk – Charlotte Pierce

Planning Board Membership – Clerk Pierce shared that the following PDRB Members have stated they wish to continue serving on the Board. Travis Burge, Seth Campbell, Phil Earley, Hal Keels, and Alice Martin. Christy McElroy did not wish to extend her term on the Board.

Citizens to be Heard

John Parker reminded the Commissioners that a promise was made to only use the boat ramp fees for repairs and maintenance of the boat ramp and asked that they keep their promise. Staff is to research this. Mr. Parker feels that the step downs for the boat ramp will be great.

Chester Davis, Pastor of Philadelphia Primitive Church, invited the Commissioners to the October 6, 2016, meeting of the North Port St. Joe Project Area Committee. He noted there will be a Healing of the Community Service and Fellowship on October 29, 2016, and extended an invitation to the Commission to participate in the activity. Reverend Davis asked that another member, not currently an elected official, be added to the Port St. Joe Redevelopment Agency. PSJRA Staff will review their By-Laws before making a decision on this.

Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Thursbay requested that signs be installed noting where the public restrooms are located in the downtown area. The cost is under the bid threshold and will not need to be advertised.

Commissioner Ashbrook did not have anything to discuss.

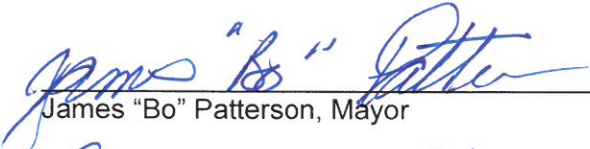
Commissioner Lowry noted there is an opportunity for the City, County, and FDOT to partner to repair a culvert problem on the Industrial Road. FDOT has been contacted and more information will follow.

Commissioner Buzzett shared that Ken Murphy is very ill and in Hospice at Bay. He asked that everyone keep him in their prayers.

Mayor Patterson did not have anything to discuss.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Buzzett, second by Commissioner Thursbay, to adjourn the Meeting at 8:03 P.M.

Approved this 4th day of October 2016.


James "Bo" Patterson, Mayor

10/5/2016
Date


Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

10/5/2016
Date