

# MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD AT 2775 GARRISON AVENUE, March 11, 2019 AT 12 Noon

The following were present: Mayor Patterson, Commissioners Ashbrook, Hoffman, Langston, and Lowry. City Manager Jim Anderson, City Clerk Charlotte Pierce, Attorney Adam Albritton, and Chief of Police Matt Herring were also present.

## CONSENT AGENDA

### **PSJRA Interlocal Agreement – Mayor Patterson**

Mayor Patterson stated he had received answers on the agreement, there have been two meetings and a workshop where this was discussed, and nothing in the agreement ties the CRAs together.

Commissioner Ashbrook thanked Mr. Albritton for his research on the issue.

Commissioner Hoffman also thanked Attorney Albritton for his research. He noted that Commissioner Ashbrook brought this item to the Commission with good intentions thinking the city could not match funds for grants. He also noted that the City had never failed to come up with matching dollars for grants in the past and questioned why the Commission continues to move forward with the issue. Commissioner Hoffman thanked Commissioners Ashbrook and Langston for supporting the workshop earlier on the topic.

Commissioner Lowry shared that the CRA is not being done away with, it is sun setting, the City is receiving numerous monetary benefits for not extending the CRA and blight could not be proven in the area of the current CRA.

*Mel Magidson* noted that he agreed with the findings of Mr. Albritton, but shared that the North Port St. Joe CRA (NPSJ CRA) is on life support as there are no TIFT dollars to support it. It will take 18 years to get back the \$20,000 that they had been receiving from the first CRA.

Mayor Patterson countered with the City still had money in the kitty and the NPSJ CRA is not dead.

*Robert Branch* read a statement of his beliefs and emphasized that Commissioner Hoffman was the only one that made any sense. He stressed this is not just about the north side, the County is forcing the City to accept their idea and their threat is not generous, and stated that the Commissioners owe it to the residents to protect the City.

*Chester Davis* stated that the only way the NPSJ CRA had received any funds was to ask for them, the NPSJ PAC is bringing redevelopment to North Port St. Joe, there is blight in that area, and everyone needs to come together as a City and redevelop North Port St. Joe.

*Lorinda Gingell* stated that information shared at the County Commission meeting last week was misrepresented. The majority of the funds for the PSJ CRA had been spent on infrastructure, and noted how a grant from the PSJ CRA had helped a local business get started. She shared that the impact generated by the opening of this business has come back to town.

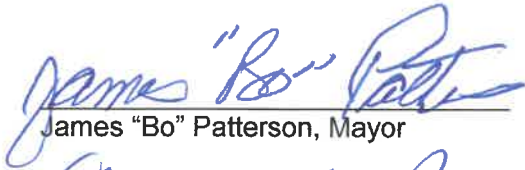
*Commissioner Lowry* stated the Commission is not abandoning the merchants.

*Letha Mathews* stated that none of the PSJ CRA funds had been spent in North Port St. Joe to which Lorinda Gingell rebutted from her seat that by statute, funds could not have been spent there.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Langston, to approve the PSJRA Interlocal Agreement. Motion carried 4-1. Voting in favor of the Motion were Mayor Patterson, Commissioners Ashbrook, Langston, and Lowry. Commissioner Hoffman voted no.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Lowry, to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 P.M.

Approved this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2019.

  
James "Bo" Patterson, Mayor

3/19/19  
Date

  
Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

3/19/19  
Date