

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY
COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD AT
2775 GARRISON AVENUE, October 15, 2019, at Noon.**

The following were present: Mayor Buzzett, Commissioners Hoffman, Langston, and Lowry. City Manager Jim Anderson, City Clerk Charlotte Pierce, and Attorney Adam Albritton were also present. Commissioner Ashbrook joined the meeting at 12:17 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

A Motion was made by Commissioner Langston, second by Commissioner Lowry, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 1, 2019. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

Building Department Update – Quarterly

Between October 10, 2018, and October 10, 2019, the Building Department issued the following permits: Demolition Permits 61; Residential Reroof 391; Commercial Reroof 59, Residential Remodel 246; Commercial Remodel; Temporary Power Poles 51; Electric Service Repair 119; Accessory Structures 25; New Single Family Structures 18; Temporary Structure Permits 32. Total permits issued 1,538.

Long Term Recovery Committee Update – No representative was at the meeting.

PSJRA Update – There was no update from the PSJRA.

City Attorney –

Resolution 2019-09 Customer Trash Rates

A Motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to read and adopt Resolution 2019-19.

Attorney Albritton read Resolution 2019-19 by Title only.

Marvin Davis, Christy McElroy, and Charles Gathers asked about the increase in rates, yard debris, and white goods being picked up.

After discussion and Public Comment, the vote was taken. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Ashbrook joined the meeting at 12:17 P.M.

A signed contract has been received from BCC and the residential rate for citizens will be \$20.15 for a single 96 gallon container.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT – Jim Anderson

Old Business

Capital City Bank Lease Agreement – Ramsay Sims

Mr. Sims addressed the Commission, and shared his concerns about the \$3,000 monthly rental rate charge. He noted that Capital City is committed to the community, he anticipates an announcement soon on a new location in Port St. Joe, and requested that the monthly rental fee be reduced to \$2,000 per month.

After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Langston, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to resend the Motion made on September 3, 2019, establishing the rental rate of \$3,000 per month, and set the new rental rate at \$2,500 per month. The Motion failed 3-2 with Commissioners Langston and Ashbrook voting for the Motion and Mayor Buzzett and Commissioners Hoffman and Lowry voting no.

Disc Golf –

City Staff recommended that the 9 hole Disc Golf location be established around Buck Griffin Lake and between 16th and 20th Streets. This area is currently mowed and maintained and would be a good location for the sport. Parking, restrooms, and pavilions are available in this area and would enhance the playing field.

Government Complex Grant –

Mr. Anderson noted that 2 parcels have been looked at. One adjoins the present Commission Chamber at Ward Ridge and the other is behind CVS. Mayor Buzzett shared that he has called Jorge Gonzalez with the St. Joe Company about a parcel of land off Langston Drive. He is waiting to hear from Mr. Gonzalez. City Staff was requested to begin looking for parcels that might be acceptable for purchase to construct a city complex in phases.

Police Department Building – Mayor Buzzett

Mayor Buzzett stated that he feels the Police Department should be back in their building and asked that steps be taken to begin that process as there is insurance money to cover the repairs. Staff was asked to make sure the building has a safe environment and review the reports that have been provided.

Computer Upgrades –

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to accept the Dell Lease Purchase price of \$102,998.13. This amount is in the current budget. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

New Business

First Street Lift Station Easement -

A Motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to accept the Easement Offered by the St. Joe Company. The City will pay Closing Cost and for a survey. All in favor, Motion carried 5-0.

Electrical Service: Request to Bid for Continuing Service Contract –

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Langston, to advertise an RFQ for Electrical Service with industrial experience and a defined response time. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0. This will provide the City with a backup plan.

Public Works – John Grantland

The bridge for 16th Street is in production and should be here in 4 – 6 weeks.

Surface Water Plant – Larry McClamma

Mr. McClamma requested permission to participate in a FL Rural Water Pilot Program to recycle filtered back wash water. This will reduce the cost for chemicals, and reduce the amount of water being sent to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. A Motion was made by Commissioner Langston, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to participate in the program. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Wastewater Plant – Kevin Pettis

Maintenance work will continue all month. FL DEP will be conducting an inspection on Thursday.

Finance Director – Mike Lacour

The transition is being made from last year's fiscal year to the current year; he continues to work with FEMA, and feels he is past the half way point on costing.

City Engineer – Clay Smallwood, III: Mr. Smallwood was absent and Mr. Anderson gave the following updates.

Trail Lighting / Upgrades Grant Update – Still waiting on figures from Duke Energy.

Road Bond Money – Moving forward with patches and paving of Clifford C. Sims Park.

Code Enforcement -

There is an ongoing advertisement for this position.

Police Department – Chief Matt Herring

Chief Herring did not have anything to update the Commission on.

City Clerk - Charlotte Pierce –

Ghosts on the Coast

Clerk Pierce noted that things are moving forward, people continue to volunteer to work with the event, and there is a need for candy to be handed out at the event.

Citizens to be Heard –

Christy McElroy shared that she was thrilled with the proposed location of the Disc Golf Course; noted the walking area by the bay is a disaster and needs to be restored; stated the city and county approached her to settle the law suit; reminded the Commissioners of the Development Order and NERDA Grant existing conditions; mentioned opportunities for the Field of Dreams property, and feels the City should be getting the lion's share of the TDC funds.

Jill Bebee suggested that a Parks Committee be formed and stated that she loves Disc Golf.

Charles Gathers questioned if there is a Policy and Procedures document; if there is still a Recreation Department, and asked if other areas had been considered for the Disc Golf Course.

Marvin Davis shared his concerns about debris being placed in the yard of other neighbors.

Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Hoffman asked Attorney Albritton his opinion on the settlement of the law suit with Ms. McElroy. Mr. Albritton read from the letter of Attorney Dickey stating there was room for compromise and their firm had reached out to the City's insurance carrier to resolve the suit. Attorney Albritton will provide a copy of the letter to the Commission.

Commissioner Hoffman suggested that a park committee should prioritize areas; asked that a head count be kept for each meeting as there is not much difference in the noon and 6 P.M. attendance, and asked that Attorney Albritton follow up on the County owing the City the 5th penny tax from TDC. Attorney Albritton has requested the information but has not received anything yet.

Commissioner Lowry noted he has received calls about the garbage pickup. He reminded everyone that boxes should be broken down and placed in the container as BCC will only pick up what is in the container. He also shared that the cost of two 96 gallon containers per month is \$29.35.

Commissioner Ashbrook questioned the minimum cost to take items to the land fill.

Commissioner Langston expressed his desire to see the city wide cleanup begin and recommended that it start in November by sections and be completed before the holidays. He shared that the Community Garden Committee is still working with the St. Joe Company on contract language, and the dugouts at Peters Park need work.

Mayor Buzzett would like to see Roberts Rules of Order adopted by the Commission and have a training session before implementation. He and Mr. Anderson will be meeting with Warren Yeager Thursday to discuss the reallocation of funds from the Consortium Pot 3 money to projects inside the City to include lift stations.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to adjourn the meeting at 1:46 P.M.

Approved this 2nd day of November 2019.



Rex Buzzett, Mayor

Nov. 12, 2019

Date



Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

Nov. 12, 2019

Date