

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY
COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD AT
2775 GARRISON AVENUE, November 5, 2019, at 6 P.M.**

The following were present: Mayor Buzzett, Commissioners Ashbrook, Hoffman, Langston, and Lowry. City Manager Jim Anderson, City Clerk Charlotte Pierce, and Attorney Adam Albritton were also present.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Lowry, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on October 15, 2019. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Building Department Update – Quarterly:

Long Term Recovery Committee Update – A report will be given at the November 19, 2019, meeting.

PSJRA Update – Chairman Ashbrook shared that their budget had been voted on, and a decision has not been made as to whether to spend funds on a restroom or Splash Pad. He noted the TDC has committed \$25,000 to the Splash Pad and help has been requested on delivery trucks parking the alley ways.

City Attorney –

TDC Fifth Penny

Mr. Albritton referenced the letter from Gulf County Attorney, Jeremy Novak, and feels there is no obligation for the county to produce funds for the City as there is no strong agreement or detrimental alliance. He will continue to review documents to see if anything has been missed.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT – Jim Anderson

Old Business

Government Complex Grant Update –

Staff continues to look for property. Mayor Buzzett shared that he is waiting to hear from Jorge Gonzalez with the St. Joe Company concerning land near the old railroad shop and Avenue A Baseball Field.

White Goods and C & D Materials – Commissioner Langston

Commissioner Langston encouraged the Commissioners to let our Code Enforcement Officer do his job enforcing trash cleanup throughout town. He stressed that people know when others dump on their property, the City has been very lenient on enforcement, but time has come for individuals to be responsible for their actions, and pay fines when levied.

NRDA Stormwater Grant Update –

There will be a Workshop to begin the Grant process on December 3, 2019, at 5:00 P.M.

Restore Act Pot 3 Funding – Mayor Buzzett

Mayor Buzzett requested that a letter be sent to the county asking that the \$500,000 they had earmarked for purchasing the ESAD Sewer be repurposed to complete the CDBG Grant in North Port St. Joe for Battles Street.

New Business

FRDAP Committee

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to verify if those currently on the FRDAP Committee wished to continue serving, to add Jill Bebee to the FRDAP Committee, and possibly expand the committee to include others at a future time. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Christy McElroy shared her concerns about the makeup of the committee.

Robert Branch asked if residents located near the proposed Disc Golf Course had been contacted. Mayor Buzzett responded that information has been provided on the City Website and Facebook Page.

Tennis Court Repairs

Consensus was for Mr. Anderson to approve repair expenditures that are covered under insurance funds and move forward with making repairs to include the tennis court fence. Commissioner Hoffman wants to add several Pickle Ball Courts and Commissioner Langston asked that improvements be made to the Tennis Court area of the Washington Site. Mr. Lacour shared that he is meeting with a Tennis Court consultant on Thursday and will see what his recommendations are.

Roberts Rules of Order – Mayor Buzzett

Mayor Buzzett noted that copies of Roberts Rules had been distributed to each Commissioner and he asked that they read through the book. Attorney Albritton offered to provide policies and guideline that would help facilitate the Commission Meetings. The Mayor requested that this item continue to be on the Agenda.

FDEP Grant Application –

The grant request is for \$750,000 and would move approximately 120 homes from septic tanks to city sewer. A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Lowry, to submit an application, and if the grant is approved, to wave the impact fees as the match for the grant. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Small Scale Fee Waiver Request – The Gulf County Sheriff's Office requested that an advertising Fee Waiver of \$500 be granted to change their property from C1A and R2B to Public. A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Langston, to grant the request. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Public Works – John Grantland

Mr. Grantland anticipates the crossover bridge between Buck Griffin Lake and the 16th Street Park will be completed in a couple of weeks. Concrete pouring should be done next week.

Surface Water Plant – Larry McClamma

RFP 2019-02 Membrane Filter Modules

Mr. McClamma requested the plant be given more time to review the bids and complete testing on the products.

Wastewater Plant – Kevin Pettis

Discharging will continue through November and the plant is still working on filters.

Finance Director – Mike Lacour

Mr. Lacour is wrapping up final insurance requests, working with FEMA, and is moving along on other projects.

City Engineer – Clay Smallwood, III

Trail Lighting / Upgrades Grant Update – A response has not been received from Duke Energy.

Road Bond Money – Funds have been obligated for Clifford C. Sims Park road repair and improvements.

The bids will be opened on November 22, 2109, for the Frank Pate Park Gazebo.

Progress is being made on the FDOT SCOP Grant for Garrison Avenue from 16th Street to Madison Avenue.

Code Enforcement –

Special Master RFQ 2019-02

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Lowry, to accept the application of Mel C. Magidson, Jr., to fill the vacant position. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0. Mr. Magidson shared with the Commission that he is currently on Retirement Status with the FL Bar, he is filing his petition to have the status changed, pay the required fee, and will be ready to go. Mr. Magidson, Attorney Albritton, and Mr. Anderson will work on the particulars of the agreement.

Police Department – Sgt. Jake Richards

Sgt. Richards noted two new officers have been hired, Sherrell Morrison and Tyrece Hicks.

City Clerk - Charlotte Pierce –

Ghosts on the Coast

Mrs. Pierce shared that Ghosts on the Coast went well and positive feedback has been received on the event.

Christmas Parade

Inquiries are being received about the parade and entry forms are being submitted.

Keepers Quarters

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Lowry, to use insurance money received for the Keepers' Quarters to help with the painting of the structures. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0. A quote, totaling \$19,900 to paint both houses, was received from Premier Painting & Remodeling. The St. Joseph Historical Society received a grant from the FL Lighthouse Association and \$8,000 of that grant will be used for painting the Sleeping Beauty Gift Shop.

Citizens to be Heard –

Robert Branch shared his concerns about the TDC Taxes, the Inter-local Agreement, and the lack of funds provided for the Field of Dreams. He provided several of the documents to Clerk Pierce.

Christy McElroy noted her concerns about funding from the TDC, the City not receiving their fair share of the funds, and provided a copy of the Second Amended Complaint from McElroy v City and County referencing the funding.

Chester Davis, President of the NPSJ PAC, expressed his concerns about the blighted areas of North Port St. Joe, feeling left out of the conversations on what is being done there, ways to improve the area, and noted he is trying to coordinate events to be held at the Washington Gym.

Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Langston reiterated his concerns about getting the trash issue under control. He asked that residents stop throwing their trash outside expecting the City to pick it up at no charge to the individuals, noted it has been over a year since Hurricane Michael, and it is time everything was cleaned up and kept that way.

Commissioner Ashbrook did not have anything to share with the Commission.

Commissioner Lowry is receiving the same complaints about trash being thrown out and stated the City would be fair with fines, but we need to help ourselves.

He asked if there had been any communication with Capital City Bank concerning the relocation of their temporary trailer. Mr. Anderson will follow up on this.

Commissioner Hoffman noted the trash issue is City wide. Businesses are placing trash on First Street and he would like to see the City consider hiring a company to come in and do a one time cleanup to get the trash off the streets.

He also asked about the bathroom on Reid Avenue and Mr. Grantland responded Public Works would be installing the line in a few days.

Mayor Buzzett suggested that an RFQ be created for a final trash pickup.

Chester Davis shared that it is the responsibility of citizens to separate their trash by white goods, yard debris, and construction debris.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Langston, to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 P.M.

Approved this 19th day of November 2019.

Rex Buzzett
Rex Buzzett, Mayor

11/19/19
Date

Charlotte M. Pierce
Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

11/19/19
Date