

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY
COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD AT
2775 GARRISON AVENUE, May 18, 2021, at Noon.**

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Proclamation Mental Health Month Recognition

Mayor Buzzett read the Proclamation proclaiming May as Mental Health Month. He presented the Proclamation to Kristina Williams, Director of Marketing and Public Relation for the Life Management Center of North West Florida.

Minutes

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Lowry, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 4, 2021, and the Joint City / County Workshop of May 11, 2021. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Buzzett requested that the Engineer's Report be moved up in the Agenda.

City Engineer – Josh Baxley

NRDA Stormwater Grant Update

The final report has been submitted to NFWFMD for review. Dewberry is waiting on the district to schedule a meeting to discuss potential options for moving forward with a project.

Maddox Park Gazebo

The project is in design.

Walking Path FDOT Grant Update

Trail construction is complete. The next step is for Duke Energy to install the lighting.

CDBG Sewer Improvements

Pipe bursting is scheduled to begin today, May 18, 2021.

First Street Lift Station and Long Avenue Water / Sewer Projects

The NOA has been issued and the contractor is securing performance and payment bonds.

NRCS Debris Removal Update

The project is complete and the final walk through with NRCS is scheduled for May 19, 2021.

City Attorney –

Ordinance 585 Large Scale Plan Amendment; Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Langston, to have the Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 585. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney McCahill noted that DEO had approved the Large-Scale Plan Amendment and read Ordinance 585 by Title only.

Interlocal Agreement

Consensus of the Commission was that the Interlocal Agreement was not worked on mutually by the City and County Attorneys. Items 3, 4, and 5 are not acceptable, and they would like for both attorneys to work on this.

Ordinance 588 Mobile Home on Harbor Street; Second Reading and Consideration of Adoption:

After a lengthy discussion by the Commissioners, and comments from Rawlis Leslie, Joe Paul, Christy McElroy, Robin Malone, and Eddie Fields, a Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to have the Second Reading and Adoption of Ordinance 588. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0. It was noted that this Ordinance did not receive a favorable recommendation from the Planning, Development and Review Board to the City Commission.

Bond Counsel:

In light of recent issues, Staff requested guidance from the Commission for Bond Counsel. Consensus was to proceed with securing Counsel possibly with a previous client as they are familiar with the City's needs.

Commissioner Hoffman shared his concerns with the recent City / County Workshop, his desire to safe guard future customers in the City's Service Area, and supports hiring a firm to represent the City. He also expressed his concerns about a \$30 Million back up water system for the County when, after a Category 5 Hurricane, the City's Water Plant was back up and on line in less than 24 hours. He noted that a line from the City Surface Water Plant and a booster pump would provide ample water to all outlying areas.

Commissioner Lowry stated that he did agree that we need to protect our service area and we also need to work to reduce our rates.

Resolution 2021-07 Travel Trailer Policy

After discussion, and input from the City Building Department, A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to require a Site Plan and delete Section 3C. All in favor Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney McCahill read Resolution 2021-07 by Title only.

Old Business –

Current City Projects

Mr. Anderson shared that all projects are moving along well.

New Business –

July 4th Events

Commissioner Langston requested that the hours for the Street Dance be extended.

After an exchange of thoughts and suggestions, a Motion was made by Commissioner Langston, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to allow the Street Dance from 10:00 P.M. EDT until 4:00 A.M. EDT on July 4, 2021, with music ceasing at 2:00 A.M EDT. Motion carried 3-2. Voting in favor of the Motion were Commissioners Ashbrook, Langston, and Lowry. Voting against the Motion were Mayor Buzzett and Commissioner Hoffman.

Boat Dockage Request – 53'

It was noted that the current agreement allows for Commercial docking and the request is for private docking which will not be acceptable.

Port Authority Master Plan

Mr. Anderson shared that the document is not ready yet.

Public Works – John Grantland

Park Point Sewer

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Langston, to spend \$31,534.93 to bring 5 customers on. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0. Tap fees of \$3,200 per customer have already been paid. There will be an additional charge for permitting and this hookup will serve the subdivision. The project will be completed by the end of 2023.

Surface Water Plant – Larry McClamma

Mr. McClamma shared that work on the Clarifiers has been completed.

Wastewater Plant – Kevin Pettis

RFP 2021-07 Sprayfield Sand

Mr. Pettis noted that the plant is running well.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to award the bid to Monolith Construction Company. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0. The Local Preference Policy was calculated and this brought the bid from Monolith below the low bid. Monolith will have the opportunity to match the lowest bid of \$47,000.

Finance Director – Mike Lacour

Mr. Lacour shared that the Pickle and Tennis Courts have been painted and the pay station at Frank Pate Park Boat Ramp is working fine.

Code Enforcement –

RFP 2021-05, 203 MLK (Tisha Bell Property) Demo Rebid; Bids opened May 17, 2021 (Handout)

A Motion was made by Commissioner Langston, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to accept the Rogers Brothers Land Clearing Bid in the amount of \$4,499. Motion carried 5-0.

Police Department – Chief Richards

Chief Richards noted that the Police Department has been handing out flyers concerning paying to launch a boat. Beginning Memorial Day Weekend, tickets will be given to violators. He shared that permits for Gulf County Residents are free.

Sgt. Sherrell Morrison is out due to illness and Chief Richards shared the department is establishing a sick pool to help with her absence.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to approve applying for a JAG County Grant to replace existing equipment. All in favor; Motion passed 5-0.

City Clerk – Charlotte Pierce

Grants Update City Hall

Clerk Pierce noted that a USDA Grant / Loan combination could possibly be a way to provide a new City Hall. She reminded the Commissioners the current City Hall was built in 1949, and is not in the best shape.

Commissioner Hoffman stated that he did not feel the timing is right for this, but establishing a plan was workable.

Consensus was to proceed with developing a plan for a new City Hall.

Mrs. Pierce reminded the Commissioners of the Swearing In Ceremony for Mayor Buzzett, and Commissioners Ashbrook and Langston on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, at 11:30 A.M.

Citizens to be Heard – No one wished to address the Commission.

Discussion Items by Commissioners –

Commissioner Langston announced that the Port St. Joe High School Girls' Basketball Team would like to offer a Golf Cart Service at Frank Pate Boat Ramp as a fund raiser for their organization. They would take drivers from their vehicle to the boat ramp or vice versa. There were no objections to the project.

Commissioner Ashbrook requested a Letter of Support for an EPA Grant that will focus on homes in North Port St. Joe that were damaged or impacted by Hurricane Michael; homes that had or still have mold problems, and develop strategies to assist residents with homes that are sinking due to stormwater or drainage problems.

The grant is a 2-year grant for \$200,000. The funds will be managed by the Pioneer Bay CDC's Certified Public Accountant; EPA will provide oversight and quarterly reports are required. Pioneer Bay CDC is a 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt nonprofit registered with the IRS and State of FL. The grant does not require matching funds.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Lowry, to provide the Letter of Support. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Langston left the meeting at 2:18 P.M.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Lowry, to cover expenses for the July 11, 2021, and July 16, 2021, FLC Legislative Policy Committee Meetings for Commissioner Ashbrook and for the other Commissioner to attend the FLC Annual Conference in August. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Ashbrook also suggested that the City consider an RFQ for Workforce Housing on the 10th Street Property. Mayor Buzzett asked each Commissioner to get with Attorney McCahill and go over their thoughts with him.

Commissioner Lowry did not have anything else to share with the Commissioners.

Commissioner Hoffman did not have anything else to discuss with the Commissioners.

Mayor Buzzett reminded those present of the ribbon cutting for Palm Breeze Beauty Bar today at 5:30 P.M., to celebrate their first anniversary.

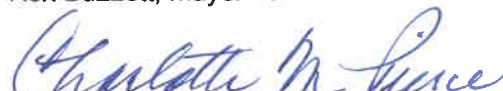
Motion to Adjourn –

There was no other business to come before the Commission and Mayor Buzzett adjourned the meeting at 2:25 P.M.

Approved this 1st day of June 2021.


Rex Buzzett, Mayor

6/1/21
Date


Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

6/1/21
Date