

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD AT 2775 GARRISON AVENUE, June 1, 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

Swearing In of Newly Elected Officials

Gulf County Judge, Tim McFarland, administered the Oath of Office to Mayor-Commissioner Rex Buzzett, while his wife, Nancy, held the Bible and his sister, Barbara Terry and her husband, Jim Terry, looked on. Commissioner David Ashbrook's wife, Joy, held the Bible for his swearing in. The Bible was held by Pastor Chester Davis as Commissioner Eric Langston repeated his Oath of Office. Judge McFarland congratulated each commissioner on being returned to office without opposition.

Mayor Buzzett, Commissioner Ashbrook, and Commissioner Langston each thanked their families for their support, and the citizens for the opportunity to continue serving the City in their respective capacities.

Mayor Buzzett requested a 5-minute recess at 12:12 P.M. for guests attending the swearing in ceremony to have time to leave the meeting if they wished.

Mayor Buzzett resumed the meeting at 12:17 P.M.

Minutes

An amended Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Langston, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 18, 2021. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Buzzett requested that the following Agenda items be moved up.

New Business

Movies in the Park

Jera Horton of the Wave Learning Center and Lisa Forehand of Beach Properties requested they be allowed to hold large screen movies on Tuesday nights from 7 P.M. - 11 P.M. during the summer in the vacant lot behind Goodwill. The movies will be family friendly, a small donation of \$1 - \$3 will be requested, and concession will be available for under \$5. All funds raised will be donated to a nonprofit organization in Gulf County. Event insurance will be provided for each event with the City listed as an additional insured.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to approve the request. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

City Engineer – Josh Baxley

NRDA Stormwater Grant Update

Mr. Baxley spoke with NFWFMD on May 20, 2021, and work is being done to develop project scopes within the downtown basin to utilize the funding from the Forest Park Stormwater Improvements. Once specific projects are identified, Dewberry would like to schedule a meeting with the City Commission to discuss the improvements.

Maddox Park Gazebo

Design is scheduled to be completed by June 18, 2021.

Walking Path FDOT Grant Update

Trail construction has been completed. Lighting is scheduled to be installed the week of June 7, 2021.

CDBG Sewer Improvements

Pipe bursting has been completed on Avenue D and bursting is scheduled to begin on Avenue C on June 1, 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

This project has been completed.

Mayor Buzzett requested that issues caused by replacing the bridge adjacent to Patton Bayou be discussed with the FL DOT.

City Attorney –

Interlocal Agreement

A Motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Gulf County entering into a Settlement Agreement resolving all conflicts regarding Ordinance 584, Voluntary Annexation, and Ordinance 585, Large Scale Map Amendment. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Engagement Letter:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Langston, to approve the Letter of Engagement from Bryant, Miller, and Olive for counsel on the City's Water and Wastewater Systems. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Local Preference Resolution 2017-09

A Motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, second by Commissioner Langston, to repeal Local Preference Resolution 2017-09 adopted June 13, 2017. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2021-08 Gulf County Emergency Management Plan

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Lowry, to approve the Gulf County Management Plan. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2021-09 Gulf County Local Mitigation Strategy Plan

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Langston, to adopt the Gulf County Local Mitigation Strategy Plan. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Old Business –

Current City Projects

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

Clifford Sims Park

City Engineer, Josh Baxley, is to check on the possibility of using the current pilings for replacing the fishing pier.

Commissioner Hoffman asked about beautification of the area, repairs to the gazebo, lighting and benches.

New Business –

RFQ 2021-01, Workforce Housing Project – Request to Bid:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ashbrook, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to approve advertising the RFQ. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Various Commissioners expressed their concerns about the Gateway Project, the compatibility of the entrance and exit areas not disturbing other areas, and the lack of progress on the project.

Marvin Davis asked about more affordable housing at Gateway.

Public Works – John Grantland

First Street Sewer Repairs

An amended Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to approve spending \$261,668 with L & K Contracting Company, Inc., for Emergency Repairs to the First Street Sewer lines. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Surface Water Plant – Larry McClamma

In the absence of Mr. McClamma, Mr. Anderson shared that the Second Quarter Disinfectant By Products Report was most likely the best the City has ever received. Mr. Anderson complimented the employees of the plant on their pride and work to obtain such an achievement.

Mayor Buzzett shared that two studies had been done on using ground water as a water supply and neither study received a favorable response.

Wastewater Plant – Kevin Pettis

Mr. Pettis noted that they would not be spraying in June and there is approximately 3 ½ feet of free space in the lagoon. They continue to clean the property up and he stated the new disrupters are much more effective.

Finance Director – Mike Lacour

Mr. Lacour shared that there has been a 25% plus increase in the Sales Tax Revenue.

Mayor Buzzett suggested that a 1% Sales Tax for roads would be a way of improving roads in the City.

Code Enforcement –

Mr. Anderson shared that work is being done on future hearings, there has been a delay on the 9th Street Hearing, and several structures are scheduled for demo on MLK Blvd.

Police Department – Chief Richards

Chief Richards noted that 18 citations were given over the weekend at the Frank Pate Park Boat ramp. Six were local and 4 were City residents. Chief Richards suggested that the Ordinance be rewritten as it is too vague in several areas.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Ashbrook, to approve Chief Richards voiding the tickets of Gulf County residents because of the vagueness of the Ordinance. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

City Clerk – Charlotte Pierce

Grants Update

Clerk Pierce shared that City Staff is working with the grant writers on possible grants.

Citizens to be Heard –

No one wished to address the Commission.

Discussion Items by Commissioners –

Commissioner Hoffman expressed his concerns about the sudden increase in rental fees at Gateway Apartments and the rumors of missing funds. He asked that someone from the company be at the next meeting to explain what is going on with the facility.

The MLK Corridor seems to be a gathering place that is creating a number of small issues. Commissioner Hoffman would like to explore the possibility of a park elsewhere for citizens to gather.

Chester Davis stated that the NPSJ PAC had been unable to secure property for a Pocket Park in the area in hopes of relocating the gathering place.

Commissioner Hoffman offered his congratulations to Mayor Buzzett, Commissioner Ashbrook, and Commissioner Langston on their being returned to office unopposed.

Commissioner Lowry also offered his congratulations to the returning Commissioners. He asked about the 19th Street Bridge to which Mr. Grantland responded that the bridge is ready, but the foundation is the hold up. Commissioner Lowry requested an update on the Willie Mae Williams property and Mr. Anderson shared that it is on the PDRB Agenda for later today.

Commissioner Ashbrook noted there has been activity at the new bakery on Reid Avenue and shared that the contractor for Taco Bell needs a place to rent if anyone was aware of anything available.

Commissioner Langston voiced his continued concerns about traffic at Gateway. He is concerned about lights being left on at the Washington Gym Pavilion and would like to see either a lock or timer placed on them. Commissioner Langston asked about the power and a pump for the Community Garden and shared that there will be a Garden Party Saturday from 9 A.M. – 2 P.M. at the Community Garden. He encouraged everyone to show up with their garden tools in hand to work.

Commissioner Langston also asked about repairs to the Peters Park Gazebo and restriping the yellow lines on Langston Drive.

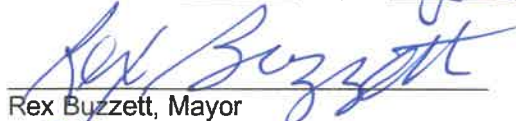
Mayor Buzzett noted his concerns about the entrance to Gateway and shared that the City's Finance Committee would be meeting to discuss the possibility of refinancing the loan at a better interest rate. Mayor Buzzett stated that he is excited to be working with the Commissioners for another two years.

Chester Davis announced that there would not be a Juneteenth Celebration this year due to COVID, but encouraged everyone to purchase food from their vendor.

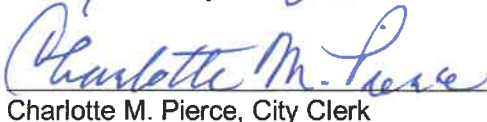
Motion to Adjourn –

There was no other business to come before the Commission and Mayor Buzzett adjourned the meeting at 2:10 P.M.

Approved this 15th day of June 2021.


Rex Buzzett, Mayor

6/15/21
Date


Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

6/15/21
Date