

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY
COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD AT
2775 GARRISON AVENUE, February 1, 2022, at Noon.**

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

A Motion was made by Commissioner Langston, second by Commissioner Lowry, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 18, 2022, and the Workshop Meeting also on January 18, 2022. All in favor; Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. McCahill read Form 8B Memorandum of Voting Conflict For County, Municipal, and Other Local Public Offices as completed by Commissioner Lowry on January 18, 2022. Commissioner Lowry abstained from voting on the Plat Approval for Long Avenue Partners LLC, Lakeview at Palmetto Bluff as he has a business relationship with developer Ralph Rish.

City Engineer – Josh Baxley

First Street Lift Station and Long Avenue Water / Sewer Project

This project is under construction. Mr. Baxley anticipates the roadway will be cleaned up by the end of this week and will be reopened to traffic.

First Street Sewer Repairs and Paving

The FDOT review period will be completed on February 4, 2022, and Mr. Baxley anticipates advertising the project in a week or so.

Clifford Sims Park Plan

Dewberry is currently working on bid documents.

City Hall Design Task Order

MLD Architects is working on the Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR).

City Attorney –

Mr. McCahill is working through the Food Truck Ordinance and has concerns about an enforcement mechanism. He will have the revised document soon. A Workshop has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 22, 2022, at 5:00 P.M. in the Commission Chamber.

Old Business

City Projects

A Motion was made by Commissioner Langston, second by Commissioner Lowry, to pay 50% of the Bid for the Washington Gym Bathroom. The City's cost would be \$58,402.50. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Lowry shared that Clay Smallwood and Michael Hammond had assured him that the County will cover all cost of the materials for the dugouts to be repaired.

Covid-19 Update – Mayor Buzzett

Mayor Buzzett shared that the positivity rate for Gulf County is 35%.

New Business –

The Ferguson Group – Grant Writer Monthly Retainer

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to continue paying the \$1,000 monthly retainer fee to the Ferguson Group for another year. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

W.I.G. Building Flooring

A Motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, second by Commissioner Langston, to pay up to \$5,000 for materials for flooring. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0. The W.I.G. Group will take care of having the flooring installed.

School Zone Signs

A Motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, second by Commissioner Langston, to pay up to \$6,200 for two School Zone Signs on Long Avenue. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0. The School Zone Signs on Madison Street will be covered in the SCOP Grant for Madison Street.

Career Source Leases; Incubator Building and Washington Gym:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Langston, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to renew the Lease for the Incubator Building and the Washington Gym with the Work Force Board for three years. All in favor, Motion carried 4-0. Mr. Anderson stated that he would like to talk with Eddie Fields, President of the WIG and possibly make their Lease a three-year renewal.

Public Works – John Grantland

Mr. Grantland shared that the Public Works Storage Building Bid was almost double what was budgeted for the building. After discussion, consensus of the Commission was to Escrow the budgeted \$200,000 for this year and add an additional \$160,000 in the upcoming budget for the building.

Surface Water Plant – Larry McClamma

Mr. McClamma was running the plant and unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Anderson shared that Mr. McClamma anticipates a new employee with a license will begin working at the plant next week. The Ground Storage Tank was cleaned last week. Mr. Anderson offered condolences to the family of Curtis Ray and noted Mr. Ray was a valued employee that will be missed.

Wastewater Plant – Kevin Pettis

Mr. Pettis was unable to attend the meeting due to work and Mr. Anderson shared that spraying will begin this month.

Finance Director – Mike Lacour

Mr. Lacour shared that he has not received approval to move forward with the FRDAP Grants. He has been working with the Public Adjuster and FEMA on the Maddox Park Gazebo. Mr. Lacour noted we are in Step 4 of 8 in the process.

Code Enforcement –

VRBO listings have been an issue this week. They are allowed in R2B and Mixed use, but not in R1 Single Family. Code Enforcement is working on these issues.

Police Department – Chief Richards

Chief Richards has several officers out with Covid, but did not have any other updates for the Commission.

City Clerk – Charlotte Pierce

Grants Update –

Clerk Pierce shared that City Staff continues to meet with our grant writers, the Ferguson Group, on available grants for the City.

Citizens to be Heard –

Letha Mathews asked that the fruit trees and rose bushes that have been planted on MLK Boulevard be fertilized. Mr. Grantland will take care of this.

Marvin Davis questioned why the asphalt and sand had been stored in front of Mama Dot’s on the old baseball field area. Mr. Grantland responded that because of the magnitude of the project, there were three staging areas, the old ball field site, 10th Street Water Tower area, and the Public Works Department.

He voiced his concerns about the growing homeless population. Mr. Davis also commended the Commission for the job they are doing, and reminded the Commission of the upcoming state meet events to be held here and wants the City to look great for the anticipated visitors.

Mr. Davis asked about the next CRA Meeting and Mayor Buzzett responded that Commissioner Ashbrook chairs that Committee and he could provide that information.

Akojua Gyamfuah Duah introduced herself as the Executive Director of the Pioneer Bay Community Development Corporation (PBCDC).

Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Langston did not have anything else to discuss with the Commission.

Commissioner Ashbrook was no longer on the phone.

Commissioner Lowry asked that the City provide \$7,500 to help with the cost of an additional animal control person for Gulf County. After discussion, a Motion was made by Commissioner Langston, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to contribute \$7,500 for one year. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Hoffman stated that he felt relationships between the City and County are at an all-time low and wants to make sure that the City is doing our part to have a better relationship. He also noted that both sides are falling short and citizens deserve a better return on their dollar.

Mayor Buzzett did not have any other items to discuss.

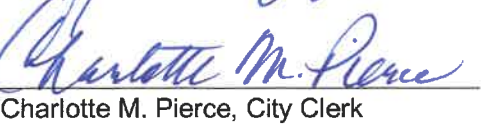
Motion to Adjourn –

There was no other business to come before the Commission and Mayor Buzzett adjourned the meeting at 1:20 P.M.

Approved this 15th day of February 2022.


Rex Buzzett Mayor

2/15/22
Date


Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

2/15/22
Date