

**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 6, 2023, at Noon.**

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

A Motion was made by Commissioner Langston, second by Commissioner Lowry, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 16, 2023. All in favor; Motion carried 3-0.

City Engineer – Josh Baxley

Long Avenue Paving

The paving has been completed, the contractor is working on finishing up sodding and striping. Acceptable testing has been done on Long Avenue by Dewberry. Mr. Baxley referenced an email he sent on May 5, 2023, including the findings of the test done with the Rolling Strait Edge and has no other solutions or suggestions for the problems at this time.

First Street Paving

The contractor is completing the final punch list items.

Beacon Hill Sewer Design

The lift station has been set along with the manhole. The roof has been installed and the low pressure system (Phase II of the project) has been advertised. The bid date is June 30, 2023.

Downtown Water Line Replacement Phase I

Bids were higher than the funds provided. There will be a recommendation on how to proceed at the next meeting.

Madison Street Paving

The 100% plans and cost estimate have been provided to FDOT for approval.

City Attorney

Land Swap Contract

A Motion was made by Commissioner Langton, second by Commissioner Lowry, to approve the contract pending the change Mr. McCahill is requesting. He noted the agreement is essentially the same, but he would like to include verbiage that if something comes back or is discovered later, the city has options to resolve the issue. All in favor; Motion carried 3-0.

Christy McElroy asked about future plans for the fire department to include industrial equipment. Mayor Buzzett responded that the department is still a volunteer unit and possibly in 20 years or so, the city may have to consider a paid department, but cautioned it would be expensive.

Demolition Eviction Notices Update

Mr. McCahill shared that the contractor will be here June 15, 2023, to begin work.

Old Business

City Projects

Mr. Anderson stated the Maddox Park Trail and Parking Lot have been completed and look very nice. He also noted that the gravel parking lot next to CVS located on First Street and David B. Langston Drive has been completed and is already being used.

RFP 2022-02 – Clifford Sims Park Improvements

A Motion was made by Commissioner Langton, second by Commissioner Lowry, to award RFP 2022-02 Bid to low bidder R. J. Gorman in the amount of \$732,474.55 for repairs to Clifford Sims Park. All in favor; Motion carried 3-0.

New Business –

Facility Fee Waiver Request – Jeff Schweikert

After discussion, consensus was to try to help Mr. Schweikert find a smaller facility for their meetings. The STAC House is open until 5, supplies and other items would have to be relocated, and this would be problematic for the small STAC House staff.

Proposed Meeting Schedule – June 13 Special; Cancellation of June 20 and July 4 Meetings

A Motion was made by Commissioner Langston, second by Commissioner Lowry, to have a Special Meeting on June 13, 2023, for the swearing in of returning officials Mayor Buzzett, Commissioner Langston and recently elected Commissioner Steve Kerigan, and to cancel the June 20, 2023, and July 4, 2023, meetings. All in favor; Motion carried 3-0.

Public Works – John Grantland

Mr. Grantland did not have any updates for the Commissioners.

Surface Water Plant – Larry McClamma

Mr. McClamma complimented John Murnan on the work that he has done cleaning growth from the sides of the Fresh Water Canal and feels that this has improved the water quality greatly. He also noted that the City passed Second Quarter Disinfectant Bi-products testing with the best numbers the City has ever had.

Wastewater Plant – Kevin Pettis

Mr. Pettis shared there is 3 ½' freeboard in the pond, the plant is pushing water, and business is on going as usual. He still has some issues with the new headwork pump and staff continues to work on Hurricane Michael damage.

Finance Director – Mike Lacour

FEMA Update

Mr. Lacour made the Commission aware of the need to bid out a project for improvements around Clifford Sims Park and the area containing riprap.

He shared that the STAC House is open from 8 A.M. to Noon and from 1 P.M. to 5 P.M. Monday through Friday and attendance numbers are very good.

Code Enforcement –

Mr. Anderson noted that voluntary demo work is continuing with assistance from the County. Property belonging to Brenda Fisher and an outside building behind the Knights of Pythias Lodge were removed yesterday and two structures owned by the Clemons' family were started today.

Police Department – Chief Richards

Chief Richards did not have any updates for the Commission.

City Clerk – Charlotte Pierce

Grants Update

Clerk Pierce shared that City Staff continues to work on seeking grants, required compliance, and various reports.

Resolution 2023-04 City Fees

A Motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, second by Commissioner Langston, to adopt Resolution 2023-04 City Fees. All in favor; Motion carried 3-0.

Citizens to be Heard –

Jim Mowbray read a letter of Support of Respondent concerning Nopetro LNG, LLC. He invited citizens to a public meeting to be held on June 23, 2023, at 6 P.M. in the Centennial Building.

Bertha Quinn shared her concerns about the presence of law enforcement in North Port St. Joe.

Christy McElroy asked about the number of gallons the water plant is producing each day to which Mr. McClamma responded 1.3 million gallons.

She also asked when Port Authority Meetings were held as she had not been able to find that information.

Discussion Items by Commissioners

Commissioner Lowry did not have any additional information for the Commissioners.

Commissioner Langston again expressed his concerns about traffic coming into town and the backup it is causing residents of North Port St. Joe trying to get on to Highway 98. He also mentioned that Blountstown has a Splash Pad, and he is anxious to see the City moving towards providing one for Port St. Joe.

Mayor Buzzett referenced the Gulf County Chamber of Commerce E-blast today concerning encouraging citizens to volunteer for community service projects in Port St. Joe. The first opportunity will be a clean up of Reid Avenue on Saturday at 7 A.M.

He also asked about the Fourth of July Celebrations. A Street Dance Permit has been provided to Commissioner Langston and County Commissioner Sandy Quinn. No other paperwork has been provided. The required documents for the rental of the Washington Gym have not been submitted to date.

Motion to Adjourn

There was no other business to come before the Commission and Mayor Buzzett adjourned the meeting at 12:47 P.M.


Approved this 13th day of June 2023.



Rex Buzzett, Mayor

6/13/23

Date



Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

6/13/23

Date