

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CITY  
COMMISSIONERS FOR THE CITY OF PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA, HELD AT  
2775 GARRISON AVENUE, April 21, 2026, at Noon.**

The following were present: Mayor Buzzett, Commissioners Hoffman and Kerigan. City Manager Jim Anderson, City Clerk Charlotte Pierce, and City Attorney Clinton McCahill were also present. Commissioner Langston arrived at 12:03 and Commissioner Lowry was absent.

**Call to Order**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Minutes**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Kerigan, second by Commissioner Hoffman, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 7, 2026.

Commissioner Langston arrived at 12:03

All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

**Planning Board Recommendation**

*Planning Board Meeting April 7, 2026.* A Motion was made by Phil Earley, second by Rawlis Leslie, to recommend approval of the Plat for Bayside at Port St. Joe to the City Commission. Parcel #04561-200R and a portion of Parcel #04561-500R. All in favor; Motion carried 6-0.

Lance Watson, SCE, was present to answer any questions.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Kerigan, to approve the Plat for Bayside at Port St. Joe. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

**City Attorney**

Mr. McCahill did not have anything specific for the Commissioners today.

**City Engineer – Josh Baxley**

*City Government Complex*

Dewberry will be submitting the response to the stormwater RAI this week. They expect to submit for the remaining FDEP and FDOT permits by next week.

*Downtown Alleys Drainage Improvements*

Design is currently at 40%.

*Avenue A Stormwater*

Dewberry is working on the bid package and expects to have it completed by next week.

*MLK CDBG*

Dewberry is waiting for final approval from the State before ordering a survey and kicking off design.

### *Core Park Restroom Facility*

Dewberry is in the process of issuing subcontracts and beginning design.

### *Avenues C and D*

Design is at 30% plan set.

## **Old Business**

### *City Projects*

Mr. Anderson shared that FDOT is close to switching lanes on Cecil G. Costin, Sr., Blvd, (Highway 71) for continued repairs, they anticipate the project will be completed mid to late July. Work on the Williams Avenue Parking Lot is being done this week, and bids on the Highway 98 Project have not been awarded yet. This work will be done between Tapper Bridge and the Overpass for stormwater and then paving of the road when that work is completed. Sewer rehab continues on Seventh Street; Eighth Street sewer rehab and paving has been completed.

### *Government Complex Update*

Mr. Anderson reminded the Commissioners that choices for the complex need to be narrowed down. Mayor Buzzett thanked Chief Richards for his work on this and Commissioner Kerigan thanked Joe Harris for the tour of the Wastewater Plant.

## **New Business**

### *Gulf County Public Library – Cathy Colbert*

Mrs. Colbert gave an overview of services provided by the library, shared of the need for funds for the library, and asked for an increase in the contribution from the City.

Robert Branch and Christy McElroy shared their thoughts on the topic.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman, second by Commissioner Kerigan, to give the library an additional \$7,000 now and increase the annual contribution at budget time to \$15,000. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

### *Grant Writing Contract – Two Hired Guns*

Dr. Sean Preston was present to answer any questions about the contract.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Kerigan, second by Commissioner Langston, to approve the contract with Dr. Preston. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

### *Bay Savers – Keith Neel*

Keith Neel, President of Bay Savers, updated the Commission on their efforts to protect the bay.

Mayor Buzzett thanked Mr. Neel for his presentation and asked that he keep the City updated on the project.

*Fee Waiver Request – Shelly Kuenne, National Day of Prayer*

A Motion was made by Commissioner Kerigan, second by Commissioner Langston, to approve the request. All in favor; Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Hoffman reminded Staff that requests for religious purposes did not need to come before the Commission.

Mr. Anderson reminded the Commission of the PSJRA Meeting Friday at noon.

**Public Works – John Grantland**

Mr. Grantland did not have any updates for the Commission today,

**Surface Water Plant - Larry McClamma**

Mr. McClamma did not have any new updates for the Commission.

**Wastewater Plant – Joe Harris**

Mr. Harris shared the plant is discharging, sprayfields are working, and all their projects are moving along well.

**Finance Director**

*FEMA Update*

Mr. Lacour reported that FEMA will move the Clifford Sims Park Project forward, and he anticipates receiving the outstanding \$120,000 shortly from them.

*Grants Reimbursement Update*

There were no additional updates on reimbursements.

**Code Enforcement – John Cannon**

Mr. Cannon stated everything is going well.

**Police Department – Chief Richards**

Chief Richards did not have any updates for the Commission.

**City Clerk – Charlotte Pierce**

*Grants Update*

Clerk Pierce shared that \$240,000 in reimbursement that was approved in October was finally received from the state for the Cape San Blas Lighthouse Repairs from Hurricane Michael. This leaves a balance owed to the City of \$87,707 of which \$7,495 is designated for the updating of the National Register of Historic Places.

There is also a balance owed to the City on the Centennial Building of \$10,000 of which \$7,495 is also designated for updating of the National Register of Historic Places.

Clerk Pierce also shared that the lease for the Cape San Blas Lighthouse Lens has been approved for another ten years by the US Coast Guard. Mrs. Pierce discussed the possibility of returning the lens to the lighthouse with Ms. Danielson and she shared that she would not close the door on that discussion.

**Citizens to be Heard**

The following individuals spoke on various topics.

Terry O'Neil, Robert Branch, Christy McElroy, Jimmy Garcia, Cheryl Steindorf, Letha Mathews, Marvin Davis, and Laura Powell.

**Discussion Items by Commissioners**

Commissioner Hoffman requested that the trash at the Port St. Joe Waterfront Park be emptied more often. He also noted the need for Miss Zola's Drive to be closed to traffic when various events are ongoing on City property near the Lighthouse.

Neither Commissioners Kerigan nor Langston had any updates for the Commission.

Mayor Buzzett is still concerned about Eastern Shipyard Traffic and the problems it is causing for people coming into town.

Chief Richards shared that he is working on this issue.

**Motion to Adjourn**

There was no additional business to come before the Commission and Mayor Buzzett adjourned the meeting at 1:45 P.M.

Approved this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026.

Rex Buzzett  
Rex Buzzett, Mayor

5/5/26  
Date

Charlotte M. Pierce  
Charlotte M. Pierce, City Clerk

5/5/26  
Date