

**CITY OF FORT MEADE  
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015**

A Regular Meeting of the Fort Meade City Commission was held on Monday, April 6, 2015, at the City Hall Commission Chambers, 8 West Broadway, Fort Meade, Florida.

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Nelson.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Mayor	Maurice Nelson	Present
Vice Mayor	James Watts	Present
Commissioner	Barbara Manley	Present
Commissioner	Richard Cochrane	Present
Commissioner	Robert Elliott	Present

**Staff Present**

City Manager	Fred Hilliard	Present
City Attorney	Tom Cloud	Present
Deputy City Clerk	Melissa Newman	Present
City Planner/ Assistant Deputy Clerk	April Brown	Present
Finance Director	James (Mel) Parker	Absent
Public Works Director	Jackie Cannon	Present
Human Resource Director	Donna Parker	Present
Water/Wastewater Director	Robbie Ward	Present

Also present: Polk County Sergeant Andy Beymer

**3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:**

Pastor Angela Clark led the invocation. Mayor Nelson led the Pledge to the Flag.

**4. ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS**

6. B. Add Proclamation declaring May 4, 2015 – May 8, 2015 as “Just Say No Week”

9. D. Add Ordinance 15-05 Utility System Service

6. A. Delete Employee of the Quarter.

**Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Cochrane to amend the agenda with the additions and deletions.**

**Motion carried with all yeas.**

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A.** Minutes of the March 31, 2015 Special Commission Meeting.

**Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Elliott to approve the Consent Agenda.**

**Motion carried with all yeas.**

**6. PRESENTATIONS/AWARDS/REPORTS:**

Mayor Nelson read the proclamation declaring May 4, 2015 – May 8, 2015 as “Just Say No Week” as requested by the Bartow Chamber of Commerce.

**7. PUBLIC FORUM:**

**Citizen comments for items not on the agenda (3-minute maximum length).**

Jacob Waibel, 15 West 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Frostproof FL. 33843 has been selected to attend the National Student Leadership Conference Sports Marketing and is requesting a donation from the City Commission to assist in the cost of the Conference.

**Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Elliott to dedicate \$250.00 to Mr. Waibel. Commissioner Cochrane requested a report of the conference from Mr. Waibel upon his return.**

**Motion carried with all yeas.**

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

- A.** Approve Amendment One to Interlocal Agreement between Polk County and Municipalities to extend the Interlocal Agreement governing the division and distribution of the six-cent local option gas tax.

**Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Watts to allow staff to interact with the Interlocal Agreement with Polk County.**

**Motion carried with all yeas.**

- B.** Approve First Amendment to the Fort Meade/Hacklake Forest, LLLP/U.S. EcoGen Polk, LLC land Use and Development Agreement.

City Planner, April Brown presented the First Amendment to the Fort Meade/Hacklake Forest US EcoGen Land Use and Development Agreement noting the major amendments as the revised legal description of the property, a 12,470 volt 3 phase electric distribution line to the site at the developer expense, the developer will provide wastewater and the City will provide potable and raw water to the site and lastly the duration of the agreement has been revised from 35 years to 30 years to make it in accordance with the contract they have with Duke Energy.

Commissioner Manley questioned how they would manage the wastewater.

Mr. Bill Needle, BP of construction for US EcoGen, stated that they will have an onsite wastewater settlement pond for wastewater management.

Mr. Bruce Barkett, Attorney for US EcoGen, wanted to clarify the voltage in the agreement as being 12,470 and not 4,160 as it states in the agreement and asked if that could be officially changed.

City Manager, Hilliard questioned the 90 day completion date for construction of the distribution line stating that it would take some time to get the materials in and requested 120 days instead and stated that the City would start ordering the material now.

Commissioner Cochrane questioned the access road not being on Hwy 17 and CSX.

Mr. Barkett stated that the CSX crossing was just a license that was granted to Mobile years ago and is revocable at any time, it's not a public right-of-way and so it cannot be relied upon for US EcoGen's use at all. It cannot be expanded upon or improved upon because the license is revocable any time.

Mr. Hilliard stated that the City made application to CSX and they told him they suggest you come off of C.R. 630.

Commissioner Elliott asked if the access road was a private road and Mr. Needle stated that it was a private access road exclusive to US EcoGen and that there were two 60' wide access easements for Hacklake properties.

Mayor Nelson opened the Public Hearing.

Ms. Virginia Cagle, Chinoserie Antiques, 110 W. Broadway St. Fort Meade, FL. 33841, stated that she feared that the added truck traffic would destroy the City being on a two lane street instead of a four lane street. She also stated that she felt she would consider moving her business from

downtown to another City if the access remained on C.R. 630 with the additional truck traffic stating that it was a danger to her customers trying to get out of her business.

Mr. Needle stated that all the trucks would not come through downtown, they will come from C.R. 630 West or Sand Mt. Road as well as downtown.

Ms. Retha Crawford, from the audience, asked why the trucks couldn't bypass downtown and how this would affect the Downtown Vision Plan.

Mr. Hilliard stated that they would chip the logs onsite to be carried in contained trucks and not hauled in as whole logs.

Mayor Nelson closed the Public Hearing.

**Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Cochrane to approve the First Amendment to the Fort Meade/Hacklake Forst, LLLP/US EcoGen Polk, LLC Development Agreement stating that there were mutual concerns about the traffic situation.**

**Motion carried with all yeas.**

- C. Consider Fort Meade Chamber of Commerce request to increase the City contribution to the Chamber.

Interim Executive Chamber Director, Carolyn Simpson requested that the City increase its contribution from approximately \$13,000 to 25,000 to help fund the Chamber and form a greater partnership.

City Manager Hilliard stated that if the Commission so desires to do this, they should give them \$6,500 for this year for half a year and try to work the \$25,000 in next year's budget. Also, financial reports shall be required.

Commissioner Elliott asked if there was an agreement with the Chamber as to which Mr. Hilliard stated there was not.

**Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Cochrane to have an agreement drafted and to table this item until the next meeting of May 12, 2015.**

**Motion carried with all yeas.**

- D. City Attorney Tom Cloud read the title to Ordinance 15-05 Amending the Code of Ordinances related to utility system services on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORT MEADE, FLORIDA;  
AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF**

**FORT MEADE, FLORIDA RELATED TO UTILITY SYSTEM SERVICE; PROVIDING FINDINGS; MODIFYING SECTIONS 24-3, 24-4, 24-31, AND 24-157 AND CREATING SECTION 24-12 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FORT MEADE; PROVIDING FOR LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CITY OF FORT MEADE CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**Motion Commissioner Elliott second Commissioner Watts to approve Ordinance 15-05 and have 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading and adoption on April 21, 2015 at 6:00 P.M.**

**Motion carried with all yeas.**

**10. CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:**

- A. Mr. Cloud stated that there was a counter claim filed by Biosolids and that he was proceeding forward with discovery in the City suit as discussed in the Executive Session and we are preparing a public records request requested by Biosolids.

**11. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:**

- A. Sludge disposal.

City Manager Hilliard stated we were getting clobbered by the cost of hauling sludge and that there was another sludge disposal operation in the area that could be considered.

Mr. Patrick Anthony, Mt. Dora, FL., presented the Commission with a brochure of sludge dewatering containers that are used to dewater the sludge that is processed in the wastewater treatment plant and decrease the cost of hauling sludge and also reuse the excess water. Mr. Anthony calculated a savings of \$182,000.00 per year.

Commissioner Manley asked if this process was odor-proof. Mr. Anthony stated that there are tarps that cover the containers for odor control.

City Manager Hilliard stated he would like to have an engineer look at this and look at the processing plant in Mulberry before any action is taken.

**12. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

None.

**13. STAFF REPORTS**

None.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Motion Commissioner Manley second Commissioner Elliott to adjourn the Regular Commission Meeting of April 6, 2015 at 8:46 PM.

**Motion carried with all yeas.**



**Maurice Nelson, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**



**Melissa Newman, Deputy City Clerk**