

**CITY OF FORT MEADE
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2017**

A Regular Meeting of the Fort Meade City Commission was held on Tuesday, August 8, 2017, at 6:00 P.M. at the City Hall Commission Chambers, 8 West Broadway, Fort Meade, Florida.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Manley.

2. ROLL CALL:

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

Staff Present

City Manager	Fred Hilliard	Present
City Attorney	Tom Cloud	Present
Deputy City Clerk	Melissa Newman	Present
Public Works Director	Jackie Cannon	Present
Finance Director	Breanna Smith	Absent
Library Director	Jacqueline Rose	Present
Employee Relations	Sheryl Williams	Absent
Parks	Harrison Eiland	Present

Also, present: Polk County Deputy Donna Blackburn.

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

Commander Charlie Perry led the invocation. Mayor Manley led the Pledge to the Flag.

4. ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS

Delete Item 5.

5. PRESENTATIONS/AWARDS/REPORTS:

None.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.A. Minutes of the July 27, 2017 Regular Commission Meeting.

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Watts to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2017 Regular City Commission Meeting.

Motion to approve the Minutes of July 27, 2017 Regular Commission Meeting passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

7. PUBLIC FORUM:

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

Mr. Terry Booker, 1017 Indiana Street, Fort Meade, FL. was hoping that Mr. Hilliard had some good news for the CMHP and stacks were in the ground.

Mr. Dempsey Cooper, 1003 2nd Street SE, Fort Meade, FL. stated he was the owner of the mobile home that burned down in the CMHP and wanted to know if a State Fire Marshall report had been received and it was stated that no report has been received. Mr. Cooper asked who was responsible for the cleanup of the remains of the mobile home and if the city could help it was stated that it is the responsibility of the mobile home owner. Mr. Cooper also wanted to thank the Fire Department as well as the Sheriff's Office for their quick response.

Mr. Daryl Gargus, 104 SE 2nd Street, Fort Meade, FL., inquired about how to run for a commission seat. It was explained that the information was on the city website and the election packets are ready for pickup in the office of the City Clerk.

Commander, Charlie Perry, American Legion Post, Fort Meade, wanted to take a moment to thank the city for their support in his grandson earning the rank of Eagle Scout. His project was to cleanup Morrison Cemetery. Mr. Perry requested the flag at the CMHP be lit at night.

Mr. Alan (Richie) Davis, 1513 Brooke Road, Fort Meade, FL. asked the commission to clarify running fire calls during work hours. Mr. Hilliard stated that the Employee Relations Manager was working with the labor attorney to put a policy in place to address this issue. Mr. Davis also stated that the facebook page that is going around about the city that he has nothing to do with it.

Mr. Gargus asked to explain what Mr. Davis was requesting clarification of. Mr. Hilliard stated they are in the process of creating a policy that will clarify city employees running fire calls during city work hours.

Ms. Sharon Stewall, 1042 New York Street, Fort Meade, FL. wanted to thank the City for fixing the fire hydrant at the CMHP.

Mr. Charlie Perry asked what the traffic counters are for on Hwy 17 and 98. Mr. Hilliard stated that was the county and the state. Mr. Perry also asked when strips would be painted down NE 6th Street.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 8.A.** City Attorney, Tom Cloud read the title to Ordinance 17-06 relating to communications facilities in public rights-of-way on 2nd and Final Reading.

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Watts to approve Resolution R17-06 regarding communication facilities.

Mayor Manley opened the public hearing.

Mr. Terry Booker asked not to delay Verizon wireless from expanding in the area, he is a customer and needs the service.

Mr. Charlie Perry stated that he is in favor of this ordinance and asked if there was damage to poles with antennas who would be responsible. Mr. Cloud stated that in this ordinance the owner of the antenna would be responsible for replacing it.

Ms. Paulie Hues, 1019 2nd Street, Fort Meade, FL. stated she was in favor of the ordinance.

Mayor Manley closed the public hearing.

Motion to approve Resolution R17-06 passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

- 8.B.** City Attorney, Tom Cloud read the title to Ordinance 17-07 relating to medical marijuana dispensaries on 2nd and Final Reading.

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Elliott to approve Resolution R17-07 regulating medical marijuana dispensaries.

Mayor Manley opened the public hearing.

Mr. Daryl Gargus stated that he feels that this should follow the same guidelines as alcohol establishments in reference to being located by schools. Mr. Cloud stated that this ordinance has those regulations in it.

Mayor Manley closed the public hearing.

Motion to approve Resolution R17-06 passed by vote of 4-1.

**Commissioner Cochrane – Aye
Commissioner Nelson – Aye
Commissioner Elliott – Aye**

**Commissioner Watts – Aye
Mayor Manley - Nay**

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.A.** Approve Resolution R17-07 Assessing Non-Ad Valorem Taxes for property cleanup and demolition of unsafe structures.

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Nelson to approve Resolution R17-07 Regarding property cleanup and demolition.

Mayor Manley opened the public hearing.

Ms. Stewall asked who owned the lots for the assessment. Mayor Manley explained that when the city incurs costs of cleaning up lots or demolitions it is assessed to the property owner's taxes.

Mr. Gargus stated that taxpayer dollars are used in cleanup of properties and asked how that money is collected. Mayor Manley stated that for the property cleanup and demos, the cost is put on the owner's tax bill and paid with the property taxes.

Motion to approve Resolution R17-07 passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

- 9B.** Approve Ordinance 17-08 amending the disability provision of the City of Fort Meade retirement plans on 1st reading.

Motion Commissioner Watts, second Commissioner Elliott to approve Ordinance 17-08 amending the disability provision of the retirement plans on 1st reading.

Motion to approve Ordinance 17-08 on 1st reading passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

10. CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:

None.

11. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

- 11.A.** Grocery Store

Mr. Hilliard stated that he is still working with the owners of the grocery store to help them get low interest loans through Central Florida Loan Funds and USDA and are looking at the Brownsfield program. Fresh Choice Market plan to open later in the year.

11.B. City Mobile Home Park

Mr. Hilliard stated he has meet with Elements Design and has receive a copy of the proposal for the project. Mr. Cochrane stated that \$97,000.00 in engineering costs just seems like a lot. Mr. Hilliard stated that the total to do the whole project will be estimated at 1.6 million dollars. Mr. Hilliard stated it would be broke down into phases and all the money will not be spent at one time. Mr. Cochrane asked if it was worth putting that much money into.

11.C. Highway 17 N. Utilities

Mr. Hilliard stated that the plans for the north utilities project is 90% complete with a few more decisions to be made and this project is projected to cost approximately 1 million dollars. This project will be shovel ready and we will be able to use that for securing grants and low interest loans.

11.D. Market Study

Mr. Hilliard stated that he has sent the commission the market study from Markin Engineering and stated as we go through the budget in the next few weeks we need to see how we can fund this project.

12. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS:

12A. Vice Mayor Cochrane

Mr. Cochrane stated that when he was on the Fire Department they really relied on city workers to respond to calls.

12B. Commissioner Nelson
None.

12C. Commissioner Elliott
None.

12D. Commissioner Watts
None.

12E. Mayor Manley
None.

13. STAFF REPORTS

None.

14. ADJOURNMENT

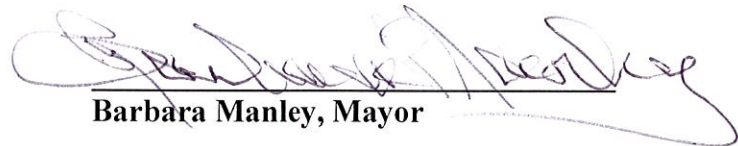
There being no further business to conduct, Motion Commissioner Nelson second Commissioner Watts to adjourn the Regular City Commission meeting of Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 7:57 P.M. and the next meeting will be tomorrow Wednesday, August 9, 2017 at 6:00 P.M.

Motion to adjourn passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

ATTEST:



Melissa Newman, Deputy City Clerk



Barbara Manley, Mayor