

**CITY OF FORT MEADE  
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2016**

A Regular Meeting of the Fort Meade City Commission was held on Tuesday, August 9, 2016, 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 Watts.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

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

**Staff Present**

City Manager	Fred Hilliard	Absent
City Attorney	Tom Cloud	Present
Deputy City Clerk	Melissa Newman	Present
Public Works Director	Jackie Cannon	Present
Water/Wastewater Director	Robbie Ward	Present

Also present: Polk County Sgt. Casey Riley.

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

Mayor Watts led the invocation. Mayor Watts led the Pledge to the Flag.

**4. ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS**

A. Add Item 9 M Point & Pay, LLC E-Payment Services Agreement.

**Motion Commissioner Manley, second Commissioner Elliott to approve adding Item 9 M.**

**Motion to approve adding Item 9 M passed by unanimous vote of 4-0.**

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Minutes of the July 12, 2016 Regular Commission Meeting, Minutes of the July 14, 2016 Budget Planning Workshop and Minutes of the July 26, 2016 Budget Planning Workshop.

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

**Motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed by unanimous vote of 4-0.**

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

None.

**7. PUBLIC FORUM:**

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

Mr. E.J. King, 108 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, on behalf of the Fort Meade Neighborhood Development Project would like to invite all to their event on August 27<sup>th</sup>, a community event.

Mr. King presented the commission with a sketch of the “garden” a vision they are proposing.

Mr. King stated that he would like to speak on the issue of demoing the racquetball courts at the Community Center; in 1979 the City settled a lawsuit for discrimination and as a part of the settlement the community center and racquetball courts were constructed. Mr. King presented pictures of the deplorable condition of the racquetball courts and stated that the trees are to blame as well as neglect. Mr. King recommended to keep the courts and upgrade them, build a basketball court, cut the trees, build a fence around all of it, provide signs, fix water fountain, provide clinics and try to make it work.

Mr. Terry Booker, 1017 Indiana Street, Fort Meade, FL. asked the commission if the money allocated for the Activity Center was in the current year budget.

Commissioner Manley stated that she understood that project was on hold until a management firm was secured.

Mayor Watts stated that he understood is was still in the budget.

Mr. Richard Cason, S. Pine Avenue, Fort Meade, FL. asked if there was any way we could get better recycle bins for the residents. He stated that he talked to Republic 3 years ago and nothing has happened. He stated they are not functional for use in recycling.

Mr. Richard Greer, 1018 SE Wisconsin St., Fort Meade, FL. stated he would like to see the City generate revenue using the City Mobile Home Park. Mr. Greer stated that the proposed addition to the Activity Center that was in the 2016 budget has been left out and will a new management company go through with the already budgeted item? Mr. Greer recommends to move forward with the plan and take out additional

funds to improve streets and put in new homes and stop imposing rent increases and add new roofs.

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

A. City Attorney Cloud read the title to Ordinance 16-10 on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORT MEADE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF FORT MEADE, FLORIDA, BY A SMALL SCALE AMENDMENT TO THE LAND USE MAP BY RECLASSIFYING LAND FROM POLK COUNTY AGRICULTURE/RURAL RESIDENTIAL (A/RR) TO FORT MEADE AGRICULTURE (AG) FUTURE LAND USE CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPOSED LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT IS TO RE-DEFINE THE LAND USE OF THE PROPERTIES DESCRIBED THEREIN; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR A COPY TO BE KEPT ON FILE, REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**Mayor Watts opened the Public Hearing.**

**Mayor Watts closed the Public Hearing after no comments.**

**Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Elliott to approve Ordinance 16-10 on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading with 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading on September 13, 2016.**

**Motion to approve Ordinance 16-10 on 1<sup>st</sup> reading passed by unanimous vote of 4-0.**

B. City Attorney Cloud read the title to Ordinance 16-11 on 1st Reading.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORT MEADE, FLORIDA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 97-2, BY AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY BY RE-ZONING PROPERTY FROM POLK COUNTY AGRICULTURE/RURAL RESIDENTIAL (A/RR) TO CITY OF FORT MEADE AG, AGRICULTURE DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR A COPY TO BE KEPT ON FILE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**Mayor Watts opened the Public Hearing.**

**Mayor Watts closed the Public Hearing after no comments.**

**Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Elliott to approve Ordinance 16-11 on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading with 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading on September 13, 2016.**

**Motion to approve Ordinance 16-11 on 1<sup>st</sup> reading passed by unanimous vote of 4-0.**

- C. Approve Resolution R16-10 Assessing Non-Ad Valorem Taxes for property cleanup.

**Mayor Watts opened the Public Hearing.**

**Mayor Watts closed the Public Hearing after no comments.**

**Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Manley to approve Resolution R16-10 Assessing Non-Ad Valorem Taxes for property cleanup.**

**Motion to approve Resolution R16-10 passed by unanimous vote of 4-0.**

- D. Approve Resolution R16-11 Assessing Non-Ad Valorem Taxes for Stormwater.

City Attorney Cloud explained the process of assessing a non-ad valorem tax needing to be started a year in advance and this is coming to the end of the process.

**Mayor Watts opened the Public Hearing.**

Mr. Terry Booker questioned how someone can be charged for stormwater if there are no curbs on the street.

Mr. Cloud stated that the streets are city right-of-ways and drains into the city stormwater system and the City is assessed by EPA and the County for the cost of compliance.

**Mayor Watts closed the Public Hearing after comments.**

**Motion Commissioner Manley, second Commissioner Elliott to approve Resolution R16-11 Assessing Non-Ad Valorem Taxes for Stormwater.**

**Motion to approve Resolution R16-11 Assessing Non-Ad Valorem Taxes for Stormwater passed by unanimous vote of 4-0.**

- E. Approve Resolutions R16-12, R16-13, R16-14, R16-15 and R16-16.

City Attorney Cloud stated that these Resolutions are policies requested to be revised by the DEO for compliance with the CDBG Grant.

**Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Elliott to approve Resolutions R16-12, R16-13, R16-14 R16-15 and R16-16.**

**Motion to approve Resolutions R16-12, R16-13, R16-14, R16-15 and R16-16 passed by unanimous vote of 4-0.**

- F. Approve Ordinance 16-12 Vacating and Closing a portion of First Street Southeast Right of Way.

Commissioner Cochrane questioned the value of the property to be vacated and the utility easements.

Planning and Zoning Chairman Richard Cason questioned the vacating of the Right-of-Way when it was presented to the Planning Board as a street closure.

**Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Cochrane to table this item to the next meeting.**

**Motion to table Item 9F until the next meeting passed by a unanimous vote of 4-0.**

- G. Approve transfer of library funds.

Library Director Jacqueline Rose requested to transfer \$32,128.50 from the library trust fund to the library building and repair and maintenance fund to do the repairs necessary to update the library. Repairs include new carpet, paint inside and out, outside lighting that is in disrepair and if any money is left new furniture.

**Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Elliott to approve the transfer of funds for the library.**

**Motion to approve the transfer of funds for the library passed by a unanimous vote of 4-0.**

- H. Approve Modification of the Polk County Sheriff's Office Agreement for Law Enforcement Services and Law Enforcement Related Telecommunications Services.

**Motion Commissioner Manley, second Commissioner Elliott to approve the modification for Law Enforcement Services and Law Enforcement Related Telecommunications Services.**

**Motion to approve the modification for Law Enforcement Services and Law Enforcement Related Telecommunications Services passed by a unanimous vote of 4-0.**

- I. Approve resignation of Board of Adjustment Member, Mary Jo Russell and appoint to the HELP of Fort Meade Board as City representative.

**Motion Commissioner Manley, second Commissioner Cochran to approve the resignation of Mary Jo Russell from the Board of Adjustments and appoint her to the HELP of Fort Meade Board**

**Motion to approve the resignation of Mary Jo Russell from the Board of Adjustments and appoint to the HELP of Fort Meade passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

- J. Approve Pension Ordinance revisions.

**Motion Commissioner Cochran, second Commissioner Elliott to table Item 9 J. until the next meeting.**

**Motion to table Item 9 J passed by a unanimous vote of 4-0**

- K. First Church of God property donation.

The First Church of God brought a quick claim deed to the City Manager stating they would like the city to take over the property located at 614 S Pine Avenue.

Code Enforcement Officer, Mary Jo Russell stated that staff recommended not accepting the property from the First Church of God.

**Motion Commissioner Manley, second Commissioner Elliott to reject the acceptance of the property located at 614 S. Pine Ave.**

**Motion to reject acceptance of property located at 614 S. Pine Ave. passed by a unanimous vote of 4-0.**

- L. Consider Electric System Rate Review.

Staff recommends contracting Mr. Bill Harrington to conduct an electric rate study.

**Motion Commissioner Manley, second Commissioner Elliott to approve staff proceeding with an electric rate study with Mr. Harrington.**

**Motion to approve the electric rate with Mr. Harrington study passed by a unanimous vote of 4-0.**

**M. Approve Point & Pay E-Services Agreement.**

This agreement was presented to the commission and approved for acceptance, however City Attorney Cloud made some minor revisions to the agreement and sent it back for approval.

**Motion Commissioner Manley, second Commissioner Cochrane to approve the Point & Pay E-Services Agreement.**

**Motion to approve Point & Pay E-Services Agreement passed by unanimous vote of 4-0.**

**10. CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:**

**A. Ratify acceptance of settlement.**

Mr. Cloud stated that he had been contacted by a law firm representing BB&T for code enforcement liens on a property in the city. They have agreed to pay \$1,000 per lien to have the three liens released.

**Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Manley approving the settlement agreement for code enforcement liens.**

**Motion to approve settlement agreement for code enforcement liens passed by unanimous vote of 4-0.**

**11. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:**

None.

**12. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

None.


**13. STAFF REPORTS**

None.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Motion Commissioner Elliott second Commissioner Manley to adjourn the Regular Commission meeting of August 9, 2016 at 8:28 P.M.

**Motion to adjourn passed by unanimous vote of 4-0.**

  
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**James Watts, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

  
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**Melissa Newman, Deputy City Clerk**