

**CITY OF FORT MEADE
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016**

A Regular Meeting of the Fort Meade City Commission was held on Tuesday, December 13, 2016, at 7:00 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 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	Present

Staff Present

City Manager	Fred Hilliard	Present
City Attorney	Tom Cloud	Present
Deputy City Clerk	Melissa Newman	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 F Approve Ordinance 16-18 regarding Telecommunications Towers on 1st Reading with 2nd Reading on January 10, 2017.

B. Add Item 9 G Approve Ordinance 16-19 regarding Medical Marijuana on 1st Reading with 2nd Reading on January 10, 2017.

Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Manley to approve adding Items 9 F and 9 G.

Motion to approve adding Item 9 F and G passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of the November 8, 2016 Regular Commission Meeting.**

Motion Commissioner Nelson, second Commissioner Elliott to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

6. PRESENTATIONS/AWARDS/REPORTS:

- A. Employee of the 2nd Quarter – Wylie Clark**

City Manager Fred Hilliard presented Wylie Clark with a plaque and a check for \$100.00 for employee of the 2nd Quarter. Mr. Hilliard thanked Mr. Clark for doing an excellent job and getting things done right the first time therefore reducing the number of callouts to the department.

- B. Employee of the 3rd Quarter – Anthony Fields**

City Manager Fred Hilliard presented Anthony Fields with a plaque and a check for \$100.00 for employee of the 3rd Quarter. Mr. Hilliard thanked Mr. Fields for doing an excellent job and like Mr. Clark gets things done right the first time.

- C. Proclamation proclaiming Mary Lou Perez Day**

Mayor Watts read a proclamation proclaiming December 13, 2016 as Mary Lou Perez Day and presented the proclamation to Ms. Perez.

- D. Chamber announcements and updates**

Mr. Bill Whitener, Chamber Director stated that the Battle of Bowlegs event in November went very well. There was exceptional reenactor participation but the spectator attendance was down some.

The Christmas Parade went well with 30+ entries and numerous activities afterwards. The Breakfast with Santa hosted over 200 participants.

Mr. Whitener thanked Mayor Watts and his wife for being the Grand Marshals in the parade.

Mr. Whitener also thanked City Employees for the wonderful job they have done with a lot of effort and a lot of hours getting ready for all these events.

The next Chamber event will be Moonlight & Music on March 31, 2017 at Patterson Park.

7. **PUBLIC FORUM:**

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

Mr. Harry Brokaw, 1034 SE 2nd Street, Fort Meade, FL on behalf of the Home Owner's Association would like to say how very proud they are for staff coming through with things that were promised such as trimming the trees and tenting the laundry mat and thank you to the City.

Mr. E.J. King, 108 SW 3rd Street, Fort Meade, FL. on behalf of the Fort Meade Neighborhood Development Project, stated that their organization has joined with the Lakeland YMCA and Par 3 Courses of Lakeland and would like to start a clinic to teach the sport of golf. The problem is the city golf course is full of acorns from the overhanging limbs as depicted in the photos presented and would like the city to trim those limbs.

Mr. Ken Sedam, 1037 Michigan, Fort Meade, FL. stated that the golf course would need a lot of work because there is someone on that golf course every day.

Mr. Charles Perry, Commander of the American Legion Post 23, 3975 Old Bowling Green Rd. Bowling Green, FL. stated that the American Flag at the County Ballpark on NE 9th Street and asked the Commission to remove it. It was stated that was Polk County property and he would he to defer to them.

Ms. Petrina McCutchen stated that she noticed that Broadway North on Charleston is beautiful but Broadway South on Charleston is not so beautiful and she sees City workers maintaining the North side and asked if there wasn't enough money to do the South side or if there wasn't enough time to do it.

8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. City Attorney read the title to Ordinance 16-16 Flood Plain Management Regulations on 2nd Reading.

Motion Commissioner Manley, second Commissioner Nelson to adopt Ordinance 16-16 on 2nd Reading.

Mayor Watts opened the public hearing.

Mayor Watts closed the public hearing with no comments to be heard.

Motion to approve Ordinance 16-16 passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

- B.** City Attorney Cloud read the title to Ordinance 16-17 Budget Allocations for FY 2015-2016.

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Elliott to adopt Ordinance 16-17 on 2nd Reading.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 16-17 passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A.** Lewis Elementary School security fence and use of City right-of-way.

Mr. Hilliard stated that there was a meeting of both parties and the attorneys would be preparing the proper documents to take care of the issues with the fencing, security and the right-of-way.

No action taken.

- B.** Consider proposal by GSG for Fire Assessment service.

Mr. Hilliard stated that he received a proposal from GSG services to do a fire assessment rate study for \$14,000.

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Nelson to authorize staff to proceed with the fire assessment study.

Motion to proceed with the fire assessment study passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

- C.** CDBG funding for Cherokee lift station and system improvements.

Mr. Hilliard stated that he received a letter for DEO stating that the City has been granted the \$700,000.00 grant to replace the Cherokee lift station, provide backup power and upgrade the sewer lines and roads.

No action taken.

- D.** Consider Electric Rate review.

Mr. Hilliard presented the results from the electric rate study performed by Mr. Bill Herrington, WH Enterprises. Mr. Herrington recommends increasing the residential base rate .005 cents per kilowatts and reducing the commercial demand rate by 92 cents a kilowatt and reevaluating the demand customers.

The Commission directed staff to proceed with preparation of an ordinance to modify the rates and the rate structure as recommended in the rate study.

E. Community Center racquetball court options.

Mr. Hilliard asked what the pleasure of the Commission would be in keeping the racquetball court or taking them down.

Commissioner Cochrane stated he would like to keep the racquetball court and add the basketball court at the Community Center. Commissioner Manley and Mayor Watts stated they would like to keep both as well.

Commissioner Nelson stated that in keeping the racquetball court it would leave limited space for bleachers for the basketball court.

Commissioner Manley stated she would like to see the plan with both courts on it and how it would be laid out.

F. Attorney Cloud read the title to Ordinance 16-18 regarding Telecommunications Towers.

Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Manley to adopt Ordinance 16-18 on 1st Reading with 2nd Reading on January 10, 2016.

Motion to approve Ordinance 16-18 passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

G. Attorney Cloud read the title to Ordinance 16-19 regarding Medical Marijuana.

Motion Commissioner Manley, second Commissioner Nelson to adopt Ordinance 16-19 on 1st Reading with 2nd Reading on January 10, 2016.

Motion to approve Ordinance 16-19 passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

10. CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:

None.

11. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

A. FMPA

Mr. Hilliard stated that FMPA is revising the way they establish their rates and would be voting on it on December 15, 2016.

B. USDA

Mr. Hilliard stated that the RBEG grant has been closed out and we would receive the remaining \$23,000 from USDA for the Outpost study. Hamilton Engineering is working on the other grant and should have something to report on the 1st phase of the Outpost project at the January meeting.

C. US 17 North Utility Project

Mr. Hilliard stated that he met with Steve McConn from Chastain-Skillman and a schedule will be provided at the January meeting. They have already started surveying for the utility project.

Mr. Hilliard wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

12. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Manley asked if Biosolids had left town yet. Mr. Cloud replied they had until December 25, 2016 to leave town and they also have until January 6, 2017 to reply to the lawsuit and the City is seeking other remedies in the case.

Commissioner Manley stated that she had some complaints regarding the trail the State is proposing to construct on the East side of Edgewood. The residents do not want the trail to be in their front yards.

Commissioner Manley asked if the trash issues Mr. Bankston had have been resolved and it was stated that Republic took care of Mr. Bankston.

Commissioner Manley asked if the golf cart ordinance was being enforced asking if it is allowed to cross S. Orange Ave. and she has witnessed golf carts crossing Hwy 98 East from the NE side to the SE side. Sgt. Casey Riley stated the ordinance is being enforced city wide along with State Statutes.

Commissioner Manley asked if the Peace River Trail maintenance was in the budget. Mr. Hilliard stated that some of the maintenance is in the Parks Department budget with two new staff members.

Mayor Watts thanked the Chamber for the great job on the Christmas Parade.

Mayor Watts stated that he received some good comments on the good job that Jackie is doing, being accessible, responds properly and respectable and also to staff for the cleanup after the parade.

Mayor Watts and all Commissioners would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Cochrane asked if the City still had any interest in Fazzini Park and Mr. Hilliard stated that we did not it was turned back over to Mr. Fazzini.

Commissioner Cochrane advised that the pole attachments fee were a little less than \$16,000 a year.

Commissioner Cochrane asked if there was a balance in the Gas fund and if the scheduled payments were being repaid. Mr. Hilliard stated he did not have the numbers but the repayments were being made to the Gas fund.

Commissioner Cochrane inquired about the Peace River Park improvements stating that the money is sitting there and would like to know where the project is. Mr. Hilliard stated that the money is still three years out and the project is in design. Mr. Hilliard spoke with Mark Jones, Tracy and Glen Clover about ideas for the project. Commissioner Cochrane is concerned that the money would be reallocated if the project isn't started soon.

Commissioner Manley asked about the grant for Patterson Park and Mr. Hilliard stated that we are in the running for the grant.

13. STAFF REPORTS

None.

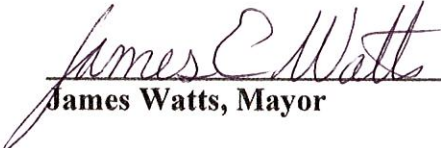
14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Motion Commissioner Manley second Commissioner Nelson to adjourn the Regular Commission meeting of December 13, 2016 at 8:25 P.M.

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

ATTEST:


Melissa Newman, Deputy City Clerk


James Watts, Mayor

