

**CITY OF FORT MEADE
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2017**

A Regular Meeting of the Fort Meade City Commission was held on Tuesday, February 14, 2017, 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 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	Jason Searl for Tom Cloud	Present
Deputy City Clerk	Melissa Newman	Present
Public Works Director	Jackie Cannon	Present
Finance Director	Breanna Smith	Present

Also present: Polk County Sgt. Warren Burgess.

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

Pastor Marion Sotore, First United Methodist Church, led the invocation. Mayor Manley led the Pledge to the Flag.

4. ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS

None.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes of the January, 10, 2017 Regular Commission Meeting.

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Watts 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 Quarter.

City Manager Fred Hilliard presented Carsello Whitehurst with a check and a plaque honoring him for employee of the 4th Quarter.

B. Fort Meade Chamber of Commerce updates.

Not present.

7. PUBLIC FORUM:

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

Mr. Terry Booker, 1017 Indiana Street, Fort Meade, FL. 33841 stated that it had been 22 months and 3 mayors ago that the Commission was approached with the idea of expanding the CMHP Activity Center. Last time he was here, it was stated that on January 29th the loan would be secured.

Mr. Hilliard stated that staff was in the process of the loan application with the USDA and the project is moving.

Mr. Perry Brokaw, 1034 2nd Street, Fort Meade, FL. 33841 stated that March 18, 2017 would be the Clean Up Fort Meade Day at the Community Center.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. City Attorney Searl read the title to Ordinance 17-01 regarding electric rate modifications on 2nd Reading.

Mayor Manley opened the public hearing.

Pastor Phillip Williams, 123 NE 3rd Street, Fort Meade, FL. 33841, stated that he has been here for five years and stated that in that time the population has decreased 10% since 2011 according to the League of Cities, been classified as a community that is below poverty level by Title 1 of the Federal government, lost a grocery store, lost 2 restaurants that he is aware and so on. Mr. Williams stated that there are more creative things the city government should be doing to expand the base for revenue instead of putting all the burden on the people that are here.

Mr. Gilbert Morrera, 500 N. Charleston Ave., Fort Meade, FL. 33841 stated that he is a business owner here and stated that the average employee of FMFA makes \$130,000.00 a year. Mr. Morrera stated that the City should do something to make a deal with FMFA to get out of the contract.

Mayor Manley stated that on behalf of the City Manager, he regularly attends meetings to fight this and it is not that easy to just get out of the contract.

Mr. John Borsky, 126 Albert Street, stated his concern is he is on a fixed income and can't afford a \$30.00 a month increase on his electric bill.

Mayor Manley stated that she would like to have more informational meetings to educate the residents on matters of concern.

Mayor Manley closed the public hearing.

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Watts to adopt Ordinance 17-01 on 2nd Reading.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 17-01 passed by a vote of 4-1 with Mayor Manley opposed.

- B.** City Attorney Searl read the title to Ordinance 17-02 regarding Telecommunications Towers regulations and text amendments on 2nd Reading.

Mayor Manley opened the public hearing.

Mr. Terry Booker asked that the ordinance be explained so the audience could understand.

Commissioner Cochrane asked if a bond could be required. It was stated that a bond could be a requirement of the application process.

Mayor Manley closed the public hearing.

Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Watts to adopt Ordinance 17-02 on 2nd Reading.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 17-02 passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

- C.** Approve the Polk Regional Water Cooperative Combined Projects Implementation Agreement.

Pastor Phillip Williams presented the commission with a map of the proposed PRWC project where the transmission lines and deep water desalination plants are proposed and stated that they do not even reach the City of Fort Meade at all. Mr. Williams states that the city will not get a drop of this water but will incur the expense of the project. Mr. Williams stated his concerns for the existence of the City of Fort Meade in the future.

Cindy Rodriguez, SWFMD Representative, stated that this project to find alternate water supplies in Central Florida has been publicly noticed, studied and discussed for the last five-years throughout Polk County. Ms. Rodriguez stated that she heard about the concerns for growth in the city, without water there is no hope. Ms. Rodriguez stated that the District is legislatively mandated to find an alternate water supply to prevent significant environmental harm such as rivers and lakes drying up. Ms. Rodriguez stated that there is funding for the Cooperation and if a municipality opted out they would bear the cost on their own.

Ms. Lisa Williams, 123 NE 3rd Street, Fort Meade, FL. 33841 stated that we don't need to operate in a place of fear or threat that the SWFMD representative has presented, we need to do what is best for the City of Fort Meade.

It was stated that there are three separate agreements that need to be addressed at this time.

After much discussion, Motion Commissioner Watts, second Commissioner Elliott to table the Combined Projects Implementation Agreement until February 28, 2017 at a Special Commission Meeting and to approve the Conservation Project Implementation Agreement and the Conservation Project Agreement relating to indoor conservation incentives, outdoor best management practices and Florida Water Star Standards.

Motion to table the Combined Projects Implementation Agreement and to approve the Conservation Project Implementation Agreement and the Conservation Project Agreement relating to indoor conservation incentives, outdoor best management practices and Florida Water Star Standards passed by a vote of 4-1 with Commissioner Elliott opposed.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A.** Approve Resolution R17-03 regarding alcohol consumption at the Fort Meade Chamber's Moonlight & Music event on March 31, 2017.

Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Watts to approve Resolution R17-03.

Motion to approve Resolution R17-03 passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

- B.** Approve Resolution R17-04 regarding commending FACC on its 45th anniversary.

Motion Commissioner Watts, second Commissioner Cochrane to approve Resolution R17-04.

Motion to approve Resolution R17-04 passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

- C. Approve Resolution R17-05 regarding Public Records Request Policy.

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Watts to approve Resolution R17-05.

Motion to approve Resolution R17-05 passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

- D. City Attorney Searl read the title to Ordinance 17-03 regarding Pension Plan revisions on 1st Reading.

Motion Commissioner Watts, second Commissioner Elliott to approve Ordinance 17-03 on 1st Reading.

Motion to approve Ordinance 17-03 passed by a vote of 4-1 with Mayor Manley opposed.

10. CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:

None.

11. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

- A. USDA proposed projects.

Mr. Hilliard stated that it appears that USDA will not fund the architectural fees for the library if a grant was applied for, however he would look at what it would cost to do fund the library expansion through the USDA loan. Mr. Hilliard is in the process of filing the grant application.

- B. FMPA

Mr. Hilliard stated he met with the new General Manager, Jacob Williams and he is a very cordial person and he understands the pain of our customers. Mr. Hilliard will invite him to the March commission meeting. FMPA is looking into how they can change the buy-in for units and looking into the rate structure.

- C. FRDAP grants projects.

The grants for the basketball courts and the Peace River Park boat landing and bathroom projects are being finalized and will be underway soon.

D. CDBG Cherokee pump station and neighborhood system upgrades.

Notification has been received that the money will be received from HUD for the Cherokee pump station and provide for line extensions and improvements.

E. Edgewood Trail

TPO has decided to move the trail on N. Edgewood Drive to the West side of the road.

Mayor Manley stated that the one concern for the residents is that the trail will be on the East side of the road at NE 6th Street so they will not be in residents front yard.

F. CMHP

Mr. Hilliard stated that the golf course was finished. Mr. Hilliard has been working with Mr. Ron Holland trying to move some of the trailers on the front side of 98 East to other areas of the park to open that area up to allow screening to be put up.

G. Project Graduation

Mr. Hilliard received a letter from the Project Graduation committee requesting a donation from the City.

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Elliott to approve a \$500.00 donation to Project Graduation 2017.

Motion to approve a \$500.00 donation to Project Graduation 2017 passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

12. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Mayor Manley stated she had a meeting at the CHMP Activity Center and there is a room full of computers that do not work that needs to be cleaned up.

Commissioner Manley stated that if you haven't been to the Library you should go and seen how nice the renovations are.

Mayor Manley stated that she took a ride on the South side to look at some of the dilapidated properties and asked if Code Enforcement was working on this. Mr.

Hilliard stated that Code Enforcement is working on it and there is a lengthy process that has to be followed.

Mayor Manley stated that she read in the newspaper that the Special Magistrate Heather Ramos had retired and asked if she had been replaced and Mr. Hilliard stated that one of her colleagues would take over and the new Magistrate would be here tomorrow.

Mayor Manley met with Mr. Hilliard about the CMHP lot rent rate history and would really like to compare to other mobile home parks.

Mayor Manley asked if there is a plan for future annexation and Mr. Hilliard stated that they customer requests to be annexed. Ms. Manley would like to look into trying to annex Homeland into the City.

Mayor Manley stated that the city website was lacking and needed to be utilized for upcoming meetings and events as well as social media.

Mayor Manley asked if banners could be attached to the new light poles and Jackie Cannon stated that there were free standing poles used for banners on U.S. Hwy. 17.

13. STAFF REPORTS

None.

14. ADJOURNMENT

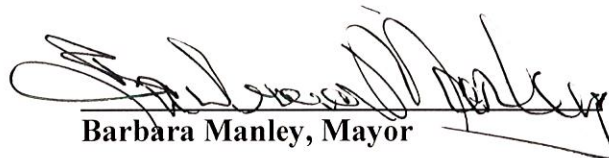
There being no further business to conduct, Motion Commissioner Watts second Commissioner Elliott to adjourn the Regular Commission meeting of February 14, 2017 at 8:49 P.M.

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

ATTEST:



Melissa Newman, Deputy City Clerk



Barbara Manley, Mayor

