

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

A Regular Meeting of the Fort Meade City Commission was held on Tuesday, February 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	Present

**Staff Present**

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

Also present: Polk County Sergeant Luc Doyon.

**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**

None.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Minutes of the Regular City Commission Meeting of January 12, 2016.**

**Motion Commissioner Cochrane, 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. Mr. Lorenzo MrCutchen Jr. representing the Boyz 2 Men, requested a donation for the organization which teaches young boys to be young men. They are requesting a donation to aide in the cost of a trip to Washington D.C.

**Motion Commissioner Nelson, second Commissioner Elliott to donate \$500.00 to the Boyz 2 Men organization.**

**Motion to approve \$500.00 donation passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.**

**7. PUBLIC FORUM:**

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

Mr. Ron Holland, 211 Edgewood Circle, Lot 164, Fort Meade, FL. 33841, stated that there are some major concerns of trash, mold, rat infestation and other violations on Edgewood Circle in the City Mobile Home Park. Mr. Holland stated that he and some other residents help clean up for the elderly residents but not for the able bodied people who refuse to obey the rules. Mr. Holland stated that these are violations of City Codes and the CMHP prospectus.

Mr. Hilliard stated that there has been a change in personnel in the Code Enforcement department but the CMHP will be the first on the list for enforcement.

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Request to table Ordinance 16-03 Proposed Amendments to the City's Land Development Code Regulations.

**Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Manley to table Ordinance 16-03 until the March City Commission Meeting.**

**Motion to table Ordinance 16-03 to the March meeting passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. City Attorney Cloud read the title to Ordinance No. 16-04 Emergency Ordinance authorizing golf cart operations.

Mr. Cloud explained that he provided a brief and readable ordinance to allow the operation of golf carts on designated city streets.

Mayor Watts and Commissioner Elliott expressed concerns for the color-coding of the quadrants, stating if they are legally transported to another quad it should be allowed there.

Mayor Watts opened the public hearing.

Ms. Barbara Arnold, 620 N.E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Fort Meade, FL. 33841, asked how long people have been allowed to drive golf carts in the city and it was stated that it has never been legal to drive golf carts in the city.

Mr. Jim Webb, 718 N. Hendry Avenue, Fort Meade, FL. 33841 asked the legal age to operate golf carts on city streets and it was stated that the age limit is 16 years of age with a valid driver's license.

Mayor Watts closed the public hearing.

Mr. Cloud amended the ordinance removing the color coding and the color maps. Section 6 hereby reads as follows:

“The City hereby designates all city roads within the city limits as amended from time to time for operation of golf carts. Golf carts may be registered within the City to operate on city roads, furthermore golf carts may not cross county or state roads except at locations which have been specifically designated and posted for such by Polk County or the Florida Department of Transportation.”

In Section 7, 2 A “designated roadways” has been replaced with “city roads”. That is consistent with terminology used elsewhere

The two actions that are requested for approval are to approve the emergency ordinance as amended and second to authorize the reading of the title of the emergency ordinance as a 1<sup>st</sup> reading for a permanent ordinance.

**Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Nelson to adopt Emergency Ordinance 16-04 as amended authorizing the operation of golf carts on designated city streets.**

**Motion to approve Resolution R16-04 passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.**

City Attorney Cloud read Ordinance 16-05 on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORT MEADE, FLORIDA; CREATING CHAPTER 23, ARTICLE V, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF FORT MEADE, FLORIDA; AUTHORIZING GOLF CART OPERATION ON**

**DESIGNATED CITY ROADWAYS; PROVIDING FOR LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; PROVIDING PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**Motion Commissioner Nelson, second Commissioner Cochrane to approve Ordinance 16-05 on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.**

**Motion to approve Ordinance 16-05 passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.**

- B.** Consider cost of signs to be posted for golf cart designation.

Mr. Hilliard explained that this is a high estimate for the cost of posting signs on all city roads that touch a county or state road per Florida Statute.

No action taken.

- C.** Discussion of City Mobile Home Park by Home Owner's Association.

Mr. Terry Booker, 1017 Indiana Street, Fort Meade, FL. 33841 stated that he would like the mobile home park to be run like a business and not be neglected. There needs to be a park manager that runs the park as a business as it should be. Mr. Booker stated that the mobile home park could be a self-sustaining business and would like to see it run that way.

Commissioner Manley stated that she and the city manager met with Mr. Booker to discuss looking into a management firm to run the City Mobile Home Park.

City Attorney Cloud suggested that the city do a RFQ for management firms to see what the options are for the City Mobile Home Park.

- D.** City Mobile Home Park update

Mr. Hilliard gave the commission a cost comparison from 2012 and 2015 for their information.

- E.** Consider appraisal report for William's property.

Mr. Michael Williams, 527 Railroad Avenue, Fort Meade, FL. 33841 presented an offer to the City to purchase the property adjacent to the existing Morrison Cemetery to be used to expand the cemetery for \$150,000.00. Mr. Williams stated that this was a onetime offer and if the city did not accept the offer he would never sell the property to the city.

Mr. Hilliard stated that the city had an appraisal done on the property after Mr. Williams offered to sell the property to the city. The property was appraised at \$60,700.00.

After discussion of the difference in the asking price and the appraisal of the property there was concern of the gap between the two.

Mr. Williams stated this is about the community and he would take \$5,000.00 of the price he was asking for a total of \$145,000.00.

**Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commission Elliott to not act on the proposal and not accept the offer at this time.**

**Motion to not accept the offer passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.**

F. BS&A accounting and finance software update.

Mr. Hilliard stated that after reviewing the updated hardware for the software upgrade there was another component that needed to be upgraded at a cost of an additional \$12,850.00.

**Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Cochrane to approve the software update.**

**Motion to approve software update passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.**

10. **CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:**

A. City Attorney Cloud wanted to update the City Commission on the progress of the Water Co-op and stated that protections have been put in place to protect the Cities of this County. Mr. Cloud stated that there will be minimal effect on the City.

11. **CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:**

None.

12. **CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Manley stated there have been discussions on what to use the money from the economic development fund from FPU for, such as to extend infrastructure in the city and stated that would not cover much infrastructure and the money could be used at Patterson Park.

Commissioner Elliott asked if there has been any contact with FPU.

Commissioner Elliott asked if the storm alarm was in operation. Mr. Hilliard stated that it was operational and was scheduled on two separate occasions but was not tested due to bad weather. Mr. Hilliard stated that it will be tested on a regular schedule.

Commissioner Nelson thanked the city staff, the city manager and the Sheriff's Dept. for their efforts in the parade. It turned out good regardless of the rain.

Commissioner Nelson asked if anything has been done at Robinson Mobile Home Park and Mr. Hilliard replied that it has been too wet from the rain.

Commissioner Cochrane inquired about FMPA and Mr. Hilliard replied that they are moving forward.

Commissioner Elliott asked for an update on US EcoGen. Mr. Hilliard stated that they have asked the city to order the electric supplies to extend the power lines and they would pay for it. The project is alive and well.

Commissioner Cochrane inquired about how the sewage treatment container was working. Mr. Hilliard stated that it is working but the loads have been coming in hard.

Commissioner Cochrane asked if Biosolids were paying more than it is costing the city to treat the extra loads coming in and Mr. Hilliard answered no they are not.

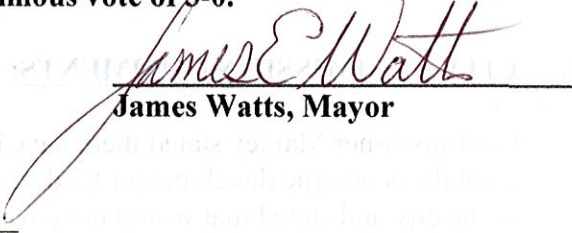
**13. STAFF REPORTS**

None.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Motion Commissioner Nelson second Commissioner Elliott to adjourn the Regular Commission meeting of February 9, 2016 at 8:43 P.M.

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

  
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**James Watts, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

  
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**Melissa Newman, Deputy City Clerk**