

**CITY OF FORT MEADE  
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017**

A Regular Meeting of the Fort Meade City Commission was held on Tuesday, January 10, 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 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
Public Works Director	Jackie Cannon	Present
Finance Director	Breanna Smith	Present
Finance Assistant	Tandra Davis	Present

Also present: Polk County Sgt. Casey Riley and Sgt. Warren Burgess.

**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 December 13, 2016 Regular Commission Meeting.

**Motion Commissioner Manley, 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. Sgt. Casey Riley thanked the City Commission for the opportunity to work for the City in the end of his career which is this Friday, January 13, 2017. Sgt. Riley introduced Sgt. Warner Burgess who will his replacement in the City of Fort Meade.
- B. City Manager Fred Hilliard present Mayor James Watts with a Certificate of Appreciation for serving as Mayor in 2016
- C. Finance Director Breanna Smith introduced Ms. Tandra Davis as the new Finance Assistant for the City.

7. **ELECTION OF MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR FOR 2017**

Mayor Watts opened the floor for nominations for Mayor and Vice Mayor.

**Motion Commissioner Nelson, second Commissioner Elliott to nominate Commissioner Barbara Manley as Mayor for 2017.**

**Motion to appoint Commissioner Barbara Manley as Mayor for 2017 passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.**

**Motion Commissioner Nelson, second Commissioner Elliott to nominate Commissioner Richard Cochrane as Vice Mayor for 2017.**

**Motion to appoint Commissioner Richard Cochrane as Vice Mayor for 2017 passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.**

8. **PUBLIC FORUM:**

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

Mr. Terry Booker, 1017 Indiana Street, Fort Meade, FL. 33841 congratulated Ms. Manley as Mayor of 2017. Mr. Booker stated he was appointed HOA President for 2017 for the City Mobile Home Park again and was looking forward to working with the City in 2017.

Mr. Michael Williams, 527 Railroad Ave, Fort Meade, FL. 33841 stated that his concern was for the year of 2017 to bring a closer unity between the Commission and the willingness to focus on the South side and focus on fairness of Code Enforcement. He would like this year to come together for all the citizens of the community.

Mr. Richard Greer, 1018 Wisconsin Street, Fort Meade, FL. 33841 stated that in a meeting last year the rules and regulations of the City Mobile Home Park were in discussion of needing to be updated and this has still not been done. Mr. Greer would like to challenge the Commission to make sure this issue is taken care of.

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. City Attorney read the title to Ordinance 16-18 regarding a Telecommunications Towers moratorium on 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading.

**Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Watts to adopt Ordinance 16-18 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading.**

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

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

- B. City Attorney Cloud read the title to Ordinance 16-19 regarding a Medical Marijuana moratorium on 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading.

**Motion Commissioner Watts, second Commissioner Nelson to adopt Ordinance 16-19 on 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading.**

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

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

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Approve Resolution R17-01 appointment of the Mayor and Vice Mayor for 2017.

**Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Elliott to approve Resolution R17-01.**

**Motion to approve Resolution R17-01 passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.**

- B. Consider request from Fort Meade Community Health Care.

Mr. Hilliard stated that he received a letter from the Community Health Care Board requesting a donation of the ad valorem and the stormwater assessment be paid back to them. Mr. Hilliard stated that in past years the Commission has donated the ad valorem taxes back to the Board. Mr. Hilliard stated that he advised the Board to apply for the stormwater mitigation as this was a fee and not a tax to take care of request.

There was discussion of talk about the property being sold. Mr. Hilliard stated the Board has not made any decision to sell the property.

**Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Nelson to grant the request of the Board for the donation of the ad valorem taxes paid back to the Board in the amount of \$1,229.42.**

**Motion to approve donation in the amount of \$1,229.42 to the Community Health Care Board passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.**

- C. City Attorney Cloud read the title to Ordinance 17-01 regarding electric rate modifications on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.

**Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Watts to approve Ordinance 17-01 on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading with 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading on February 14, 2017.**

- D. Consider Design and construction cost estimates for City Facilities.

Mr. Hilliard presented the cost estimates provided by Rowe Architects for professional and constructions cost to upgrade City Hall, FM Community Center, FM Library and the City Mobile Home Park Activity Center. Mr. Hilliard stated that for City Hall and the Community Center a USDA loan could be secured with a 3.375% interest rate to fund these. Some of the professional fees could be reduced. Staff is working to on a grant to fund the Library project however would include the professional fees in the USDA loan. The CMHP Activity Center professional fees would be included in the USDA loan as well and the construction costs could be added to the debt services and there would be an increase the lot rent.

Commissioner Watts stated he felt that the lot rent was a little substantial. Mr. Hilliard stated they would be getting a new activity center and recreation area.

**Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Nelson to authorize staff to proceed with the four proposed projects.**

**Motion to proceed with the proposed projects passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.**

- E. Review the Polk Regional Water Cooperative.

Mr. Hilliard stated he would encourage all of the commissioners to attend that PRWC Summit on January 24, 2017 at the Neil Combee Administration Building in Bartow.

Mr. Hilliard talked about the Combined Implementation Agreement that the elected representatives have been working on for the co-op.

- F. Attorney Cloud read the title to Ordinance 17-02 regarding Telecommunications Towers regulations and text amendments.

**Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Elliott to adopt Ordinance 17-02 on 1<sup>st</sup> Reading with 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading on February 14, 2017.**

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

11. **CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:**

- A. City Attorney Cloud stated that Biosolids has offered a settlement of \$11,000 for attorney's fee and if they fail to pay on a date certain the total amount of \$22,000 becomes due and payable at that point. The difference is there won't be another hearing to enforce it. This is not including the \$268,000 owed for services. Mr. Cloud stated he would recommend based on "cash in hand" and not going through a lengthy hearing again that we accept this offer.

**Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Watts to accept the settlement offer of \$11,000 for attorney's fees from Biosolids.**

- B. Attorney Cloud stated that Biosolids has finally filed an answer to the lawsuit filed by the City agreeing that they owe rates but state that the rates and charges are unreasonable.

12. **CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:**

- A. FMPA

Mr. Hilliard stated that the rates that FMPA was proposing went before the Executive Board and nothing happened. Mr. Hilliard stated that the smaller cities won't use the excess capacity and therefore the cost should be shifted to the larger cities who do use it.

- B. CMHP Golf Course

Mr. Hilliard stated that he had a meeting with Mr. King, Mr. Booker and Mr. Schapel to talk about and work together to make improvements to the golf course.

- C. FM Community Center Basketball & Racquetball Courts project.

Mr. Hilliard presented the Commission a site plan of the proposed Basketball courts with fencing, bleachers and improvements to the existing racquetball and badminton courts. This project will be approximately

\$52,000. We have secured a \$50,000 grant and the rest of the money will come from the Community Center budget.

**13. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Nelson asked if a liquor store was opening in town and Mr. Hilliard stated that there was.

Commissioner Manley asked how the fire assessment study was going.

Mr. Hilliard stated staff was in the process of gathering information for the study.

**14. STAFF REPORTS**

None.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Motion Commissioner Watts second Commissioner Elliott to adjourn the Regular Commission meeting of January 10, 2017 at 8:05 P.M.

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

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa Newman, Deputy City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Manley, Mayor