

**CITY OF FORT MEADE  
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2018**

A Regular Meeting of the Fort Meade City Commission was held on Tuesday, July 10, 2018, at 7:00 P.M. at the Fort Meade CMHP Activity Center, 1046 SE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Fort Meade, Florida.

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Cochrane.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

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

**Staff Present**

City Manager	Fred Hilliard	Present
City Attorney	Tom Cloud	Present
Deputy City Clerk	Melissa Cannon	Present
Public Works Director	Jackie Cannon	Present
Finance Director	Breanna Smith	Present
Employee Relations	Sheryl Williams	Present

Also present: Polk County Sergeant Burgess.

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

Commissioner Campbell led the invocation. Mayor Cochrane led the Pledge to the Flag.

**4. ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS**

None.

**5. PRESENTATIONS/AWARDS/REPORTS**

**5.A. Chamber of Commerce Presentation**

Chamber Director, Suzie Whitener started by thanking the commission for the great fireworks show and the city workers, firefighters, sheriff's office and the CMHP volunteers for their hard work to make the event successful.

Ms. Whitener stated that the next Chamber event will be on August 25<sup>th</sup> and this is the 1<sup>st</sup> annual golf classic, it's called a "Scramble for Commerce" and it is between Hardee County and Fort Meade. This will coincide with annual football game and the host city for the football game will host the golf scramble the following day. This year Fort Meade will be the host city. At the end of the day there will be a huge trophy to go home to the winning city's high school. Ms. Whitener passed out brochures and requested that everyone gather a team and register for the tournament or sponsor a team.

Ms. Whitener stated that following event will be on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, the Chamber's annual fund raiser, Denim, Boots and Pearls at the Elliott barn.

Ms. Whitener stated that the Chamber Board voted not to host the Battle of Bowlegs but rather support the Historical Society as they host the event.

Commissioner Manley requested an update on the finances of the Chamber.

**5.B. HELP of Fort Meade Presentation**

HELP Director, Aisha Wright reported on the numbers of the customers who received funds for their utility bills from three different funding sources.

Ms. Wright stated that last year the City donated \$500.00 to the backpack project which provided backpacks to a total of 195 city students. Ms. Wright requested the City donate \$500.00 again to the backpack project.

Commissioner Manley requested an update of the finances of the HELP of Fort Meade be presented at the next meeting.

**Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Manley to donate \$500.00 if it is available or an amount that is available in that line item.**

**5.C. Republic Services Presentation**

Municipal Services Manager, Debbie Mullen talked about recycling and the downturn in the industry. Ms. Mullen stated that there is too much contamination in the items some people recycle and we need to work together to educate residents on the right way to recycle. Recyclable items should be empty, clean and dry. Republic is working to improve their operations to at their processing center to aid in the process. Ms. Mullen requested that the city provide information to their website to help educate residents. Ms. Mullen gave several examples of acceptable and contaminated recyclable items.

Ms. Mullen stated that the city may want to look into the larger closed recycling bins to help reduce contamination.

**5.D. Citrus Connection Presentation**

Director of External Affairs, Erin Killebrew presented the number of city residents who utilize the bus services inside the city limits are on average about 213 total riders per month. Ms. Killebrew stated that the TD riders are based on medical, education, food, etc. and the client has to be approved for this service are on average about 30 a month. The Citrus Connection has proposed the cities contribute 20% of the cost to run the bus services over three years. The City of Fort Meade share is at \$9,440.55 1<sup>st</sup> year, \$18,881.10 2<sup>nd</sup> year and \$28,350.00 3<sup>rd</sup> year however, with the extraordinary events this year they are proposing to keep the 2<sup>nd</sup> year rates the same for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year and year four they will ask for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year numbers.

**5.E. YMCA Presentation**

Executive Director Kurt Ike stated that he didn't have a presentation to present rather he requested authorization to work with the city manager to look into services and funding for the community.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Minutes of the June 26, 2018 Regular Commission Meeting.**

**Motion Commissioner Campbell, second Commissioner Elliott to approve the Minutes of the June 26, 2018 Regular Commission Meeting.**

**Motion to approve the Minutes of June 26, 2018 passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.**

**7. PUBLIC FORUM:**

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

Ms. Sharon Steurwald asked if any of the trees would be trimmed in the City Mobile Home Park before September. Mr. Hilliard stated that if there are trees in need of trimming they need to report it to Ms. Pat at the office and she will take care of it.

With no one else wishing to address the Commission, Mayor Cochrane closed the public forum.

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**8.A. City Attorney Cloud read the title to Ordinance 18-06 amending Chapter 24 of the Code of Ordinances pertaining to deletion of sections 6 of 24-155 and adding power cost adjustment language on 2<sup>nd</sup> and Final reading.**

Mayor Cochrane opened the Public Hearing.

Mayor Cochrane closed the Public Hearing with no one wishing to comment.

**Motion Commissioner Watts, second Commissioner Campbell to approve Ordinance 18-06 amending Chapter 24 of the Code of Ordinances on 2<sup>nd</sup> on Final Reading.**

**Motion to approve Ordinance 18-06 passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.**

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

- 9A. Consider Resolution R18-10 Initial Stormwater Assessment

**Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Manley to approve Resolution R18-10.**

**Motion to approve Resolution R18-08 passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.**

- 9B. Consider lease agreement between the City of Fort Meade and Sweet TB LLC for the public right of way known as 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NE.

This lease agreement came about due to an existing garage that is 10' in the public right of way on N.E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street at N. Oak Ave.

Commissioner Elliott asked if the right of way was first or the garage. Mr. Cloud stated that the right of way was first. Commissioner Elliott stated he didn't want to pave the way of leasing public property.

**Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Campbell to deny the lease agreement with the property owner. Commissioner Manley and Commissioner Watts opposed.**

**Motion to deny lease agreement passed by a vote of 3-2.**

**Commissioner Elliott – Aye  
Commissioner Campbell – Aye  
Commissioner Watts – Nay  
Commissioner Manley – Nay  
Mayor Cochrane – Aye**

- 9C. Consider lease agreement with East Coast Migrant Head Start Project.

Mr. Hilliard stated this was a new 2-year lease agreement increasing the rent to \$2,156.00 per month.

**Motion Commissioner Manley, second Commissioner Campbell to approve lease agreement with East Coast Migrant Head Start Project.**

**Motion to approve lease agreement passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.**

- 9.D.** Consider request to rezone property on East Broadway from R1-C Single Family Residential to C-2 Commercial Corridor.

Mr. Hilliard stated that the Planning and Zoning Board issued a recommendation to deny the rezoning request because it was not compatible with the adjacent neighborhood.

Mayor Cochrane opened the Public Hearing.

Pastor Phillip Williams, Cornerstone Church of God on behalf of most of the congregation that is present, stated that he would like to bring a few things to everyone's attention stating that first, the assignment of residential and commercial property from Broadway East and West is at best random and by no means specific to any plan. Second would be that we have the opportunity to move forward with a local family from Ft. Meade who would like to start a local business and see the city grow. The other part is the property is currently owned by the church and is tax exempt, allowing a commercial business would generate commercial ad valorem taxes to the city. Mr. Williams requested that the City Commission approve the rezoning and move forward on the piece of property.

Ms. Lisa Rice, 504 N. Pine Ave, stated that she and her husband who have a contract on this property contingent on the rezoning, are home town residents and feel they are proposing a compatible and viable business in this area. Ms. Rice stated that she is proposing an indoor dog kennel, doggie daycare and grooming for pets. The kennels will be sound proof and a hurricane shelter for pets, no dogs will be kept outside the building they will only be outside when supervised. They are also proposing mini storage units that will be totally fenced in with security lights.

Mr. Hilliard stated that being in the planning profession a long time he sees the potential for Broadway to be a commercial area and the need for this type of commercial business. Mr. Hilliard stated that this is something he feels the commission should consider, this may be the best use of this property at this time.

Mayor Cochrane asked how many storage units are being proposed. Mr. Rice stated that he is proposing two 125' storage units and a designated area for open storage.

Commissioner Campbell asked if they would meet the setbacks and it was stated that they will meet the setbacks.

Commissioner Manley asked if this is not compatible with the comp plan should it be considered. Mr. Hilliard stated that the comp plan as well as all the planning documents needed to be totally updated. Mr. Hilliard stated that the commission should request a complete site plan for review.

Mr. Cloud stated that he doesn't feel that the commission has all they need to make an unconditional approval at this point. Mr. Cloud stated that a conditional use application and a site development plan which is required for the land use by the land development code be submitted for review.

**Motion Commissioner Watts second Commissioner Campbell to approve the zoning request conditionally based on a conditional use application filed and reviewed and site development plan application filled and reviewed. Commissioner Elliott opposed.**

Commissioner Campbell asked if the property was rezoned and the business did not get built would the property go back to residential and it was stated that the property would remain commercial.

**Motion to approve the zoning request conditionally based on a conditional use application filed and reviewed and a site development plan application filed and reviewed passed by a vote of 4-1.**

**10. CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:**

- 10.A.** Mr. Cloud stated that the law suit pending with Peace River Regional Water Supply Authority and the Water Management District has been granted a hearing and consolidated into all 7 governments in February. Mr. Cloud stated he feels they will litigate this until the hearing.
- 10.B.** Mr. Cloud stated he is still reviewing the interlocal agreement with Polk County regarding the Outpost Project and should be ready for the next commission meeting.
- 10.C.** Mr. Cloud stated that he is still working on the zoning amendments to fold the BOAA into the Planning and Zoning Board and will bring to the next commission meeting.
- 10.D.** Mr. Cloud stated that when the mention of the Duke easement came up he recommended that the commission not to accept the offer that was not going to pay and now they have paid 91,000 for the easement.
- 10.E.** Mr. Cloud stated that the Valmont consents went out today and we are all working to get them signed.

**11. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

**11.A.&B. FEMA and Ratification of Emergency Purchases**

Mr. Hilliard stated that the changes of FEMA have made it so difficult for small cities to collect and he feels that the total will be minimal.

Ms. Smith stated that the process is very cumbersome with all the different cost shares and requirements and the lack of maintenance of buildings and lack of records makes it even more difficult. The insurance has issued initial payments for City Hall, Fire Dept., Police Station and the Pole Barn. The city has a replacement cost policy and is still waiting on the remaining funds for these buildings and the many other claims submitted from the insurance company.

Ms. Smith stated that she will still pursue electric and water restoration reimbursement from FEMA at 100% for emergency repairs.

Mr. Cloud stated that he has prepared Resolution R18-11 ratifying the emergency purchases outlined therein and recommended approval.

**Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Watts to approve Resolution R18-11.**

**Motion to approve Resolution R18-11 passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

**11.C. Letter from Vero Beach**

Mr. Hilliard stated he provided a copy of the letter from Vero Beach showing the closing of the sale to FPL.

**12. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

**12.A. Commissioner Manley**

Commissioner Manley stated she would like to share some of the talking points of the FLC about the proposed increase homestead exemption and the impact to residents should be minimal.

**12.B. Commissioner Watts**

None.

**12.C. Commissioner Elliott**

Commissioner Elliott asked Ms. Sheryl Williams for clarification for the commission to review city manager applications and get their top picks before allowing a committee to review the applications. The consensus of

the commission was to only have the committee to review applications that the commission has picked.

**12.D. Commissioner Campbell**

None.

**12.E. Mayor Cochrane**

Mayor Cochrane stated asked if there was an update on Biosolids. Mr. Cloud stated that we have a final motion for summary judgement scheduled for this month to nail down the amount and the right to collect.

**13. STAFF REPORTS**

None.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Campbell to adjourn the Regular Commission meeting of July 10, 2018 at 8:49 P.M.

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

ATTEST:

  
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Melissa Cannon, Deputy City Clerk

  
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Richard Cochrane, Mayor