

**CITY OF FORT MEADE
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2017**

A Regular Meeting of the Fort Meade City Commission was held on Thursday, July 27, 2017, at 6:00 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 6:00 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	Tom Cloud	Absent
Deputy City Clerk	Melissa Newman	Present
Public Works Director	Jackie Cannon	Present
Finance Director	Breanna Smith	Present
Library Director	Jacqueline Rose	Present
Employee Relations	Sheryl Williams	Present
Parks	Harrison Eiland	Present

Also, present: Polk County Sgt. Warren Burgess.

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

Mayor Manley led the invocation. Mayor Manley led the Pledge to the Flag.

4. ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS

Delete Item 5.

5. PRESENTATIONS/AWARDS/REPORTS:

None.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.A. Minutes of the July 11, 2017 Budget Workshop and the July 11, 2017 Regular Commission Meeting.

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Elliott to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2017 Budget Workshop and the July 11, 2017 Regular City Commission Meeting.

Motion to approve the Minutes of July 11, 2017 Budget Workshop and July 11, 2017 Regular Commission Meeting passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

7. **PUBLIC FORUM:**

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

Mr. Mike Woods, 320 Edgewood Dr., Fort Meade, FL. on behalf of HELP of Fort Meade requested continued support with utility bills. Mr. Woods stated that since the organization has moved to a much larger facility the utility bills have been much larger. Currently the City provides \$6,000.00 per year to cover utility bills. Staff noticed that the funds had be depleted and notified HELP.

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commission Watts to allocate an additional \$3,000.00 to HELP maintain the contributions to the utility bill for the rest of this fiscal year.

Motion to allocate an additional \$3,000.00 to HELP passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

Ms. Reesa Hudnell, 716 S. French Ave., Fort Meade, FL. requested the commissions' help with nuisance fowl in her neighborhood. Ms. Hudnell stated that she has been working with code enforcement to resolve the issue however, it has been a long process, nobody is claiming the fowl so it makes it harder to resolve.

Mayor Manley asked the city manager to get with code enforcement to get this issue resolved.

8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

9.A. Approve Resolution R17-09 Initial Stormwater Assessment

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Elliott to approve Resolution R17-09 Initial Stormwater Assessment.

Motion to approve Resolution R17-09 passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

9B. Approve final proposed millage rate for FY 2017/2018.

Commissioner Watts asked if the budget was balanced and Mr. Hilliard stated that it was not balanced.

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Nelson to approve the final proposed millage rate at 6.8704 for FY 2017-2018.

Motion to approve final proposed millage rate at 6.8704 passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

9.C. Discussion of FY2017-2018 Budget

City Manager Hilliard explained that with the conversion, they are still working out some kinks. There have been numerous items charged to the wrong accounts and he and the Breanna Smith have been through every line item one by one to correct these issues.

All the employees that were split into several departments have now been put totally into their respective departments to reduce confusion.

Commissioner Elliott requested to begin on the revenue side. Mr. Hilliard stated that next year if the additional ad valorem tax break is adopted the budgeted revenue will decrease about \$26,000.

Commissioner Elliott questioned the increase in the building permit line item and Mr. Hilliard stated that he anticipates the start of the US EcoGen plant.

Mr. Elliott asked about the decrease in the solid waste department and Mr. Hilliard stated that with the increases from Republic Services the City has maintained the same rate therefore decreasing the revenue.

There was much discussion on the ad valorem increase and it was determined that the stormwater assessment was included in that report.

The commission suggested financing some of the items on the wish list instead of just cutting them out of the budget.

Mayor Manley asked if the City Mobile Home Park project was in the budget and Mr. Hilliard stated that yes, this money was in the budget. Mr. Hilliard stated that he has not had a chance to meet with USDA to determine the cost of the construction for all the projects but he has meet with the engineering firm to put together a contract and cost estimate for the CMHP.

Commissioner Nelson asked about the funds that were not used and carried over. Mr. Hilliard stated they were in the reserve funds and he would provide a list of those funds.

Mayor Manley requested a list of loans or bonds that are outstanding and when they will be paid off.

Commissioner Cochrane requested that the grants be taken out of the department head wish list to have a better understanding of the items requested.

After much discussion and the budget being about 2 million over budget Mayor Manley requested the budget go back to the department heads to prioritize their wish list. Commissioner Cochrane stated he would take out a few of the less-essential items such as the phone system and the train silencer before cutting needed equipment.

Mayor Manley requested another budget meeting on August 8, 2017 at 5:30 before the regular meeting.

10. CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:

None.

11. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

11.A. Grocery Store

Mr. Hilliard stated that he has been working with the owners of the old Val-u-King to help them get USDA grants and low interest financing to open a new grocery store.

11.B. Citrus Connection

Mr. Hilliard stated he has received notice that each municipality will need to contribute to the Citrus Connection to continue receiving services. Mr. Hilliard stated that he has a meeting with them next week and will invite them to the next commission meeting.

11.C. US EcoGen

Mr. Hilliard stated that US EcoGen has secured the property and are finalizing financing to begin construction on the plant.

12. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS:

12A. Vice Mayor Cochrane
None.

12B. Commissioner Nelson
None.

12C. Commissioner Elliott
None.

12D. Commissioner Watts
None.

12E. Mayor Manley
None.

13. STAFF REPORTS

None.

14. ADJOURNMENT

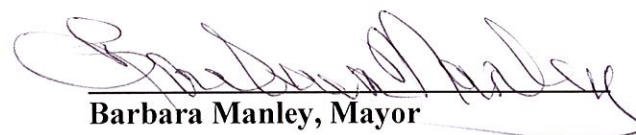
There being no further business to conduct, Motion Commissioner Cochrane second Commissioner Nelson to adjourn the Regular City Commission meeting of July 27, 2017 at 7:36 P.M.

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

ATTEST:



Melissa Newman, Deputy City Clerk



Barbara Manley, Mayor

