

**CITY OF FORT MEADE
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2015**

A Regular Meeting of the Fort Meade City Commission was held on Tuesday, June 9, 2015, 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 Nelson.

2. ROLL CALL:

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

Staff Present

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

Also present: Polk County Sergeant Luc Doyon

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

Pastor Phillip Williams led the invocation. Mayor Nelson led the Pledge to the Flag.

4. ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS

None

5. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes of the May 19, 2015 Regular Commission Meeting

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Elliott to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion carried with all yeas.

6. PRESENTATIONS/AWARDS/REPORTS:

- A. County Commissioner Bell presented the volunteers who helped make the Moonlight and Music Event a huge success with a branded Moonlight and Music koosie in appreciation for their hard work and dedication. Ms. Bell expressed a very special thank you to Ms. Donna Parker for going the extra mile to make sure this event was a hit and to all the committee members and most of all the sponsors for their generous support.

Ms. Donna Parker extended her gratitude to Commissioner Bell for her vision of this event and the huge turn out that made this a success. Ms. Parker also gave a special thank you to Jeff Clark and Virginia Cadelo from the Bartow Chamber of Commerce for designing the logo for the Moonlight and Music event and for all the help they provided.

7. PUBLIC FORUM:

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

Mr. Terry Booker, 1017 Indiana Street, Ft. Meade, FL. 33841 inquired about the progress of the renovations to the CMHP Activity Center and Rec Center.

City Manager, Hilliard stated that staff is working on getting a plan ready for the renovations.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approve Resolutions R15-08, R15-09 and R15-10 on 2nd Public Hearing.

RESOLUTION NO. R15-08. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT MEADE, FLORIDA; AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2014; PROVIDING FINDINGS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION NO. R15-09. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT MEADE, FLORIDA; AUTHORIZING THE AUTHORIZING THE USE OF FIFTY

THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000) OF THE CITY'S WATER AND SEWER ENTERPRISE FUNDING AS LEVERAGE FOR THE SMALL CITIES NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION THE CITY IS SUBMITTING TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2014; PROVIDING FINDINGS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION NO. R15-10. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT MEADE, FLORIDA; AUTHORIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LONG TERM AND SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES OF THE CITY OF FORT MEADE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN; PROVIDING FINDINGS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mr. David Fox, Fox Enterprises, commented on the 2nd Public Hearing for the 2014 Community Development Block Grant Application. The City is applying for \$700,000. The first proposed scope of work includes the Cherokee Avenue lift station replacement for \$300,000 CDBG funds and zero match. The second proposed scope of work is for sanitary sewer upgrade at \$344,000 CDBG funds and \$15,000 local match. A proposed \$50,000 of leverage from the water and sewer enterprise funds will help with the application points along with the approved plans and specs. Engineering cost is \$35,000 and Administration is \$56,000. Included in the application are "unmet needs" which are improvements that need to can be done if any money is left over after the proposed scopes of work and they include sanitary sewer replacement and manhole replace in the service area of the Cherokee Avenue lift station.

Mr. Fox opened the Public Hearing for public comments and counsel discussion.

Commissioner Elliott asked Mr. Fox to explain the \$50,000 leverage.

Mr. Fox stated that the \$50,000 leverage helped with the point system of the application and it would be over two years as a match and if it is not funded we would not be required to spend the \$50,000.

Commissioner Cochrane asked when the approval of the CDBG would be.

Mr. Fox stated that we could be in contract by September or October of this year but stated that they are a year behind with this being a 2014 grant.

Mr. Cochrane then asked when ground breaking would begin.

Mr. Fox stated that once the funding is granted there would be a four month delay for an environmental review and then it would go to bid, approximately six months out.

No public comment received.

Mayor Nelson closed the Public Hearing.

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Elliott to approve Resolution R15-08.

Motion carried with all yeas.

Motion Commissioner Manley, second Commissioner Cochrane to approve Resolution R15-09.

Motion carried with all yeas.

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Watts to approve Resolution R15-10.

Motion carried with all yeas.

- B.** Approval of the East Coast Migrant Head Start Project Amendment to the Lease Agreement.

City Manager Hilliard stated that the agreement has not been finalized by the City Attorney as of today. Mr. Menditto, ECMHSP Director, has agreed to the 2% increase in the rent as stated in the previous agreement from \$1942.00 to \$1980.00 per month.

Motion Commissioner Watts, second Commissioner Elliott to approve the agreement based on the Attorney's review.

Motion carried with all yeas.

Mr. Hilliard stated the he was working with Pastor C for a mentoring program that would utilize the Community Center more and would like to put this in the 2015-2016 budget. Mr. Hilliard stated he would put this together to be presented to the Commission that this was only informational for now.

- C.** Approval of the Florida League of Cities funding program application.

Finance Director, Mel Parker requested the permission of the Commission to go ahead with filing the application for the FLOC loan.

Motion Commissioner Watts, second Commissioner Elliott to authorize staff to proceed ahead with the loan application.

Motion carried with all yeas.

D. Approval of processing credit and debit card payment.

Mr. Parker stated that there has been a lot of requests to take credit and debit payments for utility bills over the years. Mr. Parker presented three quotes from card processing companies and stated he leaned more toward the BB&T offer stating it would be more beneficial to the customer if the customer absorbed the fees.

Commissioner Elliott questioned if there was a lesser fee for debit cards.

Mr. Parker stated he would get some clarification on the debit fees and go forward with the BB&T offer and pass the fee onto the customers.

All were in favor.

10. CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:

City Attorney Tom Cloud passed out a settlement agreement to the Commission for the Biosolids lawsuit. Mr. Cloud stated that there was a mediation which did not produce a written agreement, only a concept of an agreement was reached and he has been advising and monitoring the progress of the agreement. He stated that he has a commitment from BDS and EAP to sign the agreement. Mr. Cloud wanted to explain the agreement in a public meeting stating that the terms of the agreement are for BDS & EAP to dismantle all structures and be gone in 18 months. During the 18 month "wind down period" they will have to install a meter to monitor the flow of water back to the sewer plant within five weeks at their expense and pay sewer bills rendered and back bills for the sewer fees already used. The failure to pay bills will result in termination of services. They are to use "best practices" when excepting outside cake. The city quit sending sludge to the plant in September 2014, when the lawsuit was started at a rate of 16-18 trucks a year. After BDS started operation the city started hauling 16-18 trucks a week.

Mr. Cloud stated the main reason for the settlement is for the operation to be removed from the City.

Mr. Cloud requested approval of the settlement agreement.

Commissioner Cochrane stated that all he wanted was for BDS and EAP to be gone and to get them off our sewage system.

Commissioner Elliott stated that he was proud to be at mediation with the team representing the City.

City Manager Hilliard stated the wastewater ordinance needs to be brought up to date.

Commissioner Manley asked what the City is doing with its sludge now.

Mr. Hilliard stated that the sludge is being hauled to AMS, a processing center. He stated that we were looking at alternative solutions to cut costs.

Ms. Manley also questioned if we would get any back pay for the use of sewage from when the City stopped hauling sludge to BDS.

Mr. Cloud stated that was the part we were giving up with the agreement, not seeking the back money from September till now for sewage usage stating that it was a lot but you could spend more in legal fees and get nothing.

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Elliott to approve the agreement with BDS and EAP contingent with getting the signed documents.

Motion carried with all yeas.

11. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

A. US EcoGen – CSX crossing

Mr. Hilliard stated that he was working with US EcoGen on the access road on Highway 17 and they are trying to secure the same grant that was lost the first time due to funding.

B. FMPA/ARP

Mr. Hilliard stated that FMPA/ARP was releasing a RFQ seeking management consultant services to evaluate the ARP termination process.

C. Peace River Trail

Mr. Hilliard stated that the Trail is under construction and encouraged anyone who wanted to see the progress to get with April Brown and she will arrange it.

D. Mr. Hilliard requested a date for a budget workshop sometime this month.

All agreed to June 23, 2015 for a budget workshop beginning at 6:00 p.m.

12. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Manley welcomed Commissioner Cochrane back after his stay in the hospital.


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 June 9, 2015 at 8:01 PM.

Motion carried with all yeas.



Maurice Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Melissa Newman, Deputy City Clerk

