

**CITY OF FORT MEADE
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016**

A Regular Meeting of the Fort Meade City Commission was held on Tuesday, March 8, 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	Absent
City Planner	April Brown	Present
Finance Director	James (Mel) Parker	Present
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 February 9, 2016.

Motion Commissioner Nelson, 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. Mayor Watts read a proclamation for Ms. Erma Lehr proclaiming the 13th day of March 2016 as "Erma Lehr Day". Mayor Watts presented the proclamation to Ms. Erma Lehr.

7. **PUBLIC FORUM:**

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

Mr. E.J. King, 108 SW 3rd Street, Fort Meade, FL. on behalf of the Fort Meade Neighborhood Development Project Inc. wanted to update the commission on the status of the project stating that the new theme will be a garden instead of a park. Where one can appreciate the beauty of God's earth where the arts can be displayed and not be a playground.

Ms. Kerri Anderson, 110 NE 6th Street, Fort Meade, FL., stated that her husband served 18 years of service for the City and questioned the retirement plan for death benefits.

Finance Director Parker stated that he has spoken to the pension attorney and they could bring it back to the Board for review but as it stands with the current plan the death benefit is zero, if you do not live to retirement age the money goes back into the plan. The pension is funded 100% by the City.

Commissioner Nelson stated that she felt that this should be looked into. Commissioner Elliott agreed and asked how many others would be affected.

The Commission requested a pension workshop with the pension attorney.

8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. City Attorney Cloud read the title to Ordinance 16-05 Authorizing golf cart operation on designated city roadways on 2nd Reading.

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Nelson to approve Ordinance 16-05 authorizing golf cart operation.

Motion to approve Ordinance 16-05 passed by a vote of 4-1 with Commission Elliott voting opposed.

- B. Golf Cart progress update.

City Manager Hilliard stated that the stickers have been made and the application is in progress. The signs will be ordered and will be posted upon receipt.

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

Motion Commissioner Manley, second Commissioner Nelson to table Ordinance 16-03 until the April City Commission Meeting.

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

9. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Consider options for Highway 98 Bridge.

Mr. Bill Hartman, FDOT and Ms. Mary Cook, project engineer with Scalar Consulting Group presented the Commission with a PowerPoint presentation of the options for the bridge.

Ms. Cook stated that the bridge is functionally obsolete to FDOT standards of today.

The proposed roadway of the project will have eleven-foot wide lanes, add a seven-foot wide buffered bike lane on each side of the road, a six-foot wide sidewalk on the north side and a ten-foot wide shared use path on the south side.

There are three proposed build options:

1. Remove the existing bridge and build a new bridge on the north side impacting 8 parcels
2. Remove existing bridge and build a new bridge on the south side, straightening out the curve in the road and impacting only 2 parcels.
3. Leave existing bridge for pedestrian use only and build a new bridge to the north impacting 11 parcels and added maintenance of the old bridge along with added maintenance of the river itself.

Mr. Hartman stated they would remove and relocate the railings (the historic feature of the bridge) and add a plaque for Mr. Singletary to the entrance of the Fort Meade Recreation Park in remembrance of the historic bridge.

A Resolution stating which option the Commission would like to go with was requested.

Ms. Gwen Pipkin, FDOT, Environmental Administrator, stated that she doesn't know of any City that would take on the responsibility of maintaining a bridge.

- B. City Attorney Cloud read the title to Ordinance 16-06 Modifying Industrial Wastewater Rates on 1st Reading.

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Elliott to approve Ordinance 16-06 Industrial Wastewater Rates with 2nd Reading being on March 15, 2016.

Motion to approve Ordinance 16-06 passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

- C. Approve Resolution R16-05 Authorizing the Mayor to execute the Polk Regional Water Cooperative Interlocal Agreement and appoint a primary and alternate director to the Board of Directors.

Motion Commissioner Manley, second Commissioner Elliott to approve Resolution R16-05.

Motion to approve Resolution R16-05 passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

Appointment to the Board of Directors will be Mayor Watts as the primary and Commissioner Elliott as alternate.

- D. Finance Director Parker presented the FY 2015 delinquent accounts charge-off for the City.

Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Manley to approve FY 2015 charge-offs.

Motion to approve FY 2015 charge offs passed by unanimous vote of 5-0.

- E. Approve authorization to procure Rowe Architects to prepare a Historic Structure Report under the 2015-2016 State of Florida Historic Preservation Small Matching Grant.

Motion Commissioner Manley, second Commissioner Elliott to authorize staff to procure Rowe Architects for the matching grant.

10. **CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:**

None.

11. **CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:**

- A. Stormwater issues.

Mr. Hilliard stated that the crews have been cleaning up stormwater drains that have not been cleaned in 20 years. The lake has gone down and the intersection in front of the Dollar General has less flooding issues as a result.

B. FMPA

Legislation to work on FMPA was terminated.

12. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Manley asked if the fire calls were up or down since the county took over.

Mr. Hilliard stated he would get the information from the fire department.

Commissioner Manley asked about the bids for the City Mobile Home Park and the process of the project of the activity center.

Mr. Hilliard stated that he had only one bid and he needed to speak with the engineer and the City Attorney. The RFQ for the management firm is being worked on.

Commissioner Manley stated that staff did a great job with the Ridge League Dinner and everyone seemed to enjoy it.

Commissioner Elliott asked about a proposal for a layout of the Outpost Project.

Mr. Hilliard stated that he talked to the attorney about that.

Commissioner Cochrane asked about the status of EcoGen.

Mr. Hilliard stated that nothing has changed, they are still working on it.

Commissioner Cochrane asked what the sewer losses for last year attributed to.

Mr. Hilliard stated that the costs are attributed to the excess hauling of sludge from Biosolids sending excessive solids to the wastewater treatment plant.

Commissioner Cochrane stated that at the corner of CR 630 and N. Palmetto school children gather in the morning and it is very dark and he would like to see a light put at the corner.

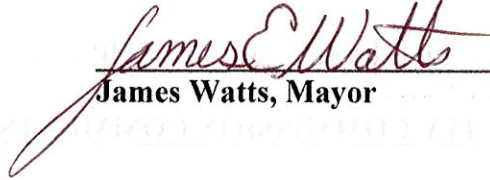
13. STAFF REPORTS

None.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Motion Commissioner Elliott second Commissioner Nelson to adjourn the Regular Commission meeting of March 8, 2016 at 8:28P.M.

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



James Watts, Mayor

ATTEST:



Melissa Newman, Deputy City Clerk