

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

A Regular Meeting of the Fort Meade City Commission was held on Tuesday, October 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 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	Absent
City Attorney	Tom Cloud	Present
Deputy City Clerk	Melissa Wessell	Present
Public Works Director	Jackie Cannon	Present
Finance Director	Breanna Smith	Present
Parks	Roc Eiland	Present

Also, present: Polk County Sergeant Warren Burgess

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

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

4. ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS

5. PRESENTATIONS/AWARDS/REPORTS

Mr. Jacob Williams, FMPA General Manager and CEO commended the City on doing a great job after the storm, getting power back on before most of the big companies.

Mr. Williams presented the Commission with a presentation explaining the Vero Beach request releasing them from the FMPA agreements. Mr. Williams stated that Vero Beach plans to sell their electric utility to Florida Power and Light and is requesting to have FMPA's ARP assume their entitlements in the three FMPA projects that they are in. Vero Beach will pay the ARP \$108 million dollars to pay

for higher cost from the projects that are not needed and to protect ARP cities for taking on these additional projects and end-of-life risks.

Mr. Williams stated that the only way Vero Beach can get out of the contract is for the other cities in the ARP to consent to release them. Mr. Williams stated that he would be back at the November City Commission meeting requesting a vote on consenting to the release of Vero Beach for the FMPA agreements. The FMPA Board will also have to vote on this issue after all the member cities have voted.

City Attorney, Tom Cloud asked a series of questions resulting in what the hurry up was.

Mr. Williams stated that the State Legislature and House Senate had a part in it.

Commissioner Elliott asked if any of the other cities have casted a vote on this. Mr. Williams stated that 8 or 9 of them are veering in that direction but the legal paperwork has not been finalized for them to vote on.

Commissioner Cochrane asked what the debt liability to the City of Fort Meade. Mr. Williams stated that the liability would lie on the ARP as a whole. Commissioner Watts stated that the cost would essentially be passed down to the City. Mr. Williams stated that there would be minimal impact to the City of Fort Meade. Mr. Cochrane asked what would get that information to them. Mr. Watts asked how would this impact rates and Mr. Williams stated that there will be no effect on the rates.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 6.A. Minutes of the September 19, 2017 TRIM 1st Hearing, Minutes of the September 19, 2017 Regular Commission Meeting and the Minutes of the September 26, 2017.

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Elliott to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2017 TRIM 1st Hearing, Minutes of the September 19, 2017 Regular Commission Meeting and the Minutes of the September 26, 2017

Motion to approve the Minutes of September 19, 2017 and September 26, 2017 Commission Meetings passed by unanimous vote of 5- 0.

7. **PUBLIC FORUM:**

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

Ms. Pricella Perry, 3975 Old Bowling Green Rd., Fort Meade, FL., representing the Fort Meade Historical Society asked the Commission to consider providing four (4) directional signs to be posted to reference the Historic Museum.

Mr. Cloud suggested that a letter of request be sent to the City Manager with the location and wording of the signs.

Ms. Martha Kay Jackson, 904 E. Broadway St., Fort Meade, FL. requested addressing the rules and regulations of the cemetery and allowing a bench (that has already been ordered and constructed) to be placed on her daughter's graveside.

Motion Commissioner, second Commissioner Nelson to allow Ms. Jackson to have the bench and to revisit the cemetery rules and regulations.

Motion to allow the bench to be placed and revisit the cemetery rules and regulations passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

Pastor Phillip Williams stated he was extremely impressed with the way the city employees handled the recent crisis. He dealt with a lot of the employees during this time and in difficult situations and they handled themselves with the highest of quality. Mr. Williams asked the commission to find a way to show them that the community appreciates all the hard work going above and beyond to get our city back up and running.

The following residents had complaints and much discussion of incredibly ridiculously high electric bills:

Robert Martin 160 Pool Branch Rd., Dempsey Cooper, City Mobile Home Park, Clay Stanphill 319 SE 3rd St., Helen Rollin 525 Tecumseh Ave., Daryl Gargus 104 SE 2nd St., Amy Gargus 104 2nd St. SE, Cheyenne Weeks 517 N. Hendry Ave., Todd Wilkin 1033 NE 6th St. and owner of Classic Pizza 403 W. Broadway St., and Gary McCarty 300 S. Washington Lot 264.

Ms. Cheyenne Weeks, 517 N. Hendry also stated that she has reported the damage on the road (potholes) on N. Hendry and would like to see the road fixed.

Mr. James Carrier, 1306 Hickory Ln., questioned how meters will be read when the meter is not accessible since they are being manually read stating that he does not want his bill estimated.

Mr. Richard Greer, 1018 Wisconsin St., asked if an after-action report in regards to the hurricane would be done. Mr. Greer also asked how the electric fund is paid back for the \$600,000 transfer to the general fund. It was stated that this was a transfer from one fund to another not a loan.

Mr. Daryl Gargus added that the City Mobile Home should be self-sustaining and pay for any project they request without using tax payer dollars.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

- 9.A. Consider Agreement between the City of Fort Meade and Lakeland Area Mass Transit District.

Commissioner Cochrane stated that he would have liked to have a count of the number of users in the City of Fort Meade before having to sign the agreement.

Mayor Manley stated this is for one year and they will provide the usage numbers before the next agreement.

Commissioner Elliott stated that he feels like this is a difficult situation having to fund something that the Commission doesn't have a say in.

Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Cochrane to approve the Agreement between the City of Fort Meade and Lakeland Area Mass Transit.

Motion to approve Agreement passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

- 9B. Consider recommendation for CDBG project administrator.

City Attorney Cloud opened the bids for the CDBG administrator.

Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Watts to award Fred Fox Enterprises as the CDBG project administrator.

Motion to award Fred Fox Enterprises as the CDBG project administrator passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

10. **CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:**

None.

11. **CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:**

12. **CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

- 12A. Vice Mayor Cochrane

None.

- 12B. Commissioner Elliott

Commissioner Elliott requested staff work with the County to a storm-hardened building in the City of Fort Meade.

12C. Commissioner Nelson

Commissioner Nelson asked if the debris removal contractor was still picking up debris. It was stated that they have completed the 1st pass and are working other areas in the county as well. They will complete 3 passes through the city to ensure all debris is removed.

12D. Commissioner Watts

None.

12E. Mayor Manley

None.

13. STAFF REPORTS

None.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Motion Commissioner Nelson second Commissioner Elliott to adjourn the Regular City Commission meeting of Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 8:53 P.M.

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

ATTEST:


Melissa Wessell, Deputy City Clerk


Barbara Manley, Mayor

