

**CITY OF FORT MEADE  
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2018**

A Regular Meeting of the Fort Meade City Commission was at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 9, 2018, 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 Vice Mayor Elliott.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

|              |                         |         |
|--------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Mayor        | Richard Cochrane        | Absent  |
| 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 |
| Library Director      | Jacqueline Rose | Present |

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

Mr. Ray Acuff led the invocation. Vice Mayor Elliott led the Pledge to the Flag.

**4. ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS**

Add Item 5 D. Mr. Ryan Weeks, Design Project Manager with FDOT  
Add Item 5 B. Mr. Dustin Allen, Park Manager of Payne's Creek Park

**Motion Commissioner Watts, second Commissioner Campbell to approve adding Items 5 A and 5 B to the agenda.**

**Motion to approve adding Items 5 A and 5 B to the agenda passed by a unanimous vote of 4-0.**

**5. PRESENTATIONS/AWARDS/REPORTS**

**5.A.** Mr. Ryan Weeks, Design Project Manager with FDOT

Mr. Weeks presented the commission with a map showing how the nature trail proposed by the FDOT would run on N. Edgewood Drive from E. Broadway to NE 9<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mr. Weeks stated that the majority of the project would be on the West side of Edgewood. The area of concern is where to cross in front of the high school. The proposed crossing is at NE 7<sup>th</sup> Street to cross over to the East side of Edgewood up to NE 9<sup>th</sup> St.

There was a question of where the crossing at E. Broadway, currently there is no crossing. There is a project scheduled to replace the current bridge and add a crosswalk to connect the trail to the Peace River Park.

Commissioner Manley asked if the High School principal Ms. Hardee was involved with the project. When she spoke with her, Ms. Hardee said she didn't understand why the current crossing at NE 6<sup>th</sup> St. (ag crossing) wouldn't continue to be used. Ms. Manley stated that the proposed crossing at NE 7<sup>th</sup> St. would put the trail back in residents front yard and some residents have expressed concerns of that.

Mr. Weeks stated that there are other options, the differences would mean additional costs to the project. Mr. Weeks is here to get a census of the commission on which path to proceed with. Mr. Weeks stated that he would consult with Ms. Hardee on any concerns that she has as well.

The commission thanked Mr. Weeks.

**5.B. Mr. Dustin Allen, Park Manager of Payne's Creek Park**

Mr. Allen presented the commission with a \$50,000.00 check for a FRDAP grant that was awarded to the City of Fort Meade for the Patterson Park project. The city applied for the grant in an effort to replace the bridge on the North side of the park to allow for equipment to be transported to the island for any repairs or renovations needed.

The commission thanked Mr. Allen.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the September 18, 2018 Regular Commission.

**Motion Commissioner Watts, second Commissioner Campbell to approve the Minutes of September 18, 2018 Regular Commission Meeting.**

**Motion to approve the minutes of September 18, 2018 Regular Commission Meeting passed by a unanimous vote of 4-0.**

7. **PUBLIC FORUM:**

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

Ms. Pricilla Perry thanked the commission for supporting the community in efforts that are being worked on such as the cleanup day on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Ms. Sharon Steurwald, 1042 NY Street, Fort Meade, FL. requested an update on when the trees will be trimmed in the mobile home park. Mr. Hilliard responded stating that they are already being scheduled.

Mr. Ray Acuff, 621 N. Polk Ave., Fort Meade, FL. stated that this is not something that he is in charge of and he has been approached by several residents and wanted to ask the question of why the Chamber of Commerce cannot be housed at the Patterson Park building. Mr. Acuff stated that would be a prime location for the Chamber and would like the commission to consider it.

8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 8.A. City Attorney Cloud read the title to Ordinance 18-12 Amendment to the Solid Waste ordinance on 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORT MEADE, FLORIDA; MODIFYING SECTION 12-79, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF FORT MEADE, FLORIDA (THE "CITY CODE") TO RATIFY AND INCREASE A CITY ADMINISTRATION & COLLECTION FEE APPLICABLE TO CITY SOLID WASTE CUSTOMERS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR A COPY TO BE KEPT ON FILE, REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**Vice Mayor Elliott opened the public hearing. With no one wishing to speak Vice Mayor Elliott closed the public hearing.**

**Motion Commissioner Manley, second Commissioner Watts to adopt Ordinance 18-12 modifying the solid waste ordinance.**

**Motion to approve Ordinance 18-12 passed by a unanimous vote of 4-0.**

- 8.B. Attorney Cloud read the title to Ordinance 18-13 adopting the final millage rate of 6.8704.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT MEADE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE CITY OF FORT MEADE FOR**

**FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**Vice Mayor Elliott opened the public hearing. With no one wishing to speak Vice Mayor Elliott closed the public hearing.**

**Motion Commissioner Campbell, second Commissioner Manley to adopt the final millage rate at 6.8704 for FY 2018/2019.**

**Motion to adopt Ordinance 18-13 adopting the final millage passed by a unanimous vote of 4-0.**

- 8.C.** City Attorney Cloud read the title to Ordinance 18-14 adopting the final budget for FY 2018/2019.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT MEADE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**Vice Mayor Elliott opened the public hearing. With no one wishing to speak Vice Mayor Elliott closed the public hearing.**

**Motion Commissioner Watts, second Commissioner Manley to adopt Ordinance 18-14 approving the final budget for FY 2018/2019.**

**Motion to adopt Ordinance 18-14 adopting the final budget passed by a unanimous vote of 4-0.**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

- 9.A.** Fort Meade Outpost Project Development Proposal

Mr. Hilliard stated that he met with Mr. Glen Clover to discuss the Outpost Project and how to get it started. Mr. Clover presented a contract as a project manager of the project to get environmental studies done and get it up and running. Mr. Hilliard stated that he recommends the commission approve the contract with Mr. Clover.

**Motion Commissioner Watts, second Commissioner Manley to accept the contract with Mr. Clover, Oak Square Consultants and to direct staff to add a signature line to include the Mayor and not the City Manager.**

**Motion to accept contract with Oak Square Consultants and add signature line for the Mayor passed by a unanimous vote of 4-0.**

**9.B. City Manager Search**

Ms. Sheryl Williams stated that the top five candidates have been selected and she would like the commission to decide on a date for the Skype interviews. Ms. Sheryl Williams stated that she was looking at possibly Tuesday, October 16, 2018 or Wednesday, October 17, 2018 or both.

Ms. Sheryl asked which questions they would like to use for the interviews.

Ms. Williams suggested the use of Gleason and Associates for extensive background checks on the final candidates at an expense of \$2,100.00 each.

Commissioner Manley suggested to do both days with three on the first and two on the second and have discussion following the second meeting. The consensus of the commission was to meet on both Tuesday, October 16, 2018 and Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at 6:00 pm to do the skype interviews and use the questions that Mr. Durbin recommended.

**10. CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:**

Mr. Cloud stated that he would like to give a status of the mediation stating that the Water Management District declared an impasse to the mediation. There will continue to be conversations looking for settlement in the case. The hearing will go forward in February.

Mr. Cloud stated that as to the Biosolids have no more avenues of relief and the judge has assessed \$300,000 plus attorney's fees against them and we will pursue collection.

**11. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

**11.A.** Mr. Hilliard stated that there has been some discussion about the lineman salary in-line with other agencies and stated he would like to find ways to increase the salary through training.

**11.B.** Mr. Hilliard stated that he has contacted FEMA to do a peer review on our electric system to find ways to make it more efficient and then work on the water and wastewater systems as well.

**11.C.** Mr. Hilliard stated he would like to recognize some employees:

Breanna Smith for taking on the task of getting the phone system and internet back up and running after the severe lighting storm that took it out. Mr. Hilliard also commended Ms. Smith on the excellent job on the assembly of the budget.

Jackie Cannon for being pro-active getting ready for the possibility of the upcoming Hurricane Michael, even though it wasn't expected to hit here Jackie was still preparing equipment and staff just in case.

Melissa Cannon for her efforts in helping get the grocery store, Valmont, O'Reilly's and other new businesses started in the City.

**11.D. Project Graduation 2019**

Mr. Hilliard stated that he received a letter from Project Graduation 2019 requesting a donation.

**Motion Commissioner Campbell, second Commissioner Watts to donate \$500.00 to Project Graduation 2019.**

**Motion to donate \$500 to Project Graduation 2019 passed by a unanimous vote of 4-0.**

11.E. Mr. Hilliard stated that the next commission meeting will be held back in the Commission Chambers at City Hall.

**12. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

**12.A. Commissioner Manley**

Ms. Manley asked if the FEMA review was like the one we had done before and if it was free.

**12.B. Commissioner Watts**

Commissioner Watts stated that he is concerned with the call out pay and personnel.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Motion Commissioner Campbell, second Commissioner Watts to adjourn the Regular Commission meeting of October 9, 2018 at 7:59 P.M.

**Motion to adjourn passed by unanimous vote of 4-0.**

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Cochrane, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa Cannon, Deputy City Clerk