

**MINUTES
CITY OF FORT MEADE
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2020**

A Regular Meeting of the Fort Meade City Commission was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. at the City Hall Commission Chambers, 8 West Broadway Street, Fort Meade, Florida.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Mayor Elliott.

2. ROLL CALL:

Mayor	Robert Elliott	Present
Vice Mayor	James Watts	Present
Commissioner	Richard Cochrane	Present
Commissioner	Samuel Berrien	Present
Commissioner	Petrina McCutchen	Present

Staff Present

City Manager	Danielle Judd	Present
City Attorney	Tom Cloud	Present
Deputy City Clerk	Melissa Cannon	Present
Public Works Director	Jackie Cannon	Present
Finance Director	Breanna Smith	Present
CMHP Office Manager	Pat Wickersheim	Present
Human Resource Director	Beisy Hernandez	Present

Also, present PCSO Sergeant Warren Burgess.

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

Commissioner Watts led the invocation. Mayor Elliott led the pledge to the flag.

4. ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS

5. PRESENTATIONS/AWARDS/REPORTS

A. Appreciation of Service Year – Mayor Elliott and Vice Mayor Watts. *Danielle J. Judd*

Ms. Judd presented Mayor Elliott with a plaque in appreciation for his year of service as Mayor for 2019.

Ms. Judd presented Vice Mayor Watts with a plaque in appreciation for his year of service as Vice Mayor for 2019.

B. Introduction of Community Center Director, Mr. Tory Dewdney. *Danielle J. Judd*

Ms. Judd introduced Mr. Tory Dewdney as the City's new Community Center Director and gave an overview of his background and welcomed him to the City.

C. Introduction of Management Analyst, Ms. Mary Dimitroff. – *Breanna Smith*

Ms. Smith introduced Ms. Mary Dimitroff as the City's new Management Analyst and gave an overview of her background and welcomed her to the City.

D. Introduction of Purchasing Specialist, Ms. Markie McCann. – *Breanna Smith*

Ms. Smith introduced Ms. Markie McCann as the City's new Purchasing Specialist and gave an overview of her background and welcomed her to the City.

E. Introduction of Permit Technician II, Ms. Lisa Bolin. – *Melissa Cannon*

Ms. Cannon introduced Ms. Lisa Bolin as the City's new Permit Technician II and gave an overview of her background and welcomed her to the City.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City Commission approval of the Minutes of December 10, 2019 Regular City Commission Meeting. – *Melissa Cannon*

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Watts to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2019 Regular City Commission Meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2019 Regular City Commission Meeting passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

7. ELECTION OF MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR FOR 2020:

A. City Commission Approval of Resolution R20-01 appointment of Mayor and Vice Mayor for 2020. – *Melissa Cannon*

Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Berrien to nominate Commissioner Cochrane as Vice Mayor for the year 2020.

Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Berrien to nominate Vice Mayor Watts as Mayor for the year 2020.

Motion to appoint Commissioner Cochrane as Vice Mayor in 2020 and appoint Vice Mayor Watts as Mayor in 2020 by adopting Resolution R20-01 passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

8. PUBLIC FORUM:

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

Mr. John Baker, 609 N. Pine Ave., Fort Meade, FL. stated that he feels his 1st amendment rights were violated when he posted a comment on the Fort Meade FL Happenings Facebook page and it was removed. It was explained to Mr. Baker that this Facebook page is a personal page and not at all affiliated with the City of Fort Meade. Ms. Judd stated that Mr. Baker called her with this complaint, and she tried to explain to him that this did not have anything to do with the City of Fort Meade that he would need to speak with the administrator of the Facebook page. Ms. Judd then contacted the administrator who then posted on her Facebook page relaying no affiliation with the City of Fort Meade and Ms. Judd read the post into the record. "Fort Meade FL Happenings is NOT affiliated with the City of Fort Meade Florida. Rather, it is a private Facebook Group of members interested in sharing information regarding Community Events, Sports, Churches, Schools, Neighborhoods. Members may add information relative to the residents and interests of Fort Meade. There are other Facebook pages available to post complaints as they will be removed from Happenings."

Mr. Lorenzo McCutchen, 100 SE MLK St., Fort Meade, FL. invited everyone to the annual LIEF festival on January 25, 2020. Mr. McCutchen stated that he is concerned about S. Oak Ave. not having enough lighting, it is very dark when children are walking to school and the sidewalks are overgrown and the trees need to be trimmed.

Mr. Steve Sweezy, 1001 Ohio St., Fort Meade, FL. stated that there is excessive speeding on S. Washington and suggested installing speed bumps to slow the traffic down.

Ms. Sharon Steurewald, 1042 New York St., Fort Meade, FL. stated there is an invasion of fire ants at the facilities in the CMHP.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. City Commission approval of Ordinance 20-01 Text Amendment to the City of Fort Meade Unified Land Development Code. –*Brenda Torres, CFRPC*

City Attorney Cloud read the title to Ordinance 20-01.

Ms. Brenda Torres gave a PowerPoint presentation on the text amendments.

Mayor Watts opened the Public Hearing. With no one wishing to speak Mayor Watts closed the Public Hearing.

Motion Commissioner Berrien, second Commissioner Elliott to approve Ordinance 20-01 on 1st Reading with 2nd Reading on January 30, 2020.

Motion to approve Ordinance 20-01 on 1st Reading with 2nd Reading on January 30, 2020 passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

- B. City Commission approval of Ordinance 20-02 Future Land Use Map Amendment. –*Brenda Torres, CFRPC*

City Attorney Cloud read the title to Ordinance 20-02.

Ms. Brenda Torres gave a PowerPoint presentation on the land use map amendments.

Mayor Watts opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Steve Sweezy, 1001 Ohio St., Fort Meade, FL. had a concern of the noise from the dogs barking and what will happen to the property if this development doesn't happen.

Ms. Judd explained that the applicants are prepared to develop the property once the ordinances are final.

Ms. Lisa Rice stated that the project is designed to reduce any noise from barking dogs. The kennels will be in between the dog grooming building and the mini storage buildings and the buildings will be soundproof. Ms. Rice stated no dogs will be outside at night.

With no other comments Mayor Watts closed the Public Hearing.

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner McCutchen to approve Ordinance 20-02 on 1st Reading with 2nd Reading on January 30, 2020.

Motion to approve Ordinance 20-02 on 1st Reading with 2nd Reading on January 30, 2020 passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

- C. City Commission approval of Ordinance 20-03 Rezoning. –*Brenda Torres, CFRPC*

City Attorney Cloud read the title to Ordinance 20-03.

Ms. Brenda Torres gave a PowerPoint presentation on the zoning map amendments.

Mayor Watts opened the Public Hearing. With no one wishing to speak, Mayor Watts closed the Public Hearing.

Motion Commissioner Berrien, second Commissioner Cochrane to approve Ordinance 20-03 on 1st Reading with 2nd Reading on January 30, 2020.

Motion to approve Ordinance 20-03 on 1st Reading with 2nd Reading on January 30, 2020 passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

- D. City Commission approval of Youth Council Applicants – *Danielle J. Judd*

Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Cochrane to approve the two applicants to the Youth Council.

Motion to approve the applicants to the Youth Council passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

- E. City Commission adoption of Resolution R20-02 Establishing Fort Meade Youth Council. – *Thomas Cloud*

Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Berrien to adopt Resolution R20-02 with a one-year term consistent with the school year calendar.

Motion to adopt Resolution R20-02 passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

F. City Commission acceptance of monthly FMPA report. – *Fred Hilliard*

Mr. Hilliard gave an overview of the monthly report from the FMPA Board of Directors and the ARP Executive Committee Meeting on December 11, 2019.

Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Berrien to accept the monthly FMPA report.

Motion to accept the monthly FMPA report passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

G. City Commission approval of Contract Agreement with Marsha M. Faux, Polk County Property Appraiser for non-ad valorem tax assessments. – *Melissa Cannon*

Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Elliott to authorize the Mayor to execute the contract agreement with the Polk County Property Appraiser's for non-ad valorem tax assessments.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the contract agreement with the Polk County Property Appraiser's for non-ad valorem tax assessments passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.

10. CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:

Attorney Cloud stated that the Supreme Court validated the proposed initiative related to deregulating electric service.

Attorney Cloud stated that the JEA sale is no longer, it is kaput.

Attorney Cloud stated that the oral arguments in the 2nd District Court of Appeals went well in our favor. We are hoping to get procurement on this case soon.

Attorney Cloud stated he had a visit from the Attorney from the Water Co-op who is working on the next phase of the agreement. The new agreement will be presented in March 2020 we will need to work together on the terms.

11. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

Ms. Judd stated that City Facilities will be closed on Monday, January 20, 2020 in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Ms. Judd stated the next phase of our DEO grant will be on February 20, 2020 at the City Mobile Home Park Activity Center for the stakeholders meeting.

Ms. Judd provided the Commission a copy of the Peer Review and stated that she has provided time for the commission to meet one on one with Mr. McCleary before the meeting.

Ms. Judd stated that she received a request from Valmont for an expansion of one of their buildings. They will be working with the Planning Council on an amendment to the site plan.

Ms. Judd stated that Polk County Day in Tallahassee is on January 28, 2020 and staff will attend.

Ms. Judd stated that the Historical Society will be having their annual BBQ dinner sales on February 7, 2020 and she has purchased dinners for City Hall.

Ms. Judd wished all a Happy New Year and New Decade.

Ms. Judd asked for civility on some of the matters that come to her. Ms. Judd stated that people have been coming directly to her with conflicts between neighbors as well as conflicts on social media as you heard earlier, by requesting to speak confidentially with her. These are things that need to be worked out amongst themselves and not involve the city manager.

12. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS:

A. Commissioner McCutchen asked about the activity on S. Morrison Ave stating that auto repairs are still active. Ms. Judd stated that there was an active Code case on this property, and she will meet with code enforcement in the morning.

Commissioner McCutchen asked how the demo process works regarding pest control. Ms. Judd stated that the city does not own these properties and they do go before the Special Magistrate for demolition. Normal process does not include pest control however, there were numerous complaints of pests at the property that did receive the pest control. The demo process will be addressed with code enforcement going forward.

B. Commissioner Berrien - None

C. Vice Mayor Cochrane - None

D. Commissioner Elliott thanked code enforcement and staff for the demo on NE 9th St., it is a great improvement.

E. Mayor Watts - None

13. STAFF REPORTS

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner Elliott to adjourn the Regular Commission meeting of January 14, 2020 at 7:52 PM.

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

ATTEST:



Melissa Cannon, Deputy City Clerk



James Watts, Mayor