

**MINUTES  
CITY OF FORT MEADE  
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021**

A Regular Meeting of the Fort Meade City Commission was held on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at 6:00 P.M. at City Commission Chambers, 8 West Broadway Street, Fort Meade, Florida, and via Zoom Virtual Meeting.

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Berrien.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

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

**Staff Present**

City Manager	Danielle Judd	Present
City Attorney	Tom Cloud	Present
Deputy City Clerk	Melissa Cannon	Present
Finance Director	Breanna Smith	Present
Public Works Director	Jackie Cannon	Present
Library Director	Jacqueline Rose	Present
HR Director	Beisy Hernandez	Present
Water/Sewer Supervisor	Tommy King	Present
Community Center	Tory Dewdney	Present
Fire Chief	Roc Eiland	Present
Electric Director	Jan Bagnall	Present

Also, present PCSO Sgt. Warren Burgess.

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

Pastor Cornelius led the invocation. Mayor Berrien led the pledge to the flag.

**4. ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS**

**A.** Add Item 9.C. Pole Attachment Fee Agreement

**Motion Vice Mayor Elliott, second Commissioner Watts to amend the agenda to add Item 9.C.**

**Motion to amend the agenda to add Item 9.C. passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

**5. PRESENTATIONS/AWARDS/REPORTS**

- A. Florida Public Utilities (FPU) Good will Donation. – *Ramiro “RJ” Sicre, FPU Government Relations Manager.*

Mr. Sicre, representing Florida Public Utilities, presented the City with a check for \$20,000 as part of the agreement of the sale of the gas system and stated that FPU will continue to support our community with sponsorships for citywide events. Mr. Sicre congratulated the city on the Main Street designation.

The Commission and staff thanked Mr. Sicre for the good will donation.

**6. PUBLIC FORUM:**

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

Ms. Suzie Whitener, Chamber Director, 214 W. Broadway St., Fort Meade invited the commission to a luncheon on February 17, 2021 and stated invitation will follow.

Ms. Whitener announced a community wide Arts and Crafts festival sponsored by the Fort Meade Neighborhood Development Project, Chamber of Commerce, Main Street, and the Polk County Arts Alliance on March 20, 2021.

**7. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

- A. Second and Final Reading Ordinance 20-01 Face Masks – *Thomas Cloud*

Attorney Cloud read the title to Ordinance 20-01.

**Motion Commissioner Watts, second Commissioner McCutchen to adopt Ordinance 20-01 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and final reading.**

**Motion to adopt Ordinance 20-01 passed by a vote of 4-1 with Vice Mayor Elliott opposed.**

**8. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Minutes January 12, 2021 Regular City Commission Meeting – *Melissa Cannon*
- B. Ratification of Ordinance 21-02 Authorizing Electronic Attendance by Elected and Appointed Officials at City Meetings During Periods of a Declared Public Health Emergency – *Melissa Cannon, Danielle J. Judd*

- C. Reduction of Code Enforcement Lien and Fines – 704 Poplar Ave – ***Marvin Haynes***
- D. Citrus Connection Interlocal Agreement – ***Danielle J. Judd***
- E. Reduction of Code Enforcement Lien and Fines – 126 Martin Luther King St.– ***Marvin Haynes***

**Motion Vice Mayor Elliott, second Commissioner Watts to approve the consent agenda.**

**Motion to approve consent agenda passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Turfection Lawn Care Services of Polk County, Inc. – Mobile Home Park (MHP) Lawn Maintenance Contract– ***Danielle J. Judd***

**Motion Commissioner Cochrane to allow Turfection Lawn Care Service to finish the term of the contract and rebid at that time.**

- B. City Manager Judd Departure – ***Danielle J. Judd***

Mayor Berrien stated to Ms. Judd that it has been a pleasure working with her and wished her well.

After many questions were brought up, it was the consensus of the commission to have HR post the position on the Florida League of Cities and the Florida City Managers Association sites.

**Motion Vice Mayor Elliott, second Commissioner Watts to call a special meeting on February 4, 2021 to further discuss the city manager search.**

**Motion to call a special meeting on February 4, 2021 passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

- C. Pole Attachment Fee Agreement – ***Danielle J. Judd***

**Motion Commissioner Watts, second Commissioner Elliott to authorize the Mayor to execute the Pole Attachment Fee Agreement.**

**Motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the Pole Attachment Fee Agreement**

**passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

**10. CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:**

Attorney Cloud stated that the Alafia River Rendezvous was held this past weekend just north of Fort Meade on Hwy 17 N.

Attorney Cloud stated that the current Effluent Agreement with Mosaic ends in August and stated he is concerned with what is happening in the legislation regarding the PRWC.

Ms. Judd responded giving a timeline of the efforts staff has taken to address the effluent.

**11. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:**

Ms. Judd asked for clarity on the Zoom Virtual meetings going forward.

Mayor Berrien stated that he would join the City Manager and City Clerk in Chambers as the previous Mayor has done but yes, the meetings will be virtual.

Ms. Judd stated that last Friday she shared with the Commission the dialogue that took place with the county concerning fire services and provided the information that she was given by them. The County Manager offered to have a special meeting on February 2, 2021.

Vice Mayor Elliott and Commissioner Watts stated they were in favor of having the meeting.

Commissioner Cochrane stated he would like to table this until there is new management.

Mayor Berrien stated he is opposed to outsourcing anymore departments in the city and concurred with tabling it.

Commissioner McCutchen stated she was in favor of tabling it.

Ms. Judd stated that the County did not interject but rather responded to a letter sent by the Commission.

No action was taken.

**12. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

**A.** Commissioner McCutchen – none

**B.** Commissioner Watts –

Commissioner Watts thanked Ms. Judd for her service.

**C.** Commissioner Cochrane - none

**D. Vice Mayor Elliott –**

Vice Mayor Elliott reminded the administration to ensure that all Fire Personnel employee files are completed immediately.

Vice Mayor Elliott shared his observations regarding the city with the commission.

Mayor Berrien responded sharing his observations regarding the city with the commission.

**E. Mayor Berrien –**

Mayor Berrien stated he had a conversation with HR and the City Manager about the issue mentioned and it will be addressed.

Mayor Berrien wished Ms. Judd the best on her new adventures. Mayor Berrien thanked her for serving our City.

**13. STAFF REPORTS**

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business to conduct, Motion Commissioner Watts, second Vice Mayor Elliott to adjourn the Regular Commission meeting of January 26, 2021 at 7:18 PM.**

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

**ATTEST:**



**Samuel Berrien, Mayor**

  
**Melissa Cannon, Deputy City Clerk**

