

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

A Regular Meeting of the Fort Meade City Commission was held on Tuesday, July 14, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. via Zoom Virtual Meeting.

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**2. ROLL CALL:**

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

**Staff Present**

City Manager	Danielle Judd	Present
City Attorney	Tom Cloud	Present
Deputy City Clerk	Melissa Cannon	Present
Finance Director	Breanna Smith	Absent
Public Works Director	Jackie Cannon	Present
Fire Chief	Roc Eiland	Present
CMHP Manager	Pat Wickersheim	Present
Library Director	Jacqueline Rose	Present
HR Director	Beisy Hernandez	Present
Code Enforcement	Marvin Haynes	Present
Community Center	Tory Dewdney	Present
Electric Director	Jan Bagnall	Present

Also, present PCSO Sgt. Warren Burgess.

**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**

A. Add Supplemental Item 9 D

**Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Cochrane to add supplemental item 9 D to the agenda.**

**Motion to add supplemental item 9 D to the agenda passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

**5. PRESENTATIONS/AWARDS/REPORTS**

**A. Special Presentation: Smart Communities – *Penmoni & Associates, Steven Elias, PE***

Mr. Elias presented a PowerPoint presentation of the concept of a Smart City. Mr. Elias focused on the financial benefits of being a smart city and stated that it will promote economic development. Mr. Elias discussed some of the benefits to the residents, business, and government.

Commissioner Berrien thanked Mr. Elias for the presentation.

**6. PUBLIC FORUM:**

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

Terry Booker, 1017 Indiana St., Fort Meade asked the commission if there was still a Verizon antenna on the water tower.

Public Works Director, Jackie Cannon stated that there used to be a Metro antenna on the water tower, but they removed it some years ago.

Commissioner Berrien stated that is why the presentation for Smart Cities was provided.

Ms. Pricella Perry, 3975 Old Bowling Green Rd., Fort Meade asked what the timeline is for the removal of the high school graduation banners and how they would be distributed to the students.

Ms. Judd stated that is the Women's Club's project and she would need to contact them.

Pastor Phillip Williams, 112 N Edgewood Drive, Fort Meade stated that the once a week trash pickup is not servicing our community as he believes there is a sanitation issue and stated there are a lot of folks unhappy.

Pastor Williams also requested that the commission make it mandatory to wear masks in public in the city.

Commissioner Elliott stated that there were several public meetings to discuss the new trash service. Commissioner Elliott stated no one on the commission wanted to reduce the service from twice a week stating the decision was based on the financial impact to the community.

Commissioner Berrien stated that he has read the posts on the Fort Meade Happenings page and thanked Ms. Perry for keeping the citizens informed on what is going on at the

commission meetings. However, no one complaining has participated in the process and a lot of misinformation is being spread that the commissioners do not listen to the residents because not one resident showed up to express their concerns at any of the several meetings on the topic. Commissioner Berrien stated that these comments are completely false, not one of the commissioners wanted to reduce the service, it was done in the best interest of the community.

Mayor Watts also agreed that no one wanted to go to once a week pickup but the financial impact to the citizens was the concern.

Vice Mayor Cochrane stated we only received one responsive bidder.

Valerie Cagle, 207 S. Perry Ave., Fort Meade stated addressing the garbage issue she defends the once a week pickup and has learned to do more recycling. Ms. Cagle stated that in the last three years here the flies and the odors existed, and this is not a new issue.

Ms. Judd stated that for the record the city had three proposers looking at the contract and two vendors submitted proposals with costs. The second vendor was nearly \$7 - \$8 more per unit and therefore Republic was the lowest responsive bidder.

Donna Butler, 500 5<sup>th</sup> St. NE, Fort Meade, wanted to respond to the Smart Cities presentation stating she works at a bank in Winter Haven and stressed the importance of internet. Ms. Butler stated these days a lot of people are working from home and it is critical to have good internet. Ms. Butler stated that there is very limited internet access here. Having good internet is a very big economic driver. Ms. Butler offered to help Commissioner Berrien in any way possible to work towards a Smart City.

Ms. Judd stated she invited the IT Director from the City of Bartow that she has been in discussion with about fiber and he did attend the Smart Cities presentation.

7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

- A. First Reading Ordinance 20-11 Text amendments specific to Pet Grooming, Veterinary Clinic and Kennels. – *Brenda Torres, Tom Cloud*

**Attorney Cloud read the title to Ordinance 20-11 on first reading.**

**Ms. Brenda Torres gave an overview of the text amendments and provided a PowerPoint presentation.**

**Motion Commissioner Cochrane, second Commissioner McCutchen to approve Ordinance 20-11 on 1<sup>st</sup> reading with 2<sup>nd</sup> reading on July 27, 2020.**

**Motion to approve Ordinance 20-11 on 1<sup>st</sup> reading and set second reading on July 27, 2020 passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

8. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Purchase of a 2020 Ford F350 for the Streets Department – *Jackie Cannon*
- B. Minutes of June 23, 2020 Regular City Commission Meeting – *Melissa Cannon*
- C. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Sub Grant Agreement for DR 4486 COVID 19 – *Danielle J. Judd*
- D. Electric Substation Repairs. – *Jan Bagnall*

**Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Cochrane to approve the consent agenda.**

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

9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Reschedule July and September Budget Public Hearings – *Danielle J. Judd*

Ms. Judd stated that there is a conflict in the budget hearing dates with the School Board and requests rescheduling the commission meetings of July 28<sup>th</sup> and September 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Cochrane to reschedule the regular commission meetings of July 28<sup>th</sup> to July 27<sup>th</sup> and September 8<sup>th</sup> to September 10<sup>th</sup>.**

**Motion to reschedule the regular commission meetings of July 28<sup>th</sup> to July 27<sup>th</sup> and September 8<sup>th</sup> to September 10<sup>th</sup> passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

- B. Update of Agenda Item 9.A. June 9, 2020, Request for Proposal (RFP) 20-01 bid award - Multifunction Copiers – *Mary Dimitroff, Breanna Smith, Tom Cloud*

Attorney Cloud gave an overview of the events that occurred since the notice of intent was issued.

**Motion Commissioner Berrien, second Commissioner Elliott to authorize staff to reject all bids in response for RFP 20-01 Multifunction Copiers, continue in a month-to-month contract with the current vendor until a new vendor can be selected, and authorize staff to issue a new RFP at a date to be determined.**

**Motion to authorize staff to reject all bids in response for RFP 20-01 Multifunction Copiers, continue in a month-to-month contract with the current vendor until a new vendor can be selected, and authorize**

**staff to issue a new RFP at a date to be determined passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

- C. Extension of Declaration of Emergency, Resolution No. R2020-11 (See Agenda Item 7.C. March 24, 2020, Declaration of State of Emergency Resolution R20-05) – *Danielle J. Judd, Tom Cloud*

**Motion Commissioner Berrien, second Commissioner Elliott to approve Resolution R20-11.**

**Motion to approve Resolution R20-11 passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

- D. Florida Municipal Electric Agency (FMEA) – Statement of Principles for COVID-19 Mutual Aid. *Jan Bagnall, Danielle J. Judd*

**Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner McCutchen to authorize the Mayor to execute the FEMA Public Assistance Sub Grant Agreement and related Assurances for DR 4486 COVID 19.**

**Motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the FEMA Public Assistance Sub Grant Agreement and related Assurances for DR 4486 COVID 19 passed by a unanimous vote of 5-0.**

10. **CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:**

None.

11. **CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:**

Ms. Judd stated that the proposed budget will be sent the week of July 20, 2020 and the commission would need to set the proposed millage rate at the July 27, 2020 regular commission meeting.

Ms. Judd stated she sent a press release of the mask distribution this Wednesday thru Friday and has reached out to other entities to provide them with masks.

Ms. Judd stated the commission chambers upgrades are underway and if anyone would like a tour.

Ms. Judd stated there are still a lot of fireworks being set off in the city and citizens may want to contact law enforcement because it is getting out of hand.

Ms. Judd stated she issued a COVID 19 situation report on Friday stating that Peace River Park would open this morning at 8:00 am.

Commissioner Cochrane questioned the hours for mask distribution stating citizens who work during the day might not be able to receive masks.

Ms. Judd assured everyone that there are enough masks for distribution.

**12. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

- A.** Commissioner McCutchen stated that she would like to see the plans for revitalization of the city corridors continue.

Commissioner McCutchen stated she has concerns with the economic growth downtown stating that one of the things hindering development is the stringent alcohol ordinance and she would like to revisit the ordinance.

Commissioner McCutchen stated she would like to thank staff for the continued maintenance that they have been doing.

- B.** Commissioner Berrien stated he would like to acknowledge and thank those members of the community, city staff and commissioners for their participation in the commission meetings.

Commissioner Berrien asked if it was possible to conduct a survey on the garbage situation and if nothing can be done then going forward, we need to try to push resident's participation.

Commissioner Berrien stated he participated in a "town hall" and asked the city attorney if a community feedback type of committee can be done here and could he participate lawfully while being a commissioner. Commissioner Berrien stated he would call the attorney to discuss in more detail.

Commissioner Berrien extended an invitation to Amy Gargus, representing the schools, and Donna Butler to participate in the talks of about how to move with broadband and the development of infrastructure for a smart city.

Commissioner Berrien stated the business that he works for must have download and upload speeds of 100 mbps and that kind of business would not work here.

Commissioner McCutchen addressed Commissioner Berrien's comment on community participation stating that there have been many organizations trying to encourage resident participation on various issues that have come before the commission including Fort Meade Happenings on social media and the Fort Meade Neighborhood Development Project.

Commissioner Berrien stated that part of his pledge to become a commissioner was to be transparent and inform residents of issues and concerns.

- C.** Vice Mayor Cochrane stated that in light of Mr. Ray Acuff, a friend, he has been wearing masks out in public and would like to strongly encourage all citizens of Fort Meade to practice social distancing and wear masks, as we do not need to lose anyone else. We all need to do our part to turn the tables.

Commissioner Cochrane encouraged Commissioner Berrien to stick with the initiative of a Smart City. Commissioner Cochrane stated that years ago he tried to get citywide hotspots, but it never happened.

- D. Commissioner Elliott agrees with encouraging residents to wear masks and stated it does not make sense for the city to make it mandatory if the county has not.

Commissioner Elliott asked Fire Chief Eiland if there has been any progress on putting together a plan to bring to the commission. If not, directs staff to make an agenda item for next meeting to discuss contacting outside consultants, as we have had this conversation and the Chief was supposed to get back with the commission but has not. Commissioner Elliott stated he just does not want to leave this on the side and kick the can down the road.

- E. Mayor Watts stated he feels the same as his fellow commissioners about wearing masks and asked if there was a need for discussion.

Commissioner Elliott stated that it would be the same playing field for businesses if it was a countywide mandatory requirement and not just a city requirement.

Ms. Judd asked the commission if they would like this to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

After much discussion, Mr. Cloud stated he would prepare an emergency ordinance for discussion at the next meeting.

Mayor Watts requested a status of the work at Patterson Park.

Ms. Judd stated the areas that we are trying to finish are the canoe launch in the front, the new overlook dock in the back which probably will not happen until late July or early August. The sidewalks in the back have been done. The outlook in the front has too much erosion and will not be able to be replaced so the grant will need to be amended. Ms. Judd stated she will look into opening the park but might need to close certain parts later when construction is under way.

### 13. STAFF REPORTS

Building Department – *Lisa Bolin*

Code Enforcement – *Marvin Haynes*

CMHP – *Pat Wickersheim*

Library – *Jacqueline Rose*

Sheriff's Office – *Jennifer Crews*

**Mayor Watts acknowledged the staff reports.**

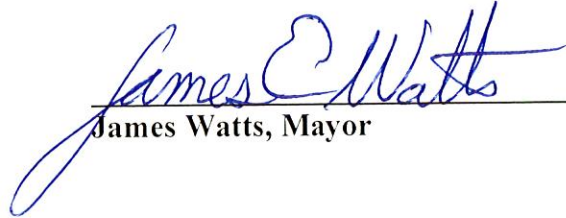
### 14. ADJOURNMENT

**There being no further business to conduct, Motion Commissioner Elliott, second Commissioner Berrien to adjourn the Regular Commission meeting of July 14, 2020 at 8:20 P.M.**

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

**ATTEST:**

  
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Melissa Cannon, Deputy City Clerk

  
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James Watts, Mayor