

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
August 10, 2015

The City Commission met this date regular session in the Commission Chambers. The Invocation was given by Comm. Strong after which the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with the following in attendance.

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| Mayor | : | John B. Arnold, Jr. |
| Commissioners | : | Heyward H. Strong, Jr. |
| | : | Joe Morgan |
| | : | Clark (Tom) Browning, IV |
| City Clerk | : | Tammy Johnson |
| City Administrator | : | Carl Scott |
| Police Chief | : | Joe Hart |
| Fire Chief | : | Mark Norris |
| City Attorney | : | Bruce Bowman |
| City Engineer | : | Roy Petrey |
| VBCS Manager | : | James Butler |
| Recorder | : | Beth Millsaps |

Others in attendance: Amber Elledge (camera), Marcia Sanders (Bay Beacon), Kelly Humphrey (NW Florida Daily News), Thomas G. Miller, Thomas K. Miller, Mary and Al Gardner, Paul LaRoux, Marion Cassell, Don Caverly, Mike Schwartz, Mike Luna, Chris Crouse, Dave Mason, Jamie Clark, Marcena and David Bohler, Chris Wasdin, Joe Cobb, Helen J. Westmoreland, Rick Woelfl, Janet Fox

Mayor Arnold welcome the audience and mentioned Mr. Bruce Bowman would be filling in for Hayward Dykes as our attorney this evening and Comm. Hamilton is out of town. He stated the Commission was interested in hearing their thoughts and welcomed any comments. Mayor Arnold asked that anyone wanting to make any comments should raise his/her right hand to be recognized and use the microphone at the podium to address the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COMM. STRONG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JULY 13, 2015 AS SUBMITTED. COMM. BROWNING SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 4 TO 0.

COMM. MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JULY 20, 2015 AS SUBMITTED. COMM. STRONG SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 4 TO 0.

1. CITIZENS' CONCERNS (non-agenda items)

Ms. Marion Cassell, 173 Highland, said that the parks and playgrounds could use some work. She said at TJ Brooks Park you can't get to the water to fish. She suggests building something for the teenagers, she said there are a lot of activities for younger children and older children but between 10 to 18 there really isn't anything for them. Maybe a skateboard rink or something of that nature. Ms. Cassell said her other concern is the looks of the city, she said we have city ordinances but they are not being enforced, something needs to be done to improve the looks of things, the businesses and some residences. Mayor Arnold said we are aware of where the dilapidated structures are and Mr. Scott and Chief Hart are working on that. Ms. Cassell said she has been told that before but nothing has been done. Mr. Scott said unfortunately there is no ordinance against ugly. He said the structures that are ugly are concrete and or steel structures and they are ugly but not against any code. Mr. Scott said there are three different homes, dilapidated structures but until they can make contact with the property owners and hand deliver a note we can't just knock them down.

Mr. Paul LaRoux, 234 S. Bayshore Drive, said he had questions regarding the stormwater bubble on his property. He said years ago in July he sent an email to Mr. Valandingham. Comm. Morgan said those emails had been forwarded to him, this is an easement issue. He said this was his fault he dropped the ball, he will relook at the easement issue. Mayor Arnold said whose property is the piping, Mr. LaRoux said he believes it is his, thinks it is due to bad lift station. Mayor Arnold said that the ball is in our court and will leave it with Comm. Morgan to find a resolution.

Mr. Jamie Clark, 46 Kelly Way, said his issue is with garbage cans not being returned to the house once they have been emptied. He said he had to call Mr. Valandingham over the years, and when he first speaks with him the situation is resolved for a couple of months and then it happens again. Mr. Clark said Mr. Valandingham can't seem to train the people to put the cans back, he said there is nothing in the bill that says the cans have to be put on the street. Comm. Browning said turn over in this department is the biggest problem, not easy job to do or easy to keep people for the amount of money we pay them in this type heat. Mrs. Johnson said consistence is part of it also, always do what you, if you want to leave it at the house and have them return it there then do that or if you are going to take it to the street then be consistent in doing that.

Minutes

Citizens'
Concerns

Mr. Clark said he has concerns also regarding the cable service, he said the cable guys do great jobs but this digital upgrade he would've thought would have been trouble shot beforehand so it wouldn't be so overwhelming. He said the channels go in and out wanted to know if we were going to give a free months cable for all the trouble. Comm. Strong said we are focused on getting system balanced and we will look at refund once all the dust has settled. Mr. Butler said the system had to be put in place before any adjusting can be done. Mr. Clark said he has an old TV and wanted to get a box to get it to work on a second TV, but was told the boxes were only for people with old TVs. Mr. Butler said we would have extra converter boxes to purchase. Mr. Clark said he doesn't want to purchase one he wants one of the free ones. Comm. Strong said the residents that have been given boxes are those people who only have analog sets. Mr. Butler said the city feels some older residents can't just go out and buy a new set so they are given boxes, can't give out boxes to everyone person for every extra TV in their home.

Ms. Janet Fox, 530 B Valparaiso Parkway, said that our cable department came out and installed a box for her but that the box was very loud wanted to know if that was normal. Mr. Butler said yes they can be noisy. Ms. Fox said her picture has still been pixilating and freezing though not as much, when the picture is good it is a great picture. She does feel residents need price compensation because it has been such an aggravating process.

2. CITIZENS' CONCERN (non-agenda items) – Non-resident

There were no non-resident comments.

1. ACTION ITEMS – Added Agenda Items

No additional items for this evening.

2. ACTION ITEMS – Home Security

Mr. Thomas G. Miller, 202 Hickory Avenue, prepared some research into ADT security system and Valparaiso's Vesper system. He said he called ADT to try and get information and attempted to have questions answered 6 times but finally gave up Vesper is monitored locally and if you have any questions or problems you can get those answered by the cable department. He feels this is a service that we have not fully marketed to our advantage. Mayor Arnold said we haven't marketed the Vesper as well as we should. Mr. Miller asked about straightening out the pixilation problem. Comm. Strong said once conversion is complete we will be looking to progressively market our security system. Mr. Miller said Valparaiso is trying to hard to be empire type people, now the cable department is looking to add another position when what we need to do is get back to basics.

3. ACTION ITEMS – New CATV Position

Comm. Strong said the Commission asked for a job description and Mr. Butler has given one to them that lays everything out. Comm. Strong said this position came about in talks with Mr. Butler and Mrs. Johnson going over the cable budget, he said Mr. Butler mentioned that he could use a head end technician but couldn't afford to hire someone full time and didn't feel this position would warrant a full time employee. Comm. Strong said that Mrs. Johnson stated that all departments budget for IT support, if we put all the departments together and the money that is paid for that support we might could bring this person on sooner than October. COMM. STRONG MADE A MOTION TO HIRE AN IT TECHNICIAN, CREATE A NEW POSITION TO COMMUNICATIONS USING THE JOB DESCRIPTION IN PACKET. COMM. MORGAN SECONDED MOTION FOR DISCUSSION. The new cable position would be approximately \$57,000 with full benefits around \$37,000 salary. Comm. Morgan asked what departments currently paid IT support. Mrs. Johnson said between police and administration approximately \$11,000 in IT. Comm. Morgan asked if there were any more incurring costs. Mrs. Johnson said library and public works don't have a set contract for IT support they hire as needed about \$4,000 in those two departments. Mayor Arnold asked Mr. Butler to describe what the new cable position would do in the cable department. Mr. Butler said due to the recent digital upgrade and the increased capability on the internet we are in need of a head end technician. He said this person would also be in charge of an inter departmental network placing all departments under one software steam lining everyone together. Comm. Strong said that way the response to each department's computer needs would be significantly improved. Comm. Morgan said the job requirements concern him because it doesn't require any type certifications for an IT position. Mr. Butler said his overview of the job position and education requirements are a general job overview, no other position in his department requires any type certifications. Comm. Morgan said he is taken back by the lack of specific certifications. Mr. Butler said we would not be able to hire a Cisco certified technician for what we have. VOTE OF COMMISSION 4 TO 0 UNANIMOUS TO HIRE A CABLE HEAD END PERSON FOR ONE YEAR. Mrs. Johnson said just to clarify this will be a full time position with benefits. Comm. Morgan said he would like to have this position reviewed next budget cycle.

1. OLD BUSINESS – Backyard Chickens

Comm. Morgan did extensive research on backyard chickens since the last meeting. He said he didn't want to draft an ordinance for the backyard chickens without input from the other Commissioners. Comm. Morgan said with a backyard chicken ordinance the Commission would need to decide the number of chickens allowed, proximity of the residence to others, size of coup, all of which would need to be established. Comm. Morgan feels the less rules the better in

Citizens' Concerns

Added Agenda Items

Home Security

CATV IT Position

Backyard Chickens

that the ordinance would be simple and clear and easy to understand. He said there are many different chickens and coups. Mayor Arnold said he was on the Commission when chickens were allowed in the city and it was a regular problem for the city, he said he thought we were looking into chickens as pets, one or two, not as egg providers. Comm. Morgan said the chickens could be for both causes. Mayor Arnold said he is opposed to chickens, ducks, and geese anything of that sort in the city. Ms. Cassell said with increase in chickens it would increase the number of wild animals that coming looking for chickens. Comm. Morgan said in his research that has been proven wrong. Mrs. Johnson said a resident came before the Commission last month and asked for research and a possible ordinance to be done to allow the chickens. Comm. Morgan said since that time he has had several residents interested in seeing chickens be allowed in city limits. Mr. Scott said we had just as many that are not for chickens in the city limits. Mr. Chris Crouse, 170 Grandview, said he is lived in Ohio and raised chickens there he said chickens are not smelly or noisy. He said the most important part of the ordinance would be the coup size, if the chickens are in too small a space they could become aggressive. Mr. Crouse said the waste is easily disposed of, have it drop into 4 to 6 inches of saw dust, once it dries out, change it every six months or so and can use the waste to fertilize flower bed or garden. Mr. Crouse said he thinks people are stuck in their ways but that the community would be better for allowing the chickens just need to work on the restrictions. Mayor Arnold said the lady that spoke at last month's meeting was speaking of chickens as pets one or two, we didn't discuss coups and egg production, he feels these two things need to be separated. MAYOR ARNOLD MADE A MOTION TO REFUSE CHICKENS BE ALLOWED IN THE CITY, COMM. BROWNING SECONDED. Comm. Strong said that Comm. Morgan had prepared a lot of information to review and he doesn't feel like he has had enough time to do that this evening or not a make decision. Mayor Arnold said he didn't feel the information was specific enough, he feels the best idea is to but this issue on hold for two months. Commission agreed.

1. **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – TPO/DOT** TPO/DOT
Comm. Morgan had nothing to report this evening.
2. **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Stormwater** Stormwater
Mr. Scott said nothing more tonight other than the issue with Mr. LaRoux.
3. **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Legal Activities** Legal Activities
Mr. Bowman said briefs filled in the Willingham case it will be months before we hear anything. He said we were able to defeat the motion for a summary judgment in the Harris case, a trial would be down the road.
4. **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Median Beautification Update** Median Beautification Update
Mr. Petrey said we are in the last two weeks of close out, we will have the hydro seal complete this week and will be looking at the maintenance on plants that have had a failure to thrive.
5. **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Community Liaison Report** Community Liaison Report
Comm. Hamilton is not in attendance this evening.
6. **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Cable Update** Cable Update
Mayor Arnold said he felt this had been reviewed earlier in the meeting.
7. **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Keep the Spirit of 45' Alive** Spirit of 45' Alive
Mayor Arnold said on August 22nd at the Air Force Armament Museum at Eglin Air Force Base there would be a program to mark the end of World War II, which is known as the Spirit of 45' he said the program would begin at 10 am and urged all citizens and veterans to attend.
8. **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Budget Workshop August 17 at 6 PM** Budget Workshop August 17, 2015
Mayor Arnold said this would be our last workshop before having a complete budget in September.
9. **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Budget Hearings Scheduled for September 9 & 22 @ 6 PM** Budget Hearings Sept. 9 & 22 at 6 PM
Mayor Arnold said we would have reminders of the meetings on the website once budget is finalized.
10. **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Disbursements** Disbursements
Mayor Arnold said a copy of disbursements were in the package.
11. **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Etc.** Etc.
Chief Norris said Comm. Hamilton had mentioned to him that he might want to update people regarding the fire at Tisa's and the hotel. He said there was a lot of support activity that went on behind the scene. Chief Norris said that Mr. Kelley, our Public Works Assistant Director worked to coordinate so that they would have enough water to fight the fire while maintaining enough for the city. Chief Norris said fire departments from Ocean City, Eglin, North Bay, Niceville and Valparaiso all responded to the blaze and worked cohesively to put the fire out. Chief Norris said our police department along with Niceville worked to keep traffic

Employee
Bonus

moving, a lot of groups working together. Mayor Arnold said it shows what can be done when everyone works together. Chief Norris said the fire is still under investigation.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS – Employee Bonus

Mayor Arnold said Mrs. Johnson has recommended her administrative employees Ms. Della Rhodes, Ms. Connie Terry and Ms. Beth Millsaps for one time bonuses of \$250 a person. He said in the letter submitted by Mrs. Johnson she recommends the bonuses in part because of the cable upgrade situation that has caused a large volume of calls and residents to come into city hall and also in part due to the fact the staff has been under maned for several months, an employee was hired and lasted a little over 90 days before she realize the job required more from her than she was willing to put out. COMM. STRONG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE BONUS FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE FOR MS. DELLA RHODES, MS. CONNIE TERRY AND MS. BETH MILLSAPS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250 A PERSON. COMM. BROWNING SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 4 TO 0.

Adjourn

ADJOURN

There being no further business to be brought before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

John B. Arnold, Jr.
Mayor

Heyward H. Strong, Jr.
Chair, VCA

ATTEST:

Tammy Johnson, CMC
City Clerk

August 10, 2015

The DVD labeled August 10, 2015 contains the audio and video of this meeting and will be kept as a permanent part of these minutes.