

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION MEETING

January 5, 2015

The City Commission met this date in special session in the Commission Chambers. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with the following in attendance.

Mayor	:	John B. Arnold, Jr.
Commissioners	:	Heyward H. Strong, Jr.
	:	Kay Hamilton
	:	Joe Morgan
	:	Clark (Tom) Browning
City Clerk	:	Tammy Johnson
Police Chief	:	Joe Hart
Fire Chief	:	Mark Norris
Public Works Director:		James Valandingham
Recorder	:	Beth Millsaps

Others in attendance: (Not inclusive) Amber Elledge (camera), Marcia Sanders (Bay Beacon)

1. NEW BUSINESS – Proclamation First Responder Appreciation Week

COMM. MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE PROCLAMATION OF JANUARY 5TH THRU JANUARY 9TH 2015 AS FIRST RESPONDER APPRECIATION WEEK. COMM. STRONG SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION. Mayor Arnold encourages all citizens of Valparaiso to show and tell first responders and their families how much they are appreciated. He said a copy of the proclamation will be on display in both the fire department and police department.

Proclama-
tion
First
Responder
Apprecia-
tion
Week

2. NEW BUSINESS – Sanitation Vehicle Purchase

Mayor Arnold said that Comm. Browning had called the special meeting for this item. Comm. Browning said at last month's regular Commission meeting the purchase of a new sanitation truck was discussed, we didn't act at that time and he said there is only one truck for this price. He said we do not have to take bids on this item. Mr. Valandingham said in reserve we have approximately \$165,000, total price is \$135,983. Mayor Arnold said he didn't know why this is cause for a special meeting and why did we have to have a new truck now. He said we did have an unfortunate accident but the accident was not due to the truck, it was due to the driver not being alert to his surroundings and the cage not having a seat belt. Mr. Valandingham said he wants to replace the 2000 model truck, not the 2008 that was in the accident. Comm. Hamilton said why don't we have an item like this in the budget like the police department does each year with a car, she feels this is a knee jerk reaction in response to the accident. Mayor Arnold asked if the 2000 is still serviceable. Mr. Valandingham said yes it was still serviceable but not in the best of shape, he said he spoke with Florida League of Cities Risk Management Division and because the cage was added if something was to happen like this last accident the city could be liable. The truck he is wanting for the department is a straight truck, it will be lower in height, the 2000 truck had received a lot of work on it in the last five years. Mr. Valandingham said it was recommended to have an engineer inspect the cage on the truck, our engineer won't and he has contacted other engineers and he can't find anyone due to liability issues. He said when the 2008 is repaired it will be repaired back to factory specifications without the cage, it would not be used as much as it was. Mayor Arnold asked when we would have that truck back in operation. Mr. Valandingham said he didn't know as of yet. Comm. Hamilton asked if we were functional, Mr. Valandingham said we are functional, at this time we are using the City of Niceville's backup truck and their backup truck is insured. Comm. Hamilton said she felt this should be in the regular budget, if we were to do this now we would deplete the reserves. Mayor Arnold said he didn't understand the need to stampede into this transaction. Comm. Browning said one vehicle left on this contract for this price. Mayor Arnold said he didn't feel that we were talking about this for any other reason than because of the accident. Comm. Morgan asked what we would be losing if we didn't purchase at this time. Mrs. Johnson said the vehicle would be going up in price. Mr. Valandingham said he is passionate about getting a new truck, it would conform within tree height and it would be safer for his employees. Comm. Strong said we had enough money to cover it in the reserve. Comm. Hamilton said yes but it would completely deplete the reserve account for sanitation. Comm. Strong said on the truck that was in the accident we were liable, Mr. Valandingham said no with the older model truck we "could be" liable due to the age. Comm. Hamilton it was something we could look at doing next fiscal year. Comm. Strong said we had an accident in one of our trucks, our Public Works Director feels the new truck will be the safest for the employees.. Mayor Arnold said the accident was due to operator error we have gone 15 years without incident doesn't feel we need a new truck. Comm. Strong said the meeting was called tonight for this item and feels it should be voted on. Mrs. Johnson asked what Mr. Valandingham planned to do with the 2000 model truck should he get the new one. Mr. Valandingham said we

Sanitation
Vehicle
Purchase

would likely sell, hoping for approximately \$20,000. Comm. Strong said the truck could be financed if we didn't want to use so much of the reserve. Mayor Arnold said he feels we should plan for it in next fiscal year budget. Comm. Hamilton said she would like to see a presentation of the plan for the life of these trucks. Comm. Morgan said Comm. Strong had a very good point, whether we plan to buy tonight or look at it for next regular meeting so that a presentation could be made, this is Comm. Browning and Mr. Valandingham's department and unless there is something really wrong in purchasing the truck. He said the money is in their reserve if they need to use it, still have \$30,000 with another year of income to make that up. Comm. Morgan asked what the sanitation fund retains over the course of the year, Mrs. Johnson said last year about \$70,000 but that amount varies. Mayor Arnold said if there was anything left over the people should get their money back. Comm. Hamilton said she feels the Commission should be responsible with the taxpayer's money. Comm. Morgan said he agrees within the general fund but this is a department head asking for something needed and the sanitation fund is an enterprise fund.

COMM. BROWNING MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A 2013 MODEL GRAPPLE BOOM LOADER, FREIGHTLINER M2 106 PACMAC KBF-20H-HJ-WITH TKB1824, FOR \$135,983 BID CONTRACT THROUGH HGAC BUY. COMM. STRONG SECONDED THE MOTION. Mayor Arnold asked how much it would cost to have equipment put into operation. Mr. Valandingham said there would be no other charges, as it is delivered it will be ready to go, will be delivered within three weeks. Comm. Morgan said for the employee to use the truck they would have to climb out of the cab and step down onto the truck, Mr. Valandingham said yes. VOTE OF 3 TO 2 ON THE MOTION, WITH MAYOR ARNOLD AND COMM. HAMILTON VOTING IN THE NEGATIVE.

Adjourn

ADJOURN

There being no further business to be brought before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

John B. Arnold, Jr.
Mayor

Heyward H. Strong, Jr.
Chair, VCA

ATTEST:

Tammy Johnson, CMC
City Clerk

January 5, 2015

The DVD labeled January 5, 2015 contains the audio and video of this meeting and will be kept as a permanent part of these minutes.