

MINUTES  
CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
March 9, 2015

The City Commission met this date regular session in the Commission Chambers. The Invocation was given by Comm. Morgan 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.

Mayor	:	John B. Arnold, Jr.
Commissioners	:	Heyward H. Strong, Jr.
	:	Kay Hamilton
	:	Joe Morgan
	:	Clark (Tom) Browning, IV
City Clerk	:	Tammy Johnson
City Administrator	:	Carl Scott
Police Chief	:	Joe Hart
Fire Chief	:	Mark Norris
City Attorney	:	Hayward Dykes
VBCS General Mngr	:	James Butler
Recorder	:	Beth Millsaps

Others in attendance: (Not Inclusive) Mike Matthews (camera), Marcia Sanders (Bay Beacon), Kelly Humphrey (NWFL Daily News), Terry Griffin, Robert Van Zant (Jordan & Associates)

Mayor Arnold welcomed the audience and stated the Commission was interested in hearing their thoughts and welcomed any comments.

Mayor Arnold said that Mr. Roy Petrey, city engineer would be out this evening.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

COMM. STRONG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED FROM FEBRUARY 9, 2015. COMM. BROWNING SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 5 TO 0.

**1. ACTION ITEMS – Added Agenda Items**

There were no items to be added by the Commission this evening.

**2. ACTION ITEMS – CDBG Public Hearing**

Mayor Arnold said we would adjourn regular meeting and open public hearing, he said we have proof of publication for the hearing from the NWFL Daily News on 02/23/15 and turned the meeting over to Robert Van Zant with Jordan and Associates. Mr. Van Zant said the reason for the hearing is to make the public aware that the city is applying for a small cities community block grant which could fund up to \$650,00 and the reason he is attending the meeting is for the Commission to decide what category to apply for. Mr. Van Zant said he would also like to make the public aware of the categories available under the grant and find out what the city would like to apply for. He said there are four categories housing rehabilitation, neighborhood revitalization, commercial revitalization and economic development category. Mr. Van Zant opened the meeting for questions or comments. There were no questions or comments from the audience. Mr. Van Zant adjourned the public hearing so the Commission could make their decision. Mayor Arnold adjourned the public hearing and opened the regular meeting. Mayor Arnold said he appreciates Jordan and Associates work and Mr. Van Zant's attendance this evening. Mr. Van Zant said we had previously applied under the neighborhood revitalization for the four lift stations. COMM. STRONG MADE A MOTION FOR THE CITY TO APPLY FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD REVITIZATION PORTION OF THE CDBG. COMM. BROWNING SECONDED THE MOTION. Comm. Morgan for clarification wanted to make sure that will include all of the work and information from the previous application and Mr. Van Zant confirmed it would. COMMISSION VOTED 5 TO 0 TO APPLY FOR A CDBG GRANT.

**1. CITIZENS' CONCERNS (non-agenda items) – Resident**

There were no resident comments.

**2. CITIZENS' CONCERNS (non-agenda items) – Non Resident**

Marcia Sanders, who is a resident of Niceville, is speaking on behalf of Relay for Life, she said May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> would be the event dates however the week before Relay for Life we like to paint the town purple. She said her son is a 9 year cancer survivor that was diagnosed at 5. Ms. Sanders said next month Relay for Life would be submitting a proclamation to the city on behalf of the event. Ms. Sanders said this event is held at Niceville High School track and everyone is invited to attend. She said last year this event raised over \$100,000. Ms. Sanders asked for the Commissions help in getting the word out and helping to help paint the city purple. Mayor Arnold asked if the event was run in teams or individually, Ms. Sanders said either way.

**3. ACTION ITEMS – Proclamation Red Cross Month**

Mayor Arnold read a proclamation supporting March 2015 as American Red Cross Month. He encourages all American to support this organization and its noble humanitarian mission. COMM. MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE MARCH 2015 AS RED

Approval  
of Minutes

Added  
Agenda  
Items

CDBG  
Public  
Hearing

Citizens'  
Concerns  
Resident

Citizens'  
Concerns  
Non  
Resident

Proclama-  
tion  
Red Cross  
Month

CROSS MONTH. COMM. HAMILTON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 5 TO 0. Mr. Jerry Kindle, Red Cross Representative, accepted the proclamation from Mayor Arnold.

**4. ACTION ITEMS – Ordinance No. 658 Amending Firefighters and Police Officers Ret Plan**

Ordinance  
No. 658  
Amending  
Firefighters  
& Police  
Officers  
Ret. Plan

Mayor Arnold read Ordinance No. 658 amending the retirement plan and trust for the firefighters and police officers of the City of Valparaiso; providing for conflicting ordinances; and providing for an effective date. Mayor Arnold said this Ordinance makes part time employees ineligible for the retirement plan. Comm. Morgan said this does not preclude benefits they have had in the past. Chief Hart said this is basically a clarification of a clerical matter that was brought to the attention by our auditors and needed to be nailed down. Comm. Morgan said he just wanted to make sure this Ordinance didn't preclude any employee from anything. COMM. STRONG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 658 AS READ. COMM. MORGAN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 5 TO 0.

**5. ACTION ITEMS – City Branding**

City  
Branding

Mayor Arnold said we had discussed in the past the city branding and were waiting on a suggestion from the Visioning Committee which we have received their suggestion was the Birth of Eglin AFB. Mayor Arnold said in thinking on it he could come up with several others Home of Eglin AFB, Bayou City, Pine Tree City, your hometown city, Vale of Paradise or something like City of Small Town Charm, he said all of those would apply. Comm. Browning said Vale of Paradise is on our letterhead now. Mayor Arnold said he would recommend we keep what is on letterhead, Home of Eglin AFB. Comm. Morgan said we have both of those on the letterhead now. Mayor Arnold said Vale of Paradise is on the city seal. Comm. Morgan suggested staying consistent to whom we are. COMM. MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO CONTINUE USING THE VALE OF PARADISE ON THE SEAL, LOGO BE AS IT IS ON THE CURRENT LETTERHEAD WITH HOME OF EGLIN AFB ON RIGHT MARGIN. COMM. HAMILTON SECONDED THE MOTION. Mrs. Johnson said she is just about to reorder letterhead and wants to make sure she has it as the Commission wants. She said on the left side it says fresh and saltwater sports on Choctawhatchee Bay then Home of Eglin AFB is on the right. Mrs. Johnson said at the bottom it says home of the world's largest Air Force Base installation, Eglin AFB, FL similar to what is in the right hand corner. Mayor Arnold and Comm. Morgan don't think we need to have the bottom statement, Mayor Arnold requested that be deleted also what is in the left hand corner to be deleted. COMMISSION VOTED 5 TO 0 TO APPROVE LETTERHEAD WITH ONLY THE CITY SEAL, CITY INFORMATION AND THE HOME OF EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE IN THE RIGHT HAND CORNER. Comm. Morgan said we could use all letterhead that we have until exhausted and then begin with the updated version.

**6. ACTION ITEMS – Okaloosa County Development Memorandum of Understanding**

OK. County  
Develop-  
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Memoran-  
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Under-  
standing

Mayor Arnold said this is a non-binding agreement that was in everyone's packet for review. Comm. Strong said he thought we had already signed this document. Mr. Dykes said this is a newer version, that the Town of Shalimar had a problem with the previous incarnation. Comm. Morgan said it comes from the transportation department and doesn't present any type conflict. Mayor Arnold said in signing the memorandum he believed we would be doing right for the county and the community. COMM. MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AS SUBMITTED. COMM. HAMILTON SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 5 TO 0.

**7. ACTION ITEMS – Memorandum of Agreement Okaloosa County Public Transit**

Mr. Dykes said the City of Mary Esther hasn't approved this document but the City of Ft. Walton Beach has, it is basically a request from the coop board for request of bids. Comm. Hamilton asked if Mr. Dykes knew why the City of Mary Esther hasn't approved. Mr. Dykes said they are a little hesitant and want to see what other cities are doing. He said there is no financial obligation, it is mainly to form coop to do the study on the public transit. Mr. Dykes said the financial obligations have been removed because cities balked at the money. He said what could happen once bids come in will see if it is something that will continue. Comm. Strong said he would approve this and then come to a final decision once bids have been decided. COMM. HAMILTON MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THIS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING OKALOOSA COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSIT COOPERATIVE. COMM. BROWNING SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 5 TO 0.

Memoran-  
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Agreement  
OK County  
Public  
Transit

**8. ACTION ITEMS – Resolution No. VCA 02-03-09-15 Amend Budget**

Mayor Arnold read the resolution asked Comm. Strong to address. Comm. Strong said we have a certain capability at the head end the usage of the internet has increased faster than anticipated, to make it faster we need to update to the existing level or move up to the next level, he doesn't feel we should waste money in just bringing up to level but increase to next level.

Resolution  
No. VCA  
02-03-09-15  
Amend  
Budget

Mr. Butler said we could upgrade our existing equipment and it would double our capacity but at the speed we are reaching capacity we would probably have to upgrade this equipment in two years and then again in one year. If we go to the next generation to what we have now like Cox and Brighthouse we would go from 32 channel downstream capability to a 582 channel downstream.

Comm. Hamilton said at the last meeting discussing viability need to discuss that first before we put \$30,000 more into it. Comm. Morgan said was \$30,000 now asking \$109,000 vs. \$30,000. Comm. Hamilton said she contacted some experts about what we discussed making sure we are competitive with bandwidth a self-sustaining enterprise that doesn't rely on tax subsidies to cover operational expenses. Comm. Strong said we don't do that. Comm. Hamilton said this company does in depth analysis and they recommend what we should do with the system to remain budget neutral. She said they would make recommendations on how to save money. Comm. Hamilton said might show a way to improve and save money or if it would be better to turn over ISP, that would be a part of their report. She said the company is Applied Research Associates they are an international company based in Niceville it would cost approximately 80 man hours and cost \$9,000, no travel time added to the contract. Comm. Morgan asked if they were associated with anyone, Comm. Hamilton said no they normally work with military contractors, they are scientists, engineers and business consultants involved in research. She has a scope of work in writing. Comm. Hamilton said she is not saying get rid of the cable but just look into it further. Comm. Strong said they have a group working on an in house study that should be ready by the next month, a viability study that would answer all the Commission's questions. Comm. Strong said in his opinion he has looked at everything and he believes the system is viable. Comm. Hamilton said it isn't just about being viable but the way the system is going. Comm. Strong said they would answer the questions from last month meeting, the Commission wants another opinion that is fine. Comm. Morgan said there are questions that still need to be answered, \$30,000 vs \$109,000 when basic questions not answered is it possible to delay the expenditure until the questions are answered. Comm. Strong said the way the internet usage is going up then we need to get with it. Mr. Butler said won't cost any money difference but performance of the internet and phones will start to drop out. He said with businesses and residents trying to take classes on line it could become a problem quickly. Comm. Strong said he feels we are ready to get the next generation of equipment and have available to the community by the summer. He said the equipment we have they are hoping to sell and would replace some money back into reserve where the money for new equipment is coming from. Comm. Hamilton feels this is like a crisis management situation. Comm. Morgan asked if we purchase and install can that not wait until next month. Mayor Arnold asked how many people losing, Mr. Butler said none yet we have not plateaued yet, we have reached points of plateauing but haven't reached completely. Mr. Butler said it could be delayed but didn't recommend it. Mayor Arnold said 318,000 in reserve as of now if \$100,000 is used will only have \$200,000 left could there be anything else coming out now, if we were going to do this then why did we raise rates last month. Comm. Strong said no plans for anything else, Mayor Arnold said then reserves should've been used instead of raising rates. Comm. Strong that would have been subsidizing each person, pay per customer more than being paid per channel. Mayor Arnold said we could have used reserves held off on rate increase for a few months. Comm. Strong said yes but it was important to get this budget year in balance and now with the saturation growth it is important to purchase new equipment to keep things running smoothly and swiftly. COMM. STRONG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. VCA 02-03-09-15 AMEND BUDGET AS PRESENTED THIS EVENING. COMM. BROWNING SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED BY VOTE OF 3 TO 2 WITH COMM. HAMILTON AND COMM. MORGAN VOTING IN THE NEGATIVE. Mrs. Johnson said she would need to get with Mr. Dykes on the procedures to purchase the equipment.

Removal of City Assets

1. **OLD BUSINESS – Removal of City Assets from Inventory**  
Comm. Morgan said he doesn't have anything on this tonight.

Plat I Docks

2. **OLD BUSINESS – Plat I Docks**  
Comm. Morgan said he would like to schedule a workshop for March 23 at 6 PM to discuss what he has so far. He has had great comments and recommendations and thinks it is coming along nicely.

Cable Study

3. **OLD BUSINESS – Cable Study**  
Mayor Arnold said Comm. Strong will have before April meeting for the Commission to review.

TPO/DOT

1. **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – TPO/DOT**  
Comm. Morgan said we had addressed this business earlier in the agenda.

Storm-water

2. **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Stormwater**  
Mr. Scott said he hasn't had any calls regarding stormwater. Comm. Morgan said the FDOT and DEP are continuing to review projects.

Legal Activities

3. **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENT- Legal Activities**  
Mr. Dykes said he didn't have anything this evening.

4. **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Median Beautification Update** Median Beautification Update  
 Comm. Morgan said meeting with FDOT to relook at water issue to join with Board of Education, it is possible for \$4320. He said the \$4320 is not reimbursed, wanted to make everyone aware and it is within budget.
5. **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Planning Commission Update** Planning Comm.  
 No one from the Planning Commission is with us this evening.
6. **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Visioning Committee Update** Visioning Comm.  
 Mayor Arnold said we do not have a Visioning member with us this evening but we are working on filling the vacancies of the committee and they are regrouping for the next phase of planning.
7. **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – BP Restore Act Projects Update** BP Restore Act Projects Update  
 Comm. Strong said we are on schedule with this and a grant package would be ready soon.
8. **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Community Liaison Report** Community Liaison  
 Comm. Hamilton said she didn't have anything to report this evening.
9. **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Twin Cities Park Closed for Fireworks Training April 12** Twin Cities Park Closure  
 Mayor Arnold said the Twin Cities Park, where Angels Are Us is located would be closed on April 12<sup>th</sup> for fireworks training.
10. **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Airport will be conducting a Triennial Full Scale Exercise in Lincoln Park May 6** Exercise Lincoln Park May 6  
 Chief Norris said this is a major event from the FAA off base exercise that will impact the county and all cities within using personnel from fire departments, emergency medical services, police departments, also on base personnel, the security forces and hospital, all will participate. Comm. Morgan said this is a huge exercise will call outs for all additional resources.
11. **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Audit Report** Audit Report  
 Mayor Arnold said all Commissioners would be provided a copy of the audit if any questions to talk to Mrs. Johnson. He said once everyone has reviewed then we will decide if we would like to have the audit people at the April meeting or if a special meeting is needed.
12. **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Disbursements** Disbursements  
 Mayor Arnold said everyone has a copy of the disbursements for their review.
13. **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Etc.** Etc.  
 Comm. Strong said he represented the city for opening day at the Niceville Valparaiso little league park and we were presented with a trophy for the city's support.
- ADJOURN** Adjourn  
 There being no further business to be brought before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

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John B. Arnold, Jr.  
 Mayor

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Heyward H. Strong, Jr.  
 Chair, VCA

ATTEST:

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Tammy Johnson, CMC  
 City Clerk

March 9, 2015

\*\*\*The DVD labeled March 9, 2015 contains the audio and video of this meeting and will be kept as a permanent part of these minutes.\*\*\*