

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION MEETING

March 14, 2016

The City Commission met this date in regular session in the Commission Chambers. The Invocation was given by Mayor Arnold 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.
	:	Joe Morgan
	:	Clark (Tom) Browning, IV
	:	Kay Hamilton
City Clerk	:	Tammy Johnson
City Administrator	:	Carl Scott
Police Chief	:	Joe Hart
Fire Chief	:	Mark Norris
City Engineer	:	Roy Petrey
City Attorney	:	Hayward Dykes
Public Work Director	:	Nathan Kelley
Recorder	:	Amber Elledge

Others in attendance: (Not inclusive) Amber Elledge (camera), Marion Cassell, Annie Cameron, John Cameron, Robert Ehrhard, Christine Wasdin, Scott Henson (Okaloosa County Mosquito Control), Marcia Sanders (Reporter with the Bay Beacon)

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

Minutes COMM. MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 8, 2016. COMM. BROWNING SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 5 TO 0.

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

Citizen Concerns
Budget Inn Mrs. Cassell, 173 Highland St, asked about the Budget Inn. She wanted to know if Mr. Scott had been in contact with a State inspector to close it down. Mr. Scott advised that he is working on having it inspected further and he has noticed that a lot of the green roofing shingles have fallen off of it, adding a cause for recourse. She also asked Comm. Hamilton about building a platform for the kids to fish on at Brooks Park. Comm. Hamilton advised we can introduce that into next year's Parks budget.

Mrs. Cameron, 267 South Bayshore, stated that she has coordinated with the Budget Inn owner, Jack Patel. She said he is sandblasting and that she had her roof guy helping Mr. Patel replace doors etc. Mr. Scott told her that everything she had just described requires permitting and he had not seen Mr. Patel or a contractor for said permitting.

Bradley Materials Robert Ehrhard, 382 Edge Ave., voiced his concern about the material waste behind the Bradley Materials building. He referenced rodents and cats and said citizens had voiced that they would like that cleaned up. Mr. Scott said the city has been working on this issue for a long, long time and they have until April 1st to get it straightened up. Chief Hart said the owner has been making steady progress with this but not all of the material is biodegradable. He said the owner has been at the mercy of a market to try and recycle some of the material.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS (Non-Agenda Items) Non-Resident

There were no non-resident comments.

ACTION ITEMS – Mosquito Control Presentation by Scott Henson, Mosquito Control Director Okaloosa County

Mosquitos Comm. Morgan said he had researched what Okaloosa County is doing to prevent mosquitos and invited Mr. Henson to present. Mr. Henson began by stating that our district is divided into two components: a north end operation and a south end operation. He said the south end operation is in Fort Walton Beach with three technicians who you will often see driving around. He said the only places that our district does not treat are state lands and military facilities (reservation) which have their own operations at Eglin. He advised that our district tries to keep in contact with them to compare efforts. He said our district is busy year round with a budget of about \$700,000 each year, and is a very heavily regulated operation. He also said that there are numerous items which must be in place to justify spraying. There are twelve monitoring locations where they count and log each mosquito species to monitor how many are where. Mr. Henson said things like wind and people on the road, at dusk and dawn when mosquitos are most active, also affect when and how they can spray. He advised that when the lights flash on the mosquito truck, it is spraying. Mr. Henson said they are not allowed to spray during the daytime but they do spray our area once a week.

He said the two species' which are spreading the Zika virus are active during the daytime but have not been seen in our area since October or earlier. Mr. Henson said that our district does sometimes spot treat, when there is a problem in a particular area. He also said that humans are not dead end hosts to Zika and once a human is a host, it takes seven days for them to become immune to it before they are no longer a host. Mr. Henson said one in five humans will have very mild symptoms, and the rest will have no idea they have it. He also informed us that every case within the U.S. has been contracted elsewhere and brought into the country but none have been contracted in the U.S. Mr. Henson said that public health officials must escort mosquito control officials onto private property for them to be able to spray there. He advised citizens to evacuate standing water on their property often, as a preventative measure.

Comm. Strong asked how Valparaiso fits into the twelve hundred monitoring sites and Mr. Henson says they vary depending on the people who call in problem areas. He said some have been identified over time and would get that information to him. Mayor Arnold thanked Mr. Henson for his informative presentation.

2. ACTION ITEMS – Added Agenda Items

J.D. Cameron, 267 South Bayshore, spoke on behalf of the Valparaiso Visioning Committee and referenced the community garden and farmer's market as detailed on the committee's Strategic Plan. Mr. Cameron had approached a Gulf Power representative about using the power line right of way for the market and garden. He provided several photographs of the area in question. The representative, Jeff Cole, had advised that the next step in creating the market would be to consult with Eglin Air Force Base, who owns the land in question. Mr. Cameron advised there would be restrictions in place, including no trees over ten feet, no permanent structures, gates to allow vehicle traffic, and having the plot at least twenty-five feet from the poles and guide wires. He said about a quarter of an acre was being looked at for the market and garden. He specifically asked the Commission for permission to approach Eglin to see if they are receptive to having a market at this location, and also asked for guidance about who should represent Valparaiso in this endeavor. Mr. Cameron advised there is no water source at the location so water and firming of the ground there would be the only foreseen costs to the city. Mayor Arnold said the first thing we should do is ask in the newsletter who would be interested in selling at the market. Mr. Cameron mentioned having the market as a joint venture with Eglin, which the Commission thought was a wonderful idea. COMM.

Visioning
Comm
Community
Garden/
Farmers
Market

HAMILTON MADE A MOTION TO ASK JD CAMERON AND A COMMISSIONER (TO BE APPOINTED AT A LATER DATE) TO APPROACH EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE IN REGARDS TO A FARMER'S MARKET ON THEIR LAND WITHIN VALPARAISO CITY LIMITS. COMM. BROWNING SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION, 5 TO 0.

ACTION ITEMS – ORDINANCE NO. 670 –Flood Plan Amendment

Mr. Scott explained that FEMA requires us to adopt a flood plain ordinance that is very specific in nature to maintain our community rating. Presently we were at an 8 and we've just moved to a 7. This ordinance contains the additions to the flood plan ordinance which are required to remain in the community ratings system. Mayor Arnold advised that the second and final reading for this ordinance will be in April. Comm. Morgan asked if this obligates us to the new flood zone map that was put out and Mr. Scott advised that it does not. Comm. Morgan wanted to make the public aware that the map we have received contains a lot of "B" areas in Valparaiso and Niceville, which were not historically zoned as such. He said they are zoned as "B" versus just being in a flood area. COMM. HAMILTON MADE A MOTION TO PROCEED TO A FINAL READING FOR ORDINANCE NO. 670, COMM. MORGAN SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION, 5 TO 0.

Ordinance No.
670 –Flood
Plan
Amendment

4. ACTION ITEMS – RESOLUTION NO. 03-03-14-16 – Surplus Property

Nathan Kelley spoke to this and said the equipment listed within this Resolution is very old and we have no use for it. He also stated that we had sold the old street sweeper for \$58,650. COMM. MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 03-03-14-16, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE SALE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT FROM THE CITY OF VALPARAISO AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. COMM. Comm. Morgan added that in past budgets we had gone ahead and planned to replace these items and have done so. STRONG SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION, 5 TO 0.

RESOLUTION
03-03-14-16
Surplus
Property

5. ACTION ITEMS – General Employee Normal Retirement Age

Mrs. Johnson informed that currently we have three different retirement systems: The Florida Retirement System, the Florida Municipal Pension Trust Fund (which the police and firefighters are on), and one called General Retirement. She said we had been looking at the different ages that they list for retirement. The General Retirement current age is 70 ½ years old, regardless of how many years of service with the city. The Florida League of Cities had informed her that the industry standard retirement age is 65 years old, with at least 8 years of service. She said the FRS has changed theirs to that or 33 years of service regardless of age. If the city adopted something similar to these the only thing that would change from the city is, when an employee retires from the city, according to the plan they're on, they may be paid up to 240 hours of vacation and 240 hours of sick leave if they have those items. She added that if

General
Employee
Normal
Retirement
Age

you just leave the city, you are entitled to up to 240 hours of accrued vacation, but you are not paid for any accrued sick leave.

She gave an example of a public works employee who, if hired at the age of twenty, would have to work for the city for 50 years just to be able to retire. Mayor Arnold suggested that we add 62 ½ years old retirement age with 30 years of service, or 65 years of age with 25 years of service, and after 70 have twenty years of service. Comm. Browning asked where we had gotten the current standard and Mrs. Johnson said it was likely from when the city first got into the retirement plan quite some time ago. Comm. Morgan recommended that we go with the FRS standard. Mrs. Johnson said we currently have three or four on the old FRS program and none on the new FRS program. Comm. Hamilton requested to table the issue until April, to allow more time to study options. COMM. MORGAN MADE A MOTION TO POSTPONE THIS ISSUE UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING. COMM. HAMILTON SECONDED THE MOTION TO POSTPONE WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION, 5 TO 0.

Referendum
Business
Property Tax
Exemption

1. OLD BUSINESS – Referendum Business Property Tax Exemption

Mayor Arnold urged all residents to vote to approve this tomorrow. Attorney Dykes reminded us that qualifying entities must be either a new business or one which is adding jobs, would have to apply to it, and must meet requirements in order to have their ad valorem taxes waived. He said that if the referendum passes, the Commission would have an ordinance which would require two readings when they could discuss the parameters to set within the ordinance. He said once the ordinance passes, businesses can begin to apply for it. Mr. Dykes said the ad valorem waiver would only count towards what the city has; it would not waive the county portion. He stated the waiver is good for a maximum of ten years.

TPO/DOT

6. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – TPO/DOT

Comm. Morgan stated we had responded to the request about bridge height. He said the responses had been mixed but there were many concerns regarding keeping both lanes of boat traffic.

Stormwater

7. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Stormwater

Mr. Scott said there had been a couple instances on February 23rd where they had a gully washer.

8. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Legal Activities

Attorney Dykes advised there was nothing to report.

9. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Community Liaison Report

Library

Comm. Hamilton stated there are exciting things happening with the library this summer and thanked Director David Weatherford for his efforts within the Okaloosa County Library Cooperative. Comm. Strong said it looked like the library had taken a hit in terms of funds. Comm. Hamilton said the whole Cooperative had.

Construction
Activity

10. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Construction Activity

Mr. Scott said a permit was issued for the Coca Cola plant, so they will be breaking ground for the new 12,000 square foot portion of that.

ISO

11. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – ISO Community Rating System

Mr. Scott advised that we just moved from a Class 8 to a Class 7 which means that everyone's flood plan insurance just got reduced another percentage.

Oath of Office

12. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Oath of Office March 22, Noon

The Mayor reminded us of the election tomorrow. He said all five candidates were present and successful candidates would be sworn into office the Tuesday following the tomorrow's election, at noon.

8. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Organizational Meeting March 22, 6 PM

Mayor Arnold said the Commission would then have an organizational meeting on March 22nd, 2016 at 6 PM.

5th Annual
Easter Egg
Hunt

9. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – 5th Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Lincoln Park, Saturday, March 26, 2016, 9am-11am

Mayor Arnold stated the public works department would hold their fifth annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 26th, 2016.

10. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS - Disbursements

Mayor Arnold said everyone should have disbursements.

Audit

11. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Etc.

Mayor Arnold said he would be expecting an annual audit by the end of the month, which was delayed due to the auditors needing some data from the state.

Little League

Comm. Strong mentioned the Little League Opening Day and brought a plaque to commemorate the event.

Comm. Morgan stated that he, Mr. Scott and Mr. Kelley would be submitting some 419 H items for stormwater and roads. He said they are already within the grant process and are templated and they will continue to seek additional funds.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS – Presentations

Mayor Arnold stated the present terms for Comm. Hamilton and Comm. Morgan would expire at noon on March 22nd. He told them both they had served well, faithfully, and had given freely of their time and expertise for the benefit of the city. He said they both had significantly raised the performance bar for future commissioners. To Comm. Hamilton, our Parks and Library Commissioner and to Comm. Morgan, our Street Commissioner, he extended heartfelt thanks from all residents and the commission. He outlined the following accomplishments from the past term: new sidewalks in Plat 6, redoing sidewalks in Plat 1, opening a dog park at TJ Brooks Park, the purchase of several new pieces of equipment for the fire department, completion of the second floor of the fire department building for sleeping quarters, creation of the visioning committee, hired a new police chief and a new director of public works, replaced 800' of force main in Doolittle Park, have provided water, sewer, all amenities and have opened up the road for North Bayshore Dr, renovated the Adams Ave water tank, eliminated two dangerous dwellings, re-roofed the city hall building, updated the police computer software, hardware and purchased new patrol cars, upgraded and revised Doolittle Park, completed Median Beautification along John Sims Pkwy, and are currently supporting the creation of the Girl's Power Station, the Coca Cola plant renovation, and the Tom Thumb upgrade. He said they should be proud of their accomplishments and presented them with plaques commemorating their term of service.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to be brought before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM.

Adjourn

John B. Arnold, Jr.
Mayor

Clark T. Browning, IV
Chair, VCA

ATTEST:

Tammy Johnson, CMC
City Clerk

March 14, 2016

The DVD labeled March 14, 2016 contains the audio and video of this meeting and will be kept as a permanent part of these minutes.