

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

April 4, 2019
County Commission Chambers
945 North Temple Avenue
Starke, FL 32091
Joint Workshop with City of Starke Commission
6:30 p.m.



PRESENT: Commissioner District 5 Chairman Frank Durrance
Commissioner District 3 Vice-Chairman Chris Dougherty
Commissioner District 1 Commissioner Ross Chandler
Commissioner District 2 Commissioner Kenny Thompson
Commissioner District 4 Commissioner Danny Riddick

ALSO PRESENT: Brad Carter, County Manager; Rachel Rhoden, Deputy County Manager; Will Sexton, County Attorney; Ray Norman, Clerk of Courts; Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk; Jim Farrell, Finance Director; Mark Crawford, Press; Major Smith; Allen Parrish, Emergency Medical Services Director; Sheriff Smith; Chip Ware, Fire Chief; and Lt. Shuford.

Present for the City of Starke: Commissioner Mortimer, Mayor Nugent; Commissioner Chastain; Commissioner Smith; Ricky Thompson, City Clerk; Bob Milner, City Manager; Gary Wise, Fire Chief; Clay Martin, City Attorney; Scott Anaheim, Utility Operations Director.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Durrance called the Workshop to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. WELCOME – Chairman Durrance

2. COUNTY DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Code Enforcement

Vice-Chairman Dougherty presented comments specifically addressing areas in the community that are unsightly. He complimented the city for taking steps to deal with code enforcement violations.

Mr. Milner presented comments concerning the city's dilemmas regarding code enforcement. He reported that the city's code enforcement ordinance is being revised for compliance with state statutes. Once that process is complete, they will begin enforcing violations.

Vice-Chairman Dougherty deviated from the agenda to present comments regarding the newly imposed gas taxes of which the city will receive its share of the revenues. He briefly explained the county's plans moving forward.

Mayor Nugent stated that road work in the city is particularly challenging right now as the task of replacing water/sewer lines must be addressed before street/road work.

There was brief discussion concerning various problematic city roads. Mr. Milner presented comments referencing scheduled projects and future goals.

B. Public Safety

Discussion was not limited to but included:

- The possibility of **consolidation of services** or an exchange of services, i.e. the county handling law enforcement and the city handling fire services.
 - Putting the option of the county handling city law enforcement on a ballot for the people to decide.
 - Fire staff from both the county and the city conducting research to attain financial/budgetary data, organization, and staffing requirements related to consolidation. Based on the results of the research, developing a plan for fire services while still utilizing volunteers.
 - Chief Johnson and Sheriff Smith to meet to do the same for law enforcement as stated above for fire services.
- The latest stats for EMS: 42% of calls were within the city limits and \$498,000.00 worth of uncollected accounts.
- Requirements and cost to become certified fire fighters.
- Stipend for volunteers and community support.
- Current county fire services system.
- Having an appealing environment for potential volunteers.

Vice-Chairman Dougherty stated that he has asked Mr. Carter and Ms. Rhoden to create a survey with a variety of questions for the volunteers to fill out to get input and feedback. He would like to have the survey ready prior to the April 22 workshop.

3. CITY DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Recreation

Discussion was not limited to but included:

- The splash park.
- Baseball, softball and football fields (maintenance, lighting, etc.)(Thomas St., Edwards Road, Wainwright Park)
- The cost of recreation.
- Funding recreation.
- A full-time recreation specialist.
- County recreation parks (FRDAP grants)

Incited by a comment presented by Vice-Chairman Dougherty, there was brief discussion regarding reaching out to the Sports Management/Medicine Programs at the University of Florida or Santa Fe to see if they could offer any assistance, i.e. internships or volunteers.

- Recreational activities other than for the youth, such as Rails to Trails.
- Request for county contribution toward recreation (financially and assisting with regular maintenance).

B. Annexation

Discussion was not limited to but included:

- The city's goals relating to annexation.
- The annexation process (voluntary versus involuntary).
- Building infrastructure and providing services for annexed areas.

Skipped to Item "F" below.

C. Expansion of Water/Sewer Lines Outside the Current City Limits (Discussed in "B" above.)

D. Zoning for Highway Interchanges (Discussed in "F" below.)

E. Water Pressure/Storage for Fairgrounds

At the request of Commissioner Chastain, Mr. Scott Anaheim, Utility Operations Director for the City of Starke, presented comments concerning the inadequate water pressure at the fairgrounds and presented a proposal to resolve the problem and for construction of infrastructure to prepare for future growth. An engineer should be consulted to determine the actuals, but in his estimation, the project would require a minimum of \$100,000.00 from each commission.

Mr. Milner advised that he would confer with engineers, both the city's and the ones that he and Mr. Ware have been dealing with at the Fair Association.

Mr. Milner reiterated his earlier statement regarding businesses who have expressed a desire to come to Bradford County, increasing the need for water, sewer and gas.

F. Permission for Staff to Review Possible Joint RFQ for Firms Specializing in Economic Development

At the request of Commissioner Chastain, Mr. Milner addressed this item. He explained that a number of cities and counties in Florida have formed partnerships to develop and advertise a combination RFQ to engineering/environmental firms who specialize in economic development. Putnam County has received over \$50 million in grants for water, sewer, fire, etc. There are businesses standing in line wanting to purchase property along the bypass. The city cannot afford to extend water and sewer to these areas.

At no cost to either Board, Mr. Milner requested permission to allow city and county staff, together with the respective attorneys, to review the prospect of a joint RFQ. He would aim to present the results in the next few months.

(04-04-19 Workshop with City of Starke)

After brief discussion, both commissions approved Mr. Milner's request. (Mayor Nugent did not object, but stated that he would have the item placed on the next agenda for further discussion.)

Incited by a comment presented by Commissioner Riddick, there was some discussion regarding how restaurants located at the SR16 and SR100 interchanges of the bypass would affect the City of Starke.

Chairman Durrance and Vice-Chairman Dougherty presented comments regarding economic development.

4. MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION ITEMS BY EITHER BOARD: None.

Lt. Shuford announced that beginning in August, the Army Corps of Engineers will be conducting a study (Sampson Lake Water Shed Basin Study) and working towards an up to \$10 million project for Alligator Creek and flooding issues within the City of Starke and in Bradford County. Mr. Milner expounded on the scope of the study/project.

After discussion, there was a consensus for each commission to provide dates they are not available in June and July. Staff will then schedule the workshop to begin at 6:00 p.m.

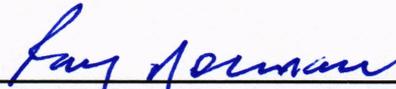
5. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Major Brad Smith expressed his appreciation to both boards for a productive meeting.

6. ADJOURN: There being no further business, the Workshop adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA**



FRANK DURRANCE, Chairman

ATTEST: 

RAY NORMAN, Clerk to the Board

Minutes prepared by Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk
Minutes approved by BoCC at the Regular Meeting dated 05-06-19