

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH, 2023
CITY COMMISSION MEETING – 9:00 A.M.**

Present: Jesse Nelson, Mayor
Brandon Aldridge, Commissioner
Pat Perno, Mayor Pro Tem
Jamie Warrick, Commissioner
Judy Vandergrift, Commissioner
Vickie Gainer, City Manager
Chief Ramie, Sergeant at Arms
Kevin Obos, City Legal Counsel

Item # 1. Call to order.

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

Item # 2. Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item # 3. Public Commentary.

Jodi Moore – Amhurst Street – Welcomed Mrs. Vandergrift to the commission. Spoke about the infrastructure issues. She said that although she had not planned to return to these commission meetings, she had received so many requests by people to return, so here she is. She went on to say how disgusted she is with the current city leadership. She said that she had noticed all the lovely banners up around the city parks honoring people for Black History month and she would love to see some banners honoring women in the city next month for Women’s History Month, especially one of Miss. Judy Tinder.

Mr. Walker – welcomed the new commissioner. He said she is going to face some problems in the city and he looks forward to seeing her address them. He wished her well in her endeavor. He said that a while ago commissioners said they are not responsible for what went on in the past, but in a few months, they are going to be reviewing the comprehensive plan, and will have to revisit the charter because it was not done well this time. He said they are responsible for what went on in the past because they have had the opportunity to correct those wrongs. He said they have gross problems with the debt. He told the commissioners to “know that we will be watching”.

Mrs. Parker – Rett Place – she read something she has had on her refrigerator for many years about “you are what you do”. She said there were false accusations made against herself to the FBI by Vickie Gainer, and it is her understanding that lying to the FBI is a federal offence. She said this was not the first false information stated but also other information about Judy Tinder’s voting patterns, and she suggested Ms. Gainer may want to go back and correct those errors.

Mr. Schneider – 309 Virginia Ave – said that in his capacity as Chairman of the Planning Board they held a Planning Board meeting last week and invited commissioners to the next meeting in March or April to get a flavor for the conversation they will be having in regard to the changes they are anticipating making in the code. He thanked the commission for their work with the Planning Board recommendations.

Item # 4. Mayor’s Report.

The Mayor said these past few weeks have been productive and fun and included watching some of our local North Bay High girls compete in district championships for weightlifting and even qualifying for regionals and about 8 went on to qualify for state competition this Saturday. Also had a chance to meet with City Manager and staff regarding our Legislative Appropriations and this commission have requested \$9m in legislative funding for our public utilities, public works, roads, stormwater, and engineering for the regional stormwater pond. The Mayor encouraged everyone to reach out to their legislators to encourage them to look at our appropriations

applications positively. He also encouraged the commissioners to keep in touch with Florida League of Cities to be aware of the issues they have requested support for, like the issue of home rule. Another big one that is coming up again is the threshold of lawsuits which is set to potentially increase from \$1m last year to between \$300k - \$5m, so he encourages everyone to continue to reach out to our local delegation to let them know we are not in favor of that increase.

The Mayor met with local and national organizations to discuss how we continue to improve our communities in recovering from Hurricane Michael, especially those families that don't have the funding they need to recover. He said he did not receive any reports regarding structural flooding over the weekend with the recent rains. The IMPC workshop is on Monday 20th at 5.30pm.

It was good to see Mr. Ricky Steele's artwork and how he has depicted the past and the future. He said he had celebrated Leon Miller day yesterday and had the opportunity to sit with Mr. Miller's wife and daughter at the garden club to discuss his life with them and the various contributions he has made. Interestingly the nurse that assisted Mr. Miller in hospital is actually one of the people he had helped get through Gulf Coast College.

Mayor's Town Hall was the night before and the topic was public safety where he gave various statistics for the city. Fire response time is less than 4 minutes, and the Police Department is less than 2 minutes. He is thankful for all of those that serve, and who work 7/24/52. We are one of the top city's in Florida for safety as well as in the top for the nation. He said however, please remember to lock your doors and your car doors, especially if you have guns in your vehicles. Crashes have gone down by more than 40% in Lynn Haven. The Mayor said he is thankful to everyone who was able to come out and be a part of the Mayor's Town Hall.

Item # 5. Commissioners' Reports.

Commissioner Aldridge – Congratulated Ms. Vandergrift. He said that people will notice they have started the rails to trails project and he encouraged all to drive by and take a look. He is excited about that project. He went on to congratulate all who have qualified for the next election, saying that his name is not on there as he did not qualify, but he has been proud to serve the city. He also agreed with Ms. Parker and quoted the bible in a few verses about holding ourselves to our utmost integrity when serving our constituents.

Commissioner Perno – thanked everyone for being here today and our first responders and staff. He said he is a member of the TPO and the TPO subcommittee. There is now a Bay Transit Governors committee, and they will be having their first meeting this Thursday at 3pm. On Feb 22nd he is attending the St Joe Estuary policy meeting. Thanks to Jessica Graham and the St Joe and St Andrews Bay Estuary Program for working with Chris Lightfoot on the regional stormwater pond.

Mayor thanked Commissioner Perno and Beef O'Brady's for pushing out those wings of the Super Bowl weekend.

Commissioner Warrick – 25 February at 11am he will be at slim chickens if anyone wants to come to discuss anything. They can also just call him on 850-391-1217 if they cannot make the meeting. He said he sat down with Corrie Langford about the IPMC. He also had a chance to meet Mr. Steele and he is a great person.

Commissioner Vandergrift – stated that her new commissioner email address is comm_vandergrift@cityoflynnhaven.com. She said she knew Mr. Leon Miller as they had the opportunity to work on a number of projects together. She said he was a wonderful person, and it was a big loss.

Item # 6. City Manager's Report.

A. Warrant list update – There were no questions.

Chief Ramie did a swearing in of Officer Carrie Charmichael.

B. Stormwater update – presented by Mr. Lightfoot.

Mayor asked the Director about communicating with citizens relating to stormwater and how we measure the efficiency of our stormwater? Mr. Lightfoot said that would be through documented structural flooding of which we have several years documented. Once this project is finished and we have new statistics relating to rain events, we will be able to compare it to the historical records. Commissioner Perno asked regarding the resident on Sydney Lane – Mr. Lightfoot said they have addressed it several times, and the issue is about structural flooding not water over the road or in the garden. Once we have alleviated all structural flooding, we will start addressing other flooding. The Mayor said the first question you should ask anyone who comes to the commissioners about flooding is to ask if the water is entering their homes.

City Manager – Feb 20th will be the IPMC workshop. There will also be a Stormwater Assessment Methodology workshop. She mentioned the various activities during the month. The finale for Black History Month is the art show that will be judged by the Commission. She had met with a resident couple on Friday night about recovery from the Hurricane and hopefully will be able to help them get some of their issues resolved. March 4th is the grand re-opening day and the first opening day at the new sports complex. The City's rebuild is coming along very well with positive growth and a positive rebuild. Good things are happening in the city of Lynn Haven and we should be proud of what we are doing. The bay doors for the Fire Department are finally going to be coming in.

Mayor asked about the timeframe for the entrance signs – City Manager said they are going to start soon, and that Mr. Sorci is going to discuss that today.

Item # 7. City Attorney's Report.

City Attorney spoke about municipal boundaries and pockets of unincorporated Bay County land forming enclaves. There are 3 applicants that want to annex into Lynn Haven, but it would create a new enclave which is not allowed. However, the County has worked with the city to create an interlocal service boundary agreement that they may approve as part of their agenda on the 22nd at which time it will come back to the city at our 28th February meeting. The parcels actually overlap with our existing utility service area where we are already providing water and sewer and so that may allow us to allow the process of voluntary annexation without objection from the County. There is a big one on 389 and 390 that wants to annex in. Allowing these will not give the city any more obligations that we are not already doing anyway as utilities, police, and fire were already serving that area

CONSENT AGENDA

Item # 8. Amended Minutes Memo dd 01/10/23 – Regular meeting minutes.

Item # 9. Minutes dd 01/24/23 - Regular meeting minutes.

Item # 10. Minutes dd 02/03/23 – Special meeting minutes.

Item # 11. Approval to declare Truck #24 as surplus and auction off.

Motion by Commissioner Warrick: to approve the consent agenda.

Second to the Motion

Commissioner Perno

On Vote:

Warrick	aye
Perno	aye
Aldridge	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

OLD BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED: (9:44 A.M)

Item # 12. Final Reading of Ordinance 1144 creating section 14-36 of article II, chapter 14 of the code of ordinances implementing penalties for any work performed before a permit has been issued.

City Manager read the Ordinance by title only.

Attorney explained that the version in the agenda was the incorrect version and that the ordinance will have another sentence in there that in addition to the permit fee the city may impose a penalty up to \$2500 for people who go and do work without a development order.

Mayor opened the floor for public comments.

Mr. Walker – said he had read this with interest, and he feels it leaves a lot lacking, and this deals with one subject and that is the fines, and this should go with permits too. He said he has been in discussion with the building department and building official and described some of their conversations. He said he is a little confused because it seems to him that the information coming from the building department is in direct opposition to Florida Statutes and the building officer. He thinks we should be more definitive and in line with Florida statutes about what is required and then look at the fines. He doesn't know what a permit is required for and even the building department don't know what a permit is required for.

The Mayor invited Mr. Vannatter, the building official, to address Mr. Walker's comment. Mr. Vannatter said anything past \$2500 is just the notice of commencement and anything before that is \$0 to \$2500 and then you still have to get a building permit. The process of getting exemptions from permits is spelled out in Chapter 1 in the administration code and if it does not fall under that then you need a permit. He said he would be happy to give them all a copy of it. Also, once a building permit is issued, they have 6 months to do something with it before it becomes invalidated and expires. The code that the commission is currently considering in this ordinance is going to help him keep the unlicensed contractors out of the city and gives him and code enforcement more ability to enforce the code.

Commissioner Warrick asked if he would need a permit to put a nail in a piece of siding? Mr. Vannatter answered that there is a section in the code about minor work that covers that and the answer is no unless you're doing a whole section of the siding.

Mayor Nelson said the building offices are very informative when he has needed to ask about permitting issues.

Mr. Vannatter said his office is "open door" so if he is in the office, he will see anyone.

Motion by Commissioner Warrick: to approve Ordinance 1144 creating section 14-36 of article II, chapter 14 of the code of ordinances implementing penalties for any work performed before a permit has been issued.

Second to the Motion

Commissioner Perno

On Vote:

Warrick	aye
Perno	aye
Aldridge	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED (9:54 A.M)

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED: (9:54 A.M)

Item # 13. Final Reading of Ordinance 1146 Amending Section 10.00.04 of the ULDC to provide rules for application of new development standards and regulations to development orders extended beyond two years.

City Manager read the Ordinance by title only.

City Attorney explained the item.

Mayor opened the floor for comments. There was none.

Motion by Commissioner Aldridge: to approve Ordinance 1146 Amending Section 10.00.04 of the ULDC to provide rules for application of new development standards and regulations to development orders extended beyond two years.

Second to the Motion

Commissioner Perno

The Mayor opened the floor for public comments. There were none.

On Vote:

Aldridge	aye
Perno	aye
Warrick	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED (9:56 A.M)

NEW BUSINESS

Item # 14. First Reading only of Ordinance 1147 Future Land use Map Amendment – Parcel #10057-010-000; Illinois Ave; Mixed Use to Public/Institutional.

City Manager read the Ordinance by title only.

Item # 15. Discussion and possible approval of the lowest responsive bid from Burke Construction, for the Monument Sign construction project (Lynn Haven entrance signs).

The Mayor invited Mr. Sorci to provide comments and answer any questions.

Mr. Sorci explained the advertising and bidding process they had undertaken. The first two lowest bids did not address addendum #1 and one of them did not address the lighting. Upon approaching those particular bidders to rectify their bids, they decided to withdraw their bids. The next lowest was Burke construction and they have been recommended by Florida Architects. Completion dates will be July 26th. They can work with Burke to see if they can push that faster to be completed in time for July 4th celebration.

Commissioner Warrick clarified if this is FEMA money and City Manager confirmed yes.

Commissioner Warrick clarified with the attorney if it was legal that the two lowest bids were declined. Attorney explained that they would have been disqualified for not addressing the full scope, but the architect actually contacted them to correct their bids, but they chose to withdraw, so they were not declined.

Commissioner Aldridge said it was a good idea to try to get it done before July 4th celebration.

The Mayor opened the floor to the public for comment. There were none.

Motion by Commissioner Aldridge: to approve the lowest responsive bid from Burke Construction, for the Monument Sign construction project (Lynn Haven entrance signs).

Second to the Motion Commissioner Warrick

The Mayor opened the floor for public comments. There were none.

On Vote:

Aldridge aye

Warrick aye

Vandergrift aye

Perno aye

Nelson aye

Motion passed: 5-0

Item # 16. Discussion and possible approval of contract with Bliss Products for the purchase and installation of bleachers and picnic tables at the Sports Complex.

The Parks & Grounds Director explained the item per his report.

The Mayor opened the floor to discussion.

Commissioner Warrick asked if this was FEMA money and City Manager confirmed yes.

Commissioner Aldridge asked about the materials of the picnic table and the Director answered Poly and concrete.

Motion by Commissioner Warrick: to approve the contract with Bliss Products for the purchase and installation of bleachers and picnic tables at the Sports Complex.

Second to the Motion Commissioner Perno

On Vote:

Warrick aye

Perno aye

Aldridge aye

Vandergrift aye

Nelson aye

Motion passed: 5-0

Item # 17. Discussion and possible approval of contract with Bliss Products for the purchase and installation of playground equipment for the Sports Complex.

The Parks & Grounds Director explained the item per his report.

The Mayor opened the floor to discussion. Mayor asked if it was FEMA funds and City Manager confirmed yes.

Commissioner Vandergrift asked how many units it is and Director explained a few pieces of playground equipment and give a bit more detail.

Commissioner Perno asked if there was only one bidder and director confirmed yes. Commissioner Perno asked if the price guidelines were good, and the Director said he believed so.

Motion by Commissioner Warrick: to approve the contract with Bliss Products for the purchase and installation of playground equipment for the Sports Complex.

Second to the Motion Commissioner Aldridge

Minutes from the City Commission meeting called February 14, 2023 at 9:00 A.M.

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On Vote:

Warrick	aye
Aldridge	aye
Perno	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

Item # 18. Discussion and possible approval of the proposed purchase agreement for 1609 Iowa Ave.

The City Manager explained the item per the report.

The Mayor opened the floor to discussion. Commissioner.

Motion by Commissioner Warrick: to approve the proposed purchase agreement for 1609 Iowa Ave.

Second to the Motion Commissioner Perno

Sam Peebles says this is a good idea especially for the residents who live in that area.

Mayor agreed it would be good for the sporting events in that park.

On Vote:

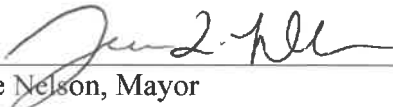
Warrick	aye
Perno	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Aldridge	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

Item #19 Adjourn.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:10 A.M.

APPROVED THIS 28th DAY OF February 2023.



 Jesse Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:



 Vickie Gainer, City Manager

prepared by
Cicelia Rushing