

**TUESDAY, MAY 9<sup>th</sup>, 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.**

Invocation was given by Chaplain and Pastor Tim Krisko.

**Item # 3. Public Commentary.**

Mr. Scray – Missouri Avenue – shared a handout to the commissioners and spoke about properties in Lynn Haven that are mixed use, and the owners are potentially able to put residences over retail, and the potential benefits thereof.

Ms. Parker – Rett Place – Said that every week she hears people on the Commission thanking the city employees, which is great. She would suggest that the pay scale for these employees be looked at. Accolades and pizza parties are great, but what really helps an employee is a pay raise.

Mr. Bramton – Thanked the Fire Department and Police Department for saving the life of his wife and responding quickly to the emergency call where she had a stroke.

Mr. Hines - agrees with Ms. Parker that we are one of the most progressive cities in the county and some of our most valued employees are earning poor salaries. He said he feels if we need to levy some type of tax to do that then we should.

Mrs. Hodges – HR and Risk Director – Said she wanted to publicly report that our rates are in line with other governments and other businesses. Currently our lowest paid employee is making \$14.50 an hour, with a guaranteed 40-hour week and a full benefits package, paid vacations and earned leave. Of course, the budget comes before the commission every year to approve, and we are constantly looking at those rates to ensure we are in line with or above what is going on in our community.

**Item # 4. Mayor's Report.**

Mayor read and presented the Proclamation for National Public Works Week.

Mayor read and presented the Proclamation for National Safe Boating Week.

The Mayor said that the ULDC and Comprehensive Plan will be reviewed in detail once the new commissioner is appointed. Thanked everyone for their comments about the pay scale for the employees and that those comments will be considered in the next budget round. The Mayor attended an industrial luncheon with other business leaders organized by the Economic Development Director, where there was great engagement and discussion. We are having discussions with developers about doing some different things around Lynn Haven. Met with Ascension Sacred Bay Heart Hospital CEO and Chief Medical Officer at a meet and greet at Gulf Coast College and discussed different ways we can work together in the community to achieve the best health facility. Military Affairs Committee of the Bay County Chamber of Commerce as well

as delegates from Tyndall Airforce base invited the Mayor to attend Lockheed Martins base to see the assembly of F35's that will eventually be at Tyndall. Enjoyed the simulator in the F35, as well as interacting with other business leaders and leaders of the Tyndall Airforce base. One of the Colonels is moving his family to Lynn Haven from Arizona. The Mayor met with residents immediately after the tornado touchdown, and he is thankful for the help of the local residents and the Lynn Haven emergency services. Thanked Chief Delonjay and his first responders for the quick response to the fire that happened at the same time. There is no value or price you can put on someone's life, so whatever the price of our equipment to enable these response times, he is happy to approve that. Some in the community complain about our fire truck costing \$1m, but to the family whose home was saved, that home is priceless. Mayor went to the grand reopening of Sonny's BBQ where they fired a cannon. The fire department and relevant safety personnel were on site at the time. Also, went to the grand opening of Kirkland insurance on HW390 too. The Mayor spoke with the A-team of United Way of Northwest Florida to update them on the happenings in Lynn Haven. Mayor also did some television news interviews and attended a community luncheon to engage with other municipal and business leaders. Attended the Governors announcement regarding extension of snapper season. Yesterday his family voted, and he encouraged everyone to please get out and vote for this run-off election at the Lynn Haven Senior Center to let their voice be their vote.

**Item # 5. Commissioners' Reports.**

Commissioner Aldridge – He and the Mayor got to tour City Hall after the last meeting. It is a beautiful building, and the commission chamber is amazing.

Commissioner Perno – Thanked Commissioner Aldridge for serving alongside him and he looks forward to seeing him continue to be involved in the community in the future. He attended the St Joe Estuary meeting and proceeded to show a slide showing the action plans and timeline of the program and how far it is funded out. There will be another public workshop in July. He also attended a TPO meeting and at 11am tomorrow at the Bay Transit there is a workshop for the 5-year workplan, and he encouraged all to attend. A resounding thankyou to the community for their help to each other after the tornado. Reminded all that it is Teacher Appreciation week. Encouraged all to get out to vote. Will send the handout to the Communications department so it can be published.

Commissioner Warrick – Thanked Mr. Bramton for sharing his story because he had no idea. Last time he looked at the budgets he noticed how much was spent in those areas, but when these things happen he can appreciate the expense. 20<sup>th</sup> May is next meeting with the commissioner. Encouraged all to get out and vote for the current run-off election. Thoughts go to the people who suffered loss and damage during the recent storm.

Mayor shared that Congressman Dunn's office advised it is not going to be FEMA covered because it was a very localized storm.

Commissioner Vandergrift – Thanked Ms. Richard and Mr. Janke for helping her understand a lot of the items on the agenda. Had several citizens complain about flooding in the streets after the storm which she referred to the City Manager who had her staff go out and address it with the citizens. One of the situations it was discovered that there was construction debris in the ditches, and it was able to be taken care of immediately.

**Item # 6. City Manager's Report.**

City Manager Vickie Gainer said the city has been in touch with the residents who were affected by the storm and are assisting them access various funds from the county. Happy nurses' week and happy teachers' appreciation week. The pickle ball courts are not yet open because we have not received our CO yet. As soon as we receive our CO, we will open them up. Softball and baseball championships on May 18<sup>th</sup>. It's been a really great year, thanks to Justin and his team. Lots of business and building growth happening in Lynn Haven and we are doing all we can to ensure

those developers have all the information they need. Facilities Maintenance building is complete. Going to install some rails around Kinsaul concession stand and are just waiting for some quotes to come in. Replaced some Sylvester palm trees that died in the freeze. Remind all about some bid openings that will come up very soon. You will see that these are always open to the public and always advertised online and in the newspaper. One of the things to remember about bids is that if they are sealed bids then none of that information is actually read at the time they are opened. Staff have to first go back and score them and then report them to the commission to vote on. The various bid openings dates: Stormwater Improvement was May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Liquid Sludge Hauling was just held, CRA Sidewalk is on May 10<sup>th</sup>, Wrecker Towing is on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Lift Station 6&11 repairs will be on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Pest Control Services is May 30<sup>th</sup>, and the Commercial Solid Waste is on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

A. Warrant list update – There were no questions.

**Item # 7. City Attorney’s Report.**

City Attorney Kevin Obos said session just ended and it doesn’t look like anything happened with the short-term rental bill. It looks like the Senate passed it and it was laid on the table by the House. We will start getting legislative updates and webinars etc. and if anything comes up, he will update them in the next couple weeks.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Item # 8. Approval of Minutes dd 04/25/23 – Special meeting minutes.**

**Item # 9. Approval of Minutes dd 04/25/23 - Regular meeting minutes.**

**Item # 10. Approval of Residential Incentive Program application – 900 West 15th Street, contingent upon completion.**

**Item # 11. Approval of Residential Incentive Program application – 904 West 15th Street, contingent upon completion.**

**Item # 12. Approval of Mayor Pro Tem Jamie Warrick per Section 18 of the Charter.**

**Item # 13. Approval to continue the Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Sheffield Park each year in January.**

**Item # 14. Approval to close 5th Street, Montana & 4th, and Missouri & 4th for the July 4th line up.**

**Item # 15. Approval of To Ratify Charles (Bill) Waller’s re-appointment to the Firefighters Pension Board of Trustees with a new term expiration date of May 31, 2027.**

Motion by Commissioner Perno: to approve the consent agenda.

Second to the Motion Commissioner Aldridge

On Vote:

Perno	aye
Aldridge	aye
Warrick	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Item # 16. Discussion only and review of Chapter Five of the International Property Maintenance Code.**

Mayor said this was on page 45 and 46 of the agenda pack and asked if there were any updates or inputs since Friday’s discussion. There was none.

**NEW BUSINESS**

***QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING OPENED: (9:41 A.M.)***

*The City Attorney checked if anyone had any ex-parte communications. There were none. City Attorney swore in anyone who intended to speak to the item.*

**Item #17. Discussion and possible approval for Final Plat Approval – Jakes Landing; Parcel #11573-008-000; Highway 389.**

Planning & Development Director explained item.

Mayor opened the floor for comments and there were none.

Motion by Commissioner Warrick: to approve the Final Plat Approval – Jakes Landing; Parcel #11573-008-000; Highway 389.

Second to the Motion Commissioner Perno

On Vote:

Warrick	aye	
Perno	aye	
Aldridge	aye	
Vandergrift	aye	
Nelson	aye	Motion passed: 5-0

***QUASI-JUDICIAL PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED: (9:44 A.M.)***

Mayor asked Commissioners and City Attorney to stay after the meeting so they can all sign the plat.

**Item #18. Discussion and possible approval of Resolution #2023-05-407 – Fee Schedule Update.**

The City Manager Gainer read the resolution by title only.

Mayor opened the floor for comments and questions.

Commissioner Vandergrift asked if in the future there a justification for why certain fees are being raised so that they can give the reason why when residents ask. She went on to state that there are times where the city actually loses money with every transaction and the citizens need to know that.

Motion by Commissioner Aldridge: to approve the Resolution #2023-05-407 – Fee Schedule Update.

Second to the Motion Commissioner Perno

On Vote:

Aldridge	aye	
Perno	aye	
Warrick	aye	
Vandergrift	aye	
Nelson	aye	Motion passed: 5-0

**Item #19. First Reading only of Ordinance 1153 – Mowat Etal. – Voluntary Annexation – (ANNEX-23-01); Parcel # 11573-000-000; 2604 Hwy 390 E.**

The City Manager Gainer read the Ordinance 1153 by title only.

Commissioner Warrick asked the developer (Panhandle Engineering) if they do work throughout the county. He said yes. Commissioner referred to the rhetoric about how expensive it is to develop and build in Lynn Haven, and asked why they would want to annex in. Mr. Slonina said it is not about the expense, it is because the Mowat family has always been part of Lynn Haven. This property is functionally in Lynn Haven and if there is a fire Lynn Haven is going to cover it and

the Lynn Haven police is going to cover it so the property should be contributing to the tax base. Also, the code they are currently reviewing will be a good code in his opinion. Commissioner Warrick sought clarity that the Lynn Haven services are better and he answered yes. Commissioner Warrick asked about the difference in cost of developing. Developer said that Panama City impact fees are significantly less, but in his opinion the expense is not the deal breaker. These developments are a better fit for these properties.

**Item #20. First Reading only of Ordinance 1154 - Small Scale Future Land Use Map Amendment – (SSA-23-05) - Parcel # 11573-000-000; 2604 Hwy 390 E; from Bay County Residential to City of Lynn Haven Commercial.**

The City Manager Gainer read the Ordinance 1154 by title only.

Commissioner Warrick asked about residence above retail fitting in here. Director said no that would be under mixed use, and this is a request for commercial.

**Item #21. Discussion and approval of the Kinsaul Splash Pad.**

The City Manager Gainer explained item stating that after this recent tornado storm most of the equipment was severely damaged. This might be a good time to discuss a potential different use for this area. Mayor said that on Friday they had discussed potentially having a skate park in that area and having that idea explored.

Mayor opened the floor for comments and there were none.

Motion by Commissioner Aldridge: to Direct the City Manager and Staff to explore the possibility and cost of having a skate park built at Kinsaul Park.

Second to the Motion Commissioner Warrick

On Vote:

Aldridge	aye
Warrick	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Perno	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

**Item #22. Discussion and approval to appoint a commissioner to the Bay County League of Cities Board.**

Mayor explained the need to have Lynn Haven represented at the local League of Cities.

Motion by Commissioner Aldridge: to appoint Commissioner Jamie Warrick to the Bay County League of Cities Board.

Second to the Motion Commissioner Perno

On Vote:

Aldridge	aye
Perno	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Warrick	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

**Item #23. Discussion and approval to replace Commissioner Brandon Aldridge on the TPO Committee.**

City Manager Gainer explained that after the elections Commissioner Aldridge will no longer be a Commissioner and available to be on that committee.

Commissioner Warrick asked Commissioner Vandergrift if she would want to serve on this committee and she conceded.

Motion by Commissioner Warrick: to appoint Commissioner Vandergrift to replace Commissioner Brandon Aldridge on the TPO Committee.

Second to the Motion Commissioner Perno

On Vote:

Warrick	aye
Perno	aye
Aldridge	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

**Item # 24 Discussion about the Water Tank Murals or other potential ideas.**

Commissioner Aldridge spoke briefly about the issue and implored the future Commission Board to pick this ball up and complete it and make Lynn Haven proud.

Commissioner Perno mentioned the previous discussion and community outreach about it and said there needs to be more community input. He feels they are the perfect backdrop for movie screens and quite powerful projections and slide shows etc. that may be cheaper than painting.

Commissioner Aldridge said that at least something can be put on there even if it is not a whole complete mural.


Mayor asked City Manager to add this item to the strategic plan so that it can be discussed at length between the commissioners and with city staff.

City manager said there are Gobos that are projected up on the water tanks at special holidays etc. like "Happy Fourth of July" or "Happy Easter" including lights that are different colors. She also advised it was only painted plain light color in anticipation of the mural so it did not clash with what the muralist decided to paint. So, she will get with the staff and do some further research as well.

**Item # 25. Adjourn.**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:06 A.M.

APPROVED THIS 23 DAY OF May 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jesse Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vickie Gainer, City Manager

prepared by  
Cicelia Rushing