

**TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2022  
CITY COMMISSION MEETING – 5:30 P.M.**

**Present:** Jesse Nelson, Mayor  
Brandon Aldridge, Commissioner  
Pat Perno, Commissioner  
Jamie Warrick, Commissioner  
Judy Tinder, Commissioner  
Vickie Gainer, City Manager  
Police Chief Ricky Ramie, Sergeant at Arms  
Kevin Obos, City Legal Counsel

**Item #1. Call to order.**

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

**Item # 2. Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.**

By Chaplain Frank Stephens.

**Item # 3. Public Commentary.**

Jodi Moore – Amhurst Street – appreciates the transparency on the budget and the going back to the 1911 plat and the push to unification. There are many good things happening. She wanted it noted that under New Business on the agenda the item for the LH Bayou project, Panhandle is the engineer. Regarding the mural on the water tanks, she likes the idea but would like a workshop with the public so they can give ideas themselves. She would like to know the outcome of the DEP meeting.

Mr. Scray – spoke about the water tank mural process. Also, about the perception by the public about irresponsible spending on places to walk etc. He feels there should be more sidewalks and encouraged everyone to let's be proud of Lynn Haven.

Mr. Walker – regarding the previous two pre-meeting workshops – He said he feels that stacking everything you are going to do for a year in one afternoon and expecting the public to sit and absorb it is a lot. He feels that the Chairman excluding his constituents from asking questions, because we didn't have time enough to address these issues is not right. They have questions and weren't allowed to ask. He feels disrespect from that.

Mr. Beshearse – Louisiana Ave – asked will the public be able to address the item on the water tank at the time of the item or should they address it now in public commentary. Mayor confirmed he can address it during the agenda item.

Brian Gray – 1513 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street - thanked the LHPD for their assistance over the past few months with some issues his family have experienced at their property. Regarding the Water tower, he has been in Lynn Haven since 1965 and he thinks it's a great idea; and we have a lot of things unique to Lynn Haven like Mosely Dolphin and Roberts Hall. We have some things unique to Lynn Haven to put up there.

James M. Oakley - 1208 Massachusetts Avenue – He said he salutes all who are managing the City in the current public storm. He feels the inability of the public to render feedback cancels communication and a little error like putting the public commentary so early in the meeting is a mistake.

Mayor advised that the time clock is not working so they are using their cell phones to keep the time.

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

- A. Proclamation for National Disability Independence Day – read and presented by the Mayor.

The Mayor spoke about the Mayor's Youth Council day after the previous meeting. Some had some good ideas on how to handle some of the issues. Feels it was a very good dialogue and discussion with them overall. Meets with Mr. Janke once a month to discuss the future economic growth of Lynn Haven and they will be sending out surveys about some of our facilities and how the various county and government entities can serve us. Municode issue with Ord 1113 – the ordinance the City passed takes precedence over what is currently on Municode because Municode goes through an update process which takes a few months once staff submits them to Municode.

Congrats to new Mayor Pro Tem Perno in his new rotation cycle.

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

Commissioner Aldridge – TPO meeting over the past few weeks – believes in 2024 we will have the funding to start the groundwork to start 6-laning 390 from 289 to 231. They are about to redo the bridge and will be making it large enough to fit the 6 lanes and we will just need to re-line it.

Commissioner Perno – the afternoon after the last meeting he attended a workshop for the feeder group of the St Joe Estuary program. TPO meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> – confirmed the resurfacing encompassed the bridge widening. Widening of Baldwin road to 390 was brought up by us. The DOT is having a public workshop on July 14<sup>th</sup> where they will be focusing on the 5-year transportation plan. Thanks City employees and all first responders.

Commissioner Warrick – June 25 he had his “time with the Commissioner” meeting and was looking forward to people coming out to give him their feedback about the mural and he was there by himself. He said he had sent a letter in February to Jay Trumble and others with no response. Sent another one in March with no response. In May he sent another one about the Senate bill 524 Fair Voting Act prohibiting rank order voting asking why they did that, and still no response. So sent email to Senator Hudson asking him the same thing and he responded the next business day. Past Wednesday he went past his office and asked for him at his office. He called back on Monday, and he will sit down with him in Mid-July. Commissioner Warrick said he is really trying to find things at the state level that will help our municipality and he will continue to stay involved with our state reps.

Commissioner Tinder – had a quiet two weeks. Received many calls and emails regarding the mural. Many say it is not fiscally responsible and would prefer their potholes and ditches to be fixed.

Mayor thanked the City Manager and staff for presenting the budget and answering Commissioner questions. He explained that as we ran out of time, he did encourage the public to direct any additional questions to the City Manager if they had any. As it stands, they would not have been able to ask questions at a Friday workshop any way. Subsequent to the workshop many asked the City Manager their questions as it is.

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

City Manager said smoke testing that was passed at the previous meeting will start in July so if you see smoke remember it is the smoke testing for us to find sewer spills. We are 90% complete with our welcome signs for the city. After the design is complete it will go out to bid. Kudos to building department who are working hard at being more efficient and process driven looking at software that will allow us to do everything online. New meters have finally arrived and are being replaced. Fourth of July we are down to the last stages of planning with 67 participants. Will be a great day and have a lot of things planned for that day. We have a lot of volunteers from the citizens too. We are in the final stages of the citizens newsletter and will be distributed in the latter part of July and needs to coincide with when the utility bills go out to minimize expenses, as well as on

the website and Facebook. Close to implementing Tyler Notify, and when you receive that email, and you want information about the city you will need to “not opt out”. Envisioning engagement workshop on July 18<sup>th</sup> at 5pm-7pm, talking about the revitalization of Florida Avenue – Commissioners will be listeners at this event as it is a citizens’ workshop. Attended her first Changing of Command ceremony at Tyndall air force base. City Manager thanks staff for all that they do. She wants to sit and talk to any citizen about anything so please contact her.

- A. Warrant list update – Commissioner Tinder asked regarding the Bay County Sheriff’s office increase? Chief Ramie explained it was for the server that took a hit, and it will be reimbursed through insurance. Commissioner Tinder asked about Marshall Construction – Greg Kidwell explained it was for lift station renovation.

**Item # 7. City Attorney’s Report.**

City Attorney advised the legal advertisement bill did pass and is effective from January 2023 so that will allow us to change the way we advertise. Finally got the Marina Island / Rails to Trails executed deed for the easement in and now as a formality the commission will need to vote that in. now that we are taking ownership of certain easement, we are now signing an amended deed so we will own it outright.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Item #8. Minutes dd 06/14/22 - Regular meeting minutes.**

**Item #9. Approval of the Amended & Restated Easement Agreement for Rails to Trails North / Marina Island Blvd; and Quit Claim Deed for Rails to Trails South.**

**Item #10. Approval for Vehicle #15 (2005 F150 – 162039.0 miles – fixed asset #03499) to be declared as surplus for auction.**

Motion by Commissioner Warrick: To approve all items on the Consent Agenda, with amendments to the minutes as noted.

Second to the Motion Commissioner Aldridge

On Vote:

Warrick	aye
Aldridge	aye
Tinder	aye
Perno	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Item #11. Discussion and possible approval of engineering services for the Mill Bayou Booster Plant and Reuse system improvements for \$223,240.**

The Chief Infrastructure Director explained the item.

Commissioner Tinder asked if there was anyone here from Panhandle Engineering. Yes.

Rebuild to a booster plant has a lot to do with the apartment complex and I thought that apartment company was going to contribute to that infrastructure. Greg explained when the apartment complex applied for reclaimed water, we did not have a place to put it. This booster plant allows us to do that. Commission Tinder - Apparently Panhandle engineering designed this. Commissioner Warrick asked if this is grant money. Yes, the American Rescue Plan. Commissioner Tinder asked who got us that Grant. City Manager said President Biden because it is federal money. The Mayor explained when the Commission reviewed the grant and explained that the City had been delayed and waiting for specifications from the White House about how the funds were allowed to be used.

Motion by Commissioner Aldridge: Approval of engineering services for the Mill Bayou Booster Plant and Reuse system improvements for \$223,240.

Second to the Motion

Commissioner Perno

On Vote:

Aldridge	aye
Perno	aye
Warrick	aye
Tinder	no
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 4-1

**Item #12. Discussion and possible approval to award one of the designs for the proposed Water Tank Mural.**

The Parks and Grounds Director explained the item.

City Manager reminded the Commission that they asked the City to add this to the budget. Commissioner Tinder said she recalls it was about \$20k. Commissioner Tinder asked if we have any idea what the scaffolding and scissor truck are going to cost. Director advised we already have a lift and bucket truck that can be utilized. Commissioner Tinder advised that the cost of scaffolding was not included in the artists proposals. Director confirmed, but that we would use the bucket truck and lift and if they needed scaffolding it is something we would need to address.

Commissioner Aldridge asked Mr. Farris if we are voting on these designs now or if we are just showing these designs to the commission now. Commissioner Aldridge explained the Commission wanted public input as the tanks belong to the citizens. Commissioner Aldridge also explained we have already budgeted for the other areas of concern people are expressing to spend the money on instead. He said he ran because he wanted to improve Lynn Haven and make Lynn Haven better that it was before the storm. To put it into perspective, \$35k versus what is spent on the splash pads, just to run our two splash pads that he has never been to is \$200k - \$300k every year in the budget, for five months. He doesn't hear a lot of complaining about that. He asked that we take this opportunity to spend a little bit of money toward civic pride on HW77 instead of two brown cupcake looking buildings.

Commissioner Warrick said we had to get repairs and they painted it to get it ready for the inspection. How often do you have to paint it? Utilities Director said it depends, and this one was painted with 5-7-year paint warranty. Commissioner Warrick clarified that we could leave the way it is right now? Staff confirmed yes. Commissioner Warrick said he understood the citizens' concerns, and perhaps we should wait about 5 years till it's ready to be painted again, emphasizing the need for balance between spending money and revitalizing the city.

Mayor said he doesn't think it will make a difference if we have to paint it every 5 years. It may save us this time, but not every other five years. Mayor recommends having workshops and see if we can possibly consider doing this now.

More discussion ensued.

Commissioner Aldridge – if the mural ends up being on a third of the tank, then I presume the cost will be a third too? Director answered yes.

Commissioner Perno asked what is budgeted for just painting the towers without doing the murals? Director advised \$25k. Commissioner Perno said that doing the murals instead is then only \$10k more than what it would cost to simply put a coat of paint on them.

Commissioner Warrick said then if we decide to wait 5 years before doing the mural another base coat will need to be painted on? Utilities Director confirmed yes. right now, if we do the mural, it

will last longer than if we wait? Yes. Commissioner Warrick said he understands the residents' concerns and clarified that the paint preparation that has just been done needed to be done anyway whether it was going to have a mural on it or not. Utilities Director confirmed yes.

Commissioner Tinder would like to explore the idea of Mr. Scray's and see if we can get more residents to donate to the project.

Motion by Commissioner Warrick: To table the item for now and have a workshop.

Second to the Motion

Commissioner Aldridge

Michelle Beshearse – the FB discussions this past week have been quite distressing. Art in all forms is beautiful and refreshing. On Sunday evening after reading through over 300 messages there were only 20 for the plain; 13 for city logo; 7 for the tree; 6 votes for the oranges and 1 vote for the contemporary palm tree. Her personal idea is the city logo is too repetitious. The Tree (Mother nature) was her favorite. The oranges are not really relevant to Florida. Feels this decision should be made by a small, qualified group if it hasn't been made already.

Mr. Beshearse – Wife and he seldom agree but they do on this matter. Would like the Commission to consider what Michelle said about using a small, qualified group of people to choose and then have a workshop with the community at large. Will say the City of Lynn Haven – if all the city is supposed to do is collect garbage and pave the streets, then he doesn't want to live here. This is one of those things that need to be done to make the city what this city is. You are talking to businesses to update their road fronts and beautify their properties but now people want us to say that the city is not going to participate in the beautification of the city with the water tanks?

James M. Oakley - 1208 Massachusetts Avenue – loves what he is hearing with the exchange of ideas. What a great idea, put a bucket out and allow the citizens to donate like Mr. Scray who wrote a \$100 check.

Mr. Scray – don't envy your position and would probably have also tabled the item. Like the idea of setting up a committee of qualified individuals to explore the designs. You will upset some people and there is nothing you can do about it.

Jodi Moore – Regarding the public "mural gate" as some are calling it, she is for beautification, and it is important, but people do want to know what the total cost is going to be. Feels it should be the people who should be heard, not just an advisory board. Let it come back to the beautification board to run with. If this is not a donation driven thing where is the money coming from? City Manager said the budget is under water tanks in public utilities budget.

Steve Macowski – Dundee Lane, Mowat Highlands – doesn't care for the issues about the mural. But the Commission has been elected by the residents to make these decisions. They are duly elected, and we should go in the direction of the Commission. Sometimes too many folks spoil the cake. Thanks for your service and you are going in the right direction.

Commissioner Aldridge – if we are going to have a workshop is it going to be what we are doing right now again, or do you want it to be more about a vision for beautification. Because otherwise we can just put up an online poll for anything else, the public can always come to us or email.

Commissioner Warrick – is wondering if the Beautification Board could take the lead?

Commissioner Aldridge – Agreed saying he liked that idea.

Commissioner Tinder excused herself briefly.

Mayor – if we're talking about ideas from the citizens is the demographic of the Beautification Board diverse enough to have and eclectic input for the artwork. Commissioner Warrick asked if the public could attend the Beautification Board and provide input? City Manager said it is a public meeting so the public can have input.

Amended Motion by Commissioner Warrick: To refer to the Beautification Board to get input from the public and the youth and bring it back to the Commission.

Second to the Amended Motion

Commissioner Aldridge

**Minutes from the City Commission meeting called June 28, 2022 at 5:30 P.M.**

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Sarah Griffith - one of the muralists – in Panama City they did not do any workshops. You could probably get grants as there are massive amounts of grants out there for beautification for Cities. Mayor said to remember we asked the staff to go and investigate and do this for us and bring it back to us so we cannot let the citizens beat up on the city staff. He would like the staff to come up with other ideas in terms of financing options and design.

Commissioner Aldridge – our staff could get with the Panama City staff and get ideas and guidance from them.

Amended Motion by Commissioner Warrick withdrawn.

Second to the Amended Motion by Commissioner Aldridge withdrawn.

**Item #13. Adjourn.**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

APPROVED THIS 12<sup>th</sup> DAY OF July 2022.

ATTEST:

  
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Vickie Gainer, City Manager

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

prepared by  
Cicelia J. Holliday