

**TUESDAY, JULY 11th, 2023
CITY COMMISSION MEETING – 9:00 A.M.**

Present: Jesse Nelson, Mayor
Sam Peebles, Commissioner
Pat Perno, Commissioner
Jamie Warrick, Mayor Pro Tem
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 9:02 A.M.

Item # 2. Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation was given by Chaplain Frank Stephens.

Item # 3. Public Commentary.

Rebecca Holcary - 100 Montana Ave – her opinion about the splashpads and that of her elderly neighbors who cannot attend - they are in full support of rebuilding the splashpad at Kinsaul. They are not interested in the politics surrounding the issue. They do not feel we need a skate park as there is one in Panama City, and it is in a commercial area which is more ideal. There are two skate parks across the bridge for our teens. She would like her and her neighbors to be notified if there are any discussions surrounding this issue.

Mr. Smith - 601 East 9th Street – said he fears for his safety on the corner of 9th Street and Illinois Ave. Would like to see a four way stop sign to put in that intersection for the safety of himself and his family.

Item # 4. Mayor's Report.

Mayor responded about the skate parks and that it is not yet decided about what will happen with Kinsaul Park and it is still up for discussion.

Mayor read the Proclamation for Lynn Haven All-Star Baseball and Softball Teams. Each team member was presented with a trophy. Mayor thanked the coaches and staff for their support for the teams.

Item # 5. Commissioners' Reports.

Commissioner Peebles – Attended and enjoyed the Fourth of July parade and listed a few fun things that happened. He had many people in attendance saying that this was the best parade and fireworks show they had ever attended. Commended the police department for how efficient and impressive it was to be able to leave so quickly. Thanked Sue Bynum for her support of the Finance Committee and Debbie Ashbrook for stepping up. Commissioner Peebles explained that we are only in an exploratory phase of deciding what to do with Kinsaul at this stage so please continue to bring ideas to the Commission or reach out to him by email. Reminded all also to keep an eye out next year if anyone wants to add anyone to the Heroes banner.

Commissioner Perno – Agreed with Commissioner Peebles regarding the Fourth of July celebration and the staff once again did a stellar job, saying not many cities pull together like the City of Lynn Haven. Thanked all the first responders and our military.

Commissioner Warrick – is sorry to have missed the parade this year. Appreciates all the effort that went into it.

Commissioner Vandergrift – Also wanted to thank the staff for the wonderful Fourth of July parade. She was amazed at the number of people along the route showing their respect for our

country. She watched the kids hugging the “hug me” drink machine and loved the expression on the kids’ faces, and yes, she did it too. Thanked police and all first responders for being available on that day.

The Mayor said he shares the same sentiments as all the other commissioners and thanked the staff for their efforts. He has had lots of positive feedback about it.

Item # 6. City Manager’s Report.

A. Warrant list update – Commissioner Peebles asked about the BGN contractor amount and Director said it was the sports park and the Public Works department. Commissioner Vandergrift asked about the Energy and Environment amount of \$95k and the director explained it was concrete canvas for the stormwater improvements.

City Manager said it is a busy time right now with budget season. City Manager thanked all of Bay County and City of Lynn Haven residents for their attendance of the Fourth of July celebration. We continue to give away trees to replenish the trees we lost during Hurricane Michael. New City Hall Grand Opening date will be October 10th.

B. Overview of the Estuary Program was presented by Ryann Rossi, Estuary Scientist of FSU. Commissioner Perno asked if they have public outreach and workshops. She said they will be having some in September, but they are always open to receiving any feedback and suggestions.

Item # 7. City Attorney’s Report.

City Attorney had nothing to report.

CONSENT AGENDA

Item # 8. Approval of Minutes dd 06/27/23 - Regular meeting minutes.

Item # 9. Approval to appoint Debbie Ashbrook as the new committee member to replace Sue Bynum on the Financial Review Committee.

Item # 10. Approval to auction off surplus police vehicles and utility trailer that are damaged/inoperative

Motion by Commissioner Vandergrift: to approve the consent agenda.

Second to the Motion

Commissioner Peebles

On Vote:

Vandergrift

aye

Peebles

aye

Perno

aye

Warrick

aye

Nelson

aye

Motion passed: 5-0

OLD BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED (9.38am)

Item # 11. Final Reading of Ordinance 1155 – TECO Natural Gas Franchise Agreement.

City Manager read the item by title only.

City Attorney explained the item saying that it is simply the 30-year update, and renewal for the next 30 years.

Mayor opened to the floor for comment.

There were none.

Motion by Commissioner Perno:

to approve Ordinance 1155 – TECO Natural Gas Franchise Agreement.

Second to the Motion

Commissioner Peebles

On Vote:

Perno	aye
Peebles	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Warrick	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED (9.40am)

NEW BUSINESS

Item # 12. Discussion and possible approval to accept the new staff insurance benefits/costs with Abentras.

Director of Human Resources explained the item and introduced Owen Wingate who is a principal of Abentras who spoke about the new packages going forward for the employee insurance benefits.

Mayor opened the floor for comments. There were none.

Motion by Commissioner Peebles: approval to accept the new staff insurance benefits/costs with Abentras.

Second to the Motion Commissioner Vandergrift

On Vote:

Peebles	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Perno	aye
Warrick	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

Item # 13. Discussion and possible approval to set the proposed millage rate and budget hearing dates for purposes of submission on the Certificate of Taxable Value to the Property Appraiser's Office, pursuant to the TRIM Act.

The Director of Finance explained the item per the report and attachments. Commissioner Perno clarified if they are proposing an increase in the millage. Director said yes, the Millage is supposed to balance the General Fund. Attorney said today you are not adopting and setting anything, they are simply announcing the maximum rate for TRIM.

Commissioner Peebles said his concern is that currently property values are at an all-time high and we currently have many more people living in and moving into Lynn Haven. So, he feels millage should be going down and he won't be voting yes to a 4% increase in the rate. Director explained again that they are not voting on the millage rate but simply setting the date and the maximum possible rate that could be charged.

Commissioner Vandergrift said she knows that we purchase services from other municipalities like Panama City, and asked if they have increased the costs of their services to us? Director said yes 3% for the wholesale water last year and the previous year and we did not pass on those increases on to the residents. Commissioner Vandergrift clarified that we have absorbed 6%? Director said yes for that wholesale water. We also had increases from across the board for all types of services, like medical. Commissioner Vandergrift asked how we compare to other cities in the area. Commissioner Peebles said Panama City's rate is 4.89%, Callaway's is 2.75%, and Parker's is 3.8%. City Manager said just for clarification that Callaway is increasing theirs by 2.99%, and the county will be setting theirs soon where there will be an increase there as well. Panama City will remain the same. So, most places you are seeing increases. Commissioner Warrick said that Mexico Beach is 6.5%.

Commissioner Warrick said to also keep in mind that whatever maximum number you set it at now you cannot increase it above that, but you can decrease it at the time of actually setting the rates, by as much as you want.

Mayor opened the floor for comments and questions from the public. There were none.

Motion by Commissioner Warrick: approval to set the proposed millage rate and budget hearing dates for purposes of submission on the Certificate of Taxable Value to the Property Appraiser’s Office, pursuant to the TRIM Act.

Second to the Motion Commissioner Vandergrift

On Vote:

Warrick	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Perno	aye
Peebles	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

Item # 14. Discussion and possible approval of Resolution 2023-07-408 approving a Local Agency Program (LAP) agreement with Florida Department of Transportation for the Tennessee Avenue Sidewalk project.

The City Manager read the Resolution by title only.

The Director of Economic Development explained the item. Commissioner Perno asked if it is DOT funded. Director said it is 100% DOT funded.

Mayor opened the floor for comments. There were none.

Motion by Commissioner Perno: to approve Resolution 2023-07-408 approving a Local Agency Program (LAP) agreement with Florida Department of Transportation for the Tennessee Avenue Sidewalk project.

Second to the Motion Commissioner Peebles

On Vote:

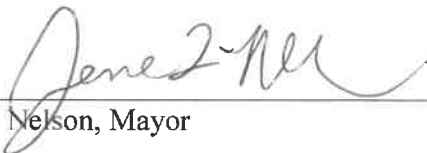
Perno	aye
Peebles	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Warrick	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

Item # 15. Adjourn.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:54 A.M.

APPROVED THIS 25th DAY OF July 2023.



Jesse Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Vickie Gainer, City Manager