

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023
CITY COMMISSION MEETING – 5:30 P.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 5:30 P.M.

Item # 2. Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation was given by Pastor Tim Krisko followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 5:32 P.M.

Item # 3.A. Discussion and possible approval to adopt Resolution 2023-09-421 final millage rate.

The City Manager read the Rollback rate as 3.5576, the Percentage of Increase over the rollback rate as 12.44, and the Millage rate to be levied as 4.0.

The Mayor opened the floor for comments by the public about the millage rates. There were no comments by the public.

Commissioner Peebles wanted to confirm that it was 4.0 and the City Manager confirmed yes.

City Manager Gainer read Resolution 2023-09-421 by title only.

Motion by Commissioner Peebles to approve Resolution 2023-09-421 final millage rate.

Second to the Motion: Commissioner Perno

On Vote:

Peebles aye
Perno aye
Warrick aye
Vandergrift aye
Nelson aye

Motion passed: 5-0

Item # 3.B. Discussion and possible approval to adopt Resolution 2023-09-422, final FY2024 General Fund and Enterprise Funds Budget in the amount of \$57,887,918 and the final FY2024 Disaster Recovery Budget in the amount of \$6,121,304.

City Manager Gainer read the resolution by title only.

Mayor Nelson opened the floor for discussion. There were no comments by the public.

Commissioner Peebles reiterated that we had just had the budget workshop at 4.30pm so feel free to go back and watch that.

Motion by Commissioner Peebles to approve Resolution 2023-09-422, final FY2024 General Fund and Enterprise Funds Budget in the amount of \$57,887,918 and the final FY2024 Disaster Recovery Budget in the amount of \$6,121,304.

Second to the Motion: Commissioner Vandergrift

On Vote:

Peebles	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Perno	aye
Warrick	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 5:36 PM

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 5:36 PM

Item # 4. Discussion and possible approval to adopt Resolution 2023-09-423, final CRA Budget for FY 2023-2024.

City Manager Gainer read the resolution by title only.

Mayor Nelson opened the floor for discussion and there was none.

Motion by Commissioner Perno to approve Resolution 2023-09-423, final CRA Budget for FY 2023-2024.

Second to the Motion: Commissioner Peebles

On Vote:

Perno	aye
Peebles	aye
Warrick	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 5:37 PM

Item # 5. Public Commentary

Bob Schultz – 509 Pennsylvania Ave – about sidewalks and streets along Pennsylvania Ave from 3rd to 17th Street. He said he had brought to the City Manager’s attention that the sidewalk is in bad disarray and needs attention. Why can they not get it fixed?

Mr. Scray – Missouri Ave – public kudos to Justin Ward and the rest of his team for the Arts in the Park event. Absolutely amazed and it was an amazing event with over a thousand canvases that were painted. Great event with a low cost due to sponsorships. Great family friendly event. Thanks to them.

Item # 6. Mayor’s Report.

Mayor Nelson said there have been a lot of good things happening in Lynn Haven over the past few weeks, including the concerts in the parks.

He received a call from a resident about inconsistent postal delivery service and he will be in touch with the local postal service about this.

He also heard many good things about the Art in the Park event from many people. There has

been a lot of positive attention with many of our businesses in Florida Avenue and also with Rails to Trails.

He attended some local school sporting events and is looking forward to some future events. Remember the next commission meeting is October 9th at 9am so that we don't conflict with the Grand Opening on the 10th.

Item # 7. Commissioners' Reports.

Commissioner Peebles – The past week he met with the City Manager and Mr. Lightfoot brainstorming about stormwater, where he learned a lot. Last week he was at the opening day for baseball, and seeing the kids playing under the lights was really fun and he encourages everyone to go and support these boys and girls. Also, if residents receive what they think is a high water-bill, to please reach out to him or the City Manager so they can resolve it. Thanked the staff, first responders, and our military.

Commissioner Perno – Thanked everybody.

Commissioner Warrick – There is a legislative delegate meeting coming up at the Bay County Government building that the commission is all attending enforce to advocate for the city. This is open to all residents too and starts at about 5pm on October 2nd. Had a lot of rain this morning and while he was driving around there wasn't much of a problem and felt we were making progress with stormwater. They had the Estuary Program at the Garden club recently and he really enjoyed it, and he learns a lot at these meetings. He learned that we could apply for grants for funding our stormwater unless we are using other funds for this purpose, so he is glad we are no longer doing that.

Commissioner Vandergrift – Thanked the staff and City Manager for being patient with them and spending a lot of time explaining budgets and programs to help the commissioners make good decisions for the city. E.g., the stormwater and the hours spent talking about the best way to proceed for the city. She won't be here for October 10th as she obligated her time over a year ago to take the Seniors at her church out of town during that week. Her heart will be here because of the symbol of what the grand opening is. Sorry she is going to be somewhere else.

Item # 8. City Manager's Report.

A. Warrant list. There were no questions.

City Manager Gainer said they are working on the "asks" for the Legislative session on October 2nd so that we are ready to petition them. There is a \$600b infrastructure grant out there and the staff are going to look at areas where we can apply for funds for the city's infrastructure. She also thanked Justin Ward and his staff for the Art in the Park and hopefully we are planning another one in the next few months. Planning for pickleball and baseball tournaments coming up soon. Spoke at the First United Methodist Church Women's' group. Lastly, a big shout out to Ramona Bibbs who is retiring after 27 Years with the city.

Regarding the sidewalks mentioned by Mr. Schultz, that is something he also brought up at table talk and she did tell him then that we are hoping that in the next financial year those are sidewalks we will be able to fix.

Item # 9. City Attorney's Report.

City Attorney Kevin Obos – Reminded all about the Property Maintenance Code workshop coming up. The contractor board will come back to them with an ordinance before the end of the year. Legislative mandates and impact statements ordinances will likely be coming before the commission early in the year.

CONSENT AGENDA

Item # 10. Approval of Minutes dd 09/13/23 - Regular meeting minutes.

Item # 11. Approval to appoint Mr. Douglas C. Pennington as a new member of the Board of Adjustments.

Item # 12. Approval to purchase an easement at 1418 Missouri Ave in the amount of \$4,200 to install a generator at Lift Station 3.

Item # 13. Approval of the Utility Work Agreement between the City of Lynn Haven and FDOT for the work to be performed for the shoulder widening of CR 389 (FPID: 4509 76-1-52-02) and to authorize the Mayor to sign.

Motion by Commissioner Vandergrift to approve the consent agenda.

Second to the Motion: Commissioner Peebles

On Vote:

Vandergrift	aye
Peebles	aye
Warrick	aye
Perno	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

OLD BUSINESS

Item # 14. Final Reading of Ordinance 1157 – adopting a change in the vesting period and adding a monthly supplement to the General Employees’ Pension.

The City Manager read the Ordinance by Title only.

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

Motion by Commissioner Peebles to approve Ordinance 1157 – adopting a change in the vesting period and adding a monthly supplement to the General Employees’ Pension.

Second to the Motion: Commissioner Vandergrift

On Vote:

Peebles	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Perno	aye
Warrick	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

Item # 15. Final Reading of Ordinance 1158 – adopting a change in the vesting period and adding a monthly supplement to the Firefighters’ Pension.

The City Manager read the Ordinance by Title only.

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

Motion by Commissioner Peebles to approve Ordinance 1158 – adopting a change in the vesting period and adding a monthly supplement to the Firefighters’ Pension.

Second to the Motion: Commissioner Vandergrift

On Vote:

Peebles	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Warrick	aye
Perno	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

Item # 16. Final Reading of Ordinance 1159 – adopting a change in the vesting period and adding a monthly supplement to the Police Pension.

The City Manager read the Ordinance by Title only.

The Mayor opened the floor for comment. There were no comments by the public.

Commissioner Vandergrift stated that the purpose of these is to attract good employees and to keep them. Commissioner Peebles said after a lot of research and for an entity the size of this city every time they hire a new employee it costs more money over the long run than offering this update.

Motion by Commissioner Peebles to approve Ordinance 1159 – adopting a change in the vesting period and adding a monthly supplement to the Police Pension.

Second to the Motion: Commissioner Vandergrift

On Vote:

Peebles	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Warrick	aye
Perno	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

NEW BUSINESS

Item # 17. Discussion and possible approval of Resolution 2023-08-409 to increase the monthly residential water base rates by \$7.00 and the consumption rate by 0.15 cents per 1000 gallons.

The City Manager read the resolution by title only.

Mayor Nelson opened the floor for comments.

Commissioner Vandergrift asked who suggested this and why. Ms. Roman said the Financial Review Committee had discussed and recommended this update. Ms. Roman said these funds will not cover the sewer expansion project or any emergencies.

Commissioner Peebles wanted to reiterate that he is not a fan of raising taxes if not needed, but in this situation, it is needed, and the metrics add up. The City of Lynn Haven is by far the lowest for utility rates in the county in comparison to other cities, so our residents have the highest median income yet pay the lowest utility rates.

Mr. Walker – Michigan Ave – offered his opinion that this has been under discussion at various meetings, and after a very heavy debate they have come up with this recommendation which was not favorable at the Financial Review Committee meeting. This is putting you into a box to raise the utility rates to cover a discrepancy to manage debt. Suggest you get a second opinion. Ms. Roman responded that the finance review committee recommended these changes. What was discussed was that if we did NOT do this then we would be in the hole by even more unsustainable debt.

Motion by Commissioner Peebles to approve Resolution 2023-08-409 to increase the monthly residential water base rates by \$7.00 and the consumption rate by 0.15 cents per 1000 gallons.

Second to the Motion: Commissioner Vandergrift

On Vote:

Peebles	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Warrick	aye
Perno	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

Item # 18. Discussion and possible approval of Resolution 2023-08-410 to increase the monthly residential wastewater base rates by \$7.00 and the consumption rate by \$1.08 per 1000 gallons.

The City Manager read the resolution by title only.

Mayor Nelson opened the floor for comments. There were no comments by the public.

Commissioner Warrick said he thanks the Financial Review board for working so hard to review the debt and recommend these updates.

Commissioner Vandergrift asked for confirmation about what was recommended four years ago to have increases every year, but the commission decided not to do the increases because the residents were facing the hurricane and Covid and a number of other issues. Whose fault was it that we had to borrow \$30m? Ms. Roman said no one's fault as it was due to the hurricane.

Motion by Commissioner Peebles to approve Resolution 2023-08-410 to increase the monthly residential wastewater base rates by \$7.00 and the consumption rate by \$1.08 per 1000 gallons.

Second to the Motion: Commissioner Vandergrift

On Vote:

Peebles	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Warrick	aye
Perno	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

Item # 19. Discussion and possible approval of Resolution 2023-08-411 to maintain the sanitation rates at the same rate as the previous year.

The City Manager read the resolution by title only.

Mayor Nelson opened the floor for comments. There were none.

Motion by Commissioner Perno to approve Resolution 2023-08-411 to maintain the sanitation rates at the same rate as the previous year.

Second to the Motion: Commissioner Peebles

On Vote:

Perno	aye
Peebles	aye
Warrick	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

Item # 20. Discussion and possible approval of Resolution 2023-08-419 to increase the monthly commercial water base rates by \$7.00 and the consumption rate by 0.15 cents per 1000 gallons.

The City Manager read the resolution by title only.

Mayor Nelson opened the floor for comments. There were none.

Motion by Commissioner Peebles to approve Resolution 2023-08-419 to increase the monthly commercial water base rates by \$7.00 and the consumption rate by 0.15 cents per 1000 gallons.

Second to the Motion: Commissioner Vandergrift

On Vote:

Peebles	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Warrick	aye
Perno	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

Item # 21. Discussion and possible approval of Resolution 2023-08-420 to increase the monthly commercial wastewater base rates by \$25.00 and the consumption rate by \$1.08 per 1000 gallons.

The City Manager read the resolution by title only.

Mayor Nelson opened the floor for comments. There were none.

Motion by Commissioner Warrick to approve Resolution 2023-08-420 to increase the monthly commercial wastewater base rates by \$25.00 and the consumption rate by \$1.08 per 1000 gallons.

Second to the Motion: Commissioner Peebles

On Vote:

Warrick	aye
Peebles	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Perno	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

Item # 22. First Reading only of Ordinance 1160 – adopting a modification to the re-employment requirements for the General Employees' Pension Fund.

The City Manager read the Ordinance by Title only.

Mayor Nelson opened the floor for comments. There were none.

Item # 23. First Reading only of Ordinance 1161 – adopting a modification to the re-employment requirements for the Firefighters’ Pension Fund.

The City Manager read the Ordinance by Title only.

Mayor Nelson opened the floor for comments. There were none.

Item # 24. First Reading only of Ordinance 1162 – adopting a modification to the re-employment requirements for the Police Pension Fund.

The City Manager read the Ordinance by Title only.

Mayor Nelson opened the floor for comments. There were none.

Item # 25. Discussion and possible approval to award the contract for RFP 22.23-17 for Disaster Debris Monitoring Services to Tetra Tech, Inc.

Mayor Nelson opened the floor for comments. There were none.

Motion by Commissioner Warrick to award the contract for RFP 22.23-17 for Disaster Debris Monitoring Services to Tetra Tech, Inc.

Second to the Motion: Commissioner Perno

On Vote:

Warrick	aye
Perno	aye
Peebles	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

Item # 26. Discussion and possible approval of Resolution 2023-09-424 amending the initial and annual assessment resolutions by providing clarification relating to exemptions from stormwater non-ad valorem assessments.

The City Manager read the resolution by title only.

The City Attorney explained the item as simply correcting a scrivener’s error.

Mayor Nelson opened the floor for comments. There were none.

Motion by Commissioner Warrick to approve Resolution 2023-09-424 amending the initial and annual assessment resolutions by providing clarification relating to exemptions from stormwater non-ad valorem assessments.

Second to the Motion: Commissioner Perno

On Vote:

Warrick	aye
Perno	aye
Peebles	aye
Vandergrift	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

Item # 27. Adjourn.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:23 P.M.

APPROVED THIS 9TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2023.



Jesse Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Vickie Gainer, City Manager

prepared by
Cicelia Rushing