

**CITY OF FORT MEADE
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY APRIL 13, 2010**

A Regular Meeting of the For Meade City Commission was held on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at the City Hall Commission Chambers, 8 West Broadway, Fort Meade, Florida.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Nelson.

2. ROLL CALL:

Mayor	Maurice Nelson	Present
Vice Mayor	Jim Watts	Present
Commissioner	Rick Cochrane	Present
Commissioner	Bob Elliott	Present
Commissioner	Barbara Manley	Present

Staff Present

City Manager	Fred Hilliard	Present
Assistant to City Manager	Deena Ware	Present
City Attorney	Tom Cloud	Present
Finance Director	James (Mel) Parker	Present
Public Works Director	Frankie Curlee	Present
Leisure Services Director	Dennis Guenther	Present
Deputy City Clerk	Phyllis Kirk	Present

Also present were: Polk County Sheriff's Deputy, Sergeant Casey Riley and Priscilla Perry, Chamber Director.

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

Pastor Brenda Bonney, First Born Church of the Living God, Fort Meade led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4. ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS

Motion Elliott, seconded Watts to amend the agenda to add Item C under Number 6 Proclamation for Just Say No.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES:

A. Minutes:

Motion by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Cochrane to adopt the minutes of the Special Commission Meeting March 9, 2010 and Regular Commission Meeting March 9, 2010 with the correction of deleting Commissioner Watts listed as present twice, adding Commissioner Manley present on the Special Commission Meeting minutes.

Motion carried with all yeas.

6. PRESENTATIONS/AWARDS/REPORTS:

A. Fort Meade Chamber Director Report

Priscilla Perry, Chamber Director reported the following events:

April 24, 2010 – Frog Hair Golf Scramble

April 24, 2010 – Blues & Jazz Downtown with Gone South Band

May 15, 2010 – Peace River Folk Festival

Ms. Perry requested Commission approval to charge a \$5.00 entry fee for the Folk Festival to cover parking and other costs.

Motion Watts, seconded Cochrane granting permission for a \$5.00 entry fee to be charged for the Peace River Folk Festival.

Motion carried with all yeas.

B. Recognition of the Anna Woodbury Archery Team

Mayor Nelson presented a certificate to Anna Lewis Woodbury's Archery Coach, Daniel Reffo in recognition of the State Championship Archery, Elementary Division comprised of 4th and 5th graders. Mayor Nelson congratulated the entire team on winning their 1st official tournament.

C. Proclamation "Just Say No"

Mayor Nelson read the proclamation declaring April 19 – April 25, 2010 as Just Say No Week and urged all citizens to participate in Florida's Just Say No Lunch and parade on Wednesday, April 21, 2010 beginning at 11:30 AM at Bartow's Civic Center.

7. PUBLIC FORUM:

Citizen comments for items not on the agenda (3 – minute maximum length).

Bob Sweeney, 208 W. Broadway, Fort Meade asked for clarification on what the Commission was doing to get bill 1217 requiring regulation by the Public Service Commission on FMPA passed. He also questioned whether or not it would reduce

the electric bills. City Attorney Cloud answered his questions and reassured him that the Commission is still pushing to get this bill passed.

Roger Wright, 300 South Washington Avenue, Fort Meade addressed the Commission regarding the lengthy time that the City has been blaming FMPA for the high electric bills. He stated that it is time to accept the bad contract for what it is and to seek alternatives to reduce expenses instead of passing on the expenses to the citizens.

Charlie Fultz, 420 SW 3rd Street addressed the Commission regarding the high cost of electric bills.

Charlie Perry, 3975 Old Bowling Green Road, Fort Meade congratulated the Commission for taking the time to recognize the elementary archery team for their success during such a busy and stressful meeting.

8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- A. Attorney Tom Cloud read the title for Ordinance 10-04–2nd Reading.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORT MEADE, FLORIDA
VACATING A PORTION OF AN ALLEY LOCATED
ADJACENT TO 17 N. ORANGE AVENUE;
REPEALING ANY CONFLICTING ORDINANCES;
PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Mayor Nelson opened and closed the public hearing regarding the ordinance as there was no one wishing to address the Commission.

Motion Cochrane, Second Watts to adopt Ordinance 10-04 on Second and final Reading.

Motion carried with all yeas.

9. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **Willdan Financial Services Presentation on Fire Assessments**

Mr. Lee Evett, Vice President, Willdan Financial Services, Orlando, Florida presented an overview of the fire assessment procedure for adoption.

Motion Cochrane, Second Watts authorizing staff to extend a RFP for fire assessment services.

Motion carried with all yeas.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of RFQ for Electrical Engineering Firm Bids

City Manager Hilliard explained that the RFQ is for the services of an electrical engineering firm to assist with the evaluation of the City's electrical distribution system. This is to help reduce line loss and the system's operating cost. The project will also prepare an engineering report to support the sale of electrical system revenue bonds to fund the project.

Motion Elliott, Second Cochrane authorizing staff to extend a RFQ for electrical engineering firms deleting "within 50 mile radius of Fort Meade" from the RFQ.

Motion carried with all yeas.

B. Approval of City Lot Donation for Habitat for Humanity

City Manager Hilliard stated that he had received an inquiry from Habitat for Humanity regarding the availability of potential home sites. After researching, a small City owned lot was found at 619 N. Orange that would be suitable. The fair market value of the parcel is \$4,317.00 and City Manager recommended that the Commission donate this parcel to the Habitat for Humanity Program.

Motion Watts, Second Manley to donate the City owned property at 619 N. Orange to Habitat for Humanity.

Commissioner Elliott questioned the legality of City owner property being donated. City Attorney Cloud responded that the parcel needs to be declared surplus before it can be donated.

Motion carried with all yeas.

11. CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:

None

11. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

City Manager Hilliard reported that landscape design students from Florida Southern College would be completing their project of landscaping the entrance of Evergreen Cemetery.

The City is trying to reduce the Power Cost Adjustment fee for the April 15, 2010 billing cycle. Currently it is \$82.00 per 1,000 kilowatts and we anticipate lowering in the range of \$62.00 to \$72.00 during the up-coming billing cycle.

13. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Manley inquired on behalf of the Garden Club if the City would consider awarding the winner of the “yard of the month” with an up to \$25.00 credit on their water bill. City Attorney Cloud responded that the City cannot credit water funds to winners. However, the City could make a cash donation to the Garden Club that could be used towards the winner’s water bills. Commission requested a presentation by the Garden Club at the May 11, 2010 Commission meeting regarding this project.

Commissioner Watts requested that research be done and presented on what actions the City would have to take to turn Fort Meade into a golf cart community.

Commissioner Elliott reported that the street lights on North Charleston have not been working for months and more of them keep getting hit and not replaced. He said it is getting dangerous and you can’t see.

Frank Curlee, Public Works Director stated that the DOT will not let us repair the lights because they no longer meet current DOT standards. The entire pole and light have to be replaced which is more cost than the City can afford at this time. We have a contractor that is giving us a price on ripping out the footers and replacing existing lights if the DOT will let us do it.

Mayor Nelson reminded everyone of the 2010 Veterans Stand Down that will be held on May 15 in Lakeland from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Watts, to adjourn the Regular Commissioner’s meeting of April 13, 2010 at 8:45 PM. Motion carried with all yeas.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2010.

Maurice Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Phyllis Kirk, Deputy City Clerk