

**CITY OF FORT MEADE
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY JULY 13, 2009**

A Regular Meeting of the For Meade City Commission was held on Monday, July 13, 2009 at the City Hall Commission Chambers, 8 West Broadway, and Fort Meade, Florida.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Mayor Elliott.

2. ROLL CALL:

Mayor	Bob Elliott	Present
Vice Mayor	Maurice Nelson	Present
Commissioner	Melony Bell	Present
Commissioner	Rick Cochrane	Present
Commissioner	Jim Watts	Present
City Manager	Fred Hilliard	Present
Assistant to City Manager	Deena Ware	Absent
City Attorney	Tom Cloud	Present
Deputy City Clerk	Phyllis Kirk	Present

Also present were: Polk County Sheriff's Officer, Steve Parker, Finance Director, Mel Parker, Customer Service Supervisor, Trevor Moseley, Director of Leisure Services, Dennis Guenther and Director of Public Works, Frank Curlee

3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

Commissioner Nelson led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES:

A. Minutes:

Motion by Commissioner Cochrane, seconded by Commissioner Nelson to adopt the minutes of the Special Commission Meeting, June 2, 2009 and Regular Commission Meeting, June 9, 2009 as written. Motion carried with all yeas.

B. Additions/Deletions:

None

5. PRESENTATIONS/AWARDS/REPORTS:

A. Report from the Fort Meade Chamber of Commerce Director, Reina Cino

Chamber Director, Cino passed out 2009 Chamber Directories to the Commission along with free luncheon tickets for September 9, 2009.

- B. Sylvia Riley requesting donation on Fort Meade's "Back to School Bash" behalf.

Commissioner Nelson made the request in lieu of Sylvia Riley who was unable to be present. The Back to School Bash will be held August 22, 2009 at Morrison Park.

Motion Cochran, Seconded Watts for the City to donate \$500.00 towards supplies for the Back to School Bash.

Motion carried with all yeas.

6. PUBLIC FORUM:

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

The following citizens spoke to the Commission concerning high electric bills and the effects of the bills on their discretionary income and businesses.

Connie Heflin, 100 S. Lanier, Fort Meade, Florida
Gilbert Morera, owner Taco Express, 500 Charleston Avenue N., Fort Meade, Florida
Robert Kovalycsik, partner R & R Café, 802 Charleston Avenue S., Fort Meade, Florida
Scott Fowler, owner Fowler's Grocery, 3595 Highway 98 E., Fort Meade, Florida
Richard Cason, 115 N. Pine Avenue, Fort Meade, Florida
Mike Heflin, 100 S. Lanier, Fort Meade, Florida
Bob Sweeney, owner R & S Pawn Shop, 106 Broadway W., Fort Meade, Florida
Kelly Hill, 605 Broadway E., Fort Meade, Florida
Larry Barrentine, 105 Hendry Avenue N., Fort Meade, Florida

Sonny Page, representing GLF Construction, 850 Palmetto N., Fort Meade, Florida made a request to have the paving continue North where it currently ends approximately two feet before the business.

Steve Wilkerson, 111 Hendry Avenue S., Fort Meade, Florida stated his opposition to a fine he currently owes due to fine imposed under Code Enforcement.

7. **ORDINANCES AND PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

None

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Approval of Request to Cancel FMPA Contract

**NOTICE OF CONVERSATION TO CONTRACT RATE OF DELIVERY
PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 3 AND 23, ALL REQUIREMENTS POWER
SUPPLY CONTRACT BETWEEN FMPA & CITY OF FORT MEADE**

Attorney Tom Cloud described the City's contract with Florida Municipal Power Association as outrageous and further stated that the City may be better off to declare bankruptcy then to litigate the contract. Should the City lose in litigation the City would be responsible for paying FMPA's legal fees in addition to our own. FMPA is a cooperative of cities, therefore if the City of Fort Meade sues FMPA they are also suing themselves. FMPA is totally unregulated, the only organization that Mr. Cloud knows of that does not have to answer to any government or state agency. Attorney Cloud stated that he could not in good conscience advice Fort Meade to sue FMPA because it would be a war that the City cannot win. The letter to Mr. Nick Guarriello is the first step in trying to get out of the contract with FMPA. However, because of FMPA's contract this letter merely states that the City will not be purchasing future power from FMPA in 30 years. This is the first step towards getting out of the contract. Attorney Cloud stated that the second step for the City to take in trying to get out of the contract is to call attention in a very public way to FMPA's contract with the City and the absurdness of the agreement. Third step is to start writing your Congressmen, Governor and Representatives to make them aware of the problems with FMPA.

Motion Bell, Seconded Watts to forward the Notice of Conversation letter to FMPA immediately.

Motion carried with all yeas.

Motion Bell, Seconded Watts to transfer the City of Fort Meade's electric to an outside authority.

Motion passed with all yeas.

B. General Engineering & Management Consulting Proposal for Power Services

City Manager explained that the proposal is for a rate stabilization study to enable the City to eventually set aside funds to keep the electrical rates stable without the extreme month to month fluctuations.

Motion Bell, Seconded Watts to approve the hiring of Power Services for a rate stabilization study.

Motion carried with all yeas.

10. CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

FMPA's Business Model Review Committee is meeting Friday, July 31 in Orlando which Mr. Hilliard plans to attend as a member of the committee.

All five (5) of the outstanding claims for hurricane damage with FEMA have been closed out successfully.

The sewer rehabilitation project is on schedule and will be completed on time. Due to the low bid prices on this project we will be able to include some additional work outside the contract.

11. CITY FINANCE DIRECTOR COMMENTS:

Mr. Parker reported that the fiscal year 2008 audit is in progress and no major issues have been identified at this point.

FMPA has confirmed the TECO true-up due for 2008 is \$178,749.00.

12. CITY ATTORNEY COMMENTS:

None

13. CITY COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Bell stated that the Forth of July celebration was very good. She did however believe that a contract should be drawn up between the Chamber and the City making attendance mandatory at special events and holidays for the Chamber Director.

Mayor Elliott stated that streets and sidewalks in the City are badly in need of repair, some sidewalks have never been repaired from Hurricane Charlie in 2004.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Watts, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to adjourn the Regular Commissioner's meeting of July 13, 2009 at 9:02 PM. Motion carried with all yeas.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2009.

Robert Elliott, Mayor

Phyllis Kirk, Deputy City Clerk