

CITY OF PAHOKEE  
REVISED MINUTES  
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING  
Tuesday, June 10, 2008

**Mayor Whitaker** called the meeting to order at 7:32 P.M. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Commission Chambers of City Hall, 171 North Lake Avenue, Pahokee, Florida.

**Invocation:**

City Mayor Whitaker delivered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call of Elected Officials:**

Mayor Wayne Whitaker	Present
Vice Mayor Keith Babb	Present
Commissioner Allie Biggs	Present
Commissioner Henry Crawford	Present
Commissioner Diane Walker	Present

**Others in Attendance:**

City Manager Matt Brock, City Clerk Raquel Diaz, Port Mayaca Cemetery Director Art Ivester, Public Services Director Art Cobb, Jr., I. T. Andrew Denton and his wife Margaret, Community Development Director Ted Roberts, Kokeysia Foster, Stephanie Marsh-Corinthian, Mrs. Wayne Whitaker, Naji Tobias (Sun Newspaper), Raul Diaz, Sergeant At Arms Lt. Alonso, Director of Finance Derrek Moore, Barbara Spence, Susie Feltner, and Emilio Perez

**Additions, Deletions and Approval of Agenda Items:**

**Approval of the Minutes:**

Vice Mayor Babb made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop meeting and Commissioner Crawford seconded the motion.

**Proclamations:**

None

**Consent Agenda:**

1. Res. 2008 - 41 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION JOINT PARTICIPATION AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT, SFPN-422-1-58-01, FOR

BEAUTIFICATION OF CERTAIN AREAS ALONG SR 15 AND STATE MARKET ROAD.

2. Res. 2008-42 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, RATYFING THE COMMISSION'S APPROVAL OF THE TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY BETWEEN THE CITY AND SHAQUOIA SMITH.
3. Res. 2008-43 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE FLORIDA INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT \$2.5M APPROPRIATION REQUEST FOR THE MAINTENANCE DREDGING OF THE LAKE OKEECHOBEE WATERWAY.
4. Res. 2008-44 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA SUPPORTING PALM BEACH COUNTY'S PROPOSED EXTENSION OF SEMINOLE PRATT-WHITNEY ROAD NORTH TO STATE ROAD 710, THE BEELINE HIGHWAY.
5. Res. 2008-45 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, CANCELING INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT R-2006-1383, DISTRICT 6 FUNDS, AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY TO REDIRECT THOSE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRANSITIONING TO THE REGIONAL WATER TREATMENT PLANT AND FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REPAIRS AND OTHER WATER-RELATED COSTS.
6. Res. 2008-47 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, REJECTING ALL BIDS FOR PART I (CONSTRUCTION) OF THE CANAL POINT SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT, AND AWARDING THE LOW BID FOR PART II (HEADWORKS).

Vice Mayor Babb made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Commissioner Crawford seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Report of the City Manager:**

City Manager Brock spoke about the transition of the water treatment plant that will take effect in July. He advised everyone to review the packet given and asked that if there were any questions, to bring them to the next meeting. He also mentioned the budget actual and said that Derrek Moore and Barbara Spence put a lot of work into it. Mr. Brock also went over the summary of the City debt.

**Report of the City Attorney:**

No report. Attorney was not present

**Departmental Report:**

1. Public Works - Activity Report
2. Port Mayaca Cemetery - Project Report
3. Finance - Project Report-Update/Activity Report
4. Unfinished Action Item List 05/27/2008
5. Community Development - Grant Log 05/30/2008 and Status Report Major Projects

6. Parks and Recreation Department - Department Report
7. Code Enforcement Report

**Presentations:**

None

**Ordinances:**

None

**Resolutions:**

1. Res. 2007-51 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,000 WITH THE MUNICIPAL CODE CORPORATION TO CONDUCT A REVIEW OF THE CITY'S CHARTER IN PREPARATION FOR THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD MEETING.

Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve Resolution 2007-51 and Vice Mayor Babb seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Old Business:**

1. Regional Water Plant -
2. Middle School - No report.
3. Regional Hospital - No Report everything is going as planned
4. Herbert Hoover Dike - No report.
5. Habitat for Humanity - No Report everything is going as planned

**New Business:**

1. Clarify Policy Regarding Storage of Privately Owned Property on Public Property.

Commissioner Babb emphasized that there is no policy established. This is the first time this has been brought to the Commission. The City Manager, Matt Brock will draft a Policy and will bring to the next Commission Meeting.

2. Consider Rental Agreement For Use of City Owned Building At 246 E. Main St.

Commissioner Crawford thinks this is a great business opportunity for the City of Pahokee. Mr. Perez is willing to spend \$100,000 out of his pocket to renovate the building and bring it to city specs to create a tire shop with the

according accessories which will provide employment for 7-8 people with the possibility of more people getting hired. This would depend on the business evolution. This particular location is the old Coca Cola Building and is on schedule for demolition. The only thing Mr. Perez is requesting is to get an agreement for ten (10) years. The first four (4) years would be rent free and the remaining six (6) years, paying only \$1,000.00 a month on rent and the option to purchase the building after the 10 year agreement. He would pay the market value in existence at the time of purchase. If said agreement is made, the City Attorney would draft the agreement and check all legal aspects of the contract.

Mr. Perez emphasized that the building he is currently in does not allow him to have a wide inventory of tires and accessories. He constantly has to travel to Miami to get the merchandise, but if he had a bigger storage space he would have a wider variety of tires and accessories for the community to choose from and it would avoid their having to travel to another town/city.

### 3. Clarify Policy Regarding Collection of Utility Bill.

Mr. Moore explained the report presented to the Commission and how the Finance Department is aggressively trying to collect the outstanding balances. Mr. Moore also mentioned he has previously brought this same issue to the Commission of how some individuals were allowed to get behind on their bills and how the Finance Department has worked out a payment plan to gradually collect the balance. The City has some customers that owe \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00 in water bills.

----- Verbatim-----

"How this got this way? We will not even begin to explain."

----- (End Verbatim)-----

The Ordinance states that once the payment is due, and payment is not received, the services will be turned off until FULL payment is received. The customer has to make a payment arrangement with the Finance Department to gradually collect the balance.

Mr. Moore would like to get the Commissioners' input on how this matter needs to be addressed.

Mayor Whitaker stated;

----- Verbatim-----

"If water is used then you have to pay for it."

-----End Verbatim-----

Mr. Whitaker also stated that there might be at times exception to the rule every now and then. But he also said,

----- Verbatim-----

"Not to the extent that the City currently has right now". The City has to many debts to have this many customers owing the City. The City needs to do like the rest of the companies ex: FPL, Cable, and phone services. They don't care they just come in and disconnect your services until you pay the full amount."

-----End Verbatim-----

Commissioner Babb stated he agrees with making payment arrangements for those people who need help in paying their bill. Also, Commissioner Babb stated that there should be a cut off amount and make sure that everyone is treated equally in making the payment arrangements. If one comes in and makes an arrangement for the same amount as another customer, for example for four (4) months and another customer comes in and makes the arrangement for one (1) year, then there is favoritism. The Department has to be consistent in making the same arrangements for everyone.

Commissioner Biggs also agreed that there are some exceptions to the rule, but that everyone needs to pay their water bill.

4. Consider Fiscal Year '09 Budget Schedule.

The Budget Schedule was presented for everyone to see and adopt for next years' Budget.

Vice Mayor Babb made a motion to approve and adopt the '09 Budget Schedule and Commissioner Biggs seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5. Consider EAR Schedule.

Vice Mayor Babb made a motion to approve and adopt the EAR Schedule and Commissioner Biggs seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Citizens Comments/General Concerns:**

Eugenia Elijah informed everyone that National HIV testing Day for 2008 was coming up and that everyone was urged to participate. Ms. Elijah requested a proclamation for June 27, 2008 to name that day National HIV Testing Day. Flyers and poster will be posted all over the City.

**Correspondence, Comments and Concerns of the City Commissioners:**

Commissioner Biggs:

Commissioner Biggs stated she was grateful for all the information provided and mentioned that Florida Drivers License on Wheels Unit comes to the Glades Courthouse on Fridays from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. She stated that is convenient for the area, and we should take advantage of the service. Commissioner Biggs finished by thanking and blessing everyone and asked the community to pray for the Glades.

Vice-Mayor Babb:

Vice-Mayor Babb thanked the staff for the good departmental reports, congratulated the City Manager and asked that he continue with his good work. Vice-Mayor Babb also mentioned that we need to make the City safe.

----- Verbatim -----

"There are too many repeat violations."

----- End Verbatim -----

Vice Mayor Babb recommended a workshop for Code Enforcement. The City Manager will get together with Susie Feltner and Ted Roberts to discuss some of the violations and work out a plan to bring them the within code. Vice Mayor Babb pointed out that we need to report the violations to the County as well. Commissioner Crawford also mentioned that there are no signs on ST RD 715 and ST RD 441, welcoming the drivers into the City of Pahokee. City Manager Brock will look into this.

Commissioner Walker:

Commissioner Walker began by commending the programs that are being sponsored that give young people the opportunity to do something useful with their time and will keep them out of trouble. Such as, the boxing program sponsored by PBSO, PAL and the City of Pahokee. Also, the Midnight Hoops that PBSO, Pahokee Housing Authority and Project Safe Neighbor just has a Grand-Opening for last week. Commissioner Walker mentioned a meeting with the Health Care District will take place on Wednesday, June 11, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. at Belle Glade City hall. One topic of discussion will be the millage rate. There will be a Grand Opening of the PBSO and PAL Boxing program at the park building, on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Invitations will be sent out soon. Commissioner Walker suggested that we give a Proclamation to the City of South Bay's former Mayor Anthony for his years of service.

Commissioner Crawford:

Basically, only thanked the audience and the City Manager for doing a tremendous job with the business of the city. Commissioner Crawford mentioned the possibility of employing people who have had legal troubles in the past. These people that have being in jail and are now trying to put food on the table for their families. Commissioner Crawford also mentioned the possibility of honoring Alvin Johnson for his hard work and years of service. Commissioner Crawford finished by thanking everyone for attending the meeting.

Mayor Whitaker:

Mayor Whitaker thanked the audience for their participation and attendance. Mayor Whitaker also thanked the staff and the City Clerk for being so helpful. He also hopes that Pahokee gets some new businesses and stated he is working hard on making this a better City. There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

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Wayne Whitaker, Mayor

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ATTEST: Raquel Diaz, City Clerk