

CITY OF PAHOKEE
MINUTES
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, April 22nd, 2008

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

Invocation:

Commissioner Biggs delivered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call of Elected Officials:

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

Others in Attendance:

Interim City Manager Mimi McAndrews, City Clerk Raquel Diaz, Sgt. At Arms Lt. Ray Alonso, Parks and Recreation Director Herbert Crawford, Port Mayaca Cemetery Director Art Ivester, Finance Director Derrek Moore, Public Services Director Art Cobb, Jr., I. T. Andrew Denton, Cleveland Robinson, Kokeysia Foster, Naji Tobias (Sun Newspaper reporter), Alvis and Sandy Davis, Mrs. Wayne Whitaker, Mrs. Mosley, Regina Bohlen, Jim Sheehan (Everglades Adventures), Suzanne Boyer, Henrietta Johnson, Mark Davis, Javier Tejada, and Susan Feltner.

Additions, Deletions and Approval of Agenda Items:

Minutes were taken by hand, recorded on DVD and taped on a cassette recorder. A Resolution to release liens was added at the last minute and several members of the audience asked to be heard.

Approval of the Minutes:

Not available yet due to equipment malfunction.

Consent Agenda:

1. RESOLUTION 2008 - 38: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING STAFF TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF FLORIDA FOR THE LEASE OF THE FORMER FHP BUILDING.
2. RESOLUTION 2007 - 63: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH STERLING ENTERPRISE MANAGEMENT FOR CEMETERY SOFTWARE.

Vice Mayor Babb moved and Commissioner Biggs seconded a motion to approve the amended consent agenda and it passed unanimously.

Departmental Report:

1. Community Development – Mr. Roberts is out of the City.
2. Public Works – Mr. Cobb reported on the work being done on the median at Bacom Point using low maintenance plants that self-irrigate. The project should be completed by May 2nd, 2008.

Proclamations:

1. First Ministry Graduation Program – received by Henrietta Johnson
2. Therapy Dog Awareness Day – the recipient was not present and the proclamation will be mailed to her.

Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve the proclamations and Commissioner Crawford seconded her motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentations:

1. The PAL presentation that was scheduled will take place at the next commission meeting, per Interim City Manager McAndrews.

Resolutions:

Res 2008-39: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, ACKNOWLEDGING THE RELEASE OF LIENS AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE SAME.

Commissioner Crawford made the motion to approve the resolution releasing the liens and Commissioner Walker seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Old Business:

1. Middle School - per Mayor Whitaker, Mr. Cobb made the appointment today.
2. Regional Hospital
3. Herbert Hoover Dike
4. Regional Water Treatment Plant - The rate consultants are doing the study and it should be ready by the first meeting in June.
5. Habitat for Humanity – Susan Feltner met with Capt. Silva, his wife and Archer regarding three properties that can be used.
6. City Manager contract – per Interim Manager McAndrews she drew up a letter of intent that was mutually agreeable for the same amount of money that the former manager was earning. Commissioner Babb wanted to know if the salary had been negotiated prior to the arrangement. Commissioner Walker felt it had not been a well rounded selection and no one from our communities had been considered for the position. Commissioner Biggs moved and Commissioner Crawford seconded a motion to approve the City Manager agreement. Commissioner Walker voted against it based on the amount of the proposed salary. Although not unanimously, the motion passed.

New Business:

1. Appoint a charter review committee – Commissioner Biggs recommended Regina Bohlen and Commissioner Babb recommended Larry Wright. The other three members of the Commission were not ready with the names of the people they are going to recommend.
2. PBCSO – Lt. Thibodeau spoke about the process for obtaining special event permits. He said that some frequently heard questions were regarding having to apply for a permit from 7-10 days prior to the event. He also spoke that some factors to be considered in the application process were whether alcohol would be involved, the type of event and the number of participants. He spoke of the off duty sign up process needed for the deputies to work the detail, that PBCSO must have time to submit invoices and wait until the check clears. Lt. Thibodeau also said that he is often asked why the job has to be paid prior to the service being rendered and how does the client apply for these services. He specified that the clerk can collect the funds and if there is less than 10 days till the event, the funds should be collected by cash or money order by the City. It was his recommendation that if the event is to take place from 7 to 10 p.m. at night, a deputy should carry over at least 30 minutes for traffic control.

Report of the City Manager:

None.

Report of the City Attorney:

Not present.

Citizens Comments/General Concerns:

1. Six members of the Pahokee Beacon Center (900 Larrimore Rd.) were present. They wished to address the Commission about a clean-up.
2. Sandi Davis (819 Bacom Point Rd.) wrote on a comments by the public card that the islands on Bacom Point Road had landscape that hindered visibility and caused problems with safety and urged the City to take safety into consideration when choosing landscaping. She was reminded that Mr. Cobb had addressed the matter in his departmental report.

Correspondence, Comments and Concerns of the City Commissioners:

Commissioner Biggs:

The Commissioner expressed her gratitude for the “Meeting of the Minds” event that took place on Friday, April 18th at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chamber. She asked why there was a backlog in the minutes and why the water park was not being used. She directed the Commission to forget about the past and move on, be more positive.

Vice-Mayor Babb:

Vice Mayor Babb asked that target dates for completion of projects be part of the departmental reports. He mentioned having received a lot of complaints from citizens regarding of large trucks in the community. He feels they are an eyesore and damage the roads. The Vice Mayor suggested that a parking area be designated for those folks and that the City take a more pro-active role on that issue.

Lt. Alonso was asked about the vehicle situation and he replied that in order to enforce the no parking of large vehicles, there has to be a specific city ordinance to that effect and that no parking has to be posted on a sign.

Commissioner Walker:

Commissioner Walker asked what the City is doing regarding the golf tournament. Herbert Crawford, Parks and Recreation Director, said that four people would be representing the City, Ted Roberts, Mayor Whitaker, Art Ivester (Port Mayaca Cemetery Director) and himself. She also wanted to know who would be attending the League of Cities course and was told that Mayor Whitaker and Ms. Biggs had RSVP'd. She spoke of the Chamber event on Friday, congratulated Ted Roberts for the “Meeting of the Minds” event and thanked Vice Mayor Babb for addressing the problem with truck traffic.

Commissioner Crawford:

The Commissioner spoke of contacting the other two cities about the League of Cities meetings and said that the first meeting should be hosted by the City of Pahokee. He also agreed with the comments made by Commissioner Biggs about the Commission working for the good of the City and thought it would be a good idea to discuss among themselves why there is tension and animosity between the Commissioners.

Mayor Whitaker:

The Mayor thanked the audience for having attended the meeting and urged them to feel free to contact him at home (he is listed) or City Hall, even on his cell phone – the number is on his business card.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

