

CITY OF PAHOKEE
MINUTES
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, May 13th, 2008

Mayor Whitaker called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M. in the 2nd Floor Commission Chambers of City Hall, 171 North Lake Avenue, Pahokee, Florida.

Invocation:

Commissioner Babb 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 Attorney Mimi McAndrews, City Clerk Raquel Diaz, Sgt. At Arms Lt. Morris, Parks and Recreation Director Herbert Crawford, Port Mayaca Cemetery Director Art Ivester, Public Services Director Art Cobb, Jr., I. T. Andrew Denton, Kokeysia Foster, Stephanie Marsh-Corinthian, Mrs. Wayne Whitaker, Regina Bohlen, Mark Morris, District Commander for City of South Bay, Michael Jackson, Leonard. Dobrow, M. Arena (Fire), Laura Corey, Raymond Hamilton, and Barbara "Buttons" Hatton.

Additions, Deletions and Approval of Agenda Items:

Minutes were taken by hand, recorded on DVD and taped on a cassette recorder. Mr. Brock added to the agenda the Palm Tran handout and agreement. Item Q.1 Bus transfer. Motion to approve the minutes by Commissioner Biggs and second by Commissioner Crawford.

Approval of the Minutes:

March 25th, April 1st, April 8th, and April 22nd, 2008. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Biggs and seconded by Vice Mayor Babb.

Consent Agenda:

1. RESOLUTION 2008 - 40: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, CANVASSING THE RESULTS OF THE GENERAL ELECTION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, HELD ON MARCH 11, 2008 AND DECLARING THE RESULTS THEREOF.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Babb and Commissioner Crawford seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Report of the City Manager:

City Manager Brock was thankful for the opportunity of being present and the opportunity of working for the City of Pahokee. He gave an update where Mimi McAndrews, the Mayor and himself will be meeting on Thursday afternoon to talk about the Lake Regional Water Treatment Plant, and also with the Palm Beach County officials. On Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. there will be a Town Hall meeting scheduled for anyone to attend if they are interested in the connection to this water system. A copy of the items to be discussed will be made available at the time of the meeting for all those who wish to attend. The purpose of the meeting is to get assistance and funding for the project, so the people can get connected to this system. On Wednesday May 14, 2008 at 7 p.m. Pahokee High School will be having their Baccalaureate Graduation at the United Methodist Church. Also on the desks of the Commissioners' is a legislative summary for the session ending on May 2nd and the applications for the City of Pahokee as

commission a budget probably the first week in June. He is working on this now and included in that budget, will be the information concerning the roll back rates.

Vice Mayor Babb had a question about the water meters. Mayor Whitaker explained that the new meters were already installed, but they were placed in front yards now instead of the back yard and some of the customers do not have the money to redo the plumbing. This is where the financial assistance comes in. There is some county money available for this project.

Mimi McAndrews explained that the estimated cost for these repairs will be about an estimated \$500.00 the funding is available only to those who are property owners and live in the property. It is not available for people who rent the property or homes. There are two parts to getting people hooked up, first is getting the people who live there and the person who owns the property to meet the standards for getting the funds for the hook up fees. Then they need to get those papers filled out which is the purpose of the town meeting. The second step is getting a hold of those absent property owners and getting them hooked up as well.

The other question was "How has the property owners been notified about the workshop and how much advanced notice has the city provided to them to attend this meeting?"

Mr. Brock stated that he had just been notified himself and he spoke with Mr. Moore and Mr. Cobb about posting the door. At that point it was too late to send anything via US Mail or any other way. He directed them to put the advisory on the customers' doors.

Commissioner Crawford stated that the community had received the paperwork to fill out and some members of the community called him asking if he knew how much this hook up was going to cost.

Commissioner Biggs suggested placing an ad on the Palm Beach Post that comes out every Monday about the next meeting regarding the funds and how to fill out the applications for hook up to the new meters.

Report of the City Attorney:

No report available

Proclamations:

None

Departmental Report:

1. Finance Dept. Activity Report
2. Port Mayaca Cemetery Project Report and Activity Report
3. Parks and Recreation Department Activity Report
4. Community Development Department Activity Report
5. Public Works Activity Report

Commissioner Biggs questioned the installation of the meters. Mayor Whitaker advised her that the target date was for Saturday May 10th, 2008. Ten meters were placed, but a valve broke in one of the meters and had to be replaced and fixed. Out of all ten meters that were installed, only one was defective.

Mr. Art Cobb explained that the problem occurred at about 8:30 a.m. at the Pahokee High School. A drench meter was installed, and that when you retrofit something and you put it back together it might not work properly. The gasket and the filter were replaced at an estimated cost of about \$15.00. When the filter was replaced the pressure came back up and there were no more problems. A valve was off, but it had nothing to do with the meter breaking down. Once the checks and balances were done, they found out that it was a filter and a gasket on top of the false force main that was keeping the pressure down. As soon as the problem was fixed, the pressure came back up at around 1:30p.m.

Presentations:

P.A.L. – This program is to keep kids off the street and involved in a program that provides a place for them to learn and stay out of trouble. They work closely with the Sheriff’s office. The facility was renovated inside. They are training for competition June 7th. This competition is being hosted by the Port St. Lucie Police Athletic League. This will be their 1st competition. The kids are looking forward to seeing their names in the newspaper, but in a good way. Needless to say they are trying to get the kids into an environment that provides discipline, honesty, integrity, good sportsmanship, academic success and those types of things. These kids are drug free, crime free and when their report cards come out, their academic progress and in-school behavior is monitored. He has already made contact with the school teachers and given them his phone numbers, so when any of the kids act out, they can call him. That way the kids can understand that they need to meet certain expectations in order to be in the program. The Center is open Tuesday thru Friday 5:30 p.m. thru 8:00 p.m. at 601 Bacom Point Rd., Pahokee, FL. The City’s Grand opening will be on July 12th 2008, Everyone is invited to attend and see what we do with the kids to keep them out of trouble and off the streets.

Ordinances:

1. ORDINANCE NO. 2008-01 (Second Reading) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE III, SECTION 2-97, TERMINATION AND SEVERANCE PAY, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF LAWS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION.

A motion to approve the ordinance was made by Vice Mayor Babb and Commissioner Crawford seconded the motion. The ordinance was adopted by unanimous vote of the Commission.

Mimi McAndrews said her explanation of the ordinance was that she had been asked to clear up a section of the charter regarding charter officers reporting to the City Manager.

-----VERBATIM -----
“At a point there we were going to take it out and I stated at that time and I will state it again that I do not know that it will really make difference because under the charter the City Manager has the authority for the day to day operations. The City Commissioners are not allowed to get involved in the day to day operations and what the City Clerk does is the day to day operations. Just to the matter of practicality, the relationship between the City Manager and the City Clerk has to be there.”
-----END VERBATIM -----

Commissioner Crawford pointed out that there was a conflict in that ordinance and asked if it stated that the City Commissioners hire the Charter Officers, NOT the City Manager. He further mentioned that, therefore the commissioners hire and can dismiss Charter Officers, adding that the Charter Officers are under the Commissioners. The Commissioner asked the City Attorney to show him where the conflict is; where is it that it says that the Charter Officers are connected to the City Manager? The question was that since the Commissioners hired the City Clerk, was she under their supervision? Commissioner Crawford said that he knows the City Manager and the City clerk have to work together, like beans in a pot. Hiring and firing the Charter Officers, however, is the sole responsibility of the Commissioners. Therefore that is the only conflict that he has seen since Ms. McAndrews showed it to him.

Commissioner Crawford stated that, “we all work together anyways to make the city great, but for us to be the only ones who interviewed her and hired her, she is under our direct supervision. That is what this ordinance states.”

Mayor Whitaker asked if we needed to read this Ordinance.

Mimi McAndrews suggested to open this up for public comment and if there is no other comment or objection, that we needed to continue with the meeting.

Vice Mayor Babb suggested to the Commission to review this and if there was a change in wording that needed to be done, they would discuss it and come to a conclusion.

2. ORDINANCE NO. 2007-13 (Second Reading) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ORDINANCE NO. 143 AND ORDINANCE 96-2 WHICH LEVIED THE INSURANCE PREMIUM TAX PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES SECTIONS 175.101 AND 185.08; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A motion was called by Commissioner Biggs and Commissioner Crawford seconded the motion to approve the ordinance, and it passed unanimously.

Resolutions:

Read into the record, a resolution written by Commissioner Biggs for Mr. Harvey Poole, Sr. of the City of Belle Glade, Florida and a well known radio personality at WSWN.

Old Business:

1. Regional Water Plant - Online by July. City Manager Brock will look for the information and provide it to the Commissioners after he meets with Art Cobb, Director of Public Works.
2. Middle School – No report.
3. Regional Hospital –Commissioner Babb asked when they'll start to employ people from the Glades and when will they be interviewing for the construction and for the hospital staff. Mr. Jackson explained that the sign that is at the construction site of "Not Hiring at this Time" needs to come off because it is causing confusion among the community. Workforce Alliance is interviewing for the hospital staff.
4. Herbert Hoover Dike – No report.
5. Habitat for Humanity – Mr. Brock met with them and they should be coming to Pahokee to discuss their plans with him.
6. Appointed Charter Review Committee Members
 - A. Mayor Whitaker James H. Brewer
 - B. Vice Mayor Babb Larry Wright
 - C. Commissioner Biggs Regina Bohlen
 - D. Commissioner Crawford Henrietta Johnson
 - E. Commissioner Walker Nathaniel Holmes

New Business:

1. Palm Tran Bus Handout with Agreement for the donation of buses. The Agreement needs to be filled out and sent back. Once they receive it and check it over, the Board will be notified when the buses can be picked up. Mimi McAndrews will contact the office and take care of any legal issues. Commissioner Crawford emphasized that the Parks and Recreations Department need these buses as soon as possible for the summer programs. The Commissioner wanted to know why this contract needed to be revised by the City Attorney, as he remembers this being a contract that has been signed routinely in the past. The other buses we currently have are constantly breaking down and having to be in the shop for repair. The motion to accept the two buses was called by Commission Biggs and Vice Mayor Babb seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
2. Vice Mayor Babb spoke of raising the Commissioner's salary. After a discussion, it was agreed that such a raise would become effective for the next Commissioners, except for those who are re-elected. They would be eligible for the new merit increase. A Workshop needs to be created to get information and come up with some numbers. The Workshop is scheduled for the next Commission Meeting and it will start at 7:00 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m.

Citizens Comments/General Concerns:

None

Commissioner Biggs:

Commissioner Biggs began by having Mrs. Diaz read out loud the resolution for Mr. Poole. She also welcomed Mr. Brock as the new City Manager and is looking forward to working with him. She advised the audience and the community about the Baccalaureate service that would be held at the United Methodist Church on Wednesday May 14, 2008. She commented about the National City Bank donating a Jukebox and that I.T. needs to speak with Angela Pope about this. She asked about posting the meetings on the Palm Beach Post on Mondays. Commissioner Biggs is looking for two students for the League of Cities to be represented among other students in the county. If anybody has a name and would like to give it to her, she needs it as soon as possible. With this they will be exposed to government work and know what this is all about. There are many opportunities for seniors to get work done at their house. If anyone knows of anybody that need help to do driveways, painting, etc.

Vice-Mayor Babb:

Mr. Babb congratulated the City Manager and stated that he is a person that will to listen to your problems and comments. The Vice Mayor would like the efforts of attracting the businesses to our community to be part of the monthly reports

Commissioner Walker:

Ms. Walker stated that a letter needs to be sent to South Bay and Belle Glade about the Tri-City Meetings. She spoke of the Community Relations Board and how we need to start the meetings again. The last meeting was in December. Mrs. Diaz was questioned why the meetings had not being scheduled. She replied that the Interim City Manager at the time told her to hold off on the meeting. The Commissioner stated that people are willing to work and are ready to start with the meetings. It is scheduled for Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. Maria Gonzalez is at this time the Vice Chair and is going to use Mrs. Walker as a liaison for the Community Relations Board.

Vice Mayor Babb called for a motion to appoint Commissioner Walker as the liaison for the Community Relations Board and Commissioner Crawford seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Walker congratulated the Everglades Preparatory Academy for the renovation. She said that it really looks good from the road. Herbert Crawford stated that the building is being painted and that the office and the cafeteria are almost ready. The G-Tac meeting is scheduled for next Thursday May 22nd at the United Methodist Church. The Commissioners' office had not been cleaned and when Commissioner Walker went to clean the office, she realized that we do not have a City vacuum cleaner. She request that the City provide it and give the staff the proper equipment/supplies needed to perform their jobs. She also questioned whether we had made donations to the deputies Jonathan Wallace and Donta Manuel. The contribution could be \$100.00 to the deputy's fund.

Commissioner Walker made the motion to make the contribution and Commissioner Babb second the motion, passing it with an unanimous vote.

Commissioner Crawford:

Commissioner Crawford congratulated and welcomed Mr. Brock and thanked the audience for their attendance to the Commission meeting.

Mayor Whitaker:

Mayor Whitaker emphasized that we need to remember our neighbors and everyone in our country who have been involved in disasters and to please remember them in your prayers. He also wants to create jobs and bring in new industries and supports Vice Mayor Babb in his idea under the Business Development Council.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Wayne Whitaker, Mayor

ATTEST: Raquel Diaz, City Clerk