

MINUTES
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
January 10, 2022

The City Commission met this date in regular session in the Commission Chambers. Comm. Wasdin gave the Invocation. Mayor Smith recited the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with the following in attendance.

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|-----------------------|---|------------------------|
| Mayor | : | Hubert B. Smith |
| Commissioners | : | Christine Wasdin |
| | : | Edward Crosby |
| | : | Jay Denney (via phone) |
| City Clerk | : | Tammy Johnson |
| City Attorney | : | Hayward Dykes |
| City Engineer | : | Ethan Floyd |
| City Administrator | : | Carl Scott |
| Police Chief | : | Joe Hart |
| Fire Chief | : | Tommy Mayville |
| Public Works Director | : | Nathan Kelley (camera) |
| VBCS General Manager | : | James Butler |

Others in attendance: Joyce Marthis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

COMM. CROSBY MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 13, 2021 AS SUBMITTED. COMM. WASDIN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 3 TO 0.

Mrs. Johnson said that Mr. Kelley had Comm. Denney by phone. Mr. Dykes said we would need a motion for Comm. Denney to participate via phone. MAYOR SMITH MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW COMM. DENNEY TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETING VIA PHONE. COMM. CROSBY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 3 TO 0.

1. CITIZENS' CONCERNS (non-agenda items) Resident

No resident citizens' concerns this evening.

2. CITIZENS' CONCERNS (Non-Agenda Items) Non-Resident

No non-resident concerns tonight.

1. ACTION ITEMS – Added Agenda Items

Nothing to add this evening.

2. ACTION ITEMS –Senior Citizen Center

Mayor Smith said he had spoken with a lady from DeFuniak Springs, at length today, unfortunately he was driving so he was unable to write down her name about our senior citizen center building. He said we haven't had a vote of the commission to close it, we are looking at \$18,000 to \$22,000 to reroof it has other issues as well. Mayor Smith said the City of Niceville has opened their

1 doors have opened bus transportation from Valparaiso over to Niceville. Mayor Smith said in his
2 opinion when it was open, only had two or three people that would come. Mayor Smith said he told
3 the lady he didn't know if there would be a consensus for the city to put money into revamping this
4 building. Mayor Smith said his concern is that we are going to put money into doing it, needs some
5 plumbing, electrical work, wood rot and a new roof. He said in his personal opinion doesn't feel we
6 have enough senior citizen activity there, when Niceville offers shuttles, and they have programs and
7 meals there. Mayor Smith said he and Mr. Scott have discussed raising (flattening) building and if we
8 find a company interest in the lumber it might not cost the city any money and it sits on two or three
9 lots that could become residential property that would be a tax base for the city. Comm. Wasdin said
10 we had discussed this before and has the meals on wheels program been discontinued? Mayor Smith
11 said the lady he spoke with said they don't have meals on wheels there now, they do offer a stop and
12 grab type service, meals on wheels operates out of Niceville. Mayor Smith said in discussing with the
13 lady from DeFuniak, he said she told him that they try to give seniors the opportunities to things that
14 they don't have at home, so they don't have to go into assisted living. Mrs. Joyce Marthis, 142
15 Chicago Avenue, asked if there is enough property there to build homes there? Mr. Scott said the issue
16 there would be the house that is built on the property line, that would not be allowed to be built today.
17 Mrs. Marthis asked about the shuttle or ride to and from Valparaiso to the community center in
18 Niceville, when would it start? Mayor Smith said it is already going on now, Mrs. Marthis said she'd
19 never heard anything about it. Mayor Smith said normally they would call if they'd like to be picked
20 up, he asked Mrs. Johnson if that was correct, and she said she was not sure. Mayor Smith said he
21 spoke with Mr. Corbin in Niceville about the transportation. Comm. Denney added that the bus is run
22 by the county. Mrs. Marthis said if it is the wave or whatever it is, Comm. Denney said this is a van
23 that is with the county. Mrs. Marthis said that will never work. Mayor Smith said Mr. Corbin said the
24 bus goes through Niceville, it might be a county bus but goes between the cities. Mr. Crosby said
25 Niceville doesn't have meals on wheels, they have a food truck but it isn't there every day. Mayor
26 Smith said with the lady he spoke to today she said they were going to start every day, if this one goes
27 away they would start it somewhere else. Comm. Crosby said he would like to see since you have to
28 pay a fee for the senior citizen center in Niceville about \$100 a year, since we aren't going to fix the
29 roof and do the repairs for the Valparaiso center, that we could issue a voucher to cover the fee for our
30 residents. Mayor Smith said he thinks that is a good idea but would like to see if we could work out a
31 voucher system with transportation that isn't specifically designated for person A B C and if B C
32 didn't come but once that would be money wasted because no one would have used it. He said but if
33 we could get a generalized voucher to the group and not individual, it could give others the opportunity

1 also. Mr. Scott said another to consider is the seniors that went to the Valparaiso center, were mobile,
2 they had their own transportation. Mayor Smith said he is just one person, but he doesn't see benefit to
3 city just putting more money into this building. Mayor Smith said the lady from DeFuniak had just
4 asked if we decide to raze (flatten) the building, they she would just like to be allowed to come into the
5 building and remove things they could use in other facilities. Mr. Scott said have a structural engineer
6 go in and see if the building is worth saving or not, then a decision can be made on facts. Mayor Smith
7 said well that's ok too but just cost more money. Mr. Scott said it would be a minimal amount of
8 money. **COMM. CROSBY MADE A MOTION TO HAVE A STRUCTURAL ENGINEER GO**
9 **INTO THE SENIOR CENTER BUILDING AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION AS TO**
10 **BUILDINGS STATUS. COMM. WASDIN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY**
11 **UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 4 TO 0.**

12 **3. ACTION ITEMS – Accept FWC Grant #21128 RENOVATIONS TO LINCOLN PK**

13 Mayor Smith said he had spoken with Mr. Kelley, and this is a project we hope to have
14 complete before boating season begins. Mr. Dykes has reviewed the documents and said he is okay
15 with it as long as the Commission is comfortable with the timeline. Mayor Smith we would need to
16 get some contractors to help us out because we do not have enough manpower to do all. Engineer said
17 he spoke with Mrs. Beth Brant earlier today and there was a little confusion about the 90-day period,
18 that is to get everything in motion and ready to go. Mayor Smith asked if that can be done, Mr. Floyd
19 the Engineer said yes. **MAYOR SMITH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE FWC GRANT**
20 **#21128 RENOVATIONS TO LINCOLN PARK. COMM. WASDIN SECONDED THE**
21 **MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 4 TO 0.**

22 **4. ACTION ITEMS – Internet Protocol TV**

23 Mr. Butler said it had been discussed in the past moving toward latest technologies, internet tv
24 is the direction everything is going to. Mr. Butler said he wanted to bring this to the Commission's
25 attention to ask for the guidance as to what they'd like for him to do. Mr. Butler said we would still
26 have all the local channels, with this new system we would stop contracting with all the other
27 broadcasters, these people would handle this for us. Except for the local channels which we would
28 have to negotiate with the locals and get the feeds from them. Mayor Smith asked if it was going to be
29 \$15 a month? Mr. Butler said it would depend on the customer package. He said he does not have the
30 exact numbers tonight if Commission wants him to go forward, he will have more precise numbers, but
31 we are looking at savings of around \$50,000 a month, if we go this route. Mr. Butler said it would also
32 free up some of our channels for internet, currently the internet uses 20 channels and if we go this route
33 it could free up all 100 channels and move to DOCSIS 3.1 which is theoretically speed of 10 gigabytes

1 to the home. Mayor Smith said it sounds like a pretty good deal for the city. Mrs. Johnson asked what
2 would the citizens not have? Mr. Butler said there are a couple of channels that they do not carry and
3 will not carry. He said one of those is HBO, he said we lose money right now because of how HBO
4 does their pricing it is cheaper for the individual to go HBO on their own. Mr. Butler said they also do
5 not mess with Viacom for similar reasons, Viacom provides the MTVs, Nickelodeon, they increase
6 prices every four years and can be difficult to work with. He said but we would have most channels
7 that we have now. Mrs. Johnson asked about DVRs? Mr. Butler said starting out they offer a free
8 DVR with your account, that DVR holds seven days, and they are looking forward to a month of
9 storage. Mayor Smith verified that we would still have local channels, Mr. Butler said yes, locals with
10 individual contracts. **COMM. WASDIN MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW MR. BUTLER TO
11 FURTHER LOOK INTO THE INTERNET PROGRAMMING AND COME BACK BEFORE
12 THE COMMISSION WITH MORE CONCRETE NUMBERS. COMM. CROSBY SECONDED
13 THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY A VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 3 TO 0. (Lost
14 connection with Comm. Denney)**

15 **1. OLD BUSINESS – Tom’s Bayou Bridge Utilities Update**

16 Comm. Wasdin said it looks like everything is running well.

17 **2. OLD BUSINESS – Property Foreclosure Update**

18 Mr. Dykes said the Turner property foreclosure is set for the 19th of January, will be an online
19 foreclosure, we will have bid in for what city has paid including attorney fees. Mr. Dykes said should
20 someone bid higher than that, we will be entitled to go after they money we have spent through them,
21 that would also leave them with the IRS lien. Mr. Dykes said if that doesn’t happen the house will be
22 foreclosed on and deeded to the City of Valparaiso, and we would need to negotiate the IRS lien and
23 pay them to have clear title. Mr. Dykes said he will send emails to the Commission to let them know
24 how the auction goes.

25 **3. OLD BUSINESS – City Manager**

26 Mr. Dykes said as the Commission will recall, Comm. Hamilton asked that he put something
27 together in regard to a city manager position which is what he has brought forth. Mr. Dykes said he
28 modeled this rendition after the City of Freeport, this isn’t for first reading or anything just discussion
29 and exchange of information. Mayor Smith said this looks like it takes away most city administrator
30 duties and even some city clerk duties. Mr. Dykes said it is up to the Commission on how they would
31 like to proceed. Mayor Smith said he has read over this couple of times, with salary, compensation for
32 insurance, vacation and sick we are looking over \$100,000 to pay this manager. Comm. Wasdin said
33 she believes it is best to discuss this in front of a full Commission. Mayor Smith said he agrees, this

1 lays a lot of burden on the city manager, from reading this it looks like Mr. Scott would only have
2 permits, code enforcement and inspections. Mr. Scott said good.

3 **1. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – TPO/DOT**

4 Comm. Wasdin said nothing to report this evening.

5 **2. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Stormwater**

6 Mr. Scott has nothing to report this evening.

7 **3. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Community Liaison Report**

8 Comm. Wasdin said there is a breakfast at the Chamber on Wednesday and their annual awards
9 benefit is scheduled for February 16th.

10 **4. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Regional Sewer Update**

11 Mayor Smith said normal that is something Comm. Denney covers but since he hasn't heard
12 anything different, he believes everything is okay.

13 **5. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Planning Commission Update**

14 Mayor Smith said he didn't see any member in attendance. Mrs. Johnson said she did know
15 there would be a meeting here tomorrow at 6PM and they will hear five variances.

16 **6. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Department Updates**

17 Chief Mayville said they have seen an increase in the virus activity, he'd had four firefighters
18 affected, three with mild symptoms, one is a little more serious. Mayor Smith asked Chief Hart about
19 the police officers, Chief Hart said they had three out with it, one has recovered and is back two are
20 still out. Ms. Willis said a little bit of good news, we have hired for all the open positions in the
21 library. She said since the wage increase the library has been able to attract more qualified personnel,
22 a couple from other cities.

23 **7. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS - Disbursements**

24 **COMM. CROSBY MADE A MOTION TO PAY THE BILLS AS OUTLINED IN THE**
25 **FINANCIALS. COMM. WASDIN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY**
26 **UNANIMOUS VOTE 4 TO 0. (OR 3 TO 0)**

27 **8 REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS-Heritage Museum Dinner &**
28 **Musical "Valparaiso" Sat January 15, 2022 @6pm**

29 Mayor Smith said the museum is having their dinner and musical at the Rocky Bayou County
30 Club and to let Mrs. Johnson know if you will be attending. Mayor Smith said he would like to see all
31 the Commissioners there.

32 **9. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Okaloosa League of Cities**
33 **Dinner Meeting Thursday, January 20, 2022 @ 5:30**

1 Mayor Smith said the Okaloosa League of Cities Dinner meeting will be January 20th at 5:30 at
2 the Sound. He said to RSVP to Mrs. Johnson by January 12th and she will need information for people
3 who do not have military ID cards to get on base.

4 **ADJOURN**

5 There being no further business to be brought before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at
6 6:40 PM.

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Hubert B. Smith
Mayor

Catherine Hamilton
Chair, VCA

ATTEST:

Tammy Johnson, CMC
City Clerk

***A recording of the January 10, 2022, Commission meeting will be kept on the City's secure
file server as a permanent part of these minutes.***