

**CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE  
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Pursuant to due notice the regularly scheduled Commission meeting was held in the Commission Chambers at 360 E. Main St., Pahokee, Palm Beach County, Florida on Tuesday, December 15, 2015.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Walkes at 7:00p.m.

Official attendance was recorded as follows:

<b>Roll Call:</b>	Mayor Colin Walkes	Present
	Commissioner Allie Biggs	Present (via phone)
	Commissioner Felisia Hill	Present
	Commissioner Nathaniel Holmes	Present
	Vice Mayor Diane Walker	Present
	City Manager Chandler Williamson	Present
	City Attorney Gary Brandenburg	Absent
	Sergeant At Arms Sgt. Clinton Cohen	Present
	Deputy City Manager Tammy Jackson-Moore	Present
	City Clerk Tijauna Warner	Present

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

**Approval of Agenda**

City Attorney advised he has an additional item for the agenda a Corrective Quit Claim Deed.

Mayor Colin Walkes asked if there's a motion.

**Approval of Agenda with additions.**

**Motion by Vice Mayor Walker. Seconded by Commissioner Holmes.**

**Motion carried on unanimously.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

1. November 24, 2015 Regular Scheduled Commission Meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Vice Mayor Walker with corrections. Seconded by Commissioner Holmes.**

**Motion carried on unanimously.**

**Resolutions:**

1. RESOLUTION 2015 – 38 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH RESOURCE GROUP N.A., INC. FOR GOVERNMENTAL CONSULTING SERVICES.

Commissioner Biggs asked if the Lobbying Firm were discussed in a workshop.

Mayor Walkes advised there was not a workshop.

**Approval of Resolution 2015 - 38**

**Motion by Vice Mayor Walker. Seconded by Commissioner Hill.**

**Motion carried on unanimously.**

Mayor Walkes welcomed Resource Group N.A. to the City of Pahokee since they are approved.

Thomas DeRita thanks the Commission for the opportunity. Mr. DeRita advised on December 8, 2015 he met with the delegation in the Glades; there are three (3) Storm Water Projects we are submitting and we are putting a lot against the wall. The opportunity is positive for the City of Pahokee. We will work in Tallahassee, me and my partner also with the City.

Mayor Walkes thanks Mr. DeRita and advised he is appreciated as well as acknowledge the City's growth and ability to move forward.

Commissioner Biggs advised she looks forward to a great relationship with Resource Group N.A..

**Cancellation of January 12, 2016 Commission Meeting**

**Motion by Vice Mayor Walker. Seconded by Commissioner Holmes.**

**Motion carried on unanimously.**

**Christian Farm Share (Presentation):**

Farm Share is a non-profit organization that uses products from Florida's local farmers (a few from Pahokee). They acquire local food and distribute to local communities (free of charge) at events. Farm Share has been a success in the City of Pahokee while working with Mayor Walkes. We hope to continue business with the City of Pahokee and will provide you with a list of upcoming events.

Mayor Walkes advised this is a great opportunity and we look forward to working with Farm Share.

**Report of the Mayor:**

Mayor Walkes thanks the DMB for their participation in the City of Pahokee Toy Drive, also thank Alvin "AJ" Johnson & Staff for their great work. Mayor advised Thursday the Youth Football Banquet will be held at Parks & Recreation. Mayor advised that we succeed through our children, please support and encourage them. He wishes everyone a Merry Merry Christmas and to celebrate while reminding our children what it's about.

**Report of the City Manager:**

Mr. Williamson (City Manager) advised there are some additional items to discuss from the workshop. He added East Main Place reconstruction of the streets in front of the elementary school should start around April 2016. An additional \$210,000 for resurfacing streets in Pahokee (Phase II) has started and residents will see the difference.

Vice Mayor Walker asked if 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and South Lake Avenue are a part of Phase II?

Mr. Williamson advised yes in March 2016.

Mr. Williamson advised the Gymnasium re-opening may not be soon. The City and the County have a few projects to complete before it will be usable. Bids for the county went out in August and they returned extremely higher than what was anticipated. We are awaiting further directions from the County on this section of the project. In addition Mr. Williamson stated he conducted a walk-through of the Gymnasium, and even with the county's completion of their commitments in Phase II the city is still fiscally responsible for significant renovations of the interior. The interior needs bleachers replaced, sink and toilet with ADA, entire scraping and re-painting, re-sanding and waxing, goal suspensions, and structural care. These will be the final renovations needed to reopen and they are well above the fiscal ability of the city to ensure reopening by early spring (March 2016). There's much damage to the interior and the interior was not included in the agreement with the County. While we are waiting on the County's next steps, we have a lot of moving parts that fall on the city's shoulders to complete the final renovations and county is not responsible for those moving parts.

Commissioner Biggs advised it has been over two (2) years since we been able to use the gymnasium. When will the gymnasium be able to be use?

Mr. Williamson explains because of the significant repairs to a very old structure, it's not an easy fix. The gymnasium is not inhabitable, and unsafe I can't put a time-frame on that.

Commissioner Biggs advised different programs have been avoided because of the gymnasium.

Mr. Williamson advised it is unfortunate, yet we have an inter-local agreement with the school for the use of their gymnasium.

Commissioner Biggs asked "What's actually going on"?

Commissioner Holmes asked "Who dropped the ball"?

Mr. Williamson advised when the County committed to assisting with renovations, the City decided to cover the cost for interior and the County covers other parts such as HVAC, doors, and fire alarm. But even those repairs by the (county) are just a small part of what needs to be completed. The remaining repairs are the responsibility of the City not the County. And those remaining repairs are very significant.

Vice Mayor Walker advised the gymnasium been on the agenda since 2008. It's sad, have not we done an assessment?

Mr. Williamson advised that was his purpose of doing the walk through.

Vice Mayor Walker asked "Will you be bringing us that information"?

Mr. Williamson advised yes.

Vice Mayor Walker asked "Where are we with the bid purpose"?

Mr. Williamson advised we are working on additional funding.

Vice Mayor Walker asked "After the New Year, will you bring the information back"?

Mr. Williamson stated "Yes, after the holidays. Phase II is taking a little longer than anticipated".

Vice Mayor Walker advised to include what the County has completed to date.

Mr. Williamson advised we are going to continue partnering with the County as per the original agreement. We will try to get those answers before the New Year. The gymnasium basement is extremely damaged and those renovations are also the responsibility of the City and not the county.

Vice Mayor Walker advised she was not aware of that with the basement.

Commissioner Biggs asked for the Commissioners to have a walk through. She inquired did Mr. Williamson just find this information out yesterday.

Mr. Williamson advised yes, but we are researching other opportunities for funding.

Also, in reference to the Legislative Process 2016 we have wrapped up. We will be in Tallahassee for Palm Beach County Days 2016, therefore the January 12, 2016 Meeting cancelled unless something comes up.

Mr. Williamson closed his report by thanking Commissioner Holmes for great resources and support.

**Report of the City Attorney:**

City Attorney Mr. Brandenburg advised the Corrective Quit Claim Deed legal description was not completed.

**Approval of Corrective Quit Claim Deed**

Motion by Vice Mayor Walker. Seconded by Commissioner Holmes.

Motion carried on unanimously.

Mr. Brandenburg suggested the Commissioner move towards filing a lawsuit in reference to the Hospital Site.

Approval of Hospital Site Lawsuit

Motion by Vice Mayor Walker. Seconded by Commissioner Biggs.

Motion carried on unanimously.

Mr. Brandenburg advised the Commissioner turned down the offer in the Crawford v. Pahokee. He mention setting a date for a closed door session to discuss the legal aspect of the case, typically you don't discuss it publicly.

Mayor Walkes asked "Is there a verdict or is there a trial date"?

Mr. Brandenburg replies "No". The only thing the judge has heard was the City point of view. There will be a trial sometime in the future.

Mayor Walkes suggested since it is on-going, I really don't think we need a discussion.

Commissioner Biggs advised she would like to have the discussion.

Commissioner Holmes asked "Why are we getting a settlement proposal"?

Mr. Brandenburg advised the judge has nothing to do with the settlement, Mr. Crawford offered the settlement. I think it was unacceptable and the commission agreed. During the regular commission meeting, we will go into a private session with a recorder. Once it's completed, the session becomes public record.

Vice Mayor Walker asked "Is there no penalties for delaying this"?

Mr. Brandenburg states "No". We will schedule a date for the Closed Door Meeting January 26, 2016.

Mr. Brandenburg advised Conchy Mo's has been paying the monthly rent but has not caught up arrears, yet it is not a good time to change out the operator. Discussion have between the City Manager and him to allow him to pay additional \$1500 until arrears paid up. It will be three (3) months and the City received notification from the insurance company that Mo's insurance has lapsed.

Vice Mayor Walker asked "What's the status on that"?

Mr. Brandenburg advised it will be re-instated tomorrow.

Mr. Williamson advised we have to plan for the future. This situation has worn us down. What happens if he doesn't pay the \$1500? Two (2) months ago I advised that we have no proof that he will pay it. Eventually, we have to make a final decision.

Commissioner Biggs asked the City Manager "What's your desire"?

Mr. Williamson advised to keep the restaurant open, I'm just purposing the cons. If he decides to walk away, we need a solution and we are exploring additional options.

Mr. Brandenburg advised he is currently on a month-to-month, Ms. Jackson-Moore and Moe discussed staying until the end of the season, the City can decide.

Commissioner Holmes suggest if he doesn't pay arrears, get him out.

Commissioner Hill suggest the City stick to their guns and get him removed. The City needs to move forward and stop allowing this to happen.

Commissioner Holmes advised sometimes we do have to be lenient, but we have to make that move, if he's not going to pay.

Mr. Williamson advised we have no proof that he will pay the arrears.

Mr. Brandenburg suggested waiting until the season is over and then remove him.

Mr. Williamson advised he has us in a hard spot, we have no proof.

Mayor Walkes suggested asking for financials.

Mr. Jackson-Moore (Deputy City Manager) advised he is bringing them in tomorrow.

**Approval of Conchy Mo's Month-to-Month with \$1500 towards arrears**

**Motion by Vice Mayor Walker. Seconded by Commissioner Biggs.**

**Motion carried (4) aye; (1) nay**

**Citizen Comments:**

Mr. Sylvans Miller suggest the City remove that tree by the Blue Store. These individuals sale drugs in front of my apartment and use my building as a restroom. They are under that tree all day, the address is 271 Daniel Place.

Mayor Walkes advised Mr. Miller to work with the Alvin "AJ" Johnson and the City Manager on that.

Mr. Williamson advised some good news, the smoke is out with Bio-Mass. The company provided their insurance information, it is available to the public on our website. Bio-Mass operational status is non at this time, they have seven (7) days to remove, forty-five (45) days to create alley ways between piles, and forty-five (45) additional days until the Health Department is on the site. Bio-Mass permit is suspended. Hope, we will know if we want to go back into business with Bio-Mass.

Mr. Brandenburg advised Bio-Mass asked the City for the 28 acres. Commission asked Mr. Brandenburg to prepare a lease and also protect the City. I presented and they didn't like the terms. They decided not to sign and moved out and found another location. Over the years, I have seen a lot of these operations. They pile up trash and take the tipping fees and leave. I have protected the City from that and if they were to abandon the location the funds should be the City to get rid of trash.

Vice Mayor Walker asked "Can we legally remove them"?

Mr. Brandenburg advised he will look into that, there are some business issues they have to take care of. They need a \$5 million machine, their applicants went from three (3) to thirty-five (35), then to BDB saying two-hundred (200) jobs.

Commissioner Hill asked "Whose property"?

Mr. Williamson advised Town & Country High.

Vice Mayor Walker asked "When are we going to have a Town Hall Meeting"?

Mr. Williamson advised we are at that point now, where we can have a Town Hall Meeting in Citizen Village. I am trying to contact SWA and Department of Health to get a time that they will be available. I will get you a date on the Town Hall Meeting.

**City Commission Comments:**

Commissioner Holmes thanks everyone for coming out, it's nice to see you all.

Commissioner Biggs tells everyone good evening and Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Hill tells everyone Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. I haven't been here because I have been taking care of both my parents.

Vice Mayor Walker advised recycling bins are not available to many of our citizens. They are being charged a fee, but don't have a bin.

Mr. Johnson advised they have to request it.

Mr. Williamson advised they can come into City Hall or call to request a recycling bin.

Vice Mayor says "Thank you, we need to make them aware of it".

Vice Mayor Walker suggested the new City Slogan be ready by the State of the City, if possible. Also, inquired about the status of the Code Enforcement Position.

Mr. Williamson advised we have advertised the position, we have received five (5) applicants for that position. We need someone that understands codes and zoning, one (1) option is to reach out to our sister cities.

Vice Mayor Walker advised the picnic area be put on next agenda to enhance for the citizens. The playground in Citizens Village needs repairing and public work needs vehicles, they were packed in one (1) vehicle.

Mr. Williamson advised I have not purchased a vehicle, waiting on the County to come back and approve purchasing a vehicle.

Vice Mayor Walker asked "What about the City Clerks vehicle"?

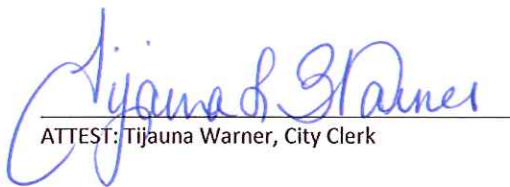
Mr. Williamson advised that's a priority.

Vice Mayor Walker wished everyone a Very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Mayor Walkes wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Walkes adjourns the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

  
Colin O. Walkes, Mayor

  
ATTEST: Tijauna Warner, City Clerk