

**CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE
 REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
 Tuesday, November 24th, 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, November 24, 2015.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Walkes at 7:04 p.m.

Official attendance was recorded as follows:

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Mayor Colin Walkes	Present
	Commissioner Allie Biggs	Absent
	Commissioner Felisia Hill	Absent
	Commissioner Nathaniel Holmes	Present
	Vice Mayor Diane Walker	Present
	City Manager Chandler Williamson	Present
	City Attorney Gary Brandenburg	Absent
	Sergeant At Arms Lieutenant Picciolo	Present
	Deputy City Manager Tammy Jackson-Moore	Present
	City Clerk Tijauna Warner	Present

Additions, Deletions, and Approval of Agenda Items:

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Vice Mayor Walker. Seconded by Commissioner Holmes.

Motion carried (3) aye and (2) absent.

Approval of Minutes:

1. November 10, 2015 Regular Scheduled Commission Meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Vice Mayor Walker. Seconded by Commissioner Holmes.

Motion carried (3) aye and (2) absent.

Resolutions:

1. RESOLUTION 2015 – 37 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR’S EXECUTION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A PERMIT FOR THE ANNUAL PAHOKEE CHRISTMAS PARADE.

Approval of Resolution 2015 - 37

Motion by Vice Mayor Walker. Seconded by Commissioner Holmes.

Motion carried (3) aye and (2) absent.

Proclamations:

1. Honoring Councilman Jerry Beavers

Approval of Proclamation Honoring Councilman Beavers

Motion by Vice Mayor Walker. Seconded by Commissioner Holmes.

Motion carried (3) aye and (2) absent.

Old Business:

1. Lobbying Firm Agreement

Approval of Proclamation Honoring Councilman Beavers

Motion by Vice Mayor Walker. Seconded by Commissioner Holmes.

Motion carried (3) aye and (2) absent.

Citizen Comments:

Vice Mayor Walker advised we can't do anything, until this issue is handled. She inquired as to how the City of Pahokee will hold Sunshine State Biomass Cooperative accountable for the fire on State Market Road.

City Manager Williamson stated that the City of Pahokee has to work with Palm Beach County, Solid Waste Authority (SWA), and the Health Department to ensure that Sunshine State Biomass Cooperative remain in compliance.

Ms. Jennifer Hanna inquired if Sunshine State Biomass Cooperative has insurance.

Mr. Carl Morrison advised three (3) people had to sign off on Bio-Mass and asked if there is a policy on file.

City Manager Williamson replied yes, there is a policy, but we have not seen one on file.

Mr. Morrison also inquired if Sunshine State Biomass Cooperative had a permit to dump on the site and if there is a safety policy in place.

David Disbrow, Founder/President of Sunshine State Biomass Cooperative, stated the incident is a tragedy and advised the company's intentions were good. He advised that they have Agriculture for the Right to Farm Act and \$15,000 to keep it in compliance. Mr. Disbrow addressed the issue and answered the citizens' questions.

Fire Department advised the fire initiated from spontaneous combustion, not arson.

Mayor Walkes stated we were hoping to get this resolved. No one authorized the burn. He advised that this will not be a common practice and the factory near Citizen Village will increase property value. Mayor Walkes thanked Mr. Disbrow and stated the City of Pahokee will continue to work him to improve everything.

Sam Habet, with Fire Department, advised the issue was addressed on November 14, 2015 at approximately 12:15 a.m. and they worked the scene for the first 48 hours. During the first 24 hours, the Fire Department pumped millions of gallons of water. SWA, PBC Health Department, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office (PBSO), School District Police are working to control this situation. We are not able to measure breathing problems up to the months. SWA granted BioMass with the permit in October 2015. The Health Department has not sited them with violations as of yet. Sunshine State Biomass Cooperative had a largely success, they have complied with all requirement requests, and they have gone above and beyond. The fire was initially reported as a small fire, but it was actually a big fire. Approximately an hour into the incident, the smoke blew into Citizen Village. He reported that over a million gallons of water was pumped.

Commissioner Holmes inquired if it was arson.

Fire Department stated no, it was a deep seated fire.

Mayor Walkes advised the City of Pahokee is going to work closely with Sunshine State Biomass Cooperative.

Crawford asked are there fines, if the fire is not out by Friday?

City Manager Williamson stated that it was determined by the Health Department, there will be fines if the fire not out by Friday.

Fire Department reported that the fine will be \$10,000 per day, if the issue is not handled by the deadline. There are four (4) football fields of materials, 15 feet high. He advised that they are working through the day and can't operate the equipment at night, but the problem will be taken care of.

Mr. Morrison inquired if the Fire Department would be at the site until the fire goes out.

Fire Department advised yes, they would be there until it goes out. He advised that Sunshine State Biomass Cooperative is shut down.

City Manager Williamson stated we have to ensure that the fire is out and we will have to address the citizens with their homes.

Mayor Walkes advised we are in the process of going through it and we have to move forward.

Vice Mayor Walker thanked the residents from Citizen Village.

City Manager Williamson stated we will have them to implement a contingency plan, which should have been in place. Sunshine State Biomass Cooperative will be asked to implement a plan and before they go back into operations, we would need to see a contingency plan. If they don't put the contingency plan in place, we will have it on file; therefore, they will have to do their due diligence.

Citizen inquired who will be held accountable.

Mayor Walkes advised Sunshine State Biomass Cooperative will be held accountable.

Citizen inquired if the City of Pahokee properly researched the company.

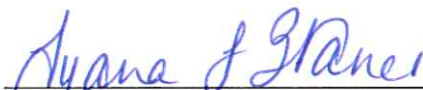
Mayor Walkes stated that the Business Development Board (BDB) of Palm Beach County referred Sunshine State Biomass Cooperative.

Vice Mayor Walker advised that health is more important than 200 jobs.

Commissioner Holmes stated we need to get this taken care of, so that we can have 200 jobs.

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Walkes adjourns the meeting at 8:28 p.m.



Colin O. Walkes, Mayor

ATTEST: Tijauna Warner, City Clerk