

**TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2022
CITY COMMISSION MEETING – 9:00 A.M.**

Present: Jesse Nelson, Mayor
Brandon Aldridge, Commissioner
Pat Perno, Commissioner
Jamie Warrick, Commissioner
Judy Tinder, Commissioner
Vickie Gainer, City Manager
Police Chief Ricky Ramie, Sergeant at Arms
Kevin Obos, City Legal Counsel

Item #1. Call to order.

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

Item # 2. Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

By Cameron Neuman, Chaplain Lynn Haven Police department.

Item # 3. Public Commentary.

Ellyn Fields - a sign missing from Kinsaul Park about the splash pad.

Mr. Walker - spoke about the charter review meetings - and proceeded to read from a meeting dated many years ago. He proceeded to say that historically the city governance is NOT the City Manager. This City is a Commission governed City governance. Watched this government change to a dictator over the past 17 years. People of this town are not in favor of City Managers.

Jodi Moore - Amhurst Street - regarding the sign at the park, she hopes it wasn't removed on purpose as it was voted in by the commission. Went on to speak about a series of emails between her and the City Manager, Mayor, and Commissioners. She wants an independent City Budget Committee, and she went on to explain why and mentioned excerpts from her various emails. She encourages this commission to create a Citizen Oversight Budget Committee.

Mr. Bostick - 1508 Minnesota Ave - started by thanking the Mayor for working with them on the Juneteenth effort. Then thanked Ms. Gainer who worked tirelessly to ensure the vaccination effort was successful. Also, that the citizens had charged this Commission with a job, and they are doing a great job. Which city is doing the best since Hurricane Michael? Lynn Haven has made more progress than all the other cities combined. If we spent more time supporting these officials, then Lynn Haven could be the premier city in Bay County. We have some in the City positions that use proxies to get up here and bash the city. He went on to say he thought this should be beneath them, but apparently it is not. Mr. Bostick said don't worry about the naysayers, that the bible says, "the poor you will always have among us", but he says that the ignorant and non-believers are here to stay so do what you have been doing and continue to look after the citizens of Lynn Haven.

Cathy Fabien Bruce - 301 Indiana Avenue - about two items on the agenda - 1. Encourage you all to vote yes and approve Juneteenth to be an official holiday for city employees. These are deeply meaningful for those who attend, as well as educational. She would never like an employee in a city where she lives to have to use a sick day to attend a Juneteenth event. 2. Animal ordinance - encourage not to vote on it as it is amended, but further amend it so it is more of a reflection of those who live here so our animals are not possibly taken from us. And thank you all for your service.

Ryan Scray - Missouri Ave - wanted to speak about apathy, responsibility, and accountability. Mr. Scray thinks the Mayor's youth council will be a good thing. The adults can provide mentorship.

They are our future and people should recognize that. Buying into our youth is the way to do it. They are going to be our future employees, citizens, and leaders. On behalf of his business, he is committed that if it is passed, he will sponsor one of their lunches and offer his help in mentoring them, even if we don't always agree on everything, on this we do.

Christy Mcelroy - Gulf and Leon County - proceeded to read excerpts from a letter she sent to Chief Justice Judge Mark Walker, then asked the commission to also write a letter to Judge Mark Walker.

Member of public (did not state name) - said he lived here 27 years and never registered his dog. On looking on the website he found no registration. He asked that they reconsider this ordinance. He asked that they change the process and do a better job of advertising. Being behind the scenes he knows what is going on in the city, and he has personally known City Manager Gainer for 20 years, and they don't always see eye to eye, but they have good conversations. There are 5 pillars of good leadership (communication, vision, empathy, accountability, and gratitude). He has heard several times today that people don't think she is doing a good job. He said that he has gone to water department recently and got GREAT service. We have a great baseball facility. Whenever he runs into an employee, they have a smile and a great attitude, so if we have such a bad City Manager why would this be. Someone said we are stuck with our City Manager - and he disagrees. The Commission voted her in so they can vote her out. He went on to say "Vickie, thank you for all you have done!"

Johnny Beshearse - 811 Louisiana Avenue - First wanted to thank them all for what they do for the Citizens of Lynn Haven. Few people pay license fees, and he understands that when an animal is impounded you are charged an impound fee and then the fee is higher each time it is impounded. That may be a way to collect fees and funding instead of registration fees. That might be an alternative to defray some of the costs for the animal shelter.

Item # 4. Mayor's Report.

Mayor proceeded to read and present the proclamations.

- A. Proclamation - National Safe Boating Week May 21st - 27th
The Commander said that on behalf of the United States Coastguard stationed in Panama City we appreciate your support and thank you for this proclamation.
- B. Proclamation - Beach Safety Awareness Week May 23rd - 31st
The Mayor said that we will ensure that Patronis Elementary School receive this proclamation.
- C. Proclamation - Juneteenth Day of Observance 2022
Mr. Tony Bostick - on behalf of Minority PC - when we sent out the request to the various cities, Lynn Haven was the first to respond. On behalf of Minority PC - I say thank you thank you thank you.

Mayor thanked those who spoke their minds about the animal ordinance.

Regarding the sign missing from the splash pad - He said he was not sure if it was a commission sanctioned sign, however the city will look into their minutes to verify this. Regardless, we do not advocate vandalism in our community.

Mayor went on to say that regarding himself calling someone racist, he simply said their statement sounded racist and he based that on the fact this person had a problem with our City Manager attending the Charter Review meeting. This person also stated that Mr. George Hines would not tell her not to come - in the absence of context and based on previous meeting statements it sounded racist.

Since the last meeting he has been working to finalize the Mayor's youth council and is glad to have some of our applicants in the other room watching this meeting. Thanks to Mr. Bullock for allowing the students to be here with us.

Had a chance to attend the Lynn Haven Rotary to get an update from Bay County Griff Griffiths, circling back to Hurricane Michael issues where they shared some statistics, which showed that we are well on our way to recovery.

The Mayor said he spoke with various citizens and thanked the City Manager and her staff for such quick follow up and resolutions to these issues and addressing things so quickly, especially the recent wastewater chemical leak.

He mentioned about the resident who contacted him about her water being cut off although she had paid her water bill. On alerting the City Manager she contacted Customer Services to resolve the issue. Thanks to the City Manager and the afterhours person on call who dealt with that matter successfully.

He met with Mr. Frank Hall - Chairperson of the Debt Review Committee - and they are working on setting up the next round of Debt Review committee meetings and should be able to bring these dates before the commission at the next meeting.

Item # 5. Commissioners' Reports.

Commissioner Aldridge - said he had addressed a few issues about the animal ordinance.

Commissioner Perno - thanked all for being here and our First Responders. He had a few calls from residents, including dealing with the TPO regarding a residents complaint about the traffic lights on HW77. We have the longest running parade in the State, and we have the longest running golf tournament that has been running for 95 consecutive years and he participated in it twice. He is proud of the people at the Country Club that made that happen. At the TPO meeting FPL arranged approval of 3 alternative routes of the rails to trails. It is now proposed to follow the power lines all the way north to the I10 versus following 390.

Commissioner Warrick - 21 May at 11am is the time with the Commissioner come out to Slim Chickens to talk about your issues. FPL sent another proposal to Public Service Commission asking for more money regarding above ground lines, management of vegetation, and underground cables. PSC will look at that some time in Nov. Spoke about sanitation on his road being accidentally missed and they hadn't called the City. So, he called the City and arranged to have their garbage collected. Mayor asked about the FPL request if there were any figures and the impact how it will affect us on the bottom line in terms of rates? Commissioner Warrick said they don't know yet but will know after their hearing. Mayor said this may be a good time for the Commissioners to start writing their letters now about it and submitting it and then again just before the vote.

Commissioner Tinder - Received the lengthy email from Mr. Smith too about the traffic lights and agreed with him completely. Received outrageous amount of phone calls and emails this week, always vote for my constituents whether I agree with them or not. Call from Mr. Gillespie this morning who informed her that there are 4 homes that flood all the time and they received notice from their insurance company informing that they will NOT pay them a penny more for damage to their homes. Mayor advised that CM, Mayor, and Chris Lightfoot have gone over plans about that block and intend to contact Mr. Gillespie and others to update them as to what we will be doing - in the next week or so. Tinder would like to be included in that meeting. Commissioners all received copies of the fish kill letter, it is an unfortunate situation and extremely important it never happen again. Very curious about the splash pad sign - did we remove it? CM said she did not notice it had been removed. CM will go back and make sure that the commission voted on it and ensure it is put back if so. Mr. Finch (Phoenix Construction) donated thousands of dollars to that splash pad so that is important.

Item # 6. City Manager's Report.

Staff is working very hard on fourth of July. If you are interested in being a vendor or participant, please get your application in to participate. TT on Thursday 26th at 5.30. Splash pads are open,

and we have had some issue of people not following the rules. Splash pads are a liability. Anything that can contaminate the water cannot go inside as it is a health violation. Hope to have sidewalks on 5th street complete by July 4th. Rails to trails is being worked on to get underway. The resilience grant will be used to collect data about our most vulnerable areas so we can be prepared for future emergencies. Currently working on stormwater assessment to look at the numbers and bring those before the commission as well as some problem areas you asked us to look at. Started town hall meetings with the employees where they have an opportunity to be honest and open without their supervisors so we can fix some of their issues right away if possible. The City Manager expressed that she has been in this position almost 3 years and been at the city 5 years and the slander against her needs to stop so the city can grow and put the past behind them. She went on to say that the City Manager’s job is 24/7 and she is here for the citizens 24/7 but will not take the slander anymore because it is uncalled for. She asked that whether they like her or not, she is doing this job where God has place her, so look at what it is that they don’t like and sit down and talk to her but do this respectfully and look at themselves too and what they can do that they can change. She thanked this commission for allowing her to serve the citizens of Lynn Haven and the citizens for allowing her to serve them.

- A. Department of the Quarter - Information Technology.
The City Manager presented the plaque to Mr. Blake and Mr. Bramton for the great work they do.
- B. Warrant list update - there were no further questions.
- C. Stormwater Update.

Lastly - Mr. Kidwell will speak a little about the water spillage. Mr. Kidwell said that as part of our tank cleaning and repairs, staff were a little aggressive in releasing the chlorinated water and 500,000 gallons of treated drinking water was released into the ditch. After the notification they made some corrections and released the rest of the water with no damage, so we know the changes we made were effective. This process was previously approved and recommended by DEP. Commissioner Aldridge asked is this water drinkable. Mr. Kidwell said yes, and none of the vegetation was affected. Commissioner Warrick - so we reported it to DEP? Mr. Kidwell said yes, and it had to be reported on the wastewater website even though it is treated drinking water because DEP do not have a space to report on releasing drinking water. Commissioner Tinder - has this ever happened before? Mr. Kidwell said this activity happens every 5 years. Commissioner Tinder - have we killed any fish before? Mr. Kidwell said not to his knowledge.

Item # 7. City Attorney’s Report.

Charter Committee - are winding up and after the one next week we will bring some proposed corrections via ballot questions. City Charter is a Commissioner manager form of government, and they appoint the City Manager to enforce those. There are no lifetime appointments as they are all voted in by the commission and can change at the will of the Commission.

CONSENT AGENDA

Item #8. Minutes dd 04/26/22 - Regular meeting minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Warrick: To approve all items on the Consent Agenda.

Second to the Motion Commissioner Tinder

On Vote:

Warrick	aye
Tinder	aye
Perno	aye
Aldridge	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

OLD BUSINESS

Item #9. First reading Ordinance 1136 amending the City's Code of Ordinances regarding animals (First reading no action required).

Commissioner Perno - to clarify for the residents who are concerned - he read the portion about the leash requirements in public spaces and at City events.

City Manager read the item by title only.

Commissioner Perno thinks we need to take a look at the registration of animals and repeal it if it is not being effective. Attorney said this is first reading. That clause is not new, it is old and always been in there. We can get direction on that today from the Commission and amend it before the 2nd reading. Commissioner Aldridge agrees with Commissioner Perno about removing that language. Commissioner Warrick - plans on going out there and touring the animal control area as he has never been there. Commissioner Tinder said he should go out as it is educational. She encourages everyone who is an animal owner to use their voice to contact their commissioner and give their opinion. We can only vote according to how you feel.

City Manager said maybe we can look at registration for dangerous dogs?

City Manager invited Ramona to field questions.

Commissioner Tinder said she would like to see that residents should be able to license and register their dogs if they want to. Commissioner Tinder asked Ramona how she feels about registration. Ramona said they are moving more toward microchipping than paper license.

Commissioner Perno - do you feel like the registration is effective for helping you track animals? Ramona said that in the past 5 years the people who are registering their animals - they don't get out. They are responsible owners. Commissioner Aldridge advised that people could buy apple air tags from best buy to put on their pets and be able to track them.

Commissioner Perno - do you microchip? Ramona - yes, we sell them and implant them at a cost of \$15 and the microchip company we work with has a free registration with that onto their database. City Manager said we have a shot clinic on Saturday, and we do microchip at those. Mayor - do you think there needs to be a licensing requirement? Ramona said some cities do an annual reminder to their pet owners who have used the microchip option to come in and pay their \$5 renewal license, so there is still a licensing portion.

Commissioner Tinder - do those funds stay in that department. City Manager - yes.

Commissioner Warrick - only people that should be required to license of microchip should be those who lose their dogs or the dogs that get out. Ramona advised that we cannot mandate them to microchip or microchip without their permission, because animals are property.

Commissioner Tinder - what do you consider a vicious dog? Ramona - one that is behind a fence trying to get you. If it is going at you while on the street that is one strike toward being a dangerous dog.

Commissioner Aldridge - is there certain dangerous breeds? Ramona no - it is based on the dogs behavior, and it could even be a Chihuahua.

Commissioner Perno - could we make the registration voluntary and make it \$15 which includes the microchip? \$10 to register and additional \$4 to give incentive to microchip. Commissioner Warrick clarified that right now it is \$15 to microchip and that includes registration.

Commissioner Warrick - should be voluntary unless the dog is impounded, and then registration is required.

Attorney will bring an amended ordinance to the commission to look at before the advertising and second reading.

Commissioner Warrick and Commissioner Perno discussed that it could read that if the owner microchips, then it is a one off registration with the microchip, but if they don't microchip and only register the dog then it will need to be an annual licensing fee.

Ramona - the revenue from the registration goes to education of the animal officers.

Commissioner Perno would like to incentivize the registration with the microchip.

Commissioner Tinder - regarding the 6ft leash issue, did we not change it to remove the 6ft restriction. Attorney explained they did except for city events.

Item #10. Discussion and possible approval to award the E 7th St Drainage Improvements Project to American Sand and Asphalt Paving in the amount of \$1,181,741.00.

Public Works Director explained the item.

Motion by Commissioner Tinder: To approve the award the E 7th St Drainage Improvements Project to American Sand and Asphalt Paving in the amount of \$1,181,741.00.

Second to the Motion

Commissioner Warrick

On Vote:

Tinder	aye
Warrick	aye
Perno	aye
Aldridge	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

Item #11. Discussion and possible approval of Resolution #2022-05-379 to create the Mayor Sharon Sheffield Youth Council.

Mayor Nelson explained the purpose of creating this youth council and acknowledged the presence of Mayor Sharon Sheffield at the meeting. Largest budgeted item would be lunch at about \$150 per week, and on reaching out to our community leaders we have the lunches covered for the first year. We also have a proposed trip to Tallahassee and that transport is also already sponsored.

Commissioner Warrick - great idea. Did you say you already found the sponsors? Mayor - yes, we have 15 local sponsors. Commissioner Warrick - our fear is that there is no political agenda pushed to the youth council members. Mayor - what would be my proposed political agenda? Commissioner Warrick - could be CRT, or climate change. Gave the example of a visit to the daughters school and he asked the teacher when she spoke about issues if he ever pushes his own opinions, the teacher said not. Mayor advised that neither he nor the local business sponsors would be advocating their own opinions. They will be speaking about leadership and financial literacy etc. and most of the topics will be student driven. Also, some of the issues will be about what is a resolution etc. for instance I don't HAVE to have commission permission to form a youth council, but he decided to bring it to the commission to get the students engaged with the city. If the commission does not sanction the youth council, they will still have the youth council, it just won't be a city sanctioned youth council. Commissioner Warrick said he felt it was vitally important and he wished more residents would be engaged, for example with the Charter Review Committee it was his hope that more residents would attend those, and they didn't.

Commissioner Perno - is there a guideline for the council, like through Florida League of Cities? Mayor said yes, to expose them to community engagement, not necessarily city governance. E.g., Mayor said he shared with the City Manager that he had a vision to create a Lynn Haven 101 for adult residents to introduce them to the functions of the City, which is still part of this vision. The youth would likely be amicable to be part of that too, and some topic driven, with peripheral discussions. Will be following some of the Florida league of cities guidelines. Some were

concerned about the selection process - it is the schools that do the selection, and the Mayor can select additional as he sees fit. Students should either attend a school in Lynn Haven or live in Lynn Haven if they go to a school outside of Lynn Haven.

City Manager read the resolution by title only.

Motion by Commissioner Aldridge: To approve Resolution #2022-05-379

Second to the Motion

Commissioner Warrick

Ellyne Field - not in disagreement and likes the plan, good job in explaining the selection process. Would like to expand the field trips and recreational opportunities and attendance at City meetings should be an option not a requirement. Feels like providing lunch to the youth is a form of bribing. Suggests if they attend the City meetings it is with parental supervision. Educate them on the problems with visits to the parks and various departments. Suggested to expand the selection and get the school to put a name to it and give students extra credits for participating. Invite everyone so you are not segregating the students by hand picking them. Continued to read her opinion, stating that they should bear in mind that politics is often seen as hostile territory where many times there is a lack of open, fair, and reasoned discussion. The students will be exposed to lack of civility. So, to honor Miss Sheffield with pride make it a diverse program that includes more than just these meetings where there is arguing.

The Mayor went on to say that that is exactly what the plan is to get them visiting and exposed to various aspects of the city to expand their knowledge. In terms of the meetings being hostile, the meeting itself is not hostile, rather hostility is what we bring to the meeting. Thank you for your comments.

Mr. Bostick - the youth council can and do make a major difference in our community and feels it is disingenuous for people to make the accusations that there is a political agenda behind this. Do you really want your children to come and see what goes on in these meetings, behaving worse than kids, taking cheap shots at those they disagree with? Encourage you to stick at your vision, keep driving. Always have distractors, but don't let them distract you.

A member of public asked if this is an extracurricular activity for the students? Are you pulling them out of school, and they will be having their classes shortened? Mayor - this will be an excused absence for the students per the principals permission, similar to the Junior leadership Bay program.

Ms. McElroy - excellent idea because we need people to get out and see that they have the right to vote and should vote and be part of this democracy. Apathy will kill a democracy. Politics is tough. It's always been tough, even since the original constitution. It got ugly, that is what our youth need to understand, but how do you come to a place of compromise? Doesn't matter if you have an R, D, or an I behind your name, you need to come to a place of compromise. We won't have it all. The policy you put forward about disruptive behavior not being tolerated - leadership needs to adhere to that too.

Charlene Marshall - said she is the current administrator at Mosely high school. Thanks for establishing the youth council. When she was a student there in 1976, she never missed an opportunity to vote. These students will be on administrative leave to attend these sessions. It should be small to start with at 25 students. The selected students are ones who can handle this opportunity, but they are fully capable of making up any work they may miss. It is not a disruption, rather an addition. Regarding moving around the County, where you have people around the County, it is better to keep them in one place. Regarding the splash pad sign, the Commission might want to do some research. The pavilion at Leon Miller splash pad, the City actually named the March Green Pavilion. Mr. March Green was a prominent citizen at the time the pavilion was built, and it was named in his honor. So, it might be better to find a separate location to place the splash pad sign once it is put back up. She went on to say she has lived in Lynn Haven for 64 years and being Sharon Sheffield's daughter, she has had to be involved in the community. She asked of those who have issues with our City Manager - do you know the names of all the City Managers

in Bay County? Probably not, but you do know Vickie Gainers name because she is visible, out there doing her job and representing the community.

Mr. Walker - in reality the children in this town go to HS, graduate, and leave and do not come back. Children should be allowed to see what their government does. If this takes off, the children are our responsibility so let's see how it works and how it goes, even if you save one or two - you have got to try, so, good try.

Jodi Moore - said she wants people to be engaged and pay attention. She is not against this youth council. There is a group called Mums for Liberty who will be getting in touch to provide their input. Regarding negativity, disagreement is not negativity. She does not want negativity, and only wants good things for this City and is tired of sitting here and being told she is being negative. She proceeded to read the following clause from Public Participation Policy regarding disruption:

"Disruptive behavior shall not be tolerated. No person, while attending a meeting of the Commission, shall engage in activities designed primarily to disrupt the meeting. This shall include, but is not limited to, disruptive hand clapping, foot stomping, booing, cheering, operation of noise making devices, fighting or brawling, arguing, or other similar disruptive or distracting activities."

She then asked if this just applies to certain people, or just people they don't like. The Mayor responded that it reads specifically about those who are trying to DISRUPT the meeting. That the attendees have been applauding throughout the meeting for various reasons, including the awards given in the beginning. None of that handclapping was for the purpose of disrupting the meeting.

Ms. Moore responded that it is unclear to her as to when she can or cannot clap or make noises.

Troy Griffin - 1518 Delaware Avenue - He has been watching the meeting and seen the disruption and that he has been to other meetings, and this isn't the worst of it. He has seen his parents fight and they are still married and love each other all the more. He commended the Mayor for bringing the Mayor's youth group together. It is a 3.0 GPA which means they won't have any issues with missing class because they have already met a certain criteria. These criteria will be checked every semester to ensure they are able to continue on the Mayor's youth group. With the criteria put in place to protect the students' education, they won't feel like their day is disrupted. On behalf of the youth that are here today, he went on to commend the Mayor and all the Council and that they respect all of them and thanked them for the opportunity.

On Vote:

Aldridge	aye
Warrick	aye
Tinder	aye
Perno	aye
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 5-0

Mayor invited the Mayor's youth council to come in to be introduced to the meeting.

Item #12. Discussion and possible action to give city employees July 5th off.

Mayor introduced the item. He said he had spoken with HR, the City Manager, and other members of the community; it is clear there will be no extra funding needed and no additional costs if staff have that day off. There won't be any opportunity for increasing income if they don't take that day off.

Motion by Commissioner Warrick: To approve giving city employees July 5th off.

Second to the Motion Commissioner Perno

On Vote:

Warrick	aye
Perno	aye
Aldridge	aye
Tinder	no
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 4-1

Item #13. Discussion and possible approval for Juneteenth to be an official holiday for City employees

Mayor introduced the item. Thanked Commissioner Warrick for the spreadsheet identifying which cities do so already. It is a federal holiday although our state doesn't recognize it. He would like the staff to have an additional day off in the summer.

Commissioner Aldridge agreed summer is a great time for the additional day. Municipal government cannot often pay what other bigger places can pay, but we can give them benefits like this.

Motion by Commissioner Perno: To approve making Juneteenth an official holiday for city employees.

Second to the Motion Commissioner Aldridge

Mr. Bostick - thinks it is a good idea. Went on to explain the origins of Juneteenth. Encouraged all to be on the right side of history. He encouraged the Commission to approve this. Come out on the 18th, if you have nothing to do, to Rosenwall HS and watch the celebration. If you have nothing to do on the 19th, come out to the Stadium.

On Vote:

Perno	aye
Aldridge	aye
Warrick	aye
Tinder	no
Nelson	aye

Motion passed: 4-1

Item #14. Adjourn.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:11 am.

APPROVED THIS 24th DAY OF MAY 2022.



Jesse Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Vickie Gainer, City Manager

prepared by
Cicelia J. Holliday