

MINUTES  
CITY COMMISSION MEETING

February 14, 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.

Mayor	:	Hubert B. Smith
Commissioners	:	Catherine Hamilton
	:	Christine Wasdin
	:	Edward Crosby
	:	Jay Denney
City Clerk	:	Tammy Johnson
City Administrator	:	Carl Scott
City Attorney	:	Hayward Dykes
City Engineer	:	Beth Brant
Police Chief	:	Joe Hart
Fire Chief	:	Tommy Mayville
Public Works Director	:	Nathan Kelley (camera)
Recorder	:	Beth Millsaps

Others in attendance: (not inclusive) Patrick Bernier, Daniel Irwin, Donna Forsythe, Kathy Dunn, Joyce Marthis, Bob Bachelor, Mark V Norris, Tom Jackley, David and Bonnie Nichols, Jack Gill, Patrick W. Palmer, Laura Miller, LaLani James, Kim Kenyon, Kenneth Peterson, Jim Thompson (Northwest Florida Daily News), Marie Hallion (Heritage Museum), Shayne Betts, Terry Emley, Trish Rowe, Herbert H Marthis, Chastity Burton, JoAnn Hubbard, Charlotte Peterson, Barbara M Jones, Patrick Pertuit, Louise Pertuit, Carl Gruber, Sue Nelson, Josh Marshall, Anthony Doria, Tara Emley, Aimee Lynn, Wendell L Whitaker, Scott Funchess, Ken Walsh, Joe Cobb, M J Sims Raymer, Margaret Sims Espy, L Shortle, Ray Kerns, Michael and Mary Ellen O'Connor, Tammy Lively, Michael and Jackie Gilliam, Marion Cassell, Christina Payne, Terry D'Eufemia, John and Lisa, Marianne and Linda Wright, Arlene Hansen, Terrie Howze, Jack Gardner, Marcy Spitznagle, Rick Spitznagle, Lisa A Norton, Curtis Hansen, Max Dysh

Mayor Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting this evening.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**COMM. HAMILTON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 10, 2022, AS SUBMITTED. COMM. CROSBY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 5 TO 0.**

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

Mrs. Christina Payne, 123 Edge Avenue, she thanked the Commission for the median maintenance work that was completed in November. She asked if public works would continue to maintain, or have contractors take care of the upkeep or maybe the prison squad. Mayor Smith said he isn't sure when we will have the work squad back in the city. He said in Niceville there is a public works employee that is paid to supervisor the prisoners as a guard would. Mrs. Johnson said we haven't heard back from the prison warden. Mrs. Payne asked what about park maintenance. She said in November she asked the Commission to check with contractors about hiring out the maintenance, or hiring more people or extending the hours of public works. Mayor Smith

1 said we are still down fifteen employees, Mrs. Payne asked how we are advertising for positions. Mrs. Johnson  
2 said on Facebook, on the roads at temporary employment places. Mrs. Payne suggested sending someone to a  
3 local job fair, because those people are looking for jobs that are there.

4 Mrs. Payne said she was also concerned about Edge Avenue, which she spoke about in November, need  
5 to widen as it will become a safety issue. Comm. Wasdin said she oversees streets and stormwater, prioritizing  
6 of the streets is the first step. Mrs. Payne asked why we don't have a master plan on our website like the  
7 Okaloosa County does. She asked who would oversee those tasks. Mrs. Payne said she has a neighbor who  
8 works for Okaloosa County, and he said they could have the problem fixed in a week. She asked why we don't  
9 work with the County. Comm. Wasdin said we do work hand in hand with the county, but we are a city of our  
10 own and we are responsible for our own infrastructure.

11 Mrs. Payne asked when the street sweeper repairs would be complete or is it possible to borrow another  
12 sweeper from Niceville or another city? She said she had seen the sweeper out but not on Edge Avenue. Comm.  
13 Wasdin said she would look into it. Mrs. Payne suggested putting a street sweeper schedule together and  
14 posting on the website. Mrs. Payne said she doesn't understand why we don't lean more on the county, as they  
15 already have plans in place.

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

17 No non-resident concerns tonight.

## 18 **1. ACTION ITEMS – Added Agenda Items**

19 Nothing to add this evening.

## 20 **2. ACTION ITEMS – Approve Engineering Service Agreement CDBG**

21 Comm. Wasdin said this is for the grant for Clearwater Park. Mrs. Johnson will be contacting Mr.  
22 Kellen Lindsey with Mittauer and Associates. Mr. Lindsey said this agreement covers engineering services in  
23 conjunction with the Department of Economic Development, Community Development Block Grant (DEO-  
24 CDBG). Mr. Lindsey said this project would continue the working relationship between Mittauer and the city,  
25 working together for about 10 years. What is in front of the Commission is our Engineering Service Agreement  
26 for preliminary engineering, design, permitting, surveying, and construction administration. The scope of the  
27 CDBG project is street paving and drainage improvements in the Clearwater Park area, Marquette will be paved  
28 and drainage improvements along Jackson St. Mr. Lindsay said this agreement will cover from conception of  
29 the project through construction. The lump sum fee for the scope of work is \$108,000 and that is covered by the  
30 grant. **COMM. WASDIN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE ENGINEERING SERVICES**

31 **AGREEMENT. COMM. HAMILTON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY A**  
32 **UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.**

## 33 **3. ACTION ITEMS – Senior Citizen Center/Community Center Building**

34 Comm. Denney said he appreciated everyone's attendance this evening and everyone who would like to  
35 speak will be allowed five minutes to do so, but he would like to let the audience know what information had

1 been gathered. Comm. Denney said we want to take care of all citizens of the city with funds and resources we  
2 have. There are a lot of resources and programs he had learned about. Comm. Denney said he has been on the  
3 phone with a lot of services to take care of our citizens. Comm. Denney said nowadays more people are wanting  
4 to stay in their own homes and age in place and the senior citizens center is to assist that. Comm. Denney says  
5 he has spoken with Mr. Corbin, Niceville's city manager, and we have been invited to be there. Comm. Denney  
6 said the city could pay a fee, \$100 a year for two people, working the finance part with Julie at the senior center  
7 and also Mrs. Johnson at the city. He said there are groups of people there participating in pickle ball, bingo,  
8 some ninety activities within three miles of here. Comm. Denney said also for transportation we could probably  
9 get on a route with the county, if we had participation and if you are on Medicare the fee is \$1. Comm. Denney  
10 said the meals on wheels served about 21 to 25 meals every week to the community. Mr. Jackley and the  
11 Council put those together for the community.

12 Comm. Denney said the second issue for the senior citizen community center, it is in the old  
13 schoolhouse, Mr. Jerry Spence has inspected the building and has an outline. Comm. Denney said he spoke with  
14 Mr. Spence and Mr. Spence said there isn't anything that can't be fixed, it is on the city's historic registry.  
15 Comm. Denney said they had previously been told the building was irreparable, had the \$8,000 from a donor  
16 but was told it would cost much more than that to repair. Comm. Denney said she thinks that the senior center  
17 could start a 501c3 partner with the Heritage Museum, so many things could be accomplished. Comm. Denney  
18 said the Commission is with the citizens, this isn't an us versus them situation. He said with all of the people  
19 involved we would have volunteers and donations to make this a success for our community, it is important to  
20 all of us. Comm. Denney said but a 501c3 doesn't happen overnight, and a committee would need to be  
21 established as a private entity.

22 Mayor Smith said at the meeting the other night that took place at the Senior Center some incorrect  
23 information had been passed around and he would like to correct what has been said. Mayor Smith said there  
24 was a structural engineer that had said the building was unsafe and in need of being torn down, that was  
25 inaccurate as he has learned from Mr. Spence. Mayor Smith said he had also heard that he wanted the building  
26 torn down so he could buy the land and build house there, that is also incorrect he is a licensed builder but  
27 hasn't built anything since 1999 and doesn't plan to build. Mayor Smith said he has spoken with two local  
28 business owners, and they have volunteered \$10,000 each for two years to help with the roof repairs or  
29 whatever needs to be done. Mayor Smith said these two business owners have put their money where their  
30 mouths are and since there have been people walking the street in regard to saving the senior center, then they  
31 would also need to produce funds to keep everything running.

32 Mr. Norris Chairperson of the Valparaiso Community Center Steering Committee, said in the January  
33 10<sup>th</sup> meeting many inaccurate comments were made, he appreciates the Mayor clearing that up. It was  
34 mentioned to 'raise the building' these three words have raised a ground swell of public support for your  
35 Community Center and Senior Center. The 31 January meeting that was held at the Community Center/Senior

Center 75 citizens including Comm. Denney attended. One of our citizens gathered 150 signatures of people who could not attend but are in support of the center. (The city did not receive a copy of this.) Mayor Smith said, he had “heard” that he didn’t want to attend, when the truth of the matter is he didn’t attend because he knew Comm. Denney was going to and he is the Commissioner over buildings, if he attended at the same time, it would put them at risk of a sunshine law violation. Mr. Norris read the city’s mission statement and the vision statement “Mission Statement - To provide outstanding services in an efficient, effective, and professional manner. To be a local government which embraces the changing needs and expectations of our residents. To protect, maintain, and enhance the City’s public infrastructure by anticipating long-term needs and taking prudent steps to provide for those needs. To encourage, foster, develop, and utilize a strong volunteer corps in many facets of city government.”

Vision Statement - The vision for the City of Valparaiso is a community of excellence, featuring outstanding and cost-effective municipal services which provide for clean, safe and aesthetically pleasing surroundings with strong, diverse economic and business opportunities.” Mr. Norris stated this is all anyone wants from the city. Mr. Norris said Mr. Spence, who is a builder, has thoroughly inspected the building from top to bottom and said it is structurally sound. Mr. Norris said that Ms. Betts and Mr. Jackley had worked together to schedule some activities for the center soon.

Ms. Shayne Betts Executive Director on the Council on Aging said she wants to thank the citizens who have come out in great support of the seniors and the facility. Ms. Betts said earlier in the meeting Comm. Denney referenced the center as one of the “best” that she had said when she said it was one of the best locations, in the middle of the community. Ms. Betts said regarding the grab and go meals, there is no cooking on site, the meals are picked up, they go home and cook them. Ms. Betts said she has one request the building is in the need of a tarp there is major leakage. Ms. Betts said the Council on Aging looks forward to working with the city and citizens to support and grow. She said she is honored to be a part of it excited to see what the Commission and citizens can do together. Comm. Wasdin said Mr. Norris had mentioned a schedule of activities, Ms. Betts said yes, she and Mr. Jackley had been working on activities to have more of a community center, instead of just senior center. Ms. Betts said one of the activities is called senior to senior. She said that would be having a senior from a local high school to work and visit an elderly senior, to learn from one another. These types of activities are up for discussion of course.

Mr. Jerry Spence, 141 Edge Avenue, said he lives about two blocks from the building. He has inspected the building from top to bottom and he doesn’t see any significant problems, of course the building needs a roof and a few cosmetic things. He had many family members who had attended school there. The wood came from his great grandfather’s sawmill. Mr. Spence said it is a senior center, but this is an opportunity to have also have a community center. Mr. Spence said the floors are hard pine, which isn’t going anywhere, it is impregnable from termites or wood rot. Mr. Spence said he doesn’t see any problem, make best use of facility, get information out and advertise that it can be rented as a community center.

1 Mr. Norris said he would like to see the Commission make a motion to reopen the center. The  
2 information that only two or three people attend the center has been completely inaccurate. He said at present  
3 the Commission spends budgets \$8,000 and around \$6,000 goes for internet, TV, water, electric and gas but he  
4 encourages the Commission to allow more budgetary money go to the facility. Mr. Norris recommends the  
5 Commission put a line on the bills for donation to the community center. Mr. Norris asked who in the audience  
6 wanted to keep the community center and have open overwhelming majority of the visitors stood up. Ms.  
7 Cassell asked why when her friend donated the \$8,000 was a roof not put on the senior center? Mrs. Johnson  
8 said the Commission at that time said no. Comm. Denney said it might not have been enough money to do a  
9 roof.

10 Mr. Daniel Irwin, 184 Chicago Avenue, thanked everyone for being here and the Commission for  
11 allowing people to speak and their service to the community. He's here as a concerned citizen not as DOD for  
12 legal purposes. Mr. Irwin said he has talked about website before, in 2022 it is the lifeline of any business or  
13 community type things. He said he talked to many people on this committee many, many times almost like  
14 beating a dead horse, but update the website please. Mr. Irwin said if there's facilities, budgets, or expenditures  
15 that are on there it shows full transparency with the community. Mr. Irwin said he didn't want to get in the  
16 budget of how much we pay cable but out of the two million and change there has to be someone in that  
17 department who can update website. Mr. Irwin said the city mission statement was mentioned earlier but what  
18 makes America great...is the community. He said 173 people signed a petition (The city was not given a copy  
19 of the petition) with that a 1.5 second decision can change everybody's life in this room, can have global effect  
20 on you or your family so when you sit up there as a city council and make a conscious effort to put out false  
21 statements or not fulling back statement or falsify, please think about it before you say it. The majority of  
22 people wouldn't be in this room if you thought about it before you said it. When you post minutes on the  
23 website and I'm told those aren't the official minutes they're a draft copy put a disclaimer on the website that is  
24 you saying this is it i.e., signature block and it's not signed, sign it if it is posted publicly then there needs to be  
25 a disclaimer. Mr. Irwin said the fact that Commission had to be told that the community center is in the status it  
26 is, is ridiculous. Mr. Irwin said as servants to the community here you should know all the ins and outs and  
27 discrepancies. He knows you have sub compartmental information but with that there needs to be continuity. He  
28 said walk down the street, meet people, instead of citizens having to be at the meeting to call you out in public.  
29 Mr. Irwin said the condition of the senior citizen center in before, it shouldn't have been that way, the fact that it  
30 has remained closed for two years in dilapidated condition where you weren't paying attention is appalling.  
31 Mayor Smith reminded Mr. Irwin his time is running down. Mr. Irwin said the city received \$530,476.70 65%  
32 of that could be used COVID relief funds, which is money that could be used for the senior center. As for fiscal  
33 year 2023 no proposals yet to do on the 2.7 million of American Rescue Plan is any of that money been  
34 budgeted or thought of for this community center. He said the answer is probably no because haven't put in the  
35 paperwork yet. Mr. Irwin said with that budget already received 65% for employee wages you used \$530,000

1 for wages, 10% of that used for facilities – that could’ve been used for Co-Vid relief, public gatherings, elderly  
2 senior citizens i. e. not trying to tell you guys how to do a budget but take more analysis of your spreadsheets  
3 which you could do on a daily basis-pointing fingers is ridiculous. Mr. Irwin said he has been told that Jordan  
4 and Associates from Orange Park Florida help the city with grants, if you don’t know about grants call them up  
5 and ask them or ask for help with elderly type facilities for funding. Mr. Irwin said the fact that you all come  
6 here and say you didn’t know, you didn’t know does not make sense. He said at the end of the day hold yourself  
7 accountable, if you’re wrong, you’re wrong own it and move on. Mr. Irwin said no one is perfect but I expect  
8 more out you guys as serving leaders take a look at it, check yourselves and each other. He said if it is a legal  
9 question ask Mr. Howard Dykes, be proactive instead of reactive.

10 Mayor Smith said there needs to be talk about a steering committee for the center’s next steps. Mr.  
11 Norris said that has already been done. He is a member as is Mrs. Payne, Mr. Jackley, Mr. Jack Gill, and Ms.  
12 Cathy Dunn. Mr. Norris said they want to partner with the Commission and Ms. Betts to reopen the facility to  
13 the public. Comm. Denney said he thought the Council on Aging had closed it. Ms. Betts said they did not, the  
14 Governor of the State of Florida closed it with the initial outbreak of COVID and it has remained that way.  
15 Comm. Denney asked Mr. Scott, our building official, if there is any physical reason not to open, Mr. Scott said  
16 no. **COMM. DENNEY MADE A MOTION TO REOPEN THE BUILDING. COMM. CROSBY**  
17 **SECONDED THE MOTION.** Mayor Smith asked if the building was covered, Mr. Dykes said it should be  
18 under the current policy. Mr. Dykes said it needs to be decided the use going forward. Comm. Denney said that  
19 will be up to the steering committee, open the facility and go from there. Comm. Denney said Ms. Betts  
20 organization that opens and closes the doors. Ms. Betts said she has been unable to find prior lease agreement  
21 and information between the city and the Council. Ms. Betts said, they did not close the building, the Governor  
22 did. Comm. Denney said while the Council on Aging will work with the steering committee to get the seniors  
23 back in. **VOTE OF 5 TO 0 IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION.** Mayor Smith said the contractors who are  
24 putting on the roof are asking for help from the community for the costs.

25 Mr. Jack Gill, 263 Glenview Avenue, asked if there would be a problem putting a donation line on the  
26 bills for the center. Mrs. Johnson said that would be up to the Commission. Mr. Norris said since the fireworks  
27 fund was fully funded that line item could be removed. Mrs. Johnson said that is not accurate. **MAYOR**  
28 **SMITH MADE A MOTION TO PLACE A LINE ON THE UTILITY BILL FOR A DONATIONS.**  
29 **COMM. WASDIN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE**  
30 **COMMISSION 5 TO 0.**

31 Mr. Thomas Jackley, 266 Glenview Avenue, said we will open the center next Monday morning the 21<sup>st</sup>  
32 for operations except meals. Mr. Norris invited the Commission to come out to the center anytime.

33 Chief Mayville said he has FEMA tarps at the fire station that they will donate to the center for the leak  
34 that needs to be covered.

35 Mayor Smith called a recess in the meeting at approximately 7:18 PM. Reconvene at 7:27 PM.

1     **4.     ACTION ITEMS – Prioritized Street Paving List**

2             Comm. Wasdin said the Planning Commission prioritized this list for us, putting Bayshore Drive behind  
3     Goodwill as the top priority, which is not a simple task we need to study this further. The streets #2 through #8  
4     on the list are E. Ferndell Ave, Louisiana Ave, Tennessee Ave, Poinciana St, and Columbus St. these are gravel  
5     roads and now is the time to start moving forward on paving these roads. Comm. Wasdin said last time we did a  
6     significant amount of paving we were advised that we would need to have a half a million dollar project to even  
7     have a paver look at it. Mayor Smith asked if we have the funds. Mrs. Johnson asked where those funds would  
8     be taken from? . Comm. Wasdin suggested half cent sales tax money because we have not used any money.  
9     Mrs. Johnson said yes, we have used some of the money in past budgets, she would get those figures to her.  
10    Mrs. Brant said these are estimates we do not know how much it will cost in the current climate. Mayor Smith  
11    suggested starting with the second road on the list and work down the list with the funds that are available. Mrs.  
12    Brant said the city could do a bid packet that does it street by street. **COMM. WASDIN MADE A MOTION**  
13   **TO APPROVE THE CITY ENGINEER FIRM TO MOVE FORWARD MAKING BID PACKETS**  
14   **COME UP WITH A PLAN BY THE APRIL MEETING. MAYOR SMITH SECONDED THE**  
15   **MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE 5 TO 0.** Chief Hart said the North Bayshore  
16    extension, there is interest in the vacant lots up on the hill, people are talking about clear cutting that will cause  
17    extra burden on the city if the property is not shored up. Chief Hart asked if Mrs. Brant could also look at Edge  
18    Avenue where the water is and see if there is a solution. Chief Hart will show this to Mrs. Brant.

19            Mr. Cobb, member of the Planning Commission, said one of the reasons the Planning Commission had  
20    put North Bayshore at the top is because of the difficulty and complicatedness of the situation. He feels if it  
21    can't be done right then the Planning Commission would not advise for it to be done especially if it would be a  
22    great expense for the city. Mr. Cobb said with #2 through #8, they grouped them together as of how they are  
23    placed within the city. Mayor Smith said that streets numbered 2 through 8 are more populated than #1. Comm.  
24    Wasdin said people have been talking about streets since she was elected, she would like the engineers to  
25    complete the survey and keep moving forward.

26     **5.     ACTION ITEMS – Traffic Signal Maintenance**

27            Mrs. Johnson said currently we pay for the electricity on the traffic signal on SR 397 at Edge Avenue  
28    and SR 190 @ STEM, the county does the maintenance and sends a bill to us then we send a bill to the DOT the  
29    DOT sends a check to us and then we cut a check to the county. This agreement would take the city out of  
30    reporting to the DOT. The county will repair, bill, maintenance, and report on all the activity associated with the  
31    signal as of today, the city will continue to pay the electric bill associated in our district. Mr. Dykes said this  
32    information was sent to all cities, **COMM WASDIN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE TRAFFIC**  
33    **SIGNAL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT. COMM. DENNEY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH**  
34    **PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 5 TO 0.**

35     **6.     ACTION ITEMS – Approve Street Lighting LED Conversion**



1 An email was received from Ms. Connie Oglesby with Florida Power and Light proposing to the city to  
2 upgrade the twenty-four metered fixtures to LED. They would remove the relamping agreement since these  
3 fixtures would fall under our normal protocol for the city. Florida Power and Light would handle all  
4 maintenance and repair on the fixtures the same as they do with other streetlighting. Mayor Smith said that  
5 would take us out of the light maintenance business. Chief Hart said when a smart light goes out a ticket is  
6 generated for Florida Power and Light.

7 **ACTION ITEMS – Resolution No. 01-02-14-22 Surplus Equipment**

8 **8.** Mayor Smith read Resolution No. 01-02-14-22 a resolution to approve the sale of surplus property from  
9 the City of Valparaiso and providing for an effective date. The surplus items a 2012 Ford Escape, 2016  
10 Dodge Charger, and 2010 Gulfstream Kingsport Lite Travel Trailer. **MAYOR SMITH MADE A**  
11 **MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 01-02-14-22, TO REMOVE PROPERTY FROM**  
12 **SURPLUS . COMM. HAMILTON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY**  
13 **UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 5 TO 0.**

14 **1. OLD BUSINESS – Property Foreclosure Update**

15 Mr. Dykes said a company bought it, but they failed to complete the bid, so the property will be put back  
16 to sale on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Dykes said the city owns 50% and this sale is for the other 50%. He said he spoke  
17 with Mr. Scott about moving ahead and raising the building, it has been in disrepair for over 10 years. He  
18 asked Mr. Scott the cost, Mr. Scott the estimate was for \$12,500. Mr. Dykes said as part owner we can vote to  
19 do that, once we have complete ownership still have to deal with IRS lien and that makes the property look less  
20 attractive to investors, but hope is to raise building clear lot and we can negotiate with IRS on the tax lien and  
21 then turn and sell to recoup the city's money. Mr. Dykes said our intent has been to bring property into  
22 compliance. Mr. Dykes wants to know if Commission wants to spend the money to tear down or wait to see  
23 about the bidding on the 28<sup>th</sup>, which would be online. Mr. Dykes didn't expect any bids in January but to his  
24 surprise there were several bids. Mayor Smith said he would like to see Commission move forward in raising  
25 the building, we have been working on this for over 10 years, neighbors have complained for years about the  
26 condition. Comm. Denney said wait to see how sell goes on 28<sup>th</sup> and let it ride for those two weeks. Mr. Dykes  
27 said that would be fine but a good idea to put a caveat should the city gain complete ownership then we don't  
28 have to wait til March meeting to deal with it. **COMM. HAMILTON MADE A MOTION IN THE EVENT**  
29 **NO THIRD PARTY PURCHASES THE PROPERTY, WE WILL HAVE COMPLETE OWNERSHIP**  
30 **AS A CITY. THE CITY WILL GIVE MR. CARL SCOTT THE AUTHORITY TO PROCEED**  
31 **FORWARD ON THE ESTIMATE AND RAISE THE BUILDING AND BRING PROPERTY INTO**  
32 **COMPLIANCE. COMM. DENNEY SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY**  
33 **UNANIMOUS VOTE OF COMMISSION 5 TO 0.**

34 **2. OLD BUSINESS – City Manager**



Mayor Smith said he thought we should table this issue in lieu of some workshops. Mr. Dykes said he put this ordinance together based on this Commission direction. He said this ordinance resembles one that the City of Freeport passed a few years back, it was put together to spur a discussion. Comm. Denney said he thinks we hamstring ourselves with only being able to talk to one another once a month with a city manager we still maintain oversight. Comm. Hamilton said if we had a city manager the situation this evening wouldn't have happened. Comm. Hamilton said 99% of cities have abandoned the form of government that does not have a city manager. Comm. Denney said with a city manager the Commission would have more time to focus on things outside of the city, to bring in more resources and less of the day to day. **COMM. HAMILTON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE OFFICE OF CITY MANAGER . COMM. DENNEY SECONDED THE MOTION.** Comm. Denney said this would just put it on the ballot for the citizens to vote on. Mr. Dykes said this wouldn't change the form of government, just add the city manager position. Comm. Wasdin said she is concerned about the budget ramifications, Comm. Hamilton said we wouldn't have to fill the position right away. She said this position would provide efficiency and central oversight. Chief Hart said what is being voted on tonight, to have workshops, the city manager positions, the ordinance or what. Comm. Hamilton said this isn't the first time we have seen this ordinance it was brought in January, Mrs. Johnson said we didn't discuss at the January meeting. Chief Hart said he had heard our mayor ask for workshops. Comm. Crosby said there is no date of implementation he doesn't believe this will come into this year's budget due to all the information that needs to be sorted out beforehand. Mr. Dykes said this could be the first reading tonight, have a workshop and if significant changes were made then we would have to repeat first reading. **PASSED BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF 5 TO 0.** Mrs. Johnson said there isn't an ordinance number and a large part of it is incomplete. Workshop for discussion will be on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM.

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

Comm. Wasdin said she would love to have a volunteer to sit on the citizen advisory committee.

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

Mr. Scott said no issues reported to him.

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

Comm. Wasdin said Chamber is having their annual blue jeans and bling event.

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

Comm. Denney said no meeting recently, however plant is doing well.

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

Mr. Bob Bachelor, member of the Planning Commission, said that at the monthly meeting he had distributed long term projects that have been developed in the last few months, after speaking with Mr. Kelley, there will be a few changes and updates that he will do to the list. Comm. Wasdin encouraged other members of

the audience to submit ideas to Mr. Bachelor. He said that would be fine, he is on the city directory under Planning Commission and the email works.

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

Chief Hart said today we had an audit with the FBI along with FDLE passed state standards and passed with flying colors.

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

**COMM. CROSBY MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE BILLS AS OUTLINED IN THE FINANCIALS. COMM. HAMILTON SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE COMMISSION 5 TO 0.**

**8. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS- Municipal Election March 8, 2022**

Mayor Smith announced the Municipal Election that will be held on March 8, 2022, for the mayoral position.

**9 REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS – Canvassing Board March 8, 2022**

Mayor Smith announced that after the election there will be a canvassing board meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

**10. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS - Swearing In & Organizational Meeting March 15, 2022**

Mayor Smith announced the swearing in, and organizational meeting will be held on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to be brought before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

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Hubert B. Smith  
Mayor

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Catherine Hamilton  
Chair, VCA

ATTEST:

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Tammy Johnson, CMC  
City Clerk

\*\*\*A recording of the February 14, 2022, Commission meeting will be kept on the City's secure file server as a permanent part of these minutes.\*\*\*