

CITY OF MACCLENNY
Regular Meeting
April 9, 2013
6:00 p.m.

The City Commission met in regular session, Tuesday, April, 2013 with the following present: Mayor Gary Dopson, City Manager Gerald Dopson, Commissioners Tommy Johns, Dr. Richard Johnson and Floyd V. Bennett.

Mayor Dopson called the regular session to order immediately following the public hearing. The prayer and flag ceremony was not repeated

Mayor Dopson recognized City Attorney Frank Maloney to read by title only Resolution 13-03 relating to the Northeast FL Regional Council and the 2013 update to its Strategic Regional policy plan. Mr. Maloney read the resolution. A resolution by the Board of the City Commission of the City of Macclenny relating to the Northeast Florida Regional Council and the 2013 update to its strategic regional policy plan pledging support for the regional cooperation and the common policy framework provided by the updated strategic regional policy plan providing for an effective date. Mayor Dopson asked for comments and questions. Mayor Dopson asked Hugh Fish to let the group know who the representatives are for the council. Mr. Fish said he, Jimmy Anderson, Adam Giddens & Darryl Register represent Baker County. He also said Baker County usually has better attendance than any other region. Commissioner Bennett made a motion to approve Resolution 2013-03. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor. The motion carried.

The next order of business, Mayor Dopson read the Proclamation making April Fair Housing Month. City Manager Gerald Dopson said as he was reflecting on the years he has been with the City. He thinks about our fair housing issues we have tried successfully to address with the fair housing assistance and programs in our city. When he first started, there were a hundred or more shotgun type homes and in a two year period we condemned 150 structures in the City. Some were torn down, some rehabbed and we utilized rural development to get some housing assistance in our community. It is one of the things he is most proud of. There are still some strides to make but it has come a long way. He is proud to be a part of fair housing.

The next order of business Mayor Dopson recognized City Manager Dopson to present the award for the Fair Housing poster contest. City Manager Dopson said he thought it unfair for him to present the award. One of the things that we are awarded points in the CDBG process is by doing community projects. He asked Cherie Hedrick to elaborate on the Fair Housing community project and present the award. We wanted the award recipient to be present but he is ill. Ms. Hedrick said as part of the CDBG process, we are required to do quarterly education projects. For this quarter our two projects were to make April Fair Housing month in the City of Macclenny and we did an education pamphlet that was given out to the before and after school program at Keller Intermediate School. It was presented to about 100 kids. It had a summary of the Fair Housing Act, how the Fair Housing Act came to fruition, a word jumble and on the back we offered a poster contest. We asked the students to submit posters that represented what Fair Housing meant to them. We received 11 entries and we have them displayed in the hall here at City Hall for the month of April. We formed a committee to vote on the winning poster. Mr. Kyler Holton was our poster contest winner. We asked for donations for a prize for Kyler from our community. Mr. Todd Ferreira of VTF Property Management graciously donated 4 tickets to an upcoming Jacksonville Suns game for Kyler and his family as winner of the contest. We have taken pictures to get credit for CDBG, posted it on our web site and will get the prize to Mr. Holton. Ms. Hedrick read a letter from City Manager Dopson to Kyler. City Manager Dopson asked for a round of applause for Mr. Kyler Holton.

Next order of business Mayor Dopson recognized Mike Walker to give an update on the Advanced Waste Contract. Mr. Walker said we had two full months under our belt. During the last two weeks, he has only had one call. The ladies upfront had not had any complaint calls. It has been very smooth. Advanced was concerned about taking over a two time a week operation and going to once a week pick up. He attributes the smooth transition

to the people we chose to do business with. They are good people. The general manager Myron Thomas is hands on and available to call anytime. He has had very few complaints. City Manager Dopson said Mike Walker was the one we asked to head up this project and he knew there was going to be some trouble shooting that would need to be done and Mike has done a wonderful job. He felt it was important to have an update on the implementation of the garbage contract. Mr. Walker said while he was here he wanted to discuss the line item equipment that is no longer here within the City. He has been working with our auditors, Lyons and Lyons, to get a list together of items that need to come off our books. In that list, there are about 6 vehicles that need the approval of the City Council to sell. Some are wrecked, have a bad transmission or are just worn out. We need to get these items off the books. Mr. Walker said Lyons & Lyons, our accountants, have a list as well. Mr. Danny Norton said the County had some excess too and we may want to partner with them in an auction. City Manager Dopson said that may be a good idea. We have all those dumpsters that are sitting there. He thinks we need to dispose of those. Either bid them, or haul them off directly for scrap metal. They are deteriorating as they sit there. We need a method to dispose of them. Mr. Walker talked to Advance and they have rear load dumpsters but they were not interested. He had a book of contacts to call some other companies. Right now with scrap, they may be able to get about a \$100 each but he thinks we can do better than that. He would continue to research getting rid of the dumpsters. Commissioner Bennett made a motion to remove the line items as recommended. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous in favor. Motion carried. Discussion followed.

In other business, approval of the Minutes from the regular city council meeting on March 12, 2013. Commissioner Bennett made a motion to approve minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the minutes. Voting was unanimous in favor. Motion carried.

In other business was the review of the bills for March 2013. Discussion followed. Commissioner Bennett made a motion to approve the bills and was seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the bills. Voting was unanimous in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Dopson opened the floor for discussion. City Manager Dopson wanted to ask Ms. Chapman, Code Enforcement, if the surveyors had completed their part to complete our plans with street lamping. Ms. Chapman said we had ordered some materials to start on the side streets. The surveyors are coming back to complete their part to get the information to DOT. They will be beginning our side streets soon. City Manager Dopson said we have some street lamps we are going forward with without the difficulty of permitting. The permits that are required by DOT, we are doing all at the same time. Some of the City streets, we can put up without a permit. He is very encouraged with the new City Manager Phil Rhoden, the board and staff going forward. He will be available to help out whenever necessary. As part of that, he has carried the cell phone for some time and it has all of his contacts and things. He would like to continue to keep the same cell phone and pay the City directly for the bill which runs about \$25-\$30 per month. This way, he would still be accessible to the City as well. He wanted the Board to consider allowing him to keep the phone and he would pay the bill. Mayor Dopson asked the City Attorney if it was legal. Mr. Maloney said there was not a problem. Commissioner Bennett made a motion to allow Mr. Dopson to keep his cell phone. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Mayor Dopson abstained from voting. All those voting voted in favor and the motion carried.

Commissioner Johns asked for an update on the Williams condemnation. Ms. Chapman said it should be down this week. It is scheduled to come down. She also said the concrete plant was cleaned up quite a bit.

Mr. Maloney reminded the Board they had 60 days to make an appointment for the City Commissioner vacancy. Mayor Dopson said it would be on the next month's agenda.

Assistant City Manager Roger Yarborough said Ms. Chapman had met with FPL and went over the sources for power for the street lamping to get all the players in place to get it ready to go. Enterprise Bank is moving forward with their new building. Tractor Supply will be open May 1st if not sooner. Mr. Register from the Baker County Chamber of Commerce said the soft opening would be May 11th. Soft opening will be by invitation. Mr. Yarborough said he wanted to thank publically Mike Anderson for donating the vehicle to the veterans.

City Manager Dopson asked for an update on the new business in the Hayden Glass building. Assistant City Manager Dopson said the man opening the business just about has his plans complete. He has met with the inspector Claude Bagwell and is just about ready to open business. Also Family Dollar has done some needed landscaping.

City Manager Select Phil Rhoden said he was really in awe of the staff City Manager Dopson has put together. It is reflective of a great man. He said sitting on the outside, you think you have a good idea of what goes on but he was impressed with the amount of work going on there. He appreciates the opportunity. Mayor Dopson asked we give City Manager Dopson as round of applause. All stood and gave applause to City Manager Dopson for a job well done. City Manager Dopson said words can't express his gratitude.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned


MAYOR GARY DOPSON

ATTEST: 
CITY MANAGER/ CLERK PHIL RHODEN



City Of Macclenny