

**CITY OF MACCLENNY**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**October 11, 2016**  
**6:00 p.m.**

The City Commission met in a regular session, Tuesday, October 11, 2016 with the following present: Mayor Gary Dopson, City Manager Phil Rhoden, City Attorney Frank Maloney, Commissioners Mark Bryant, Sam Kitching, Cecil Horne Jr., and Danny Norton and Council Secretary Deanna Dinkins.

Commissioner Kitching opened the meeting with prayer, followed by a pledge to the United States Flag.

**New Business:**

The first item up for discussion was Resolution 17-01, a resolution urging the Florida legislature and cabinet to dedicate conservation funds for water conservation projects. Manager Rhoden stated we may have been premature in putting this on the agenda. He and Assistant Manager Griffis had a very brief meeting with Lacy Mahon from Stand up for North Florida and it is unclear who the agency is. The organization is a limited liability company (LLC) and not a non-profit 501(c)3, and Ms. Mahon stated she is a paid employee. She would not disclose where their funding comes from at this time. Florida League of Cities does not have any information on the organization. Pending further research, Manager Rhoden recommended this resolution be withdrawn. Commissioner Kitching made a motion and was seconded by Commissioner Norton to table Resolution 17-01 at this time. Voting was unanimous. Motion carried.

**Emergency Business:**

Mayor Dopson read the declaration by title only. Manager Rhoden stated the declaration is the formality we go through that allows us to do emergency purchasing before and after the hurricane. Manager Rhoden and Fire Chief Dugger signed the declaration at the time the state of emergency was declared, and a copy was presented to the commissioners at tonight's meeting. Mayor Dopson asked if this needs to be voted on, and Attorney Maloney replied it does not.

Manager Rhoden asked Chief Dugger to provide an update regarding storm damage. Chief Dugger began by stating there was very little damage. He elaborated on the declaration of state of emergency by saying it allows us to legally suspend emergency services in the event it becomes necessary to do so. There is also a provision that addresses price gouging. There was one call received regarding fuel price but was not warranted. Commissioner Kitching commented on the preparations made prior to the storm arriving. Chief Dugger stated Florida Power & Light (FPL) had the trees trimmed prior to the storms, which helped tremendously with the amount of debris resulting from the storm. Manager Rhoden commended the staff for their efforts and team work.

Mayor Dopson stated City of Macclenny customers will not lose water in the event of power loss, unless the generators are flooded. Manager Rhoden provided a brief overview of how the backup generators work.

In other business was the approval of the minutes. The following minutes were submitted for approval:

- First Budget Workshop: August 23, 2016
- Public Hearing on Tentative Budget and Millage: September 13, 2016
- Public Hearing on Final Budget and Millage: September 27, 2016

Mayor Dopson asked for one item of clarification in the minutes for the First Budget Workshop on August 23, 2016. A comment should be added to the end of the last paragraph that discusses the sheriff's budget that states there is not a common understanding of what the contract is paying for. There was brief discussion regarding what our understanding has been. Commissioner Kitching made the motion to approve all of the above minutes with the one correction noted and was seconded by Commissioner Bryant. Voting was unanimous.

In other business was the review of the bills for September. Mayor Dopson asked about the \$25,000 expenditure to Columbia County. Manager Rhoden stated this was to purchase the dive truck we discussed earlier. He explained how this came about and expressed his appreciation to Ben Scott, County Manager, and Columbia County Board of County Commissioner for working with us on this. Chief Dugger explained some of the features of the vehicle and how the fire department will utilize it. Manager Rhoden added this was an outstanding purchase for the price. Mayor Dopson asked that we closely monitor the expenditures paid to the engineers. Manager Rhoden reported we do have a lot going on with them right now and they appear to be staying within their budget on the various projects. Commissioner Kitching made a motion to approve the bills and was seconded by Commissioner Bryant. Voting was unanimous.

**Comments from the Board:**

County Manager Kennie Downing introduced herself. She has been here since June and looks forward to working with the City.

Manager Rhoden reported the sewer evaluation project is within a few weeks of being completed. Some of the data has been updated to our GIS system. The plan is to place iPads in our vehicles in the field so when there is a break, the manholes can be easily located and we will know what size pipe connects the manholes. We still need to GPS the water valves so they can be easily located as well.

Mayor Dopson asked for an update regarding Buck Starling Road. Assistant Manager Griffis said the storm put us a little behind schedule, but the curb is scheduled to be poured next week. The paving will have to go out for bid, and we are working on that ad now. Manager Rhoden added we may be able to piggy-back off of another project, depending on timing. We are awaiting Department of Transportation's approval for the Jonathan Street project before it is resubmitted. Mayor Dopson announced if anyone has personal paving needs you can get a better deal by not having to pay the mobilization costs. Commissioner Kitching stated he would like to know about that. Manager Rhoden said once the contract is awarded, he will let Commissioner Kitching know and he can contact the vendor directly.

Assistant Manager Griffis reported the bids for the CSX gravity sewer line repair are due November 1<sup>st</sup>. A couple of packets have been picked up from the engineer and some have been mailed out.

Mayor Dopson discussed the need for downtown parking. The City traded the land next to the old health department on Sixth Street to the County. The County then sold it to Walgreen's for a substantial amount of money. The funds were supposed to be utilized for a new facility for the Council on Aging (COA). It was agreed that once the Council on Aging moved to the new facility, the old COA building across the street from City Hall would become property of the City of Macclenny. Mayor Dopson remembers this being in our minutes, and Assistant Manager Griffis said he remembers it being in the County's minutes as well. While this would not alleviate the lack of parking downtown, it would help. Mayor Dopson stated we need to look for a centralized downtown parking lot.

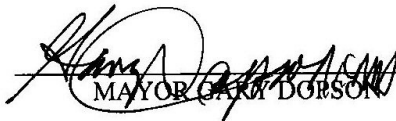
Commissioner Kitching commended the staff's performance during the hurricane weekend.

Manager Rhoden said the repair to North Blvd. was done by City staff, which saved us a lot of money. He then discussed how the repair was made.

Assistant Fire Chief Crews expressed his appreciation to our City leaders for supporting the employees.

With no further comments from the audience, Mayor Dopson adjourned the regular meeting.



  
MAYOR JERRY DOPSON

ATTEST:

  
CITY MANAGER/ CLERK PHIL RHODEN