

CITY OF MACCLENNY
Regular Meeting
October 14, 2014
6:00 p.m.

The City Commission met in a regular session, Tuesday, October 14, 2014 with the following present: Mayor Gary Dopson, City Manager Phil Rhoden, Commissioners Floyd V. Bennett, Mark Bryant, Sam Kitching, and Cecil Horne Jr.

Mayor Dopson called the meeting to order. Commissioner Bennett opened the meeting with prayer, followed by a pledge to the United States Flag.

Old Business: none

Contract award for Fire Station: City Manager Phil Rhoden stated the City has gone through all the hoops. Rural Development has gone through this and the City sent the three lowest bids to them. Everything has been reviewed, and ready to award the contract to Nooney Construction Inc. for the new Fire Station. I am asking for a vote from the board to award this contract. Rural Development, our engineer, & architect have gone through the additional monies we are clear on that. Mayor Dopson asked if the architect was satisfied with the drawings and doesn't see a lot of change orders. Manager Rhoden stated we have made it very clear to the architect and the engineer the City doesn't want any change orders and the building will be built the way it was designed. Commissioner Kitching made a motion to approve and award the contract to Nooney Construction Inc, and was seconded by Commissioner Bennett. Voting was unanimous.

There was discussion about changing November 11, 2014 City Council meeting due to it being Veteran's Day. The options are Monday November 10, 2014 or Thursday November 13, 2014. Most of the board agreed on Monday November 10, 2014 at 6:00 pm.

Mayor Dopson recognized City Attorney Frank Maloney to read **Resolution 15-01**, a resolution of the City of Macclenny, Florida placing a temporary moratorium on law enforcement impact fees and city administration fees as created in Ordinance 05-09, now chapter 5 division 2- impact fees, to take effect immediately.

Manager Rhoden asked the board to consider a temporary moratorium on these two fees. One which affects our staff and no more building residential or commercial than we are doing it is not a great impact on us. We have reduced staff and feel with this work load we can handle it. We have received requests in the past to reduce the amount of what impact fees cost. At this time we can absorb the work load with the existing staff and that's the main reason we are considering this temporary, because if building does come back and we start picking up the pace, it may take additional staff. We are not asking to change the Ordinance just doing a moratorium so if need be we can come back and change it. The Law Enforcement is a little more. It will make a difference because it is a sizable amount. Once again we are trying to stimulate growth here and the reason we selected this one is the fact all other impact fees recreation, fire, transportation are collected in the City, spent in the City and the residents' benefit from it. We don't control Law Enforcement and that's why we selected this one. We collect for the county, and the county has made it very clear, they have a moratorium on their impact fees. It didn't make sense to collect this impact fee, which we are being chastised for, to collect in the City and give to the County. The county has total authority and if they would like to enact an impact fee and request the city to collect it, we can and award it wherever they want those funds to be spent. Manager Rhoden said I am going to bring politics into it. Everyone's campaign, whether it was the incumbent in these county offices or the people desiring to be in office, they all are opposed to impact fees. No sense to ask contractors to pay impact fees in the city and give to the county. If the county wants this, they can enact. I am asking the board to consider this moratorium.

Mayor Dopson stated the county doesn't have to enact, they placed a moratorium on all of their impact fees. The county only collected transportation. They have the ability to create and collect whatever impact fees are needed. I think it's a little backwards that the county has placed a moratorium on impact fees and doesn't collect Law Enforcement impact fees, it does raise a question. Why is the city collecting an impact fee in the city for police when we are paying the same tax millage and county taxes (which we get some, very little back in the city)? Mayor

Dopson stated we are trying to stimulate businesses. I think it would be a positive thing between the administrative and the police impact fees. That little bit I hope may stimulate some growth. I will say upfront, I am in favor of it. Everything does get down to politics, but this has nothing to do with Sheriff Dobson. I have said before the Sheriff has done a tremendous job and I'm sure he will continue doing a tremendous job. Like I said before the money we pay for police protection-our infrastructure is so bad; right now the city needs the money worse than taking money in and turning over to the county. Mayor Dopson described the taxes that are decided by the state. Gas taxes 90% goes to the county, 10% to the city, where are most of our gas stations? Hotel bed taxes, 90% goes to the county, 10 % to the city, where are the hotels located? This has nothing to do with Sheriff Dobson, he has done a tremendous job and I praise him for the job he has done. Two years ago he got \$8000.00 and last year he got \$12000.00, not talking about big money. If growth does start, it could turn into something big. Again we are putting a moratorium on it, we are not doing away with it and it doesn't mean we can't go back to it. The second thing we are not putting this moratorium on all impact fees, just the Law and administration fee. Commissioner Bennett stated he agreed, the county doesn't charge a fee why should we charge a fee and turn it over to them? Looking into the future it might bring us some business and we pray for that. Mayor Dopson stated Commissioner Sam Kitching works for the Baker County Sheriff's Office and has declared a conflict so he cannot vote. Commissioner Horne and Bryant confirmed this is temporary and can be changed back at any time. City Attorney Mr. Maloney stated it is temporary so it can be changed back at any time. Commissioner Bennett made a motion to approve **Resolution 15-01** and was seconded by Commissioner Bryant. Voting was unanimous.

In other business was approval of the minutes from September 9, 2014 Tentative Millage and Regular Meeting, and September 23, 2014 Final Millage and Special Meeting to Finalize Fire Station. Mayor Dopson pointed out the following change:

Regular Meeting September 9, 2014 Minutes:

Page 3 Paragraph 16 which refers to the millage rate. Mayor Dopson asked to change the wording to approximately 25 years.

Mayor Dopson asked for a motion to approve the minutes with the correction. Commissioner Kitching made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, and was seconded by Commissioner Bennett. Voting was unanimous.

In other business was the review of the bills for September. There was one question on the bills which was answered by City Manager Rhoden. Commissioner Kitching made a motion to approve the September bills and was seconded by Commissioner Bennett. Voting was unanimous.

Manager Rhoden said every department was under budget this year except one, Heritage Park. This is due to making some capital improvements that were not requested. We fenced in the play area and added some additional lighting, that's what sent us over budget.

Manager Rhoden said we are checking into information for small business incentives. We have reached out to Tony Robbins and the Florida League of Cities which is a great asset. We really want to pursue this. We have had some feedback from the businesses.

Assistant City Manager Roger Yarborough gave a report stating over the last year that Stacy Mills has collected \$9580.00 for liens and \$2376.00 in old utility bills.

Mayor Dopson asked if DOT has given us the final approval for the downtown lighting. Manager Rhoden stated yes. He also wanted to know if they would be here for Christmas. Manager Rhoden said the order has been placed and hopefully will be here for Christmas. The city is doing the entire infrastructure now so we are ready when the poles and the mounts get here. Our goal is to have them up for the parade.

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


MAYOR GARY DOPSON

ATTEST: 
CITY MANAGER/ CLERK Phil Rhoden

