

MARIANNA CITY COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JANUARY 20, 2022  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORKSHOP  
5:00 PM

CITY HALL  
Join By Zoom:  
Dial 929-205-6099  
Meeting ID 864 2800 1367

The Marianna City Commission met for a special meeting on the above date and time. Mayor Ward called the meeting to order. Members present were: Mayor Allen Ward II, Travis Ephriam, Kenneth Hamilton, John Roberts, and Rico Williams.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Roberts, with a second by Commissioner Hamilton, the board agreed unanimously to add the following to the agenda:

- 2.C.-Hazard Mitigation Grant
- 2.D.-Volunteers of American Request for Monies
- 2.E.-Project VIVA

City Manager Jim Dean told the Commission that over the past several years the Fire and Police Pension Boards have discussed the potential of converting their existing Florida Statute Chapter 175 and 185 plans to a Local Law Plan. This can be accomplished by City Ordinance.

The proposed changes of the Fire pension included the following:

1. Current active employees benefit accrual rate of anywhere from 3.0% to 3.5%
2. Current active employees Normal Retirement eligibility upon the earlier of:
  - a. 55 Years of age and completion of 10 years of credited service
  - b. Completion of 25 years of credited service regardless of age.
3. COLA increase of 3% every 5 years beginning at age 65
4. DROP plan
5. Buyback Option

The proposed plan for the Police included #2-5 above.

City Manager Jim Dean recommended the proposed Ordinances include the following changes to the plan:

1. Police and Fire both 25 and out
2. DROP Plan
3. Fire accrual rate of 3.1% and Police stay at 3.5
4. Buy-Back Option

No cola provision.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Roberts, with a second by Commissioner Ephriam, the Commission voted unanimously to move forward with an Ordinance. The City Manager will negotiate with the Fire as they are a union. An impact statement will be done first with the changes as presented and a draft Ordinance will spell out these changes.

City Manager Jim Dean informed the Commission that the (2) HVAC units at the Old Middle School gym are beyond repair and that (2) units will cost \$80,000 with warranty.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Roberts, with a second by Commissioner Williams, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the emergency purchase of the (2) new units from Woodall's and to use the proceeds from the sale of the Middle School property (25%) to help offset the costs of the units.

City Manager Jim Dean presented the Commission a Hazard Mitigation grant agreement for code plus and generator at MH&R in the amount of \$96,289.90.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Roberts, with a second by Commissioner Ephriam, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the grant agreement.

Volunteers of America were present to request funding from American Rescue monies for development of 35 affordable housing units at Hwy 73, 300' south of Holly Hill Drive. They are requesting \$1,200,000. There was discussion among the Commission and Commissioner Roberts indicated he would be willing to give them \$300,000, contingent on County providing funding for this project as well. Commissioner Ephriam is concerned with the requests the City may receive in the future.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Roberts, with a second by Commissioner Ephriam, the Commission voted unanimously to approve funding to Volunteers of America in the amount of \$300,000, contingent on Jackson County BOCC providing in an amount that will move this project forward and contingent on the project using natural gas, for either the individual units or the community building.

Zach Gilmore, Meghan Basford and Tiffany Garling were present with Jackson County Economic Development Council (JCEDC) to present the Commission with a MOU-Project VIVA. This is an investor that wants to buy and renovate the old Danley Building. The MOU provides a non-binding understanding of expectations, requirements and obligations. JCEDC presented the Commission with a listing on intentions of the City, including:

1. City waive business license fees are 2 years.
2. City provide expedited development orders and permits.
3. City waive utility connection fees.
4. City waive costs associated with water and wastewater during construction.
5. Potential for natural gas incentives.
6. City provide \$25,000 from CRA

7. City reimburse up to 5 years of ad valorem taxes (city portion) and this to begin in year 3.
  8. City provide a \$55,000 low to no interest loan
- It also listed intentions of Jackson County and of VIVA.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Roberts, with a second by Commissioner Williams, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the MOU with Project VIVA.

There being no further business the special meeting was closed.

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Mayor-Commissioner

Attest:

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City Clerk