MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
of THE MARY ESTHER CITY COUNCIL
May 6, 2024 - 6:00 PM
195 Christobal Road – North, Mary Esther, FL 32569

CITY COUNCIL PRESENT

Chris Stein, Mayor
Richard Lawson, Councilmember
Larry Carter, Councilmember
April Sutton, Mayor Pro Tem

CITY STAFF PRESENT

Jared Cobb, City Manager
Hayward Dykes, City Attorney
Dillon Morris, City Clerk
Kelvin Cherry, Code Compliance Officer
Heather Day, Finance Director
Shawn Lindsey, Public Works Director

OTHERS PRESENT

Chad Rewis, OSCO Captain
Randall Killian, Project Manager, Jacobs
Jeff Wagner, OCWFD Chief
Josh Robinson, Collection & Distribution Supervisor, Jacobs

1. **INVOCATION**
Jeff Wagner, Fire Chief, Ocean City-Wright Fire Control District, gave the invocation.

2. **CALL TO ORDER**
The meeting was called to order by Mayor Stein at 6:00 PM.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
Mayor Stein led the pledge of allegiance.

4. **ROLL CALL**
The City Clerk called the roll as reflected above.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
Mayor Stein asked if the council wished to make any changes to the agenda. Hearing none, Mayor Stein asked for a motion. Councilmember Carter initiated the motion, seconded by Councilmember Lawson. The motion passed 3-0.

RESULT:	**PASSED (3-0)**
MOVER:	Councilmember Larry Carter
SECOND:	Councilmember Richard Lawson
AYES:	Larry Carter, April Sutton, Richard Lawson
NAYS:	None

6. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**
None.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**
Mayor Stein asked if the council wished to make any changes to the consent agenda. Hearing none, Mayor Stein asked for a motion. Councilmember Lawson initiated the motion, seconded by Councilmember Carter. The motion passed 3-0.

RESULT:	**PASSED (3-0)**
MOVER:	Councilmember Richard Lawson
SECOND:	Councilmember Larry Carter
AYES:	Larry Carter, April Sutton, Richard Lawson
NAYS:	None

7.1. Financial Report

7.2. Public Works Report

7.3. Library Report

7.4. Fire Department Report

7.5. Code Compliance Report

7.6. Jacobs Report

7.7. Law Enforcement Report

7.8. Minutes of the April 1, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting

8. CITIZENS WHO HAVE REQUESTED TO BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA

None.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

Mayor Stein asked if any citizens would like to make any comments. He asked if the candidates for the city council vacancy appointment are present, thanking them for coming but that the appointment will take place in a future council meeting.

Damion Green, 101 Anderson Drive, asked mayor and council what they believe the major things coming in the next year are. Mayor Stein stated the infrastructure and the parks renovations. Mayor Pro Tem Sutton commented on the Highway 98 expansion, infrastructure, and improving and maintaining the parks. Mr. Green asked how much of the funding is local funding and state funding. Mayor Pro Tem Sutton stated that it is a combination, citing the water bill the citizens pay, the staff securing grant funding, and mayor and council working to get grant funding. Councilmember Carter mentioned establishing Mary Esther as a brand, managed growth, and increasing the quality of life for the citizens.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1. Resolution 24-04, General Fund Budget Amendment

Finance Director Day stated that the 24-04 Budget Amendment is an amendment from the previous meeting, to increase general fund revenues and general fund expenses. This resolution would formally approve the budget transfer the mayor and council approved at the previous meeting. Mayor Stein asked City Clerk Morris to read the resolution, which he read as follows: Resolution 24-04. A resolution of the city council of the City of Mary Esther, Florida providing for an increase in the general fund revenue budget, in the amount of $2,596559.59; and an increase in the general fund expense budget, in the amount of $2,497180.21; and providing for an effective date of April 1, 2024.

Mayor Stein asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Mayor Pro Tem Sutton initiated the motion, seconded by Councilmember Lawson. The motion passed 3-0.

RESULT:	**PASSED (3-0)**
MOVER:	Mayor Pro Tem April Sutton
SECOND:	Councilmember Richard Lawson
AYES:	Larry Carter, April Sutton, Richard Lawson
NAYS:	None

11.2. Revised 2024 City Council Meeting Schedule

Finance Director Day discussed that the council meeting schedule has been revised due to budget hearings, working around the school district and the county. July 1st was moved to July 8th, a special meeting was added on July 22nd, September 3rd was moved to the 4th, and September 23rd was added. Mayor Stein asked council if any more adjustments were needed. Mayor Pro Tem Sutton asked to move the September 23rd meeting to the 24th.

Mayor Stein asked if anyone else had any other changes. Upon hearing none, Mayor Stein asked for a motion to approve the revised dates. Councilmember Lawson initiated the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sutton. The motion passed 3-0.

RESULT:	**(3-0)**
MOVER:	Councilmember Richard Lawson
SECOND:	Mayor Pro Tem April Sutton
AYES:	Larry Carter, April Sutton, Richard Lawson
NAYS:	None

11.3. Holiday Closing Schedule

City Manager Cobb discussed that last meeting council directed staff to continue the closure as in years past and that they asked for dates for the closure. The dates provided are closed from noon on Friday, December 20th, 2024, reopening on Thursday, January 2nd, 2025, citing that employees would need to take four (4) additional days of leave. Mayor Pro Tem Sutton asked that it would be for all city departments, which City Manager Cobb clarified that it is for all departments. Mayor Stein asked if Jacobs would be off, but Jacobs are contracted all year round. Mayor Pro Tem Sutton asked if this topic could be voted on at the next council meeting, which City Manager Cobb said it could be tabled.

Mayor Stein asked for a motion to move item 11.3 to the next council meeting. Councilmember Carter initiated the motion, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Sutton. City Manager Cobb asked to clarify if it was being moved to the next special council meeting or the next regular council meeting. After some deliberation, the consensus is that it will be moved to June 3rd regular council meeting. The motion passed 3-0.

12. COUNCILS' STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

Mayor Stein opted to combine councils' standing committee status reports and other comments together.

Mayor Pro Tem Sutton remarked she had nothing at the time.

Councilmember Lawson remarked he had nothing at the time.

Mayor Stein discussed his attendance at the Eagle Claw ceremony at Hurlburt, the breakfast at the Fort Walton Beach Greater Chamber of Commerce, and the upcoming Billy Bowlegs event for Fort Walton Beach.

Councilmember Carter discussed the pre-planning for the Veterans Day Parade and the possibility of adding a roof to the float. He also discussed the recent Okaloosa County League of Cities dinner, stating he liked the food.

City Attorney Dykes remarked he had nothing at the time.

City Clerk Morris discussed that he will hear back from his notary application in the coming weeks, the dinner received a lot of positive compliments, and the upcoming Christobal Waterfront Park workshop.

City Manager Cobb discussed more on the Christobal Waterfront Park and thanked Public Works Director Lindsey for organizing a volunteer beautification event.

13. ADJOURN

The council meeting adjourned at 6:28 PM.

Minutes approved at the 6/3/24 **meeting.**

Dillon Morris, City Clerk

CITY OF MARY ESTHER
ESTABLISHED
1946
STATE OF FLORIDA