



404 West Jefferson Street
Quincy, Florida 32351
www.myquincy.net

Regular City Commission Meeting

Thursday, December 28, 2023
6:00 PM

City Hall Commission Chamber

City Commissioners

Mayor Freida Bass-Prieto – District IV
Mayor Pro-Tem Angela G. Sapp – District II
Commissioner Dr. Robin Wood – District I
Commissioner Ronte R. Harris – District III
Commissioner Dr. Beverly A. Nash – District V

"An All-American City in the Heart of Florida's Future"



City Commission Meeting
Thursday, December 28, 2023
6: 00 PM
City Hall
Commission Chamber

AGENDA

Call to Order

Invocation

Chief Anthony Baker

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Proclamation

Special Presentation

1. Updates
 - Shiela Knowles, Lobbyists

Items for Consent by the Commission

2. Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2023
 - Janice Shackelford Clemons, City Clerk

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE (3 Minute Limit)

Public Hearings and Ordinances as Scheduled or Agendaed

Public Opportunity to Speak on Commission Propositions – (Pursuant to Sec. 286.0114, Florida Statue and subject to the limitations of Sec. 286.0114(3)(a), Florida Statute)

Resolutions

Reports, Requests, and Communications by the City Manager

3. Approval of 5-year Contract with Flock Group
 - Robert Nixon, City Manager
 - Carlos Hill, Acting Police Chief
4. Proposed Utility Department Fees
 - Robert Nixon, City Manager
 - Richard Ash, Utilities Director
5. Select City Projects Updates
 - Robert Nixon, City Manager
 - Stephen Gauss, IT Contractor
 - Anthony Baker, Fire Chief
 - Reggie Bell, Public Works Director
 - Sylvester Robinson, Code Enforcement
 - Carlos Hill, Acting Police Chief
 - Richard Ash, Utilities Director

Reports by Boards and Committees

Other Items Requested to be Agendaed by Commission Member(s), the City Manager and Other City Officials

Comments

- City Manager
- City Clerk
- City Attorney
- Commission Members

Adjournment

Title XIX: PUBLIC BUSINESS - Chapter 286 - PUBLIC BUSINESS: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS -
SECTION 0105 - Notices of meetings and hearings must advise that a record is required to appeal.

286.0105 - Notices of meetings and hearings must advise that a record is required to appeal. Each board, commission, or agency of this state or of any political subdivision thereof shall include in the notice of any meeting or hearing if notice of the meeting or hearing is required, of such board, commission, or agency, conspicuously on such notice, the advice that, if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing.

Special Presentation

Updates By Shiela Knowles, Lobbyists

Items for Consent by the Commission

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2023

CITY COMMISSION
Tuesday, November 14, 2023
6:02 P.M. (Eastern)

REGULAR MEETING
QUINCY, FLORIDA 32351

CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The City of Quincy City Commission met in a regular in-person meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, with **Mayor Freida Bass-Prieto** opening the meeting up and the following Commissioners present:

Mayor Pro-Tem Angela G. Sapp - Absent
Commissioner Dr. Robin Wood
Commissioner Ronte R. Harris
Commissioner Dr. Beverly A. Nash

City Staff and Guests:

Robert Nixon, City Manager
Gary A. Roberts, City Attorney
Janice Shackelford Clemons, City Clerk
Amanda Matthews, Senior Accountant
Reginald Bell, Public Works Director
Richard Ash, Utility Director
Anthony Baker, Fire Chief
Stacey Hannigon, Human Resources and Risk Management Director
LaTrenda Gainous Carroll, Customer Service Supervisor
Stephen Gauss, IT Contractor
Jim Southerland Sr., WQTN-13 Administrator

The regular in-person meeting was recorded and held in accordance with Florida Sunshine Law. (Note: Digital formatted documents/media are public records.)

Called to Order

Mayor Bass-Prieto called the Regular Commission meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Chief Anthony Baker provided an invocation followed by the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Bass-Prieto requested a roll call.

Commissioner Wood offered a motion to excuse Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp from the meeting.

Commissioner Nash seconded the motion.

Commissioner	Vote
Mayor Bass-Prieto	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp	Absent
Commissioner Wood	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes

Commissioner Nash	Yes
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The Motion Carried 4 to 0.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Harris offered a motion to approve the amended agenda as printed.

Commissioner Wood seconded the motion.

Commissioner	Vote
Mayor Bass-Prieto	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp	Absent
Commissioner Wood	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Nash	Yes

The Motion Carried 4 to 0.

Proclamations

None

Special Presentation

1. Response to Termination Pursuant to Section 166.0494, Florida Statutes
 - Gary Roberts, City Attorney
 - Timothy Ashley

Summary of the Presentation and Discussion by Staff and the Commission

Atty Roberts stated that on October 31, former Police Chief Timothy Ashley was given a written notice of termination by the city manager.

Atty Roberts stated that Florida Statutes sec. 166.0494 allows police chief's the opportunity to appear before the commission and provide a response regarding his termination.

Atty Roberts stated that on November 7, 2023, former Police Chief Timothy Ashley sent written correspondence that he would like to be placed on the agenda.

Atty Roberts stated that this is former Police Chief Timothy Ashley's opportunity to be heard.

Atty Roberts stated that citizens wanting to be heard must complete a citizen to be heard form and return it to the clerk.

Atty Roberts stated that this is a serious topic and citizens will be given 3 minutes to speak.

Atty Roberts stated that decorum will be kept.

Former Police Chief Ashley greeted everyone.

Former Police Chief Ashley stated that he is here to defend his unjust and unethical termination.

Former Police Chief Ashley gave the following background.

- Live in Gadsden County for 22 years.
- US Air Force Veteran.
- Nearly 38 years of law enforcement experience.
- Earned the respect of most of his colleagues and fostered lifetime relationships.
- Retired as a major with FHP after serving 27 years, holding honorary rate of LT. Colonel.
- Held various jobs and responsibilities in the Big Bend area.
- Stated that he does know why he was terminated.
- Stated that he read the letter from the city manager, dated October 31, 2023.
- Stated that he needs the city manager to be more specific and not vague.
- Read the following from the October 31, 2023 termination letter:
 1. Failure to ensure and maintain a functional work environment characterized by high achievement, supportive leadership, respect for subordinates, and a lack of hostility.
 2. Failure to satisfactorily manage financial resources to ensure operational effectiveness and productivity.
 3. Failure to satisfactorily ensure adherence to City of Quincy policies governing personnel actions and the use of public budget in the QPD budget.
- Stated that under his administration he promoted 12 officers, 5 investigators; two of which are Hispanic.
- Stated that he has built a foundation of true leadership.
- Stated that with the assistance of the commission the police fleet has increased.
- Stated that through his leadership team 23 vehicles were acquired with minimum financial impact. Stated that before the fleet increase QPD had only 5 patrol vehicles, which were shared.
- Stated that a full-time training coordinator was created during his tenure.
- Stated that QPD has been more visible and responsive to the needs of the city than ever before.
- Stated that Mayor Bass-Prieto commented on the police presence in the King Street corridor and quick response.
- Stated that former Commissioner Candidate has recognized QPD presence on several occasions, especially community walks.
- Stated that former interim city manager and current Commissioner Nash has complimented QPD on its professionalism.
- Stated that Commissioner Wood has recognized QPD for its innovative ways to combat crime and the utilizing of the NOLA camera project.
- Stated that City Manager Robert Nixon has continued to recognize his leadership with high accomplishments.

- Stated that the city manager falsely accused him and Asst Police Chief Shamar of having insight into the anonymous letters being circulated.
- Stated that he had no knowledge of any anonymous letters which brought on negative and retaliation towards his administration.
- Stated that the first time he heard about an inappropriate relationship with a staff member was during a meeting with the city manager and HR director.
- Stated that on October 30, 2023, he appeared at a meeting. Present was the city manager, HR director and an unknown female attorney via telephone, when he was advised of his termination.
- Stated that he asked why he was being terminated and the city manager responded by saying since you are running for sheriff, I will give you the option of resigning.
- Stated that he declined the city manager's offer to resign because he did nothing wrong.
- Stated that on October 31, 2023 he was asked to turn in his police equipment by 5pm.
- Stated that the city manager retaliated against him because he was called out on his wrong doings on current litigations against him.
- Stated in closing that his termination is retaliation against him and his administration.
- Stated that transparency and protection among employees must be demanded.
- Stated that his mission from day one was to protect and serve the citizens of Quincy.

Items for Consent by the Commission

2. Approval of the Regular Commission Meeting of October 24, 2023
 - Janice Shackelford Clemons, City Clerk
3. Approval of the Emergency Meeting of November 3, 2023
 - Joann Kimble, Acting City Clerk
4. Approval to cancel the November 28, 2023, Regular Commission Meeting
 - Robert Nixon, City Manager
5. Approval to Transfer \$128,670.75 from the American Rescue Fund for the GCU for the Inspection and Cleaning of Mini System E.
 - Robert Nixon, City Manager
 - Richard Ash, Utilities Director

Summary of the Discussion by Staff and the Commission

Commissioner Harris offered a motion to approve the items for consent.

Commissioner Nash stated that she would like to pull item 3, Emergency Meeting of November 3, 2023.

Commissioner Nash stated that she has some questions and concerns.

Commissioner Wood seconded the motion.

Commissioner	Vote
Mayor Bass-Prieto	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp	Absent
Commissioner Wood	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Nash	Yes

The Motion Carried 4 to 0.

Commissioner Nash stated that the November 3, 2023 minutes did not clearly state when the contract was signed.

Commissioner Nash stated that there was discussion on the legality of back dated the contract which is not clear to her.

Commissioner Nash stated that she expressed that legally a contract should not be back dated.

Commissioner Nash stated that the contract is not with USDA but a private LLC company which is confusing in the minutes.

Commissioner Nash clarified that McShane LLC is the name of the company in the contract and not USDA as implied in the minutes.

Atty. Roberts clarified that negotiations began in 2022.

Atty. Roberts stated that the contract predates Commissioner Nash's arrival at the dais.

Atty. Roberts stated not having signed the contract would be a breach of contract and a possibility of being sued.

Commissioner Wood stated that the wording should have read in the contract "closing of the contract".

Atty. Roberts stated that this document represents closing the sell of the contract.

Commissioner Nash stated that the minutes should reflect the contract with McShane LLC on behalf of USDA and not a contract with USDA.

Commissioner Nash stated that clarity should be entered into the minutes relating to who the contract is with.

Atty. Roberts reiterated that the contract was completed in April 2023 and before the commission is the closing documents.

Commissioner Wood suggested that the verbiage should read closing the contact documents.

Commissioner Harris offered a motion to approve the November 3, 2023, emergency meeting minutes with the mentioned changes.

Commissioner Wood seconded the motion.

Commissioner	Vote
Mayor Bass-Prieto	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp	Absent
Commissioner Wood	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Nash	Yes

The Motion Carried 4 to 0.

Mayor Bass-Prieto stated that anyone desiring to speak must complete the necessary form and everyone is limited to 3 minutes.

Mayor Bass-Prieto asked that everyone follow decorum by keeping comments and opinions to yourself.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Millie Forehand appeared via telephone, 620 S 11th Street, Quincy, FL 32351 read the following statement.

Good evening, honorable members of the commission. City Manager. Atty. Roberts and clerk Shackelford-Clemons.

A wise man once said, "A man who changes his principles based on, to whom he is talking, is not a man to lead a country" - Nelson Mandela. I'm speaking to you tonight, not just as another city resident, but the chair of the committee who recommended Mr. Nixon for this position and as a disappointed concerned citizen who believe-ed that with a new manager and a fairly new police chief, we were on a clear to improving the image of this city. I had high hopes that the best interests of the city, professionalism, fairness, and accountability, were top of mind; and, that the importance of building, and growing a safe and secure community was the goal of all stakeholders. With that in mind, I lift my voice to express my concerns and objections regarding the recent decision to terminate a dedicated and respected Police Chief. This city has had more than its share of negative publicity over the years. This decision, to terminate Chief Ashley, using these manufactured reasons, only added one more strike against us. It has left many of us bewildered, concerned, anxious and caused confusion with a sense of instability within the community. I could give you 5 ways; this could have been avoided if true and sincere leadership were the mission. This high level of testosterone in a situation that requires objectivity, reasonableness, and a rationale response is not the most beneficial characteristics of a professional leader. It is of utmost importance for all of you to acknowledge, in support of the chief, that Chief Ashley has made significant contributions to this city, in a short period of time, Your. Words. Removing such an experienced, competent, and community-minded leader without a clear and compelling reason sends a distressing message to the citizens. Don't ignore or turn your heads to this decision, which will once again add to the financial mismanagement of needed resources, by leadership, which the city can't afford. We demand transparency and

accountability from this commission. You have only one employee that you supervise: that's the city Manager. And, along with that, you have an obligation to the citizens of this city to disclose and expose the reasons behind this sudden decision, to determine whether due process was followed. You can't and you shouldn't hide behind "that's day-to-day operations, or we can't do anything". You can do, and you must do. Given the situation, I urge the commissioners to complete an impartial review of the circumstances and engage the citizens in an open dialogue to discuss the issues that led to this decision. The city's residents have been invited in; we share this new shared vision with the police chief and have become active participants in shaping the future of our city to ensure it remains a safe and welcoming place for all. In conclusion, I implore the manager to reconsider this decision. to uphold the principles of justice, accountability, and transparency we require. Just cause doesn't mean "just because you can, or just because you have the authority, it means "justifiable cause" Therefore, we are calling for, and deserve, principal leadership, someone who will prioritizes honesty, integrity, transparency, and safety. Chief Ashley has demonstrated his commitment to this end. Thank you for this time and your consideration.

Sam Palmer, 1225 Berry Street, Quincy, FL, 32351 provided the following comments.

- Stated that he is retired from the US Air Force and current president of the Gadsden County NAACP.
- Stated that several individuals asked him to come tonight and he's here not to take sides.
- Stated that he has a good relationship with the current city manager who has been responsive and a good relationship with the police chief.
- Stated that management tells him that progressive documentation is needed before firing anyone.
- Stated that he would like to see the documentation. He was taught the without documentation it did not occur.
- Stated that clearly the police chief answer to the city manager. The number of people presence shows that there are concerns.
- Stated that the city manager answers to the commission and that the commission answer to the citizens directly or indirectly.
- Stated that if citizens ask the city manager to reinstate the police chief to do as they ask by responding in a positive way.

Richard Murphy, President of the Big Bend PBA, 300 Brevard Street, Tallahassee, FL provided the following comments.

- Stated that he agrees with the gentlemen, facts do speak for themselves.
- Read into the record the climate survey taken by QPD officers.
- Stated that 15 out of 18 officers do not support Chief Ashley's administration.
- Stated that he believes Chief Ashley to be a good man.
- Stated that he had never visited QPD until recently on multiple internal affairs investigations and noticed an environment of instability and chaos for which at the end of the day Chief Ashley was in charge and responsible.

- Stated that many of the police officers who took the climate survey would like to see change.
- Stated that the citizens deserve better.

Jolene Williams, 165 Dove Court, read portions from a statement from Asst. Chief De'Anthony Shamar.

- Stated that he was banned from the meeting.

City Manager Nixon clarified that the asst. chief was informed that he could not be banned from attending the meeting.

City Manager Nixon stated that he was notified.

- Stated how much he loved the City of Quincy.
- Stated that he and others witnessed the city manager driving around the city in an unmarked vehicle.
- Stated that he and others witnessed a known criminal driving around in the same unmarked vehicle around the city. This jeopardizes the safety of citizens and law enforcement officers and violates Florida law.
- The city manager is known for going on a smear campaign when he gets caught.

Michael Clary, 1004 Brumby St., Quincy, FL read the following written statement.

- "Since returning to Quincy, all I have witnessed at city hall is turmoil and despair. From budgetary issues, code enforcement, disgruntled employees, lack of public safety, trying to rescind the mayor, utilities in arrears and now firing of the chief of police. It has been my observation based on research, talking with citizens, sound judgment and past legislative experience that most of these issues are the results of the past administration, particularly at the city manager position. Now, the City of Quincy has a city manager that has the grave task of trying to straighten out years of mismanagement. And what do you do? Fight him tooth and nail to try and discredit and stifle his efforts to make the City of Quincy solvent as it once was. I appeal to your civic duty to support our city manager in his tireless efforts to restore our city to some sense of normalcy. I will thank you and so will many other citizens. As for WCTV, it seems that the only news broadcast in Quincy is biased, divisive and culturally degrading. Not sure if they are trying to increase ratings. Where are they when something positive and uplifting occurs in Quincy. They are nowhere to be found. It is really a shame that this reporter and news station use our fair city to boost their ratings." Respectfully submitted.

Ken Spears, 500 Tallow Point Rd., Tallahassee, FL, provided the following comments.

- Stated that he has known former police chief Timothy Ashley for more than 35 years working in law enforcement.
- Stated that he and Tim share personal interests.
- Stated that Tim has high integrity, and moral compass is straightforward.

- Stated that he has witness him manage budgets, and people and is an inspirational leader.
- Stated that he was excited when Tim was appointed chief of police and hopes that there will be reconsideration.

Lydia Ashley, wife of Timothy Ashley, 180 Jack Dr., Quincy, FL, read a letter on behalf of Asst Chief Shamar.

- Stated that she believed she heard the city manager state that Shamar would not be denied attending the meeting if he decided to come.
- Stated that Shamar received a letter based on the instructions from the city manager from Acting Police Chief Carlos Hill.
- Stated that Carlos Hill has been the acting police chief for maybe a couple of days.

Mrs. Ashley read the memo addressed to Asst. Police Chief De'Anthony Shamar from Acting Police Chief Carlos Hill.

- Thanked everyone for their time and listening to her read the letter.

Faye Lewis, 902 S. Pat Thomas Parkway, Quincy, FL, provided the following comments.

- Thanked the commission for allowing her to address an issue that is most important to her and her family.
- Stated that the dismissal of the police chief is unjust.
- Stated that she has known Timothy Ashley for 25 years.
- Stated that she stands before the commission to advocate for his reinstatement.
- Stated that the former police chief has dedicated himself to the City of Quincy for 2 years of his life for the protection and betterment of the City of Quincy.
- Stated that the former police chief has worked tirelessly at building relationships and to ensure the safety of others.
- Stated that under the former police chief, crime has decreased by 26%, and the police department has become more transparent.
- Stated that his achievements are an example of the former police chief's tireless efforts at improving the lives of the citizens.
- Stated that the unjust dismissal of the former police chief jeopardizes the safety of the city and sends a troubling message about the value being placed on experience and committed leaders.
- Stated that justice is not just a concept but a pillar of our society that must be corrected by reinstating police chief Ashley.

Herb Sheheane, 1455 Cane Creek Rd., Quincy, FL, provided the following comments.

- Stated that he has served with Timothy Ashley for 20 plus years.
- Stated that the former police chief called him and asked him to serve the City of Quincy citizens along with him as a reserve and volunteer officer.
- Stated that his integrity and character is exemplary.
- Stated that it has been an honor to serve with him for the last 2 years.

- Stated that is asking the commission to reconsider and reinstate the former police chief.

Jack McLean Jr, 7119 Summit Ridge Dr., Tallahassee, FL, provided the following comments.

- Stated the former police chief is a good man and has done a good job.
- Stated that he is not here to criticize anyone.
- Stated that he believes the commission has a legal authority to make a decision.
- Stated that Florida Statute 166.0494 is a new law.
- Stated that this law changes things.
- Stated that the ball lies within the commission.
- Stated that tonight represents due process.
- Provided the legislative history for FS 166.0494, which are highlighted in red.
- Stated that the firing of the police chief is not home rule or a day-to-day issue.
- Referred to the city's charter, section 3.04. "All such employees shall serve at the pleasure of the city manager, but the city manager, when he deems it necessary for the good of the service, may suspend in writing, with or without pay, or remove any employee under his jurisdiction except as otherwise provided by law."
- Stated that this law is new and has not been done.
- Stated that the commission has a legal right to reinstate the former police chief.

Paula Phillips, 816 Sunset Dr., Quincy, FL 32352, provided the following comments.

- Stated that there has been a lot of going discussion back and forth, including anonymous letters and flyers being distributed around town.
- Stated that there has been retaliation against the city manager.
- Stated how disappointed the city has behaved, including nasty and mean-spirited behavior.
- Stated that she likes Nixon and Ashley.
- Stated that everyone should wait until all the facts are out instead of promoting negativity all over the city.

Zachary Woods, 121 E. Jefferson Street, Quincy, FL, provided the following comments.

- Stated that he supports the men and women working at the police department.
- Stated that the survey is not lying.
- Stated that he serves as the public informational officer, where he was privileged to a lot of information.
- Stated that he was demoted once the former police chief learned that he was not supporting him to run for sheriff.
- Stated that he has witnessed men and women working for the police department asking when their invoices would get paid.
- Asked everyone to be searchers of the truth.
- Stated that there is evidence in support of the city manager's decision to terminate the police chief.

- Stated that he came back to the City of Quincy as a reserve officer and Quincy is home.
- Stated that he cares about the men and women working tirelessly being subject to investigation and retaliation.
- Stated that he's been a victim too.
- Stated that the truth is in the pudding.
- Stated that it is impossible to have a 26% reduction in crime within a 19-month period, that should be compared from year to year.
- Stated that he has a list of things to discuss with anyone who is willing to hear.

Samuel McCray, 121 E. Jefferson Street, Quincy, FL, provided the following comments.

- Stated that he is an investigator with the Quincy Police Department.
- Stated that climate surveys are used when something happens.
- Stated that the PBA representative is a disgruntled employee.
- Stated that it unfair for him to speak for the police officers.
- Stated everyone does not feel the same.
- Stated that citizens complain about the police all the time.
- Stated that a lot of officers have done wrong.

Rolanda Jackson, 2480 Baimbridge Hwy, Quincy, FL, provided the following comments.

- Stated that she is a lifetime resident, business, and property owner of Gadsden County.
- Stated that the former police chief knows Jesus.
- Stated that she knows the former police chief well enough to say he will not allow himself to get into trouble.
- Stated that the commission as a charge to the citizens of Quincy.
- Stated that there is a lot of mess going on and for those who do not know, FDLE investigations are going on too.
- Stated that there are a lot of people not willing to speak in fear of retaliation.
- Stated that Ronte is her cousin, and they argue and disagree frequently.
- Stated that it is hard to fire a black man doing his job.
- Stated that for the last 6-8 months the agenda shows nothing is going on in the city, except road closure and proclamations.
- Stated that attorneys will be hired for special meetings because nothing is going on and take her word on it.

Scott Littlefield, 121 E. Jefferson St, Quincy, FL, provided the following comments.

- Stated that he left Leon County Sheriff's Office in December 2022 to come to Quincy because of the former police chief.
- Stated that he walked into his office and noticed a bible on his desk.
- Stated that the former police chief is a man of integrity and that is who he wanted to work for.
- Stated that he believes in the former police chief's vision.
- Stated that he's disheartened by the PBA's comments.

- Stated that he does not get involved and is the last to know about what's going on.
- Stated that we are professional and in meetings talks about holding people accountable and that there is a gossip problem.

Harold Barber, 121 E. Jefferson Street, Quincy, FL, provided the following comments.

- Stated that he is the PBA representative.
- Stated that he has been with the Quincy Police Department for over 21 years.
- Stated that he is not a disgruntled employee.
- Stated that he has worked with a lot of police chiefs.
- Stated that he has been a target by Ashley's administration multiple times.
- Stated that the climate survey came about when two employees asked for a vote of no confidence.
- Stated that the climate survey is voluntary and sent out by the Big Bend PBA and return to the Big Bend PBA.
- Stated that he has no dog in the fight and his duties as PBA representative are to ensure that officers are treated fairly.

Derrick Elias, 233 Cheeseborough Ave, Quincy, FL, provided the following comments.

- Stated that this is a mess. Stated again that this is a mess.
- Stated that there is a great divide.
- Stated that he read the letter from the city manager to the former police chief.
- Stated that he has heard the responses from the former police chief.
- Stated that there is a great divide between what's in the letter and the former police chief's response.
- Stated that there is a great divide in the police department.
- Stated that the police department being divided cannot stand.
- Stated that this situation did not begin because of a letter from the city manager to the former police chief. There were apparently some issues already going on.
- Stated that someone needs to address this mess.
- Stated that he heard Mr. McLean state that Florida Statute chapter 166 is in effect but has been barely used.
- Stated that the commission will need to decide accordingly to the law or abide by the city's charter.
- Stated that as a former mayor and commissioner he has seen multiple hires and fires.
- Stated that he saw things getting better and then the mess began.
- Stated that at the end of the day citizens suffer.
- Stated that if those things in the letter regarding the firing of the former police chief are true, then they should be supported.
- Stated that the commission must light a fire under someone to get the supporting documents in which this situation occurred.

Mayor Bass-Prieto asked if there were anymore comments or if the commission would like to comment before ending comments from the audience.

Public Hearings and Ordinances as Scheduled or Agendaed

None

Public Opportunity to Speak on Commission Propositions – (Pursuant to Sec. 286.0114, Fla. Stat. and subject to the limitations of Sec. 286.0114(3)(a), Fla. Stat)

None

Resolutions

6. Resolution 1451-2023, Approval of Road Closure for the sign dedication ceremony.
- Robert Nixon, City Manager
 - LT. Carlos Hill, Quincy Police Department

Summary of the Discussion by Staff and the Commission

LT Hill stated that the request was made by Mayor Freida Bass-Prieto to close certain roads for the dedication of a new road sign honoring Lt. Commander Corry schedule for November 16, 2023, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

LT Hill stated that the roads to be closed are King Street and Camelia Drive and East King Street (Hwy 12) also Julia Munroe Woodward(bypass).

Commissioner Harris offered a motion to approve Resolution 1451-2023.

Commissioner Wood seconded the motion.

Mayor Bass-Prieto stated that cut off for Highway 12 being a state road is at the bypass.

Commissioner	Vote
Mayor Bass-Prieto	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp	Absent
Commissioner Wood	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Nash	Yes

The Motion Carried 4 to 0.

Reports, Requests, and Communications by the City Manager

7. Change Order for Improvements to Flagler and Virginia Streets Storm Drainage System

- Robert Nixon, City Manager
- Reggie Bell, Public Works Director

Summary of the Discussion by Staff and the Commission

Director Bell stated that this request is to approve the change order to start phase 2 of the improvements for the Flagler and Virginia Street storm drainage systems.

Director Bell stated that the contractor did an excellent job completing the improvements in a timely manner.

Director Bell stated that after observing the services that Pyramid Excavation, Inc. provided for the City of Quincy, staff requests that a change order for phase 2 improvements be completed by Pyramid Excavation.

Director Bell stated that Dewberry Engineering opinion of probable construction cost for phase 2 is \$257,915.00.

Director Bell stated that after providing the phase 2 drawings to Pyramid Excavation, they provide staff with an estimate of \$152,075.

Director Bell stated that this money would come from the original budget.

Director Bell stated that Dewberry provides engineering services to the city.

City Manager Nixon reiterated that Pyramid Excavation did an excellent job repairing the holding pod.

Commissioner Harris offered a motion to approve the change order recommendation for Pyramid Excavation, Inc in the amount of \$152,075 to complete Phase 2 improvements to Flagler and Virginia Street Storm Drainage System.

Commissioner Wood seconded the motion.

Commissioner	Vote
Mayor Bass-Prieto	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp	Absent
Commissioner Wood	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Nash	Yes

The Motion Carried 4 to 0.

Reports by Boards and Committees

None

Other Items Requested to Be Agendaed by Commission Member(s), the City Manager, and Other City Officials

None

Mayor Bass-Prieto asked that everyone standing outside the chamber come inside to eliminate the noise.

Comments

City Manager, Robert Nixon

- Commended staff for their continued improvements in handling major projects.
- Commended the customer service and utilities departments for providing excellent service to our customers.
- Stated that many workforce housing projects have begun, and many others are scheduled to begin.
- Stated that some of these projects will come before the commission, in a workshop so that the commission can be informed and take information back to constituents.
- Saluted all the veterans and acknowledged the free coffee and donuts provided to all employees that served and are currently serving in the armed forces.
- Stated for the record that he believed Timothy Ashley to be a good man and strives to the best person he can be.
- Stated that he also believes that Timothy Ashley has leadership abilities and a vision for the police department.
- Stated that the description given about Timothy Ashley from his family, friends, and colleagues regarding his character is not questionable.
- Stated that he was given an opportunity to serve the City of Quincy as the city manager and that comes with making tough decisions.
- Stated that the decision to terminate the police chief was a hard decision and that he went through a lot of prayer, sought guidance with the city attorney and human resource director as well as a lot of thought.
- Stated that the police department is a mess and was a mess when the former police chief was hired.
- Stated that it is his job to make the hard decisions and what's in the best interest of the citizens.
- Stated that public safety cannot be compromised, whether it is fire or police.
- Stated that the justifications provided to Chief Ashley should not have been a surprise.
- Stated that he's surprised that Chief Ashley is surprised, because he spoke about a frequently, he met with finance, so that he and his staff could get training on the budget.

- Stated that he directed all department heads to get training from the finance department, due to concerns about the budget and budget process.
- Stated that Chief Ashley during his tenure struggled managing resources.
- Stated that every month a GL from the police department appeared in the negative due to the managerial decisions being made.
- Stated that vendors who did not receive payment penalized the City of Quincy. For example, Comcast services were discontinued because of non-payment.
- Stated that the finance department did not receive Comcast invoices, however responds once are in receipt of the invoices.
- Stated that Biocycle Waste Management took back the police department bin due to non-payment.
- Stated that enterprise fleet is \$30,000 in arrears.
- Stated that no one on the police department's leadership team as of this moment has reported that Verizon GIS System used for fleet management was also suspended for non-payment.
- Stated that there is some discord at the police department which can be traced back to the leadership.
- Stated that there is a hostile work environment because of several anonymous letters received.
- Stated that he is the individual responsible for transmitting the anonymous letters to FDLE.
- Stated that he can justify that the information was given to FDLE, which was his decision to get someone else to investigate.
- Stated that he is not going to beat up on Chief Ashley because he has worked hard and did a lot of good things for the City of Quincy.
- Stated that the improvement needed for the city has not been achieved.
- Stated that there is not a statistical variable that will substantiate a 26 percent decrease in crime, because the police department does not have any in house capabilities.
- Stated that how can a police chief stand before the commission and not present any positive work, which is concerning.
- Stated that what the commission and the citizens expect of the city manager is to make good decisions of which may or may not be popular.
- Stated that he is not used to being unpopular.
- Stated that this is the same administration which participated in gossip with its employees.
- Stated that Chief Ashley made negative comments about employees to employees.
- Stated that the police department's has general orders, one being to treat each other with respect.
- Stated that in a meeting witness by the human resources director and him, the former police chief referred to employees that disagree with his administration has "agent terrorists".
- Stated that when he questioned the former police chief about his usage of words, he responded that he meant just that in the strongest sense. This drew this a red flag.

- Stated how can someone manage a group of individuals that you don't like.
- Stated that this is very problematic.
- Stated that he inquired about having certified dispatchers and received no answer.
- Stated that without certified dispatchers the city does not have qualified dispatchers.
- Stated that as city manager, he raised the pay from \$12 to \$15 per hour.
- Stated that another problem is dispatchers worked 12-hour shifts and get paid for 8 hours. The justification by the former police chief is that dispatchers are first responders which leads to workers using 4 hours of personal leave time to get paid.
- Stated that he recused himself from all investigations.
- Stated that HR, city attorney along with an outside attorney conducted the investigations to ensure transparency and fairness.
- Stated that the findings will be conclusive just like the climate survey.

City Manager Nixon read some of the results of the climate survey.

- Stated that we all collectively must work together.

Mayor Bass-Prieto stated that she received a request to speak after public comments ended.

City Attorney Roberts stated that he was brought outside to address that same issue.

City Attorney Roberts stated that the request to speak was sent to the clerk to the mayor, however the request was not noted.

Mayor Bass-Prieto stated that she did not receive the request until after the proceeding with the agenda as printed.

Mayor Bass-Prieto stated that she did not want to interrupt the flow of the meeting.

City Attorney Roberts provided his opinion to allow the person to speak.

Mayor Bass-Prieto stated that the opportunity will be given to allow the person to speak.

Stacey Hannigon provided the city's address and stated that she was speaking as a city employee.

- Stated that she currently serves as the human resource and risk management director.
- Stated that she is in an uncomfortable situation this evening.
- Stated that she believes in standing for what is right.
- Stated she was placed in a very uncomfortable position.
- Stated that the email was sent at 5:13 pm to the city attorney and the city manager.
- Stated that the correspondence mentioned the HR agreed prohibiting the employee from attending this evening's commission meeting.

- Stated that for the records she had no part in any discussion involving this matter.
- Stated that she did not provide guidance to any staff member regarding the matter and was not copied on the correspondence.

Director Hannigon requested whistleblower protection for any correspondence provided internally or externally citing her involvement related to any matters, that she be made aware prior to such correspondence being dissimulated and that she is provided a copy of such.

Director Hannigon stated that it is her intent to seek all remedies available to her in addressing this deliberate, dishonest, and misleading action taken on the part of a law enforcement officer.

Director Hannigon stated that it has been brought to her attention by staff of her supposed involvement regarding the termination of the former police chief.

Director Hannigon stated that her communication on this matter has been limited.

- Stated that for anyone to attempt to undermine her work that she does for the City of Quincy is unprofessional and deceiving at the least.
- Stated that she is always forthcoming and spoken comfortable with the city attorney and city manager regarding her position on this and other matters.
- Stated that she considers the meetings held to be professional dialogue with an overarching goal to make the best decisions for the city.
- Stated to now arrive at this junction where her professionalism is being conveyed in a misleading untruthful manner is disheartening.
- Stated that as this manner continue to involve the Chief Ashley, Asst Police Chief Shamar and the police department and all matters requiring her involvement in her professional capacity, she finds it necessary to request whistleblowers protection and protection from retaliation.
- Reiterated that she is not appearing as a citizen.

Commissioner Harris stated that it is inappropriate for employees to air grievances in an open forum.

Commissioner Wood agreed with Commissioner Harris.

Commissioner Harris stated that this is out of order.

Mayor Bass-Prieto motioned to the audience to come to order.

City Attorney Roberts stated that Director Hannigon has received the same courtesy afforded others that spoke.

Director Hannigon stated that she was not going to approach the dais out of respect.

Director Hannigon stated that she did not expect the city manager to make so many comments involving HR and the decisions made concerning her department.

Director Hannigon reiterated that the only recourse she had was to come before the commission.

Mayor Bass-Prieto stated that Director Hannigon completed a citizen to be heard form and did not place herself on the agenda for a special presentation.

City Attorney Roberts stated that Director Hannigon was afforded the opportunity to speak for 3 minutes like others.

Mayor Bass-Prieto stated to the audience that there will be no further comments made and decorum will be kept.

City Clerk, Janice Shackelford Clemons

- No comments.

City Attorney Gary Roberts

- No comments.

Commission

Commissioner Harris

- No comments

Commissioner Wood

- Stated that it has been a long night and a lot said.
- Thanked all the public comments and those who voiced their opinion.
- Stated how satisfied citizens who attended the community meeting were to hear the report given.
- Wished all the veterans a Happy Veterans Day. The sacrifices made for this country have not gone unnoticed.
- Wished the Marine Corp a happy birthday.
- Stated that this week is American Education Week.
- Stated that as we get closer to the holiday season, it is unfortunate that our city is where we are tonight.
- Stated that it seems we take two steps forward and five steps back.
- Stated that we must keep the district clean.
- Thanked Director Bell and Public Works staff for assisting her in District One.
- Thanked Interim Chief Sheheane for all the hard work, it didn't go unnoticed.
- Stated that the city must move forward.
- Stated that the city should not be on the news about having so many issues.
- Stated this is a great city and she has loved being a part of the city for 20 plus years, even though not being a native.
- Stated that the commission's job is to answer the citizens.
- Stated that she thought long and hard about what to say.
- Quoted "This is a mess".

- Stated that do we want our city to be thought of as a mess. Stated that she thinks not.
- Stated that the police and fire chief play a crucial role in managing and directing their departments to provide effective and efficient service to the community.
- Stated that public safety is too important of an issue to expect that one person should take on.
- Stated that the commission is here and there are things that they should know before it happens.
- Stated that she is disappointed that some things did not come before the commission even though being told that they are day-to-day.
- Stated that if the commission voted to approve the police chief, then the commission should have a say in the firing.
- Reiterated that the commission per charter is not responsible for the day-to-day operations, however the commission is entitled to know what is going on in the fire and police departments, because of public safety.
- Stated that a climate survey should have adequate representation of the entire police department or a relative percentage.
- Stated that more oversight is needed and reference sec 2.15 of the city's charter.
 - (a)Investigations. The commission may make investigations into the affairs of the city and conduct of any city department, office or agency, and for this purpose may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony and require the production of pertinent evidence of any kind.
- Stated that we must do better, we owe it to the citizens.

Commissioner Wood offered a motion that the city commission be given oversight of the fire and police department which would require a change to the charter.

Commissioner Nash seconded the motion.

Commissioner asked the city attorney for the process on a charter revision.

City Attorney Roberts stated that the appointment and firing of the police chief is by the mayor in Bonifay, FL, referring to Mr. McLean's comments of FS 166.

City Attorney Roberts stated that the City of Quincy's ordinance does not read the same way as in Bonifay, FL.

City Attorney Roberts stated that the City of Quincy runs on a city manager centered ordinance in which the manager deals with the day-to-day.

City Attorney Roberts stated that the change would require a charter amendment that would change the forum of government.

Mayor Bass-Prieto stated that this would mean that the mayor is an elected position.

Commissioner Wood stated that placing the fire and police department in the hands of one individual is negligent.

Commissioner Wood stated that the commission deserves to know and thus far does not know, such as the information the city manager stated tonight.

City Attorney Roberts stated that the city's charter was written many decades ago and changes have been made.

City Attorney Roberts referred to the city's charter sec. 2.04.

"Appointments and removals. Neither the commission nor any of its members shall in any manner dictate the appointment or removal of any city administrative officer or employee whom the city manager or any of his subordinates is empowered to appoint, but the commissioners while in open or executive session of the commission, may express their views and fully and freely discuss with the city manager anything pertaining to appointment and removal of such officers and employees."

City Attorney Roberts stated that the section of the charter allows for the commission provides the commission with oversight.

City Attorney Roberts stated that the day-to-day function belongs to the city manager. City Attorney Roberts stated that the former city manager filed a lawsuit against the commission claiming that his rights as a city manager were infringed.

Commissioner Nash stated that she agrees with Commissioner Wood.

Commissioner Nash stated that she has not seen any documentation, physical evidence or data, personnel action forms but verbiage to allow her to understand how the city manager arrived at his decision.

Commissioner Nash stated that believes it is a disservice.

Commissioner Nash stated that if it exists, then an executive session is needed to see the information to be thoroughly on the same page and oversight.

Commissioner Nash stated that the information she has is from the street committee.

Commissioner Nash stated that her briefing came yesterday at 11 am regarding the special presentation, weeks after a decision/action was taken.

Commissioner Nash stated that it is hard press to tell citizens this is day-to-day and not the commission business.

Commissioner Nash stated that we can talk a good game and find it hard press not to bring facts to her constituents which puts her in an uncomfortable and embarrassing situation.

Commissioner Nash stated that she is embarrassed and is a whole person.

Commissioner Harris stated that the city attorney brought up a section in the charter allowing commissioners to have oversight.

Commissioner Harris stated that Commissioner Wood mentioned sec. 2.15 in the city's charter.

Commissioner Harris stated that to achieve the goal that the commission desires, 2.15 is appropriate and move forward into the investigation this moment.

Commissioner Wood suggested that since there is one commissioner we should wait until there is a full quorum before deciding on a 2.15 investigation.

Commissioner Wood withdrew her motion on the commission having oversight since the city attorney acknowledged that the commission already has oversight written in the charter.

Commissioner Wood suggested moving forward on the 2.15 investigation but holding off on making any major decisions until there is a full quorum.

Commissioner Wood stated that the commission must do its due diligence because due process is real.

Commissioner Nash offered a motion to enter an executive session at the next meeting.

City Attorney Roberts clarified that an executive session can only be for pending litigation.

Commissioner Nash stated that doesn't Asst. Chief Shamar have pending litigation whose name was mentioned.

Mayor Bass-Prieto motioned to stop Jack McLean from speaking out of order.

Commissioner Nash called for an investigation of the police department and the city manager's office because there is double jeopardy in this whole process.

Commissioner Nash stated that if we find the truth, we find it from the top to the bottom and work it through.

Commissioner Wood reiterated that the 2.15 investigation allows the commission to investigate any city department and/or agency.

Commissioner Nash stated that she wants an independent forensic investigation because she understands the difference and Attorney Roberts cannot do it.

Commissioner Harris stated that the commission needs to bring some order to what it's doing.

Commissioner Harris stated that the commission needs to discuss in a special meeting how to move forward with the investigation and to set parameters.

Commissioner Harris stated that he is prepared to support the 2.15 tonight.

Commissioner Harris stated that under the advice of counsel a special meeting needs to be called.

Commissioner Nash stated that order and decency should be a part of the special meeting and that there is a model on how it should be conducted.

Mayor Bass-Prieto asked Commissioner Nash to clarify her motion.

Commissioner Nash said under 2.15 the ability to make investigations into the affairs of the city and conduct of any city department, office, or agency, and for this purpose may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony, and require the production of pertinent evidence of any kind, offer a motion for the commission to conduct the independent investigation for the police department and the city managers office.

Commissioner Wood seconded the motion.

Commissioner	Vote
Mayor Bass-Prieto	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp	Absent
Commissioner Wood	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Nash	Yes

The Motion Carried 4 to 0.

Commissioner Harris stated that he would like to schedule the special meeting.

Commissioner Harris suggested November 20 at 6 pm.

Commissioner Harris stated that the purpose of the special meeting is to set the parameters going forth.

Mayor Bass-Prieto asked the city attorney what the procedures would look like.

Commissioner Harris suggested allowing the city attorney time to research.

City Attorney Roberts stated that he should recuse himself, like Commissioner Nash mentioned and suggest allowing the attorney chosen to set the parameters.

Commissioner Harris stated that a vote by the commission must be taken to recuse the city attorney.

Mayor Bass-Prieto stated that everyone on the dais should express their opinion on the matter of having the city attorney recuse himself.

Commissioner Wood suggested voting for the recusal tonight.

Commissioner Wood stated that she is not asking for a strong mayor.

Commissioner Nash offered a motion that the City Attorney Roberts recuse himself from the 2.15 investigation, however, seek an outside attorney for this purpose.

Commissioner Wood seconded the motion.

Commissioner Harris requested a roll call.

Commissioner	Vote
Mayor Bass-Prieto	No
Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp	Absent
Commissioner Wood	Yes
Commissioner Harris	No
Commissioner Nash	Yes

The Motion Failed 2 to 2.

Commissioner Nash

- Thanked customer service, particular Mrs. Carroll Stated that she is generally a simple person.
- Stated how she does not like mess.
- Stated that she is a professional.
- Stated that she is here to serve the citizens of district one in the City of Quincy.
- Thanked the fire department and Fire Chief Baker for your leadership.
- Thanked the police department and Police Chief Ashley for your leadership.
- Stated that there are things going on around us that we are all aware of.
- Agreed with Paula Phillips that there is no place for this.
- Stated that the business should be about the citizens who elected us to do this job is what she's about.
- Stated that if you have evidence to present put your name on it and stand for who you are before the dais.
- Stated how you attack people impacting them, the people that they live with, and their children who look up to them.
- Reiterated that the business should be about the City of Quincy.

- Stated that anyone can make allegations and go to FDLE but needs to put their name on it.
- Stated that if she had a problem would address it with that person.
- Thanked district one advisory council. Stated that the member's major concern is beautifying the city so that it attracts others to visit.
- Stated that she is not interested in talking about things unproven.
- Stated that the allegations should be proven or not proven.
- Thanked tonight's presenters and those who made public comments.
- Stated that you are being heard.
- Acknowledged Black Business Month.
- Stated that we should all be unified and lift each other up is what she's about.
- Stated that no one is above the law and will not stand aside while people deliberately hurt the city. The letters are disturbing.
- Stated that she is sorry QPD about what is happening and asked that they allow the commission to investigate.
- Apologized to City Manager Nixon for the attacks. Stated that she does not like cowardly acts. Thanked the city manager for answering her calls and providing information timely.
- Stated that we will get to the bottom of this.
- Stated that her desire is to get help curb domestic and gun violence.
- Announced the memorial service on Saturday at Tanyard Creek for Shanderika Kelly who was murdered.
- Encourage returning students to learn much and stay safe.

Commissioner Harris

- Stated that his colleagues had done a wonderful job in setting the tone where this commission needs to be.
- Stated that his position remains to allow the proper authority to do their job when it comes to investigation.
- Stated that the City of Quincy has the best counsel.
- Stated that Attorney Roberts has done a fine job when defending the city and has been successful.
- Stated to his colleagues to lend on city attorney advice.
- Encourage colleagues to read the charter.
- Request that the city manager follow up on Mrs. Simmons's comments about the commission standing in the way.
- Stated that the situation involving Mrs. Simmons's children was awful and that if the city is responsible for not doing something, this needs to be investigated and brought to the table.
- Stated that he was going to have an ice cream sundae with a cherry on top. Mrs. Phillips thanked him.
- Stated that he had received harsh criticism as an elected official.
- Stated that public comments are a part of an open government.
- Stated that it does his heart good to hear Mrs. Phillips say thank you.

- Stated that there is some low-hanging fruit that needs to be completed, such as online applications and metal detectors. Let's get this done.
- Stated that he feels good about the direction and the board.
- Stated that a good decision was made to hire the current city manager.
- Stated that not to allow the bumps in the road hinder from getting the job done.

Mayor Bass-Prieto

- Asked Director Hannigon to the mic.
- Stated that she wishes to thank all the participants who made Saturday's teacher back-to-school giveaway successful but does not know all the names.

Director Hannigon stated that she works with some of the residents.

Director Hannigon stated that the organization Beyond Before Community Development Corporation was the host for Saturday's event.

Director Hannigon stated that a lot of giveaways are held for students.

Director Hannigon stated that Saturday's giveaway was to assist teachers in stocking their classrooms.

Director Hannigon stated that partners were Walmart, UNFI and Gadsden County Teachers Association. Centennial Bank staff and Lame Duck Farm, Michael R. Moore Lodge #21 and others served as volunteers.

Director Hannigon stated that Mayor Bass-Prieto showed up at 7:30 a.m. to help set up.

Director Hannigon stated that the goal is to do this annually and the next giveaway will be January 2024 to help restock the classrooms.

- Stated that there are three educators sitting on the dais and thanked them for all that they do.
- Stated that the teacher giveaway is a worthy cause.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp stated that her older sister still works in the classroom and volunteered at the event.

- Thanked the fire department for the kid's water event.
- Stated that she's received several calls that people are enjoying the water programs provided by the parks and recreation department.
- Thanked all departments for their hard work and to keep the city moving forward.
- Stated that she received a call regarding the litter on Strong Road. Stated that the caller stated that the litter seemed to be going away. Commended public works department.

- Stated that Commissioner Wood said it best. If you believe that something illegal is going on contact FDLE.
- Stated that she does not like mess and what it does to employees.
- Stated that there are good people in the community.
- Love where you live and live like you love it, don't litter.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp stated that Key Street looked so much better and thanked the city manager, police chief, and Director Bell for their hard work.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp that there will be ongoing efforts to clean up District 2.

The adjournment was motioned by Mayor Bass-Prieto and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp at 8:28 pm.

Please Note: The City Commission places the official copies of Commission Meeting Minutes on file with the City Clerk's Office upon approval.

Submitted by Janice Shackelford Clemons, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Freida Bass-Prieto, Mayor, and
Presiding Officer of the City
Commission and of the City of
Quincy, Florida

ATTEST:

Janice Shackelford Clemons, City Clerk per
Clerk of the of Quincy, Florida
Clerk of the City Commission thereof

Reports, Requests, and Communications by the City Manager

Approval of 5-year Contract with Flock Group

**CITY OF QUINCY, FLORIDA
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION
AGENDA REQUEST**

Date of Meeting: December 28, 2023

Date Submitted: December 27, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

From: Rob Nixon, City Manager
Carlos A. Hill, Acting Chief of Police

Subject: Approval for 5-year contract with Flock Group

Statement of Issue/Justification: In 2022, The Quincy Police Department entered into a yearly contract with the Flock Group which provides license plate readers and vehicle detection cameras across the United States. In March of 2023, six cameras were installed throughout the city, by QPD. The flock camera network scans and records (takes pictures) every vehicle license plate that enters the City of Quincy. If the vehicle registration, driver's license, or the person is a dangerous fugitive, this system sends a notification to officers and the dispatch center that a vehicle has entered the City of Quincy. Since installation of this system, QPD has made numerous arrests for driving while license suspended or revoked and recovered several stolen vehicles. The Flock Camera System also allows the police department to monitor and search for other Flock Camera systems in the Big Bend area. Leon County, Jefferson County, Liberty County, and Franklin County are also in this network. Also, this system is used by officers to aid in investigations.

Conclusion/Background/Recommendations: The Flock Group is requesting that we enter into a five-year contract with them at a reduced cost of \$500 a year per camera which locks our original price of \$2500 a year for each camera. The yearly cost for the system will be \$15,000. A five-year contract would cost \$75,000 over five years. Not entering into this contract would cost an additional \$3000 per camera, a yearly cost of \$18,000. Over five years the cost would be \$90,000.

This item was not budgeted for this fiscal year. To cover the cost for FY 2023 and 2024, monies would need to come from Contractual Services GL #001-220-521-30341.

General Recommendation: Staff recommends the Commission approve the signing of the contract.

Options:

Option 1: Vote to approve a five-year contract with Flock Group.

Option 2. Advise staff how to move forward.

Staff Recommendation:**Option 1**

Attachment(s): Flock Group Contract

Flock Safety + FL - Quincy PD

Flock Group Inc.
1170 Howell Mill Rd, Suite 210
Atlanta, GA 30318

MAIN CONTACT:
Stephen Johnston
stephen.johnston@flocksafety.com
(470) 627-5704

flock safety



EXHIBIT A
ORDER FORM

Customer:	FL - Quincy PD	Initial Term:	60 Months
Legal Entity Name:	FL - Quincy PD	Renewal Term:	24 Months
Accounts Payable Email:	chill@myquincy.net	Payment Terms:	Net 30
Address:	121 E Jefferson St Quincy, Florida 32351	Billing Frequency:	Annual - First Year at Signing.
		Retention Period:	30 Days

Hardware and Software Products
Annual recurring amounts over subscription term

Item	Cost	Quantity	Total
Flock Safety Platform			\$15,000.00
Flock Safety Flock OS			
FlockOS ™	Included	1	Included
Flock Safety LPR Products			
Flock Safety Falcon ®	Included	6	Included

Professional Services and One Time Purchases

Item	Cost	Quantity	Total
One Time Fees			

Subtotal Year 1:	\$15,000.00
Annual Recurring Subtotal:	\$15,000.00
Discounts:	\$15,000.00
Estimated Tax:	\$0.00
Contract Total:	\$75,000.00

Billing Schedule

Billing Schedule	Amount (USD)
Year 1	
At Contract Signing	\$15,000.00
Annual Recurring after Year 1	\$15,000.00
Contract Total	\$75,000.00

*Tax not included

Discounts

Discounts Applied	Amount (USD)
Flock Safety Platform	\$15,000.00
Flock Safety Add-ons	\$0.00
Flock Safety Professional Services	\$0.00

Product and Services Description

Flock Safety Platform Items	Product Description	Terms
Flock Safety Falcon ®	An infrastructure-free license plate reader camera that utilizes Vehicle Fingerprint® technology to capture vehicular attributes.	The Term shall commence upon first installation and validation of Flock Hardware.

One-Time Fees	Service Description
Installation on existing infrastructure	One-time Professional Services engagement. Includes site & safety assessment, camera setup & testing, and shipping & handling in accordance with the Flock Safety Advanced Implementation Service Brief.
Professional Services - Standard Implementation Fee	One-time Professional Services engagement. Includes site and safety assessment, camera setup and testing, and shipping and handling in accordance with the Flock Safety Standard Implementation Service Brief.
Professional Services - Advanced Implementation Fee	One-time Professional Services engagement. Includes site & safety assessment, camera setup & testing, and shipping & handling in accordance with the Flock Safety Advanced Implementation Service Brief.

FlockOS Features & Description

Package: Essentials

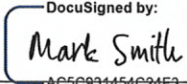
FlockOS Features	Description
Community Cameras (Full Access)	Access to all privately owned Flock devices within your jurisdiction that have been shared with you.
Unlimited Users	Unlimited users for FlockOS
State Network (LP Lookup Only)	Allows agencies to look up license plates on all cameras opted in to the statewide Flock network.
Nationwide Network (LP Lookup Only)	Allows agencies to look up license plates on all cameras opted in to the nationwide Flock network.
Direct Share - Surrounding Jurisdiction (Full Access)	Access to all Flock devices owned by law enforcement that have been directly shared with you. Have ability to search by vehicle fingerprint, receive hot list alerts, and view devices on the map.
Time & Location Based Search	Search full, partial, and temporary plates by time at particular device locations
License Plate Lookup	Look up specific license plate location history captured on Flock devices
Vehicle Fingerprint Search	Search footage using Vehicle Fingerprint™ technology. Access vehicle type, make, color, license plate state, missing / covered plates, and other unique features like bumper stickers, decals, and roof racks.
Flock Insights/Analytics page	Reporting tool to help administrators manage their LPR program with device performance data, user and network audits, plate read reports, hot list alert reports, event logs, and outcome reports.
ESRI Based Map Interface	Flock Safety's maps are powered by ESRI, which offers the ability for 3D visualization, viewing of floor plans, and layering of external GIS data, such as City infrastructure (i.e., public facilities, transit systems, utilities), Boundary mapping (i.e., precincts, county lines, beat maps), and Interior floor plans (i.e., hospitals, corporate campuses, universities)
Real-Time NCIC Alerts on Flock ALPR Cameras	Alert sent when a vehicle entered into the NCIC crime database passes by a Flock camera
Unlimited Custom Hot Lists	Ability to add a suspect's license plate to a custom list and get alerted when it passes by a Flock camera

By executing this Order Form, Customer represents and warrants that it has read and agrees all of the terms and conditions contained in the Terms of Service located at <https://www.flocksafety.com/terms-and-conditions>

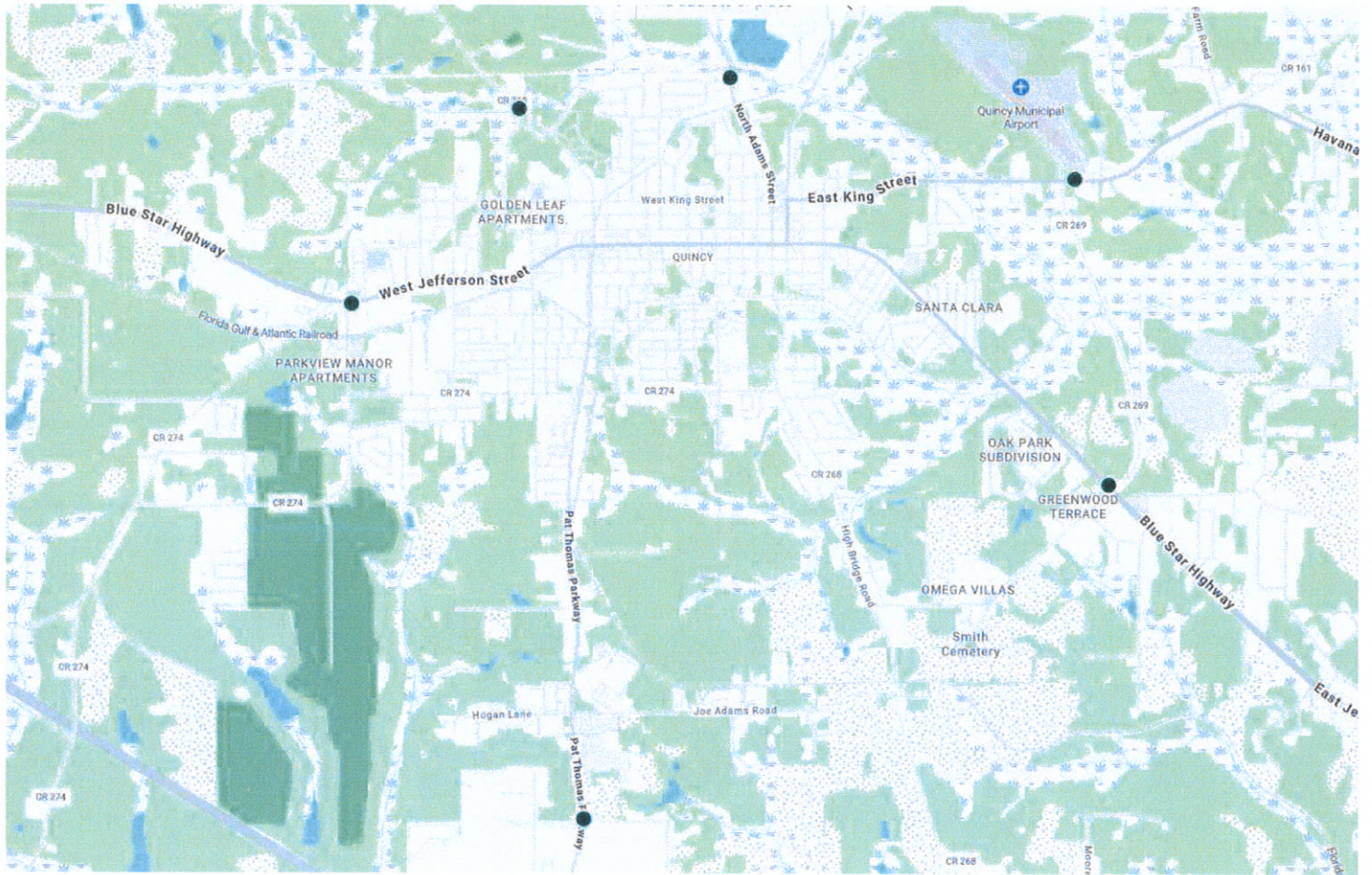
The Parties have executed this Agreement as of the dates set forth below.

FLOCK GROUP, INC.

Customer: FL - Quincy PD

By: 
Name: Mark Smith
Title: General Counsel
Date: 12/13/2023

By: _____
Name: Carlos Hill
Title: _____
Date: _____
PO Number: _____



Proposed Utility Department Fees

**CITY OF QUINCY, FLORIDA
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION
AGENDA REQUEST**

Date of Meeting: December 15, 2023

Date Submitted: December 28, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

From: Rob Nixon, City Manager
Richard Ash, Utilities Director

Subject: Proposed Utility Department Fees Adjustments

Statement of Issue/Justification: The City of Quincy Utilities Department has numerous fees that are associated with providing electric, water and sewer service. The fees are for services that are provided to our customers but are not covered within the utility rates. The utility fees are for utility connections, non-payment, security lights, meter bases, disconnect/reconnect and meter tampering. Most of the fees have not changed in 20+ years.

Conclusion/Background/Recommendations: To ensure the City of Quincy Utilities Fees cover the cost of the service provided, we have calculated each fee using the present cost for material, labor, and equipment. Below is a list of the fees with the old cost and the proposed new cost.

		New Proposed Cost \$	Old Cost
<u>Electric:</u>			
Connections:	Single Phase (Standard)	\$98.96	\$16.80
	Three Phase (Standard)	\$101.51	\$39.20
	Single Phase (New Connection)	\$245.95	\$112.00
	Three Phase (New Connection)	\$443.26	\$168.00
Non-Payment:	Cut-on fee	\$52.80	\$39.20
	After hours charge	\$186.32	\$50.00
Poles/Security Lights:	Security Light (only)	\$261.50	\$50.40
	Security Light with pole	\$429.66	\$84.00
	Purchase of pole only	I recommend we do not do this.	\$84.00
	Relocation of City owned pole	\$186.32	\$84.00

	Relocation of Customer owned pole	I recommend we do not do this.	\$84.00
Meter Sockets:	Single Phase (100 Amp)	At Cost	\$22.40
	Single Phase (200 Amp)	At Cost	\$28.00
	Three Phase (200 Amp with 2" hub)	At Cost	\$85.12
	Three Phase (200 Amp with 3" hub)	At Cost	\$103.04
	Five Terminal (small C.T.)	At Cost	\$24.64
	Three Phase (13 Terminal C.T.)	At Cost	\$97.44
	Three Phase (13 Terminal with short Cir. Device)	At Cost	\$229.60
Misc. Charger:	Disconnect Service	\$93.16	\$35.00
	Reconnect Service	\$93.16	\$50.00
	Relocate Primary	At Cost	At Cost
Gas:			
Connections:	Residential Meter Upgrade Only	\$290.68	\$250.00
	Residential 1" Connection	\$1,185.95	\$250.00
	Commercial 2" or Larger Connection	At Cost	At Cost
Non-Payment:	Cut-on Fee	\$58.67	\$39.20
	After Hours Charge	\$117.34	\$56.00
Misc. Charges:	Cut-off Gas (Temporarily)	\$58.67	\$39.20
	Cut-back on Gas	\$58.67	\$39.20
	Light Pilot	\$58.67	\$39.20
	Light Pilot after-hours	\$117.34	\$56.00
	Relocate Gas Service	At Cost	\$112.00
Sewer:			
Connections:	4" or Smaller	\$588.00	\$588.00
	Larger than 4"	At Cost	At Cost
	Outside City Surcharge (\$588 times 1.25%)	\$735.00	\$200.00
Water:			

Connections:	3/4" connection	\$735.30	\$560.00
	1" connection	\$851.25	\$560.00
	1-1/2" connection	\$1,086.25	At Cost
	2" connection or larger	At Cost	At Cost
	Outside City limits Minimum Charge	Cost plus 25%	\$700.00

Non-payment:	Cut-on Fee	\$56.61	\$39.20
	After Hours Charge	\$113.22	\$56.00

Misc. Charges:	Cut Water On	\$56.61	\$39.20
	Cut Water Off	\$56.61	\$39.20

Other Charges:

Meter Tampering	\$250.00	\$250.00
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The fees are calculated so that the city recoups the actual cost incurred when we provide the service. There are a few items that we recommend changing the set fee to the present market cost. These items are material only and the cost changes frequently.

General Recommendation: Staff recommends the Commission approve the fees as recalculated at the new cost.

Options:

Option 1: Vote to approve utility fees as recalculated at the new cost.

Option 2. Advise staff how to move forward.

Staff Recommendation:

Option 1

Attachment(s): Fee Calculations

Single Phase Standard

2-#5 connections	2.18
2-#2 connections	1.42
2-C5	1.09
Tape	1.11
Line worker	21.58
Line worker	21.58
Bucket Truck	50
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	98.96

Three Phase Standard

4-379 connection	4.36
3- c7	2.88
Tape	1.11
Line worker	21.58
Line worker	21.58
Bucket Truck	50
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	101.51

Single Phase New Connection

40'-1/0 TX	38
4-#5 connections	4.38
2-c7	1.92
2-#2	1.42
Tape	1.11
Meter	68
Mask Bracket	6.34
House Knob	3.67
Clevis	6.39
2 - Wedge Grip	3.56
5/8*10	18
Line worker	21.58
Line worker	21.58
Bucket Truck	50

245.95

Three Phase New Connection

40' - #2 Quad	31.6
4-#5 connections	4.38
3-c7	2.88
3-#4	2.07
4-#2	2.84
3-c5	3.27
2- #8605	3.56
Tape	1.72
3 Phase Meter	285
2-#9015⛊	12.78

Line worker	21.58
Line worker	21.58
Bucket Truck	50

443.26

Cut Off Fee

Meter Reader	12.88
Pick-up	40

52.88

Electric After-Hours Charge

Line worker -Call Out Min. - 2 hours	43.16
Line worker -Call Out Min. - 2 hours	43.16
Bucket Truck	100

186.32

Security Light

25' - pole	75	Line worker	21.58
wr-159	0.69	Line worker	21.58
Light	93	Bucket Truck	50
Light Arm	18		
#6 Duplex - 100'	30		
#6 comp. blue to blue	0.49		
c-5	0.74		
Tape	1.11		
2- wedge grips	3.56		
clevis & spool	6.39		
4' - #12 wire	0.76		
3/8 * 8 bolt	1.1		
photo cell	12.5		

Security Light Only;

Material	168.34
Labor & Equipment	93.16
Total	261.5

Security Light with Pole;

Material	243.34
Labor & Equipment	186.32
Total	429.66

Gas

Residential 1" Meter Set

Meter #275	52
1" riser	47
1813-c regulator	84
1"gas valve	33
3-electrofusion couplings	11
EFV	30
2 - swivels	15
3- nipples	1.93
2- 90s	3.66

Residential Meter Change Out

Meter #275	52
1813-c regulator	84

Pipe - \$4/ft	40
Tapping T	399

Gas Worker	18.67
Gas Worker	18.67
Pick-up Truck	40
Tractor	40

Material	716.59
Labor & Equipment	<u>469.36</u>
Total	1185.95

Material	136
Labor & Equipment	<u>154.68</u>
Total	290.68

Cut-off Fee

Material	0
Labor & Equipment	<u>58.67</u>
Total	58.67

Water

20' of 3/4 poly pipe	7			
3/4 meter	64.05	1" meter	180	1-1/2" meter 415
Meter Box	28			
Corp Stop	42.1			
Curb Stop	60			
Tapping Saddle	45			

Pick-up	40
Tractor	40
Water Tech	16.61

	3/4" meter	1" meter	1-1/2" meter
Material	246.15	362.1	597.1
Labor	249.15	249.15	249.15
Equipment	<u>240</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>240</u>
Total	735.3	851.25	1086.25