



City Hall

404 West Jefferson Street
Quincy, Florida 32351

www.myquincy.net

Regular City Commission Meeting

Tuesday, October 10, 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
Tuesday, October 10, 2023
6: 00 PM
City Hall
Commission Chamber
AGENDA

Call to Order

Invocation

Elder Vivian Howard, Greater Elizabeth MB Church, Lloyd, FL

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Proclamation

Mayor's Proclamation

1. Honoring Breast Cancer Awareness Month
 - Freida Bass-Prieto, Mayor

Special Presentation

Items for Consent by the Commission

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

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Public Hearings and Ordinances as Scheduled or Agendaed

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

Resolutions

Reports, Requests, and Communications by the City Manager

Reports by Boards and Committees

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

3. A Motion to Consider Rescission Mayorship
 - Commissioner Dr. Robin Wood, District One
 - Gary A. Roberts, City Attorney

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.

Proclamation

Mayor's Proclamation
Honoring Breast Cancer
Awareness Month



MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

HONORING BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, while considerable progress has been made in the fight against breast cancer, it remains the most frequently diagnosed type of non-skin cancer and the second leading cause of cancer deaths amongst women in our country; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, many of us know someone or have family members who have or have had cancer, but thanks to early detection and better treatments, the mortality rates for breast cancer have steadily decreased in the last decade; and

WHEREAS, knowing what may contribute to breast cancer, symptoms, and treatment are important parts of its prevention as well as having affordable access to screenings and early detection for all women and men, is an essential component in the fight against breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we stand with our mothers, daughters, sisters and friends and we recognize all who have joined their loved ones in fights their battle as well; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, I, Freida Bass-Prieto, Mayor of the City of Quincy, Florida along with my colleagues, Mayor Pro-Tem Angela G. Sapp, District 2, Commissioner Dr. Robin Wood, District 1, Commissioner Ronte Harris, District 3, and Commissioner Dr. Beverly Nash, District 5 and all the citizens of City of Quincy, FL, hereby proclaim October 2023 as **NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH** and encourage the citizens of the City of Quincy, Florida to join in activities that will increase awareness of what Americans can do to prevent breast cancer.

Dated this 10th day of October 2023

Freida Bass-Prieto
MAYOR

Robert Nixon, City Manager

Janice Shackelford Clemons, City Clerk

Items for Consent by the Commission

Approval of the Regular Commission Meeting of September 14, 2023

CITY COMMISSION
Thursday, September 14, 2023
6:11 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 Thursday, September 14, 2023, with **Mayor Freida Bass-Prieto** opening the meeting up and the following Commissioners present:

Mayor Pro-Tem Angela G. Sapp
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
Timothy Ashley, Police Chief
LaTrenda Gainous Carroll, Customer Service Supervisor
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.) Due to technical difficulties one hour and forty-nine minutes were not captured during the meeting. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience.

Called to Order

Mayor Bass-Prieto called the Regular Commission meeting to order at 6:11 pm. Sandy Davenport, Pastor of Morning Glory Baptist Church, Quincy FL, provided an invocation, followed by the pledge of allegiance. Mayor Bass-Prieto requested a roll call.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp offered a motion to approve the agenda as printed.

Commissioner Nash seconded the motion.

Commissioner	Vote
Mayor Bass-Prieto	Yes
Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp	Yes

Commissioner Wood	Yes
Commissioner Harris	Yes
Commissioner Nash	Yes

The Motion Carried 5 to 0.

Proclamations

None

Special Presentation

1. Legislative Updates
 - Sheila Knowles, Lobbyists

Summary of the Discussion by Staff and the Commission

Due to technical difficulties, we are unable to provide a summary of the presentation and discussion.

Items for Consent by the Commission

2. Approval of August 8, 2023, Regular Commission Meeting Minutes
 - Janice Shackelford-Clemons, City Clerk
3. Approval of August 22, 2023, Regular Commission Meeting Minutes
 - Janice Shackelford-Clemons, City Clerk

Summary of the Discussion by Staff and the Commission

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp seconded the motion.

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

The Motion Carried 5 to 0.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Willian A. Walker, 1250 Tylers Sanders Rd, Quincy, FL, provided comments.

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

Regina Davis, 315 W. Washington Street, Quincy, FL, provided comments.

Public Hearings and Ordinances as Scheduled or Agendaed

- 4. Ordinance 1142-2023, Amending Chapter 54, Article III, Regarding the City of Quincy Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement Plan. – Second reading
 - Robert Nixon, City Manager
 - Gary Roberts, City Attorney
- 5. Ordinance 1143-2023, Adoption of the 2023-24 Millage Rate – First reading
 - Robert Nixon, City Manager
- 6. Ordinance 1144-2023, Adoption of FY 2023-24 Budget – First reading
 - Robert Nixon, City Manager

Summary of the Discussion by Staff and the Commission

Agenda item #4 – Ordinance 1142-2023

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp offered a motion to read by title only Ordinance 1142-2023, on second reading.

Commissioner Harris seconded the motion.

City Clerk polled the commission.

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

The Motion Carried 5 to 0.

City Clerk read by title only Ordinance 1142-2023.

Commissioner Harris offered a motion to approve Ordinance 1142-2023 on second reading.

Commissioner Nash seconded the motion.

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

The Motion Carried 5 to 0.

Agenda item #5 Ordinance 1143-2023

Commissioner Harris offered a motion to read by title only Ordinance 1143-2023, on first reading.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp seconded the motion.

City Clerk polled the commission.

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

The Motion Carried 5 to 0.

City Clerk read by title only Ordinance 1143-2023.

Commissioner Harris offered a motion to approve Ordinance 1143-2023 on first reading.

Commissioner Wood seconded the motion.

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

The Motion Carried 5 to 0.

Agenda item # 6

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp offered a motion to read by title only Ordinance 1144-2023, on first reading.

Commissioner Harris seconded the motion.

City Clerk polled the commission.

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

The Motion Carried 5 to 0.

City Clerk read by title only Ordinance 1144-2023.

Mayor Bass-Prieto opens the floor for public comments on Ordinance 1144-2023.

Rolanda Jackson, no address provided.

- Stated that customer service has taken a different approach since Latrenda Gainous took over.
- Stated that she is not popular or trying to be popular in the city.
- Stated that there is an ordinance that citizens pay their utilities bill.
- Stated that she could not find the customer service department in the budget.
- Requested the arrears report for businesses and residential.
- Stated horns get tooted for who we want to toot horns for. Customer Service is the main driving force that drives the city's revenue.
- Stated that other departments where no one is being supervised make more money than the customer service supervisor.
- Stated that you get what you pay for, and we are getting more with Ms. Gainous Carroll, than purchasing. You get three bids and select the lowest.
- Stated that there are no savings in purchasing, whereas you catch the devil in the customer service department.
- Stated that Commissioners control what they need to control and for citizens not to pay utilities bills is on the dais.
- Asked the city manager when will the utilities ordinance be enforced.

City Manager Nixon stated that there is a process and formula used by HR to determine salaries.

City Manager Nixon stated that it is very difficult to compare departments to departments.

City Manager Nixon stated that evidence shows that the city did not adhere to the purchasing policy and the bid process was flawed and in many cases friends benefited.

City Manager Nixon stated that the city never used coordinated buying mechanism.

City Manager Nixon stated that when he took over as city manager, he evaluated every staff member and recognized that the customer service person has great skills in building rapport with customers and leadership abilities.

City Manager Nixon stated that he is proud to say that customer service has done extremely well and has received compliments.

City Manager Nixon stated that the bread and butter is the utilities department and therefore customer service and the utilities department will merge because it makes sense since these departments work closely.

City Manager Nixon stated that the city does disconnections.

City Manager Nixon stated that the commission has allowed staff to create payment agreements with customers that are appropriate.

City Manager Nixon stated that the customer service supervisor revised that payment agreement policy to be straight forward.

City Manager Nixon stated that the no cash policy has reduced the city's liability, amount of time to balance the drawer which allows for more accuracy.

City Manager Nixon stated that the citizens will be dealt with care and know the rules.

City Manager Nixon stated that the right people are in the right place and soon the right structure will be implemented.

City Manager Nixon stated that all employees are paid according to the right standard.

City Manager Nixon stated that he will argue that employees need more money.

Mayor Bass-Prieto stated that the arrears report can be found on the city's website.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp offered a motion to approve Ordinance 1144-2023 on first reading.

Commissioner Harris seconded the motion.

City Clerk conducted a roll call.

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

The Motion Carried 5 to 0.

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

None

Reports, Requests, and Communications by the City Manager

None

Reports by Boards and Committees

None

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

None

Comments

City Manager, Robert Nixon

- Thanked the commission for voting on the proposed budget.
- Thank you to the staff for contributing to the budget process.
- Announced that the citywide annual cleanup dates are November 6-17, 2023.
- Announced the “Let’s Sing” City of Quincy Chorus, for more information contact Latrenda Gainous Carroll.
- Announced the Trunk or Treats event scheduled for October 31, at Wards Lot.
- Stated that staff will be donated wrap candy for the trunk or treats event.
- Stated that everyone should visit the city’s website for holiday event updates.
- Kiddos to City Attorney Gary Roberts for his excellent and successful leadership.
- Stated that staff will defend the city vigorously.
- Announced that the city has received a check from the Capital Trust Authority.

City Clerk, Janice Shackelford Clemons

- No comments.

City Attorney Gary Roberts

- Thanked the city manager for his kind words.

Commission

Commissioner Nash

- Urged citizens to do research before deciding to purchase solar panels.
- Suggested that Utilities Director Ash bring out the door hangers regarding net metering and solar panels.
- Stated that the competition is out and about trying to make a sale.
- Stated that citizens' final consultation regarding solar panels should be made with the city's utilities department.
- The See Something Say Something Campaign raises public awareness on suspicious activities and how to report these activities to law enforcement.
- Recognized National Hispanic Heritage Month.
- Reminded everyone that racism is real. Spoke of the incident in Jacksonville, FL where innocent African Americans were killed.
- Stated that she is fearful of racism and hate and that this same evil can happen in the City of Quincy.
- Reminded us of 911 terrorist attacks.
- Stated that defamation of character is real and define as an intentional false statement causing the victim harm.
- Stated that the first amendment of speech does not protect individuals that participate in defaming another's character.
- Stated that performance evaluations are on staff.
- Stated that the vision workshop held in June, no documents have been given.
- Stated that the Quincy logo used by the arts center needs updating.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp

- Asked if the water line at Live Oak and Cooper been replaced.
- Stated that the cemetery near First Elizabeth needs cleaning.
- Reported that there are nails sticking up at the MLK railroad.
- Reported a trailer at Cooper Street on a vacant lot having a lot of construction materials on it.
- Asked permission to meet with the public works director regarding the Gadsden Technical College sign needed replacing.
- Suggested that the citywide clean up flyer be placed in a utility's mailer.
- Suggested that the music being played on floats reflects the holiday season.
- Charged the mayor in getting the materials to do the evaluations for the city manager and city clerk.
- Stated to citizens to please get with her on any budget suggestions.
- Stated that her goal is to do what's best for the City of Quincy.

Commissioner Harris

- Suggested scheduling a ride along with the city manager.
- Stated that the budget process was different.
- Stated that staff did the job by providing a balanced budget.
- Stated that the reality is the City of Quincy is maintaining.
- Stated that the city is seeing some positive results.
- Stated that the commission must have hard conversations about generating more revenue to provide the 4 million dollars that staff requested.
- Stated that investing in FLCLASS was a great investment.

- Reminded everyone of the mayor pro-tem comments that we're doing the best we can.
- Reminded everyone of the non-recurring dollars that came in and are no longer available.
- Thanked staff and Amanda Matthews for the hard work being done.
- Stated that Ms. Matthews has proven herself to be very knowledgeable in the field of finance.

Commissioner Wood

- Thank everyone involved in the budget process.
- Stated that she realized that the budget process is tendinous.
- Reiterated the need to reduce lawsuits.
- Reminded the constituents of district one that the budget process continues, and changes can be made.
- Stated that this is a good starting point after going through the process.
- Stated how much she appreciates the city manager and department heads for listening to the citizens.
- Stated that there is a must to keep the city safe and not compromise everything.
- Stated that she would love to give staff everything, but the need is to be strategic in our approach.
- Working on the revenue streams is paramount.
- Stated that contractors must be held accountable.
- Stated that we must feel safe in our community.
- Stated how much she appreciates what her constituents are doing.
- Reminded citizens that the budget is available, and anyone can receive copies.
- Stated that citizens can make budget recommendations.
- Stated that the commission is attempting to make the city fiscally sound.
- Recognized Hispanic Heritage Month, Blood Cancer Awareness, and Patriots Day and National Suicide Prevention as well as Alzheimer's Month.
- Quoted Helen Keller: "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much"

Mayor Bass-Prieto

- Complimented Amanda Matthews on her knowledge of the budget and how she answers questions.
- Concern about the litter picking up.
- Concern about the number of cars speeding along King Street.
- Thanked the customer service supervisor regarding heading up the Christmas chorus.
- Thank you to the city manager for delivering a conservative budget.
- Stated that all should learn from the past and not repeat it.
- Stated that is a need to grow.
- Stated that the commission will look at the budget and where employee raises can be given.
- Love where you live and live like you love it. Please don't litter.

The adjournment was motioned by Mayor Bass-Prieto and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Sapp at 7:53 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

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

A Motion to Consider Rescission Mayorship