

Palmetto City Council
February 17, 2000 - 4:00 p.m.

Elected Officials Present:

Pat Whitesel, Mayor
Tamara Cornwell, Vice Mayor
Shirley Groover Bryant, Councilmember
Donna Keefer, Councilmember
Mary Lancaster, Councilmember

Absent: Brian Williams

Staff and others present:

Alan Prather, City Attorney
Dick Groff, City Attorney
Ken Bright, Police Chief
Dave Meng, City Clerk
Mary Jean Forrester, Deputy City Clerk
Sharon Jones, HR Director
Don Patterson, Interim Public Works Director/PSG
Ron Koper, Risk Manager/Safety Director
Russ Combs, Engineering Department

1. LAWSUIT - BROWN VS CITY OF PALMETTO SETTLEMENT OFFER, CASE NO. 99-124:

Attorney Alan Prather stated the purpose of the meeting is to address a formal settlement submitted to the City by Mr. Ernest S. Marshall relating to the Brown vs City of Palmetto litigation. Mr. Prather said that this is an actual settlement offer and does not require a closed session. Mr. Prather stated that Mr. Groff has prepared the recommended response in a letter to City Council. The litigation occurs out of a voluntary annexation involving Mr. Thom Brown's property.

1. LAWSUIT - BROWN VS CITY OF PALMETTO-SETTLEMENT OFFER, CASE NO. 99-1024 (continued):

Mr. Groff addressed the letter submitted by his firm and the letter submitted by Mr. Marshall requesting various items as an offer to settle the case. Mr. Groff explained that none of the items that Mr. Marshall requested settle any of the issues that are raised in the lawsuit. Mr. Groff stated that his firm recommends that the settlement offer be rejected.

MOTION: Ms. Cornwell moved, Ms. Bryant seconded and motion carried unanimously to reject the settlement offer of CA No. 99-1024 made by Mr. Marshall. This is Council's reaction to the offer to settle the case proposed by Mr. Marshall in his letter of November 22, 1999.

2. SERTOMA CLUB:

Ms. Linda Brown, representing the Sertoma Club, said that the main focus of the Sertoma Club is to raise money through fund raisers to give back to the community. Ms. Brown said that the Sertoma Club is interested in helping with a project in Palmetto.

Mr. Mike Taylor spoke to Council about a Skate Park and of the interest from the citizens of Palmetto. The Council discussed the size of land required, the location, the cost of the facility, the insurance required and the operation of the park when it is completed. Mayor Whitesel said that the City will continue to work toward this project.

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3. MAYORS REPORT:

Mr. David Meng reported on the loss of the grant money for the tomato festival held in 1999 and that the City would probably not receive the grant for 2000.

Ms. Bryant asked for an income and expense statement for the last two years for the Tomato Festival and the amount of rentals charged to vendors. Ms. Bryant also asked about scholarships.

The Green Bridge Festival will be added to the February 21, 2000 agenda. Mayor Whitesel asked Council for their suggestions for this festival.

Mayor Whitesel announced the appointment of Mr. Don Patterson as Interim Public Works Director.

Mayor Whitesel recommended that the Chief of Police and City Clerk be paid \$50,000 per year. This item will be discussed on February 21, 2000.

Ms. Cornwell requested a report of salaries previously paid to the City Clerk and Chief of Police.

4. INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS:

Ms. Bryant:

Ms. Bryant asked about the policy for the removal of flowers at the Palmetto Cemetery.

Ms. Bryant asked about resurfacing 17th Street West. The property owners paid to have this road paved and it was damaged due by projects in the area. Ms. Bryant requested a time frame for the road to be resurfaced.

Ms. Bryant inquired about the fee schedule for the use of city facilities. This item will be place of the February 21, 2000 agenda.

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4. INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS (continued):

Ms. Bryant (continued):

Ms. Bryant announced that a celebration of life for Mr. Bill Purson will be held in April at Heritage Park. Mr. Purson was president of the Palmetto Historical Commission. Mayor Whitesel said that a book would be placed in the Carnegie Library in memory of Bill Purson.

Mrs. Keefer:

Mrs. Keefer requested a traffic study for various intersections of 8th Avenue as soon as possible.

Mrs. Lancaster:

Mrs. Lancaster stated that the intersection of 8th Avenue and 13th Street West is one intersection that needs a traffic signal.

Ms. Cornwell asked that a traffic study be ordered to determine which streets need traffic signals. Mr. Patterson will work with staff and contact FDOT requesting this study.

Mrs. Lancaster asked when work would be completed on 14th Street West.

Mrs. Lancaster announced that Akila Washington, a senior at Palmetto High School, has been chosen to serve as a page in the Florida Senate during the week of March 27, 2000.

Ms. Cornwell:

Ms. Cornwell reminded Council of the last visit to the mobile home parks and requested that notes be prepared on the responses of these visits. Ms. Cornwell said that Ms. Alice Myers would help in selecting books for the Carnegie Library.

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5. CITIZENS COMMENT:

Mr. David Potter, 909 20th Avenue West, discussed the 8th Street dredging project and the need of funds for this project.

Mr. Tony Toledo, 902 25th Avenue West, stated that his canal is not be maintained. Mr. Patterson explained that WCIND does the dredging of the main canal and that they do not have funds available to do the finger canals.

Mayor Whitesel requested staff to report on this project on Monday, February 21, 2000.

Mr. Russ Combs explained that WCIND does the dredging and not the City. WCIND has a policy that does not allow them to dredge the finger canals. Mr. Combs stated that at the present time there are no available grants. Mr. Combs explained that Manatee County and WCIND hire contractors to do all the dredging.

Ms. Bryant inquired about the drainage project that the City completed near 20th Avenue and if the work on that project could have caused any of the problems that presently exist.

Ms. Edie Grace, 903 21st Avenue West, asked about the dirt that is dumped into the drains and who is responsible to dredge the fingers.

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5. CITIZENS COMMENT (continued):

Mayor Whitesel stated that the information will be available on Monday, February 21, 2000.

The meeting ended at 5:15 p.m.

Approved: March 6, 2000


City Clerk

Audio tapes of the meeting are on file in the city clerk's office.