

Palmetto City Council
September 7, 2000 4: 00 PM

Elected Officials Present:

Pat Whitesel, Mayor
Tamara Cornwell, Vice Mayor
Shirley Groover Bryant, Council Member
Donna Keefer, Council Member
Brian Williams, Council Member

Elected Officials Absent:

Mary Lancaster, Council Member

Staff and others present:

Alan Prather, Attorney
Chief Ken Bright, Palmetto Police Department
David Meng, City Clerk
Don Patterson, Interim Public Works Director/PSG
Mary Jean Forrester, Deputy City Clerk
Margaret Tusing, City Planner/Zoning Administrator
Sharon Jones, Human Resources Director
Diane Ponder, Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

Mr. Caleb Grimes presented to Council a conceptual drawing of parcels 16 and 17 north of the Estuary Park, stressing the drawing was for information purposes only and was being presented without City staff review or input. The required jurisdictions have approved the staked and surveyed wetlands and uplands. A discussion was held on the amount of acreage involved and how much would be dedicated to the City as part of the development order for Riviera Dunes.

Mr. Williams brought forth the issue of the timely distribution of the agenda. A discussion was held concerning how Council could receive agendas at an earlier date for review prior to the City Council meeting. The possibility of making all meeting dates on Monday was discussed. Because of the long-standing Planning & Zoning scheduled for the 2nd Monday of each month, it will be necessary to make that Monday administrative meeting time certain. Mr. Prather advised Council there was no impediment against moving meetings, but the City's ordinance would have to be amended. Staff is to prepare the amending ordinance for Council's review.

LIBRARY LEASE – MANATEE COUNTY

Mr. Prather stated the lease of the Palmetto Library was extended from a 20 to a 25-year term to meet the grant requirements.

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Motion: Ms. Cornwell moved, Mrs. Keefer seconded and motion carried unanimously to approved the Lease between the City of Palmetto and Manatee County.

COMP TIME – EXEMPT/NON-EXEMPT EMPLOYEES

A discussion was held concerning employees eligible for comp time. Mr. Prather advised Council the attachment addressed only salaried department heads and suggested Human Resources Director Sharon Jones, together with Mr. Groff, develop a memo to employees explaining how and when comp time would be applicable.

Mr. Williams stated that all time cards should contain an explanation for comp time.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE – AGENT OF RECORD

Sharon Jones, Human Resources Director, addressed Council, stating it was the opinion of the insurance committee that an agent of record was not necessary, saving the City approximately \$14,000 per year.

Mr. Nick Zeck, Mr. Richard Metzler and Mr. Gene Cloud addressed Council, stating their reasons for why the City would need an agent.

Ms. Cornwell asked Mrs. Jones to bring back to Council the following information:

- 1) If an agent or consultant required by Florida Law.
- 2) How much the City has used the current benefits administrator.
- 3) If an RFP is required to select an agent of record.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Pastor Jonathon Jankovitch of Church on the Rock addressed Council concerning the Special Functions Permit. The 5th Quarter events will be held at the church after each Palmetto High School home football game.

MOTION: Ms. Cornwell moved, Mrs. Keefer seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Special Function Permit to Church on the Rock for the dates of September 8, 2000, October 6, 20 and 27, 2000.

Margaret Tusing presented to Council a letter to the Department of Community Affairs, regarding the City's support of Manatee County's application for the Urban Infill and Redevelopment Area (URIA) Planning Grant. A discussion was held as to how the grant would benefit the City of Palmetto.

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MOTION: Ms. Bryant moved, Ms. Cornwell seconded and motion carried 3 to 1 to authorize the Mayor to sign the letter in support of the Urban Infill and Redevelopment Area Planning Grant. Mr. Williams voted no.

INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS:

Ms. Bryant

Ms. Bryant advised Council the Manatee County Property Appraiser's office had advised her of a need to correct a scrivener's error of a recently annexed property. Ms. Tusing was given the information to prepare the Ordinance to correct the error.

Ms. Bryant discussed the problem of illegal parking in residential areas of the City. It was suggested the Code Enforcement Officer spend one weekend per month canvassing the City for violations. It was consensus of Council to approve the Code Enforcement Officer working one Saturday per month, altering her workweek to accommodate the change in workdays.

Ms. Bryant advised Council the Bradenton Downtown Development has expressed interest in having a joint meeting with the City of Palmetto. Ms. Bryant will advise Council of the date and site in Palmetto of the meeting.

Ms. Bryant asked for documentation concerning the Tomato Festival Grant.

Ms. Bryant stated she would like to know where the City was in the privatization of the Public Works Department. Mr. Meng stated he had been in contact with a municipality who had privatized, and was waiting for further information. Mr. Williams stated an RFP needed to be designed, possibly by the City's engineers, for Council's review. A discussion was held concerning the various aspects of privatizing of the department. Ms. Bryant stated a decision needed to be made.

MOTION: Mr. Williams moved to ask the City engineers to draw up a proposed RFP. Motion failed due to the lack of a second.

Citizen Joe Hampton addressed Council, stating he didn't feel it realistic to ask the engineers to prepare the RFP. It was his opinion a consultant should be contacted. He further stated the citizens of Palmetto did not want to see the privatization of the Public Works Department.

MOTION: Mr. Williams moved and Ms. Bryant seconded and motion carried 3 to 1 to drop the idea of the City of Palmetto privatizing the Public Works Department. Ms. Cornwell voted no.

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Mr. Williams

Mr. Williams related the Mayor's Business Advisory Committee had discussed the proposed signage for 8th Avenue, stating the City's Ordinances direct any change in the traffic pattern is to be investigated by the City's engineer. Mr. Williams stated Council needed to make the decision concerning this topic. Mayor Whitesel stated FDOT needed to be consulted. Mr. Williams that Council's response to the proposed change in the 8th Avenue traffic pattern be addressed in a written response to the Business Advisory Committee.

Mr. Williams stated if it was Council's wishes he would contact the MPO Committee to discuss striping at the base of the bridge. The Mayor's Business Advisory Committee asked information be brought back to them on this topic. A discussion was held on different avenues Council could utilize before addressing the MPO about this topic.

Mr. Williams related to Council an incident concerning the Bradenton Police Department transporting individuals to the City from Bradenton. Mr. Williams stated he had contacted Bradenton's Mayor concerning this issue.

Mr. Williams passed out drawings to Council concerning the 3rd St. Dr. W. juncture into 4th St. W. Mr. Williams stated he had discussed the problem with Public Works, stating the cost of the project would be approximately \$10,000. Ms. Cornwell stated all of City's staff should review the conceptual plan. Staff was also directed to notice all adjoining property owners by certified mail. This item will be placed on the September 25, 2000 agenda.

Mr. Williams stated concerns related to the old Burton property that has been destroyed by fire. Mr. Meng stated Council approved to deny the insurance company's request for an extension. Alice Kadetz addressed Council concerning the safety of the structure. Staff was instructed to aggressively move forward with the demolition of the structure.

Mrs. Kadetz also addressed Council concerning the 3rd St. Dr. W. issues.

Mr. Williams brought forward the PSG contract. This item will be placed on the September 11, 2000 agenda.

Mr. Williams asked when the Master Utility Ordinance would be addressed.

Mr. Williams asked about the entrance to Riviera Dunes at Haben Boulevard. He stressed the item needed to be addressed as soon as possible.

The proposed September 11, 2000 agenda was presented.

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MOTION: Mr. Williams moved, Ms. Bryant seconded and motion carried unanimously to approved the September 11, 2000 agenda as modified.

Ms. Cornwell advised Council she would be late Monday, September 11, 2000.

Ms. Cornwell stated the one-way street at Lincoln Middle School would not be necessary in the very near future.

Ms. Cornwell stated the City needs to aggressively pursue the Director of Public Works position. Mrs. Keefer inquired whether the City could present PSG a time certain contract for the continuation of Mr. Patterson serving as Interim Public Works Director. Mr. Patterson advised he would discuss the topic with PSG with Council's permission.

Ms. Cornwell inquired about the fencing around the City's cemetery.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Approved: September 25, 2000


Acting City Clerk

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