

Palmetto City Council
Budget Workshop
August 23, 2004 4:00 PM

Elected Officials present:

Larry Bustle, Mayor
Tamara Cornwell, Vice Mayor
Eric Ball, Council Member
Mary Lancaster, Council Member
Brian Williams, Council Member

Staff and others present:

J. E. Free, Jr., City Clerk
Chief Garry Lowe
Chris Lukowiak, Public Works Director
Diane Ponder, Administrative Assistant

Mayor Bustle called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Mr. Free commented on the information distributed to Council:

- Survey of local governments regarding mayor and council member expense amounts
- S.T.A.R.T. information
- Revenue from Manatee County that funds crossing guards
- Corrected personnel pay play
- Revised budget summary

The \$500 contribution to S.T.A.R.T. was discussed and removed from the budget.

Mr. Free informed Council the sick leave buy back was being addressed in the proposed personnel policy, which will be presented to Council at the September 13, 2004 workshop.

Building Department

The additional vehicle was left in the budget until Mr. Lukowiak discusses the reorganization of the Building Department.

Water & Sewer Customer Service

A new customer service position was added to accommodate Council's wishes that the telephones at City Hall be personally answered rather than utilize the automated phone answering system. Council discussed the merits of the new position and the fact the Enterprise Fund would fund the position. The position, at a total cost of \$32,753, was added to a list of items to be considered for deletion during the budget review.

Tuition Reimbursement should be listed at \$1,500 rather than \$4,000. Mr. Free explained \$1,500 should show in the departments that anticipate the expenditure. Council discussed the tuition reimbursement plan and the fact it was to have been included in the Personnel Policy, at which time it would be voted on. Mayor Bustle suggested the amount should remain in the budget; Mr. Free suggested \$4,000 should be centralized in one account, for use city wide.

Police

Mr. Free referred Council to the personnel pay scale, stating three new officer positions are not funded in the budget. Chief Lowe advised he had nothing new to add or remove. He and Capt. Hedrick discussed the new victim advocate position, explaining the job description and why the

position is needed in the City. Capt. Hedrick advised Council he had spoken with the finance director. All expenses associated with the three positions were deleted before the final draft of the budget was prepared for Council, as well as one camera at \$400 and light bar at \$1,000.

The dispatcher position is being requested because of the increase in citizen complaints.

After discussion of the item, two ballistic shields totaling \$3,400 were deleted from the budget.

Capt. Hedrick discussed the proposed \$12,000 ergonomic desk included in the budget as it relates to the responsibilities and physical movement limitations of the dispatchers. Council placed the desk on the list of items to discuss at a subsequent meeting.

Ms. Cornwell reminded staff that when CRA funds a position, the funding should be all inclusive. Mr. Free confirmed the personnel cost is the only expense currently reflected in the CRA funding. The topic was placed on the discussion list. She also discussed her understanding of the police cars being purchased in the established rotation program. Capt. Hedrick stated the program is a five-year, six cars per year. She stated her belief the police cars should be included in CRA's funding of the officers.

Mr. Williams discussed the police cars take home policy and the fact he didn't realize the cars could be driven six miles, parked and the officer resume the trip to their home in their personal automobile. Capt. Hedrick confirmed he had authorized what Mr. Williams discussed in an effort to attract and retain police officers. He stated the plan was not intended to circumvent Council's approved plan.

Mayor Bustle recessed the meeting for five minutes.

CRA

Executive Director Tanya Lukowiak and CRA Chairman Scott Maloney were in attendance to discuss CRA's proposed budget.

Mrs. Lukowiak informed Council that of the \$460,130 proposed in Community Renovation, \$5,000 to EDC and \$3,000 to Riverwalk were the only decisions made by CRA; Council would determine how the balance of the funds are to be allocated. She did inform Council that when CRA funds and purchases equipment, it would become a fixed asset of CRA rather than the City. Expenses associated with the listed positions will be transferred to the CRA. The planner assistant will be changed to a planner technician.

Discussion ensued on CRA funding the building inspector position. Mr. Free confirmed there is a cumulative amount in the Building Department that can only be used by the Building Department. The position was placed on the list to be discussed at a subsequent meeting. Mr. Free also discussed the City purchasing a modular unit for the Building Department, if the reorganization is approved. The City may have the Building Department pay for placing the structure on City property. Staff is researching eligible expenses associated with the Building Department that may be reallocated.

Council will help CRA determine how the \$295,500 in the CRA Community line item will be spent.

Mrs. Lukowiak informed Council plans are being developed that will better inform the public of the SHIP grants for homes and the SERVE Program. If CRA is unable to create an interest in the programs, it may become necessary to redefine how the funds are to be utilized.

Council did not adjust the CRA budget.

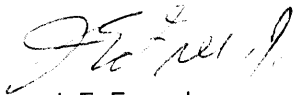
Public Works Director Chris Lukowiak asked permission to update Council on the Edenfield property. Bob Wesley, SCS Engineering, a subcontractor hired by ZNS to perform the contamination testing has reported there is no groundwater contamination and the only metal of issue is arsenic. The perimeter testing covered approximately 70% of the property; twenty-four areas were tested, with arsenic appearing in every area in either the commercial or residential range. The next step is to test to the property lines to see if the level of contamination is dissipating as it moves offsite. Mr. Lukowiak stated the additional testing will cost an additional \$11,000 and is the last testing before moving into mediation. Mrs. Lukowiak informed Council the original proposal CRA received included \$10,800 for the additional testing and is in the budget.

Council discussed railroad ties stored on the property and the tomato packinghouse rinse water being the cause of the arsenic contamination, not a natural contamination the State of Florida experiences.

Mr. Williams discussed the original phases of testing, recalling the contamination was outside the fenced area, asking how the identification of the property to be tested was made. Mr. Williams asked for a map of the areas to be tested.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Minutes approved: September 15, 2004



J. E. Free, Jr.
City Clerk