

Palmetto City Council
Minutes
November 17, 2003 4:00 PM

Elected Officials Present:

Larry Bustle, Mayor
Shirley Bryant, Vice Mayor
Tamara Cornwell, Council Member
Charlie Grace, Council Member
Mary Lancaster, Council Member
Brian Williams, Council Member

Staff and others present:

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

Mayor Bustle called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Mayor Bustle gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Ms. Cornwell move, Ms. Bryant seconded, and motion carried 5-0 to approve the November 17, 2003, 4:00 p.m. agenda with the addition of Council Member comments, time permitting.

2. DISCUSSION: CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

Council concurred with the following Charter Review Committee recommendations:

- Commissioner will replace Council Member
- Elected officials' term will increase to four years
- Institutionalization of the charter review process
- Elected officials will take office the first meeting after an election

Council discussed the rationale and benefits of the recommended "balanced Mayor-Council" form of government, majority vote vs. minority vote and a modern charter, which led to a discussion on a "city manager" form of government. A poll of Council resulted in a unanimous vote to move the city to a city manager form of government.

Council discussed financial options to implement a city manager position. Also discussed were the Council appointment of a mayor and the responsibility of the position.

Mr. Williams requested that a residency requirement also be included in any charter amendment.

Council directed Attorney Prather to develop draft language for a charter referendum on the ballot in March 2004. He was also directed to begin developing the appropriate documents to effect the approved changes.

3. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Williams brought up for discussion the widening of 3rd Street Dr. W. At a previous meeting, a statement was made regarding excess funds in the Road & Bridge Fund. Mr. Free clarified the funds were unencumbered. Diane Ponder reviewed the actions Council approved at previous meetings regarding the intersection. Mayor Bustle discussed the approved projects as the most

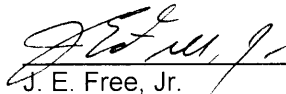
Palmetto City Council
November 17, 2003

urgent. Mr. Lukowiak stated the public works department is in the process of creating a 5-year street repair schedule; the intersections in the City facing the same type of visual obstructions will be included in the schedule. Ms. Cornwell requested he also include needed curb repairs.

Mr. Free advised Council Bank of American can provide immediate financing for projects. This financing may be reduced in the future by any funding for the projects that we receive through grants and other financing that may provide a better financing rate. It was consensus of Council to proceed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes approved: December 1, 2003



J. E. Free, Jr.
City Clerk