

Palmetto City Council
Minutes
December 15, 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, Jr., City Clerk
Chief Garry Lowe
Chris Lukowiak, Public Works Director
Jessica McCann, Planner
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 WORKSHOP AGENDA

MOTION: Mr. Williams moved, Mrs. Lancaster seconded and motion carried 4-0 to approve the December 15, 2003 4:00 agenda.

2. FIBER OPTICS NETWORK PRESENTATION

I.T. Director Donald Burkhardt gave a presentation on a fiber optics network ring which will solve the city's technology communications problems. The presentation included an overview of the current wireless system, advantages of the fiber optic network, proposed routes, cost analysis and benefits and proposed partnerships and revenue sources. Mr. Burkhardt requested approval to place the item on the city's Capital Improvement Plan with a high priority status. It was consensus of Council to place the item on the 7:00 City Council meeting agenda.

Ms. Bryant entered the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

3. CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE - DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Charter Review Committee was represented by Chairman Ron Witt and members Clyde Boltz, Frank Brunner, Ellen Leonard, Jim Freeman and Don Patterson.

Mayor Bustle reviewed the instructions Attorney Prather had received in preparing an ordinance that would vote up or down a city manager, together with the committee's recommendations. If the vote resulted in a failed referendum, city government would remain as currently structured. Attorney Prather advised Council he has been working with Eric Hartwell, Florida League of Cities, regarding a "cafeteria" styled referendum, and has determined a modified version of the ordinance he is preparing may be possible. Samples he has reviewed have individually broken down the charter questions but, none of the samples he has reviewed has given alternatives.

Discussion ensued with the committee members as they explained their views concerning the recommendations made regarding the charter amendments.

Instructions to Attorney Prather did not change. He will continue writing an ordinance giving the alternatives previously discussed by Council. The proposed ordinance should be ready for further review and discussion in January. Council concurred the referendum is not ready to be put to a public vote during the March election, that subsequent workshops are necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes approved: January 5, 2004



J. E. Free, Jr.
City Clerk