

**Palmetto City Council  
July 29, 2002 4:00 PM**

**Elected Officials Present:**

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

**Staff and others present:**

**Karen A. Conlon, City Clerk  
Garry Lowe, Chief of Police  
Mike Hickey, Public Works Director  
Diane Ponder, Administrative Assistant**

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

**Dr. Michael Parris of First Baptist Church gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.**

**Chief Garry Lowe introduced new officer Jennifer Strassner and returning officers Lee Jones and George LaGasse. He congratulated Scott Tyler on his promotion to Sergeant and introduced Corp. Tom Smith and K9 Talon, announcing they had successfully completed the K9 training. Chief Lowe also introduced the department's new captain, Clyde Hedrick.**

**Mayor Bustle read a proclamation proclaiming August 10, 2002 as Women's Equity Day.**

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Ms. Bryant moved, Mrs. Lancaster seconded, and motion carried unanimously to approve the July 29, 2002 agenda.**

**2. MANATEE COUNTY RADIO CONTROLLERS, INC.**

**Billy Dillworth, president of the Manatee County Radio Controllers, Inc., presented Council information relating to the organization's requested lease of the Erie Road landfill property. Mr. Dillworth discussed FDEP's approval of the proposed use of the property, contingent upon applicable restrictions, as well as plans the organization has to improve the property.**

**Mayor Bustle proposed transferring the property to the county, who currently absorbs the majority of the inspection expenses for the property, as well as the**

permits. Attorney Prather, discussing the transfer of city-owned property, stated the property's goal had been achieved and it would be permissible to transfer it to the county.

Ms. Cornwell discussed the School Board's plans to construct a new school in the area within five years. She stated she will not support a 99-year lease. Mrs. Lancaster asked that the License Agreement contain verbiage releasing the city from any liability for money spent on the property by the organization in the event the city found a use for the property.

Mayor Bustle will bring a proposal back to Council for their consideration.

### **3. PROPOSED AGGREGATE MILLAGE RATE**

Mayor Bustle discussed the fact Council could not increase the proposed aggregate millage rate it approved for the DR420. He proposed setting the rate at 5.1645; as it can be adjusted during the budget process. Discussion ensued on the pros and cons of raising the millage rate vs. the rate remaining the same or even rolling it back.

**MOTION:** Mr. Williams moved, Ms. Bryant seconded and motion carried 3 to 2 to authorize the Mayor to sign the DR420, setting the proposed aggregate millage rate at 5.1645 for FY 2003. Mrs. Lancaster and Mr. Grace voted no.

### **4. BUDGET HEARING DATES**

Mrs. Lancaster moved, Ms. Bryant seconded and motion carried unanimously to set the budget public hearing dates for September 16, 2002 and September 23, 2002 at 7:00 pm.

### **5. WATER SUPPLY CONTRACT**

Mayor Bustle advised Council the only change in the draft contract before them was the addition of a portion of paragraph 4 dealing with 25% reimbursement of the cost of maintenance and rehabilitation or upgrade of the system within the unincorporated area of Snead Island. Also, verbiage not in the draft contract is the increase in the facility investment fee the city will pay once it meets the established consumption threshold.

Attorney Prather stated his only issue with the document is that it does not require the city to bill and collect the fee. He stated the city should make sure the county's attorney has signed off the document and make sure the city does not pay a higher rate than any other bulk customer.

Discussion ensued on the facility investment fee being born by new customers of the city's utility system.

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Mayor Bustle will bring the topic back to Council once the city's requested amendments to the contract are discussed with staff, Mr. Prather and appropriate county officials.

**6. OAKRIDGE CONTRACT**

The Notice to Proceed has been issued on the project.

**7. CHURCH ON THE ROCK**

Mrs. Conlon updated Council on the topic, stating a meeting had been held with Zoller, Najjar, engineers for Church on the Rock, a new site plan has been provided to the DRC and information is being gathered for the SWFWMD permit.

Mr. Najjar reported a meeting has been scheduled with SWFWMD to present the site plan thereby beginning the permitting process. Council will request periodic updates on the topic.

**8. DEPARTMENT HEADS' COMMENTS**

**Mike Hickey, Public Works Director**

Mr. Hickey reported the following completed projects by Public Works:

32 blocks have been repaved

Drain at 3rd Ave. & 11th St. Dr. has been rectified

Foundation is in at Carr Drain

Reuse has looped 20th St. crossing 4th Ave. up to 14th St.

Taylor Park is complete

Oakridge construction will begin week of August 12th

Blanket contract has been obtained for the street lights maintenance

**Karen Conlon, City Clerk**

Budget will be distributed Wednesday, August 7, 2002.

**Chief Garry Lowe, Palmetto Police Department**

Requested Captain Hedrick's salary be adjusted to Step 7 at \$46,020.

**MOTION:** Mr. Williams moved, Ms. Bryant seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the salary for Capt. Hedrick at \$46,020.

Requested Sgt. Tyler's salary be adjusted to Step 4 at \$35,970.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Lancaster moved, Mr. Grace seconded and motion carried 4 to 1 to approve the salary for Sgt. Tyler at \$35,970, Step 4. Mr. Williams voted no.

Requested the salary for Lee Jones and George LaGasse be \$28,000, Step 5, due to their experience and time spent on the force.

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**MOTION:** Ms. Cornwell moved, Ms. Bryant seconded and motion carried unanimously to accept Mr. Lowe's recommendation and set the salary for Lee Jones and George LaGasse at \$28,000, Step 5 - Grade 6.

The Noble Organization of Black Law Enforcement has donated a computer to the Police Department that is to be utilized for missing children for one year. After that period of time the computer can be used in any capacity established by the department.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

**Mr. Williams**

Welcomed Capt. Hedrick, Lee Jones and George LaGasse to the Police Department.

**Mrs. Lancaster**

Thanked Public Works for the resolution of the drain at 3rd Ave. and 11th St. Dr.

Welcomed Capt. Hedrick.

**Ms. Cornwell**

Voiced her opinion the County Commissioners should be contacted about the agreement a pool would be a priority at Blackstone Park. Discussion ensued on the skatepark at Blackstone, as well as the agreement a pool would be constructed at Lincoln Park.

Requested Animal Services be contacted about stray dogs.

Expressed appreciation for the Police Department's involvement in the recent robbery at her home.

People are exiting through the Do Not Enter drives at Albertson's.

A section of fence on the Green Bridge needs repair.

Updated comments are needed for the PSG Contract and Backflow Preventer installation schedule on the Suspense Log.

**Ms. Bryant**

The Fair Board is developing plans for the Tomato Festival. Mayor Bustle discussed transferring the balance in the Tomato Festival budget to the Fair Board. Staff will determine the correct balance for presentation at the August 5, 2002 council meeting.

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Phone calls have been received concerning the 14th Ave. soccer fields. Residents are reporting trespassing, public urination and defecation. Chief Lowe stated patrols will be increased in the area.

Discussed flooding that occurs in the entire neighborhood in which the Church on the Rock is located. Ms. Bryant suggested meetings with people in the area to straighten out erroneous information they had received.

Mr. Grace

Welcomed Capt. Hedrick and congratulated Sgt. Scott Tyler on his promotion.

At the July 17, 2002 CRA meeting, 13 storefront grants were approved totaling \$57,690.

CRA has sponsored a conversational Spanish class for the police officers. A program through MCC Open Campus is available for city employees earning less than \$40,000, allowing them to take the same course free of charge.

Negotiations are continuing between the CRA and Clarence Love on the purchase of his property.

CRA approved its proposed FY 2003 budget at the July 24, 2002 meeting. Anticipated TIFT amounts to \$843,821, \$395,000 is earmarked for community revitalization, \$187,000 for Oakridge, \$200,000 to the city for infrastructure within the CRA district.

10. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

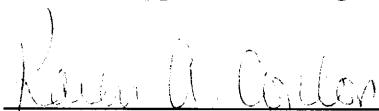
The Agriculture Center has extended an invitation for a special tour of the facility.

The Joint Planning Committee has had its first meeting. Updated versions of the ACCORD and Planning have been received. Mayor Bustle stated he did not recall any participant having a veto power.

A meeting is scheduled with the Vice President of the company that owns Palmetto Trace. Discussion will be held on the company's agreement to pay for up to 25% of the cost of the 7th Street signalization as well as compliance issues with the Florida Housing Finance Association.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Minutes approved: August 5, 2002



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Karen A. Conlon  
City Clerk