

**Palmetto City Council  
Budget Workshop  
September 10, 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**

**Elected Officials Absent:**

**Brian Williams, Council Member**

**Staff and others present:**

**Karen A. Conlon, City Clerk  
Garry Lowe, Chief of Police  
Capt. Clyde Hedrick, Captain  
Allen Tusing, Public Works Superintendent  
Jim Keranen, Finance Director  
Bill Hawthorne, CPA Associates  
Diane Ponder, Administrative Assistant**

**Mayor Bustle called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.**

**Council observed a moment of silence in remembrance of September 11, 2001. Mayor Bustle led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.**

**Ms. Cornwell entered the meeting at 4:10 pm.**

**Mr. Tusing continued the review of the Public Works Department. The following items were reduced or deleted from the proposed budget:**

**Public Works Administration**

***Overtime reduced to \$800***

**Streets**

***Overtime reduced to \$3,500***

***Lot & Tree Clearing reduced to \$5,000***

***Small Tools reduced to \$1,500***

**Parks**

***Overtime reduced to \$3,700***

***Communication reduced to \$900***

***Rental Equipment reduced to \$600***

***Printing & Binding reduced to \$100***

***Office Supplies reduced to \$600***

***Landscape Material reduced to \$6,800***

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*Small tools reduced to \$7000 (deleted the planer, joiner, table sander, roto zip, router table, band saw, and pipe clamps)*

*Building Improvements reduced to \$37,000 (deleted the 17th Street building roof the Soccer Park restroom)*

*Improvements Not Building reduced to \$726,000 (deleted the pavilion at Riverside West Park and on the Green Bridge, 17th Street Park parking, cemetery landscaping and road paving, and Lamb and Sutton Park benches)*

*The last four items of Machinery & Equipment totaling \$127,000 were cut*

**Engineering**

*Rug rental totaling \$624 was deleted*

*Office Supplies reduced to \$700*

*Technical & Training reduced to \$570*

**Fleet Maintenance**

*Technical & Training reduced to \$700*

Discussion ensued on the new vehicles placed in the proposed budget. Staff is researching leasing rather than purchasing the vehicles and will have definitive information at the next budget meeting.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Lowe informed Council of the additional cuts to his budget as follows:

*Printing and Building reduced by \$500*

*Consumable Supplies reduced by \$1,000*

*Duty Gear reduced by \$4,000*

*Uniform Cleaning reduced by \$2,500*

*Technical & Training reduced by \$1,000*

*Office Equipment for Accreditation reduced to \$0 (deleted \$600)*

*Other Accreditation Changes reduced to \$0 (deleted \$2,000)*

Mayor Bustle discussed the total dollars that have been cut from the budget. If Council desires to keep the millage at 4.1645 and additional \$1 million remains to be deleted. He stated that in his opinion the only way to reach that goal is to cut employee positions and services.

Mayor Bustle discussed salaries presenting Council with a graduated pay raise alternative. General employees earning less than \$25,000 would receive a 5.5% increase; \$25,000 to \$45,000 a 5% increase and above \$45,000 a 4.5% increase. The plan would save \$48,000 over the proposed 5.5% increase across the board. The Police Department would reflect the same graduated pay raises, but the sworn officers would also receive a \$5,000 increase, Corporals \$4,000, Sergeants \$3,000 and Lieutenants, Captain and Chief \$2,000 for a cost savings of \$31,000 over the proposed 5.5% increase across the board. Staff was requested to bring a salary plan based on the lowest CPI and a plan using the tiered formula at a ceiling of 3%.

Bill Hawthorne, CPA Associates, discussed the pay raise alternatives, stating that if the 5.5% increase is given, the gap between the top and bottom paid employees will continue to grow. Mr. Hawthorne also discussed such drastic cuts this year possibly compounding the problem next year.

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**Council challenged the department heads to bring back a "balanced budget" using the 4.1645 millage. Staff was encouraged to make every effort to delete any items not necessary. A budget workshop was scheduled September 12, 2002.**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.**

**Minutes approved:   October 7, 2002**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen A. Conlon". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

**Karen A. Conlon  
City Clerk**