

Palmetto City Council  
November 25, 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  
Chief Garry Lowe, Palmetto Police Department  
Mike Hickey, Public Works Director  
Allen Tusing, Public Works Superintendent  
Tanya Lukowiak, CRA Executive Director  
Deanna Roberts, Administrative Assistant

Mayor Bustle called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Roger Titus, Building Official for the City of Palmetto, gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Clyde Boltz and several residents of the Palms of Terra Ceia Bay Community Development District arrived for a presentation to Council. This was not on the agenda but Shirley Bryant asked that ten minutes be reserved for Mr. Boltz. After his presentation, the agenda was approved as printed.

MOTION: Ms. Bryant moved, Ms. Lancaster seconded and motion carried 5-0 to approve the November 25, 2002 agenda with the addition of the presentation by Clyde Boltz.

2. PRESENTATION BY CLYDE BOLTZ OF TERRA CEIA BAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT – (OFFICIAL HANDOUT ATTACHED)

Mr. Boltz told Council that the members of the Board of Supervisors of the Palms of Terra Ceia Bay Community Development District have been meeting with the City since 1999 to get reclaimed water as soon as possible. In those three years they have not been able to get a commitment from the City and in some cases the City does not reply to correspondence. This has caused a lack of trust in the City. He maintained that Terra Ceia provides in excess of 10% of the tax income of the City and in addition do most of their own maintenance leaving them to ask what they get from the City. They would like the City to ... "aggressively design and install a water distribution system at the earliest possible date." Ms. Bryant said the presentation was timely as the Council was beginning to discuss the Enterprise Funds. She said City staff will be in touch if Terra Ceia is willing to meet with them. Mayor Bustle said reuse funds will expedite the reuse system. Mr. Williams commended Terra Ceia on a good show of support and said staff will meet with them. He said taxes pay for more than just your area. We all drive on city streets and use other services the City provides and the City is following a plan, not avoiding Terra Ceia.

### 3. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION CRA/HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PROJECT

Tanya Lukowiak, CRA Executive Director, said that a selection committee reviewed six proposals for this project and using appearance and affordability among other criteria, selected Habitat for Humanity. Habitat will close on the property when Clarence Love, the owner, is ready.

Susie Walters and Gary Taylor of Habitat presented the Habitat for Humanity, Palmetto CRA Project Conceptual Site Plan. Forty, three and four bedroom homes are projected for this development to serve low income families. Habitat plans to build 10 homes per year for four years. Families are chosen on need and ability to repay the loan. Homeowners must work four hundred hours and attend 14 hours of nurturing classes. Habitat holds the mortgage.

Ms. Lancaster wanted to know if the displaced families from Colonial Oaks could qualify. If not, the City will have those displaced families plus new families coming in adding to the population density of that area. Some of those families are working two jobs and could not donate the required 400 hours "sweat equity" into the homes. It would be difficult for them to meet the "special" criteria. She also thought there would be a playground but this is not shown in the plan. Habitat said it would be willing to dedicate some lots in order to do a playground. Or, an adjacent property to the west of 1.7 acres may be purchased to provide a playground.

Ms. Cornwell asked about curbing. Habitat will work with the City and do curbs if that's what the City wants.

Mr. Grace expressed a concern in helping the families relocate. He called Catholic Charities and Goodwill to help with relocation. Some of the residents have documentation problems.

Ms. Lukowiak said the last month will be free to help residents make the first month deposit somewhere else.

### 4. DISCUSSION – ENTERPRISE FUNDS

Karen Conlon said uniforms are in the budget. Mrs. Lancaster commented that office workers do not need uniforms and taxpayers shouldn't have to pay for them. Ms. Conlon said the City will purchase shirts (polo style) only.

The City will look into having the tax collectors office run checks for the City. The City receives approximately 3100 checks per month. The cost to the City would be \$2,900 per year. Tamara Cornwell asked what the benefit was and Ms. Conlon said it would be speed, accuracy, provide a picture of the check and a daily electronic deposit, plus it would free up staff for other duties.

The City will look into payments made on line, with customers paying a fee for the service.

Brian Williams asked for much more detail in the line items: under "travel" for instance, the name of each seminar should be listed. Bill Hawthorne said next year's booklet will have much more narrative. Mr. Williams said he had a lot more questions but he will get with Public Works and City Hall for explanations.

The Mayor suggested for travel, to look at the history and show a separate entry for each person and each seminar. Define all as there are no contingency funds to pull from.

Tamara Cornwell said given the City's budgetary concerns, travel expenses should be cut anyway possible, such as selecting local seminars to avoid hotels, airfare etc.

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The Mayor emphasized the importance of approving the operating budget so the routine business of the City can go on.

Brian Williams asked about funding reuse. The Mayor said that falls under capital improvements and those discussions would come later.

Karen Conlon said the vote on the operating expenses will be on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### 5. DISCUSSION – SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Chief Lowe reported that he is looking into grants for the School Resource Officer position and will report back. The Mayor asked him to coordinate with Tanya Lukowiak.

Tamara Cornwell said she hopes we continue funding for Palmetto Elementary and Manatee School for the Arts as they need an SRO. This issue needs to be put on the suspense log for April to plan for next year. The City's budget year is not the same as the schools.

The Mayor asked for direction as to whether he should sign the Interlocal Agreement with the School Board for the SRO. Should the City pay or pull the officer at Palmetto Elementary? He will be meeting with Dr. Jones of Manatee School for the Arts soon to discuss the SRO at that school.

Shirley Bryant is in favor of continuing our commitment as we have begun, except for Manatee School for the Arts. We shouldn't waffle mid-stream as the schools are relying on us now.

Brian Williams also stated this should be put on an agenda early for the coming year.

Mary Lancaster was in favor of keeping Palmetto Elementary and Manatee School for the Arts as we are talking about protecting our children.

A vote will be taken after the Mayor meets with Dr. Jones, Principal, Manatee School for the Arts.

#### 6. DEPARTMENT HEADS' COMMENTS

Chief Lowe  
Nothing to report.

Mike Hickey

CDS Unit, a very specialized piece of equipment, a treatment device, will be installed soon. It was custom made for the Oakridge Project. It allows clean water to go out into Carr Drain. The Oakridge Project is going fine.

Hidden Lake is being leveled out with fill dirt from the Oakridge Project to stop ponding.

A trail is being cleared between Hydrant Park and Hidden Lake Park.

The City of Palmetto Parks Dept. did a good job helping with the Tomato Festival.

The Infiltration and Inflow Program has been expanded. All manholes and clean outs at Snead Island, just inside the city limits, have been inspected. There was a flow meter problem at the lift station. The meter was giving incorrect reading. US Filter will replace the hour meter at that site.

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Shirley Bryant

Geoff Seger and Public Works did a great job of setting up the display for the City for the Tomato Festival.

Regarding property at Tropic Isles (mobile home): Annette Cook said the vehicles have been red tagged. It is being dealt with.

Karen Conlon

No report.

Mayor

Asked if Council would be interested in a tour of the Agricultural Museum followed by a social (punch and cookies); directed Deanna to set it up for 4:00 p.m. on December 30<sup>th</sup>.

He served as a judge in the Tomato Festival Cook-off and tasted lots of good food.

Mary Lancaster

Ms. Lancaster inquired what the rest of Council thought of the Habitat for Humanity presentation. She is of the opinion that the people in Colonial Apartments should have been given first chance to apply for housing there. This wouldn't have changed the density there and would be an incentive back to that community. She still does not understand why the Habitat warehouse was allowed in a residential area. Mr. Williams said council needs to go to the DRC meetings.

Tamara Cornwell

Three people from the City are on one committee at the Florida League of Cities. They need to divide up and serve on different committees.

The Tomato Festival was a great time.

Charlie Grace

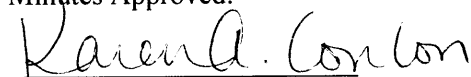
Attended the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Stakeholder's Meeting at the MPO on November 19. The purpose of the meeting is to ensure the efficient use of funding and other resources in the region – state supervision of all MPO plans so that they coordinate with other plans within the region. All meeting materials are in the Council "Read" File.

Attended the Imagine Manatee Roundtable Meeting. The visioning process is to provide public consensus on community goals and policies. There will be 12 public brainstorming sessions to see how citizens want the county to look in 50 years.

Attended the CRA meeting. The CRA board allocated \$1,000 for the Martin Luther King Parade. Seventeen applicants were awarded commercial revitalization grants (store front grants) in the amount of \$89,634.00. Six developers submitted proposals for the revitalization of the Colonial Apartments. The project was awarded to Habitat for Humanity.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Minutes Approved: December 16, 2002



Karen A. Conlon  
Karen A. Conlon  
City Clerk

02/11/02  
02/11/02

**PRESENTATION TO PALMETTO CITY COUNCIL**

**November 25, 2002**

**Palms of Terra Ceia Bay Community Development District.**

Mr. Mayor, Members of City Council, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Subject: RECLAIMED WATER DISTRIBUTION

The members of the Board of Supervisors of the Palms of Terra Ceia Bay Community Development District have been meeting with various members of the public works department together with City Council members since the latter part of 1999. The purpose of these meetings was to obtain a commitment for the installation of reclaimed water into the District at the earliest possible opportunity, thus eliminating the constant waste of irrigating with potable or well water from the aquifer. As a matter of fact we again corresponded with the city on this very issue on September 16, 2002, but we have yet to have the benefit of a response from you. During our various meeting vague promises were received indicating that we would have some type of city support on our reuse water quest within the next three years.

Ladies and Gentlemen the three year period has lapsed and we still have no indication from you as to when the project may get under way, if ever. These incessant delays and no positive response from the city is causing significant mistrust among our people concerning the efficiency and commitment of you, our elected representatives. This distress becomes especially poignant when we regularly witness the dumping of this valuable resource on fields adjacent to our community.

It is our belief that our community is not making an unreasonable request in light of the importance of our special taxing district to the overall budgetary support of the City. We

would point out that the District provides in excess of 10% of the tax income of the City, and we believe that the time has come for the Terra Ceia Community to receive a small consideration for the \$170,000 plus yearly contribution that we add to the city's coffers.

In saying this I should hasten to point out that as a community:

- We maintain our own roads.
- We maintain our own integrated storm water run-off system
- We maintain our own streetlights.
- We undertake our own landscaping
- We maintain the wetlands and a recreational area adjacent to the Terra Ceia Bay
- All without financial assistance from the City.

Concerned citizens then ask themselves what we get for our tax dollars that annually flow to the city. To this one can only respond that:

- We receive police protection – amounting to periodic patrols of the District by a uniformed officer and emergency response.
- We see our tax resources being used for the funding of fines or threats of fines being assessed against the City for dumping reclaimed water into the Terra Ceia Bay.
- We see the balance of our tax dollars going to feed the administrative operation of City Hall for which we perceive to be of little value in return.

A further point of consternation is the recent article that appeared in the Bradenton Herald outlining the financial difficulties of the City and the suggestion that the surplus from the Water and Sewer fund be used for further installations of reclaimed water. Let us consider why there is a surplus in this fund. We have the sense that at least a part of

this surplus is generated from the monthly surcharge for backflow preventers that have never been installed. The absence of these backflow preventers is prohibiting us from using alternative irrigation methods assuming that we could obtain the required permitting from SWFWMD. We would inform you that we do have the well capacity available to us.

The City has represented to us, that in order to provide for the consistent availability of reclaimed water during wet as well as dry periods it is essential that they install an aquifer storage facility. We know from following city proceedings that attractively priced financing is available for this installation, and yet members of City Council continue to oppose such a program maintaining that they do not want to see the city encounter the financial liability involved. We also know that the city generates approximately 1.4 million gallons of reuse water per day. If the city had the ability to sell this valuable resource for fractions of a cent per gallon, elementary arithmetic will tell you the dollars of revenue that could be generated. This would, in our opinion significantly alter the city's deficit problems. It appears to us that you would rather see the valuable asset of potable and reuse water misused or wasted rather than accelerate a viable reuse water distribution system.

Notwithstanding our obvious distress over the cities in action on reuse water issues we believe that it is in the best interest of our community as well as that of the greater Palmetto area to aggressively design and install a viable reuse water distribution system at the earliest possible date. In the furtherance of this objective and at the same time quickly add approximately 360 homes at Terra Ceia to the distribution network we are ready to meet and discuss with representatives of the city a plan to expedite this

installation. The community would, of course, be looking to the City to provide assurances that this resource would be available to them during dry periods in addition to the rainy season.

I thank you for your time and consideration