

**Palmetto City Council
March 12, 2001 4: 00 PM**

Elected Officials Present:

**Pat Whitesel, Mayor
Shirley Groover Bryant, Vice-Mayor
Tamara Cornwell, Council Member
Donna Keefer, Council Member
Mary Lancaster, Council Member
Brian Williams, Council Member**

Staff and other present:

**Karen A. Conlon, City Clerk
Chief Bright, Palmetto Police Department
Mike Hickey, Public Works Department
Mary Jean Forrester, Deputy City Clerk
Margaret Tusing, Planning & Zoning Director
Tonya Lukowiak, Grant Writer
Karen Simpson, Finance Director
Diane Ponder, Administrative Assistant**

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

1. RESOLUTION NO. 01-03

Resolution No. 01-03 was read by title.

**A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE UNDERSIGNED GOVERNMENTS OF
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE PREPARATION OF AN AREA-
WIDE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT BY THE U.S. ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS FOR THE CENTRAL FLORIDA PHOSPHATE
INDUSTRY.**

**Mr. Hickey was instructed to determine if/why the Army Corps of Engineers turned
down the initial request. The topic will be placed on the March 19, 2001 agenda.**

Mayor Whitesel recognized candidates Larry Bustle and Charlie Grace.

**Mrs. Lancaster asked Council's indulgence in allowing her to bring forth a topic
before agenda item number three. Council honored her request.**

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2. RESOLUTION NO. 01-04

Resolution No. 01-04 was read by title.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALMETTO, FLORIDA, AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 99-21, WHICH RESOLUTION ADOPTED THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEARS 1999-2000 THROUGH 2003-2004; BY ADDING A RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROJECT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Mrs. Lukowiak informed Council this is an 80/20 matching grant. The city's expense of \$9,500 is exclusively in-kind services. Mrs. Lukowiak also stated that if Council gave a consensus of approval, or actually adopted Resolution No. 01-04 tonight, it could mean the difference in receiving ten points in the grant application.

MOTION: Ms. Cornwell moved, Mrs. Keefer seconded and motion carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 01-04.

Mrs. Lancaster opened the topic of the billboard. Discussion was held on the way Mrs. Keefer obtained the billboard and the fact the billboard has not been approved by the CRA Board. Mrs. Lancaster asked for an explanation how the director and chairperson of the CRA could approve this issue, and if that's all it took to conduct business, why did the city have a CRA Board. Mrs. Lancaster also discussed her perception of when it comes to the CRA doing something to help citizens that are less fortunate, every T has to be crossed, every I dotted, and the fact Council holds things for months and months and months. Ms. Bryant again stated the necessity of developing criteria for the future use of the billboard so it is fair to all businesses in the city that have an interest in using the billboard. Ms. Cornwell also stated clarification was needed on which entity would be in charge of the billboard, with the Mayor suggesting Mrs. Lancaster, as the CRA liaison, strongly recommend to the CRA to turn the billboard over to the city. Mrs. Keefer explained how she approached Ms. Hartman about the use of the billboard.

3. EXPENDITURES OVER \$500

Discussion was held on the 7th Street paving project.

MOTION: Mr. Williams moved, Mrs. Keefer seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the repaving of 7th Street between 8th Avenue and the east edge of Lone Oak driveway not to exceed \$38,628.66.

Mayor Whitesel advised Mrs. Tusing would be leaving the meeting shortly and asked that any items for her response be brought forward.

Mrs. Lancaster advised Mrs. Tusing she would be receiving a call from Lone Oak.

Mr. Williams distributed to Council a copy of the Statement of Purpose and Objectives of the Management Plan for the Estuary Park. He asked that Mrs. Tusing review the topic of the berm that has not yet been completed, and any other items that need to be addressed by the city, and bring the information back to Council.

4. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT

Chief Bright

Officer Gabriel Eckerd has been selected to take charge of the new K-9 unit. Officer Eckerd has agreed to sign the five-year contract, which will should be drafted by the attorney. Mr. Williams suggested that rather than a contract a unilateral commitment may suffice. Chief Bright stated the purchaser of the animal needed a check by March 21, 2001.

MOTION: Ms. Cornwell moved, Mrs. Lancaster seconded and motion carried unanimously to allow the Police Department to use \$5,000 from the Special Law Enforcement 629 Fund for the purchase of the dog.

With the settlement of the speed bump litigation, Chief Bright recommended the installation of speed bumps in Oakridge. Discussion was held on when the speed bumps could be installed given the upcoming projects slated for the area. Mrs. Lancaster stated she was under the impression there was grant money available for the project that was to start in September. The engineering phase of the project will begin in September. Discussion was held on Council's instructions that funds are not to be spent until grant monies are in hand. Mayor Whitesel advised Council she had received confirmation of the money that was appropriated and the funds from the Basin Board. Mrs. Lukowiak stated a grant agreement had been signed and returned. Mrs. Lancaster asked Mrs. Lukowiak how long it takes before funds will be received, to which she replied it might take four to six weeks. Mrs. Lukowiak further stated one-half of administrative costs written into a grant are available immediately upon the city's execution and the city also has SRF funding available for engineering expenses. Ms. Cornwell stated that given the time line to completion of the project the speed bumps should be installed on a temporary basis. Council concurred that Mr. Hickey should obtain the cost of the project for Council's review. Ms. Bryant stated the total cost, affordability to the city and ability of the city to repay must be determined in order to move forward, even if other projects had to be switched around. Mrs. Lukowiak stated she would provide a spreadsheet containing a time line the engineers have thus far submitted, grant award, copy of the agreement package and total cost of the project as estimated. Mayor Whitesel stated someone from Smith & Gillespie would be at the meeting Monday night and Council should have the information before the meeting. Mrs. Bryant requested that this item be added to March 19, 2001 agenda. Mayor Whitesel asked Mrs. Ponder to send a memo to Smith & Gillespie, since she would be out of town on Tuesday, asking them to be prepared to bring a time line for the

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Oakridge project. Mrs. Bryant asked for the total cost of the project and for the total cost of the Carr Drain project. Discussion was held on cost overruns in the city's projects. Mrs. Lancaster spoke on the need to find funds to complete projects on the east side of 8th Avenue, as the citizens on the east side of 8th Avenue deserve just as much as anybody else in this city. Mr. Williams stated the Oakridge project has been approved, the city is trying to get a handle on total expenses before the project begins. Mr. Williams also spoke of the funds that have been spent in Ward 1.

Chief Bright brought up the subject of the administrative assistant's pay. Mrs. Keefer advised Chief Bright that Mrs. Conlon would be working with the Human Resources Director to define job descriptions. Mrs. Conlon will determine how best to orchestrate the process, which will include meetings with each department head. Mrs. Keefer and Mr. Williams will be copied during this process.

Mike Hickey

Reminded Council of the public meeting at Terra Ceia Golf & Tennis Club. He will bring information back to Council.

Ms. Bryant distributed photographs of the flooding situation on 10th Street at the Palmetto Mobile Home Park. Mr. Hickey will research the problem and report back to Council his findings. Copies of the photographs are attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Whitesel brought up the questions of whether or not members of city boards and candidates are entitled to free agenda packets. Ms. Cornwell stated anyone requesting the packet should receive it free of charge. Mr. Williams spoke of the size of some agenda packets. He also stated full copies of the agendas have always been given to candidates but other individuals should pay for the agenda packet. Ms. Bryant concurred with Mr. Williams. Mrs. Lancaster stated the citizens should receive the agenda packet free. Mrs. Keefer agreed that candidates should receive the agenda packet as a courtesy. Mayor Whitesel stated the final issue was if members of the city's boards should receive a free agenda packet. By consensus vote of three to two, candidates will receive an agenda packet at no cost. Citizens and members of the city's boards will pay \$.15 per page for the entire agenda packet.

Mr. Williams moved, Ms. Bryant seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the March 19, 2001 agenda with additions.

7. INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS

Ms. Cornwell

Asked Mr. Hickey to ensure the silt boxes are being maintained.

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Inquired if each Council Member had received the correspondence from Florida League of Cities on the billboard issue.

Inquired if Mrs. Ponder will continue to attend Council meetings. Mayor Whitesel stated Mrs. Conlon would assume this responsibility at some time in the future.

Inquired if applications have been received for the attorney's position. Interviews will be held Thursday, March 15 with Mark Barnaby and Dave Persson.

Animal Services has been addressing the loose dog issue.

Mrs. Keefer

Commented on citations being issued in a school zone. Complaints have been received from citizens after reading about residents giving out tickets. Chief Bright discussed the Citizen Radar Program that will be implemented, where citizens will report speeding violators and a courtesy letter will be issued from the Police Department.

Thanked Mrs. Conlon for the copy of her memo.

Thanked Mrs. Lukowiak for her hard work.

Mrs. Lancaster

Inquired if the light on 12th Street has been repaired. Mr. Hickey stated he thought it was and had asked that Mrs. Lancaster be advised when the repair was completed.

Asked for a status report from the attorney on the GRIT/Eddie Clark workers' compensation issue. Mrs. Ponder was instructed to contact the attorney in the Mayor's absence.

Inquired if flyers had been distributed concerning the Clean Up event scheduled for March 24th.

Mr. Williams

Advised Chief Bright he had received applause at the Palmetto Mobile Home Park for the school zone patrol. The park also requested a patrol at O Street and the street the high school students use.

The storm drains throughout the city are being cleaned. The silt boxes have been scheduled to be cleaned on a regular basis.

The list of continuing cases as prepared by the attorney was discussed. He suggested leaving this item alone and let the new attorney address the issues.

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Ms. Cornwell asked that MPO be contacted to confirm the March 26th date, which is also the date set for the conflict assessment meeting.

Ms. Bryant

Asked if there were additional individuals on 12th Street Drive with concerns. The problem has been worked out and Mr. Tusing will personally speak to the residents if he is given their names.

Inquired about the contract for the Police Department's automotive repair, which is basically an open-ended contract, along with the Smith & Gillespie contract. Ms. Bryant stated her opinion that open-ended contracts do not fit in good business.

Mrs. Keefer inquired about the attorney's position, which is appointed on an annual basis.

Mayor Whitesel

Officers surveying the lighting in the city are doing an excellent job. Chief Bright stated the survey is to be complete March 19th.

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mike Taylor distributed copies of information on liability insurance on skateparks.


MOTION: Mr. Williams moved, Mrs. Keefer seconded to extend the two-minute limit.

Mr. Taylor spoke on the communities that now have skateparks. Mr. Taylor stated that with the liability issue resolved by legislation, he hoped the community could see what funds could be provided.

Cynthia Fobbs addressed Council on the agenda topic that was discussed by Council. Ms. Fobbs discussed the candidates receiving free agendas and her belief Council had made a political move, which would allow candidates use of the chamber in which to campaign.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

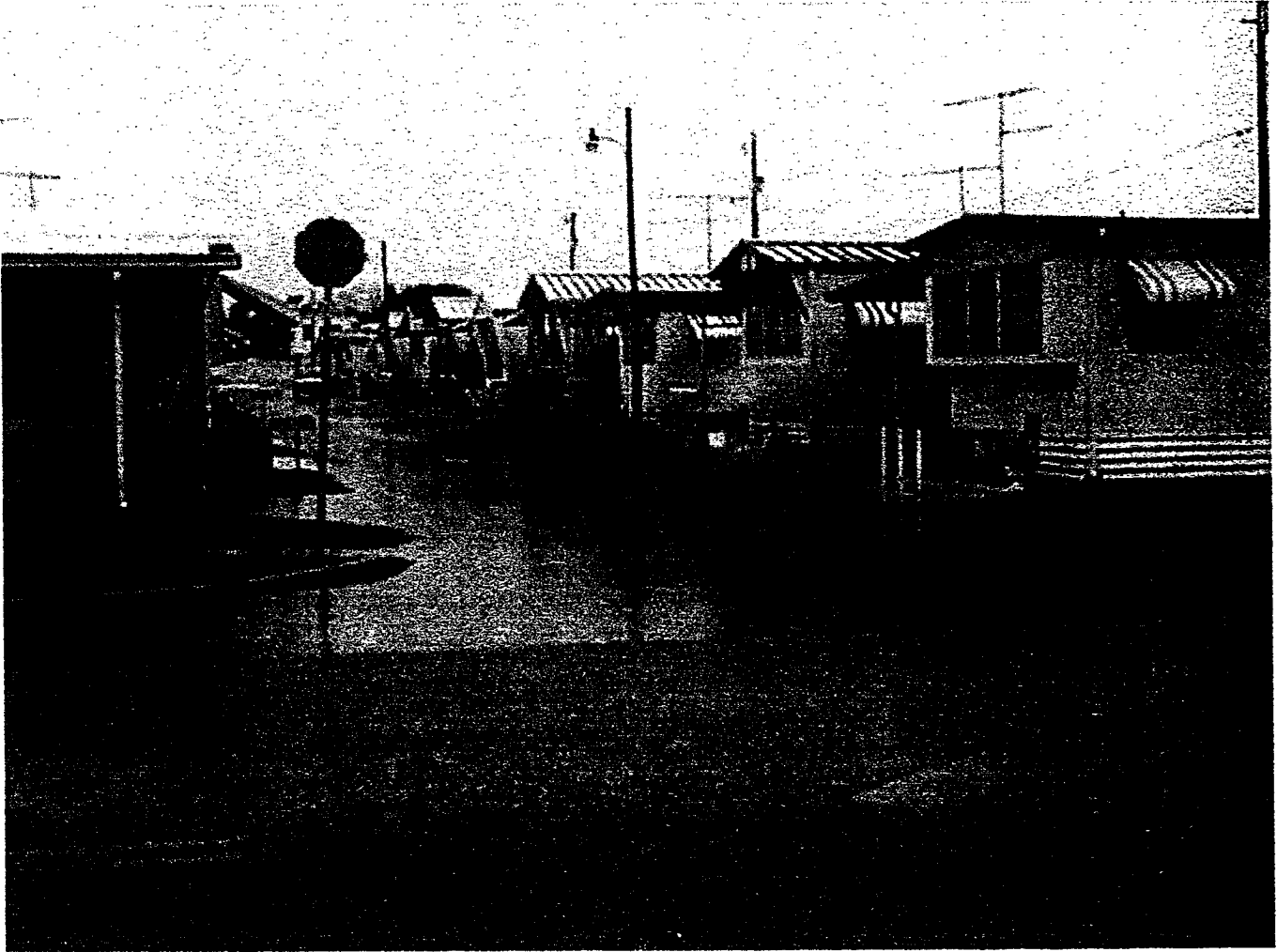
Minutes approved: April 2, 2001


**Karen A. Conlon
City Clerk**

Audio tapes of the meeting are on file in the city clerk's office.

rec'd 3/12/01, City C., S. Bryant

ATTACHMENT A5 TO MARCH 12, 2001 MINUTES - PALMETTO CITY COUNCIL



location: PMHP

photographer: Shirley Bryant, date: Sat. 3/3/01

rec'd 3/12/01, City C., S. Bryant

ATTACHMENT A4 TO MARCH 12, 2001 MINUTES - PALMETTO CITY COUNCIL



Location: looking E to KFC. Photographer: Shirley Bryant. Date: Sat. 3/3/01

rec'd 3/12/01. City C., S. Bryant

ATTACHMENT A3 TO MARCH 12, 2001 MINUTES - PALMETTO CITY COUNCIL



location: PMHP on 10th Ave

photographer: Shirley Bryant. date: Sat. 3/3/01

rec'd 3/12/01, City C., S. Bryant

ATTACHMENT A2 TO MARCH 12, 2001 MINUTES - PALMETTO CITY COUNCIL

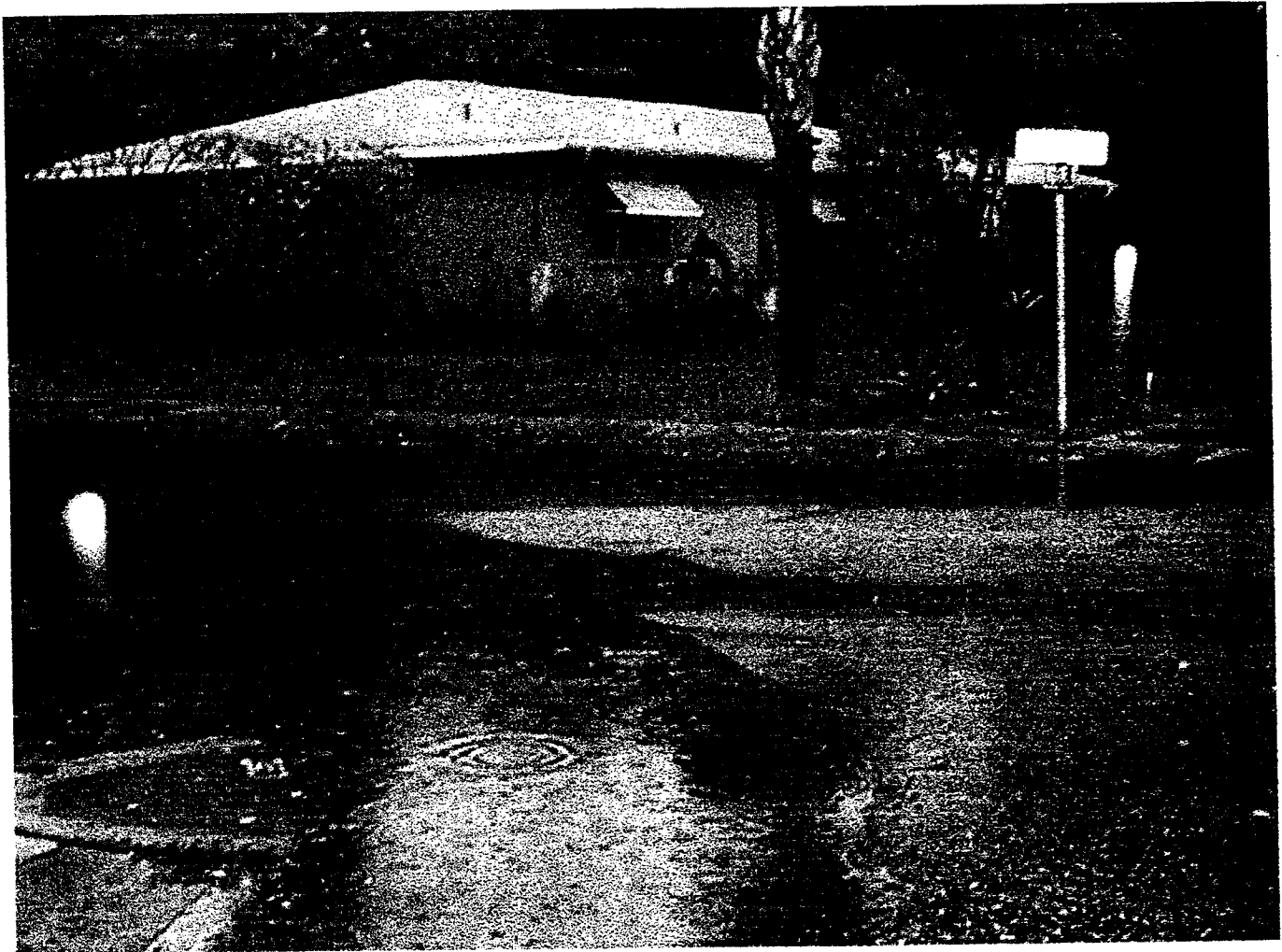


location: PMHP

photographer: Shirley Bryant. date: Sat, 3/3/01

rec'd 3/12/01, City C., S. Bryant

ATTACHMENT A1 TO MARCH 12, 2001 MINUTES - PALMETTO CITY COUNCIL



location: view N.W. 10th Av. 13th St. photographer: Shirley Bryant. date: Sat 3/3/01