

**Palmetto City Council
April 9, 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 others 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 and 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.

Mayor Whitesel announced an Employee Appreciation Day would be held May 23, 2001 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Celebration Center.

1. SMITH & GILLESPIE ENGINEERS

Jeff Siewert discussed the plantings as related to the 10th Street and 10th Avenue project. Steps are being taken to evaluate an alternate location that will be acceptable to SWFWMD. Mr. Siewert stated the city would not incur any costs associated with the relocation of this project.

Mr. Siewert discussed a chronological event summary of the Master Life Station as related to the DeLesline suit and settlement. Interactive discussion between Council and Mr. Siewert was held on this topic.

Mayor Whitesel announced a joint City Council and Planning and Zoning Board meeting would be held at 5:30 p.m. Mayor Whitesel recessed the City Council meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Mayor Whitesel called the joint City Council and Planning and Zoning Board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

In addition to the elected officials, Planning and Zoning Board members Lynn Toombs, Duane Bustle, Buddy Keen, Alan Zirkelbach, Charlie Ugarte and Planning and Zoning Director Margaret Tusing were in attendance.

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Mrs. Tusing explained the city's sign ordinance is outdated. The proposed ordinance will be similar in content to the ordinance adopted by Manatee County and will address signage based on linear feet of road frontage, building or lot. Review of a portion of the proposed ordinance was held. A meeting was scheduled for April 30, 2001 at 5 p.m. between City Council and the Planning and Zoning Board to continue the review of the proposed sign ordinance.

Mayor Whitesel adjourned the joint City Council and Planning and Zoning Board meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Mayor Whitesel reconvened the City Council meeting at 7:15 p.m.

2. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Karen Conlon, City Clerk

The 17th Street widening project has been rescheduled to be presented to the Manatee County Board of Commissioners May 1, 2001.

The information requested on the SRF Loan funding information and DeLesline attorney expense was distributed to Council before the meeting. These items will be added to the April 16, 2001 meeting agenda.

Discussed the response to the CPA's Management Letter.

The Over \$500 Purchasing Policy is being researched. Also being scrutinized are similar purchases under \$500 that are being purchased separately. This information will be ready for Council's review next week.

Chief Bright

Distributed the Over \$500 Expenditure Report that will be reviewed April 16, 2001.

Vacation begins April 16, 2001 after the Council meeting. Date of return is May 7, 2001. Captain Garry Lowe will direct the Police Department during this time frame.

3. INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

Mrs. Keefer

Commented on the wedding held at the fair grounds. As a member of the Fair Board, Ms. Bryant stated she visited the function and advised them they would be cited if the noise was too loud. She also stated the Fair Board would be looking at restrictions for events held at the fair grounds. Ms. Bryant further advised there is an arena meeting scheduled April 19, 2001 and would like a representative from the Police Department to be in attendance.

Ms. Cornwell

It has been requested the public boat ramp be closed July 4th for the fireworks display. Suggested the city needs to actively seek an additional board ramp location.

Mrs. Lancaster

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Inquired if potholes in the neighborhoods off 17th Street would be repaired. Mr. Hickey has developed and distributed a pothole repair program.

Thanked Mrs. Conlon for the copy of the auditor's Management Letter and her response. Mrs. Conlon advised Council a six-month review would begin in the near future, after which the auditor will report to Council on the findings.

Mr. Williams

Advised Mr. Hickey the signage at the Texaco station on 16th Street has not been repaired.

Requested Mrs. Conlon to become familiar with the city's policy on vacation, sick and comp time.

Inquired of the time frame on the city attorney position.

Mr. Williams moved, Ms. Bryant seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the April 16, 2001 agenda with additions.

Ms. Bryant

Informed Council she has received a phone call expressing the concerns of residents in the Hidden Lakes vicinity about the proximity of water to where children play. Mr. Hickey will review the matter and report back to Council.

Inquired of Mr. Siewert if he was prepared to discuss the other projects of the city. She also stated that invoices of October, November, December 2000 and January 2001 from Smith & Gillespie had been left out of the discussion and asked that he be prepared to address these topics at the April 16, 2001 meeting.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Elvin Phillips, attorney for John DeLesline, commented on the DeLesline suit.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes approved: May 7, 2001



Karen A. Conlon
City Clerk

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