

**Palmetto City Council
Administrative Meeting
April 13, 2000 4: 00 PM**

Elected Officials Present:

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

Staff and other present:

**David Meng, City Clerk
Don Patterson, Interim Public Works Director/PSG
Mary Jean Forrester, Deputy City Clerk
Ken Bright, Chief of Police
Diane Ponder, Administrative Assistant**

1. NANCY ENGLE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL – CORE BASED STATISTICAL AREA (CBSA) DESIGNATION

Nancy Engle, Executive Director of the Economic Development Council, presented a brief overview of the proposed Core Based Statistical Area. Ms. Engel explained the Office of Budget and Management created a federal committee which issued recommendations in October, 1999, to change Metro Statistical Areas into Core Based Statistical Areas. A CBSA can combine areas as determined by a number of factors; census counts and commuting patterns, two of which will help determine “combined areas”.

The biggest concern of the new rating will be if combined areas are used, which will change the “Sarasota/Bradenton” classification to “Sarasota/Port Charlotte”, thereby eliminating Bradenton from the title.

It is expected the committee will issue new recommendations in the near future. At that time a time frame will open for submission of comments regarding the new ruling. Ms. Engle apprised City Council she would advise the results of new ruling as soon as she received them and suggested the City of Palmetto compile and submit its comments as soon as possible

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2. PRESENTATION OF FISCAL YEAR 1999 AUDIT REPORT

Jerry Handley of Purvis, Gray and Company, the City's independent auditors, reviewed highlights of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Mr. Handley informed Council the report received an unqualified report, which is the best rating a financial statement can receive from a CPA firm.

Mr. Handley stated that overall the report is positive. He pointed out one very important area of concern - an operating loss of \$1.3 million in the Enterprise Funds. He expressed concern about the increase in reimbursement to the General Fund from 1998 to 1999, and whether the amounts of reimbursements are justified. He advised over the next two or three years the City is going to have to analyze water and sewer rates. He also suggested reviewing the re-use water program and how the City will finance it.

Mr. Handley complimented Mr. Meng, Finance Director.

3. PALMETTO BRANCH LIBRARY LEASE

Council discussed the Palmetto Branch Library and the immediate need for a lease agreement with Manatee County vs. deeding the building over to the county until such time it is no longer used as a library facility.

Mayor Whitesel entered the meeting at 4:50 PM.

It was the consensus of Council that the City leases the library to Manatee County for a period of 20 years. The City's attorney is to be instructed to move forward with the preparation of the lease for presentation at the April 27, 2000, City Council meeting.

Mr. Meng suggested the rental of \$1 per year be payable in a lump-sum payment in advance.

4. HABEN BOULEVARD TRAFFIC REPORT

Don Patterson reviewed the proposed revision to Haben Boulevard. If constructed as presented, the cost of the improvements would amount to \$35,000.

Bjorn Svenson, representative of Riviera Dunes introduced himself. He expressed concern the \$35,000 figure was exorbitant and would like the opportunity to see if it

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4. HABEN BOULEVARD TRAFFIC REPORT (continued)

could be done in a more cost-effective manner. He expressed his opinion that a three way traffic stop would be sufficient until such time the project is completed.

After giving Riviera Dunes time to review the proposal, the project will be placed on a future agenda for further discussion.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Whitesel apprised City Council of the P2000 Grant, which will enable the City to purchase an additional 11 acres contiguous to the estuary at a net cost of \$500,000. Under the grant, funds may be available to help in the purchase.

Ms. Bryant asked about the need of an appraisal. Mr. Williams asked about the costs associated with any environmental problems that are discovered on the parcel. The answers to these questions concerning the project will be brought back for discussion April 17, 2000.

The Mayor apprised Council the funding for the Oakridge storm water projects has been denied by the Appropriations Committee. Mayor has been successful in getting these projects back on the floor for review by the budget committees and reports they will be voted on in the next few days. She also reported she will be meeting with SWFWMD April 19, 2000 concerning this funding, and asked council members to accompany her to this meeting.

The date of the Volunteers' Recognition Dinner will be May 5, 2000. Staff was instructed to reserve the building.

6. INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS

Ms. Bryant:

Ms. Bryant reported the difficulty in her making all the CRA meetings and asked to be removed as the liaison. Since Mr. Williams attends the meetings he will report back to Council.

Ms. Bryant asked Mr. Meng if the problem with cable hook-up had been resolved. He reported Time Warner could not service the location at this time but was upgrading equipment and when complete would be able to service the location.

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6. INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS (continued)

Ms. Bryant inquired into the odor problem recently experienced at the wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Patterson explained the problem has been taken care of. He also advised Council of equipment scheduled for delivery for the first week of May that should eliminate this type of problem in the future.

Ms. Cornwell:

Ms. Cornwell reported of an incident that occurred on 16th Ave. She suggested the lighting in the vicinity be checked and corrected if needed.

Ms. Cornwell suggested in light of the Police Department's recent vote to go with union, she felt it advisable to meet with them to understand some of the issues they may have.

Ms. Cornwell suggested putting a soda and snack machine in Carnegie Library. The Historical Commission will meet the first of May and will be apprised of this recommendation.

Mrs. Keefer:

Mrs. Keefer asked that her sister be removed from the Personnel Board and appoint David Persson.

Mrs. Keefer asked Mr. Patterson the status of the rain gear. He will report back. She inquired about the 7th St. paving project and Mr. Patterson reported it should be completed very quickly.

Mrs. Keefer asked that before starting the budgeting process the status of department head appointments needed to be finalized. Mayor Whitesel instructed staff to advise Ms. Jones, director of human resources, to distribute evaluation forms on department heads to council members as quickly as possible.

Mrs. Keefer requested Mayor Whitesel to clarify a check register payment to Linda Stearns. The Mayor explained the expenditure was for research, writing proclamations and speech writing. There was considerable discussion on the topic, with several council members voicing disapproval of utilizing outside speech writers.

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6. INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS (continued)

Mrs. Lancaster:

Mrs. Lancaster advised Mr. Patterson the railroad crossing on 10th St. needed work. Mr. Patterson reported he would continue to pursue the repair with appropriate authorities since the site is on a state road.

Mrs. Lancaster reported on the trip to Tallahassee where she accompanied the Mayor. She advised Council of the \$750,000 Neighborhood Revitalization Grant due on May 31, 2000. It was the consensus of Council Smith and Gillespie should be contacted and instructed to write and lobby this grant.

Mrs. Lancaster reported on recurring problems in the vicinity of Groover's Supermarket. It was the consensus of Council that a letter regarding the open container ordinance coming before the county commissioners is passed posthaste.

MOTION: Mr. Williams moved, Ms. Bryant seconded and motion carried unanimously to instruct staff to prepare a letter to the county commissioners concerning the open container ordinance.

Mr. Williams:

Mr. Williams commented about the flooding at 8th and 8th and the fact Jeff Siewert had contacted the school board about participating in correcting the problem and advised Council the school board has declined. It is his opinion we need to move forward with the E2 program at a cost of \$467,000. Mr. Siewert will contact the state to look for participation in the project since they contributed to the problem.

Mr. Williams reported on his meeting with Mr. Stephens regarding the stop light at 7th St. and US 41. at US 301. FDOT hired an independent consultant to study the site. Hopefully he will have proposed plans to present Monday night, even though it will be some time before we move forward with this project.

Mr. Williams thanked department heads on their improved communication with Council.

Mr. Williams reported the issue of the weigh station has once again been brought up. He reported Ms. Hartman has contacted South Trust Bank about donating a

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6. INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS (continued)

Mr. Williams (continued)

piece of land for relocating the scales and landscaping that will be done to visibly isolate the scales. Mr. Williams suggested CRA move forward in contacting parties involved in relocating the weigh scales. Council discussed concerns they have about this project.

Mr. Williams asked to be relieved of his responsibility of attending the MPO meetings. Ms. Cornwell will continue as his substitute until his appointment can be filled.

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mike Taylor with the Skate Park Task Force spoke on headway that has been made in realizing the park at Blackstone Park. Mr. Taylor requested Public Works to help in the design and engineering of the Skate Park. Staff was instructed to determine the cost of the City's involvement in the project and report back to Council.

The meeting ended at 6:45 PM

Approved: May 1, 2000



City Clerk

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