

**Palmetto City Council
Administrative Meeting
June 1, 2000 4: 30 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:

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

1. APRIL BUDGET REPORT

The April budget report was accepted as presented.

2. PALMETTO POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF BRIGHT

Chief Bright reported the Block Grant Board had met to approve expenditures in the application of the new Block Grant, which is applied for on an annual basis, and which has been awarded to the Palmetto Police Department for the last three years. Chief Bright explained Council had to approve expenditures recommended by the Block Grant Board for the application process. Chief Bright requested Council's approval of the Block Grant expenditures for equipment.

MOTION: Ms. Bryant moved, Ms. Cornwell seconded and motion passed unanimously to approved the Block Grant Board's recommendations.

Chief Bright explained the remaining funds awarded in last year's Block Grant must be spent before September or the funds would no longer be available. Chief Bright presented a sales quotation on a camcorder with night vision totaling \$4,250.

MOTION: Ms. Bryant moved, Ms. Cornwell seconded and motion passed unanimously to approve the expenditure of \$4,250 from the remaining funds awarded from last year's Block Grant for the purchase of a camcorder.

3. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Public Works Department report of expenditures over \$500 was presented for discussion. Mr. Patterson explained to Council the electrical service to Lamb Park is not up to code. Mr. Patterson will determine whether this situation also exists at Sutton Park. The expenditure of \$21,550 was removed from the report.

MOTION: Ms. Bryant moved, Ms. Cornwell seconded and motion passed unanimously to approve the Public Works Department expenditure report over \$500 not to exceed \$10,616.95.

Chief Bright spoke to Council concerning the Police Officers' Pension and advised them Ordinance No. 679 would be on the June 5, 2000 agenda.

Mr. Patterson discussed the updated price of approximately \$58,000 on the paving of 17th St. W. The increase is related to \$5,000 in fuel costs increases and \$12,000 for thermal plastic striping.

MOTION: Ms. Bryant moved, Mrs. Lancaster seconded and motion passed unanimously to move forward with the paving of 17th Street at the increased costs.

Mr. Patterson reported the North River Fire Department has offered its old administrative building at no cost to the City for additional office space. He, Mr. Meng and Mr. Baxter discussed the possibility of moving the building, engineering, planning and code enforcement departments into the building. It was consensus of Council that Mr. Patterson proceed with determining the cost of renovating the building and bring the associated costs back to Council for review.

4. INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS:

Mrs. Lancaster

Mrs. Lancaster reported that Mary Ann Andrews asked that Council give its consensus to move forward with the Front Porch Application, which Council granted. Mr. Williams read into record a letter from City Council to Governor Bush supporting its support of the Front Porch Application

Ms. Bryant

Ms. Bryant asked for copies of Mayor Whitesel's travel vouchers for 1995-1996 and 1996-1997.

Mrs. Keefer

Mrs. Keefer asked about the information supplied to Council concerning severely delinquent utility accounts. A discussion ensued regarding how the City addresses accounts wherein special exceptions must be taken into account. Council instructed Mr. Meng to seek the attorney's opinion regarding utility customers with rental properties governed by a master meter as well as utility customers with special needs. Customer Service Supervisor Whitney Ewing was asked to contact the Public Service Commission to determine how such accounts are handled.

Mrs. Keefer thanked Mr. Meng and Mr. Patterson for their department's organizational chart and requested one from Chief Bright.

Mrs. Keefer commented on the recent joint agencies traffic control on 8th Avenue.

Mrs. Keefer asked about an update from the Business Advisory Committee meeting held June 1. Mayor Whitesel advised Council the report would be on the June 5, 2000 agenda.

Mrs. Keefer thanked Mr. Patterson for the refuse collection schedule.

Mrs. Keefer discussed the drought situation and whether or not Palmetto should develop a very restricted watering schedule. She acknowledged reuse was a different situation.

MOTION: Ms. Keefer moved, Mr. Williams seconded the adoption of the Hillsborough County watering plan. Ms. Bryant, Ms. Cornwell and Mrs. Lancaster voted no. Motion failed.

Mrs. Lancaster

Mrs. Lancaster stated she had received a complaint regarding code enforcement at Colonial Apartments. A discussion on the City's need to aggressively enforce the City's code, and the necessity of Council's supporting the decisions of code enforcement was held. Mr. Meng reported that Code Enforcement would inspect the site the next morning.

Mrs. Lancaster reported that Channel 9 had contacted her regarding the area around Groover's Market.

Mr. Williams

Mr. Williams commented on the E2 contract that had been let at \$619,000 vs. the original estimate of \$318,000. Mr. Williams related his opinion that taxpayer's money had been wasted in this issue by not listening to recommendations from staff. Mr. Patterson stated he did not totally agree with staff's opinions.

Mr. Williams stated he had received numerous contacts regarding the upcoming rezoning issue. He asked staff to contact the attorney for his opinion on any updates relating to the Sunshine Law. A list of questions concerning Council's actions as related to land-use will be compiled and sent to the attorney for his opinion.

Mr. Williams (continued)

Mr. Williams introduced Tony Jones. Mr. Jones, a local artist who works with children, is interested in leasing the Bait Shop on the Green Bridge. Mr. Meng was instructed to determine if the City would have to go out to bid before the location can be leased.

Mr. Williams advised Chief Bright he has received complaints about the parking area at Regatta Point Apartments.

Mr. Williams encouraged Council to hold to the date on the Notice of Appeal that will be on the June 5, 2000 agenda. Council concurred.

Mr. Williams commented on the P2000 Grant and how Ms. Gestner would be paid. Mr. Williams asked that Ms. Gestner be advised that if the grant does not have funds in it for her writing the grant she will not be paid for writing the grant. A discussion was held as to how Ms. Gestner would be paid if the City receives the grant.

Ms. Cornwell

Ms. Cornwell inquired about the fireworks. Mr. Meng stated that unless the governor bans fireworks statewide, the fireworks have been approved by the local fire chief.

Ms. Cornwell asked that Thursday's administrative meeting agenda contain several of the issues on the undone list.

Mr. Cornwell asked about parking on 7th Street. Chief Bright will address the issue.

Ms. Cornwell suggested the City and county need to join forces and address the CSX railroad crossings. Mr. Patterson reported starting in September CSX will be repairing crossings.

Ms. Cornwell asked about pre-discussing union issues with Mr. Malifatano prior to the budgetary process. Chief Bright reported Mr. Malifatano had stated he would be willing to meet with Council, and the meetings could be held in the shade. A date will be brought to Council for approval.

Ms. Cornwell stated her concern about issues being addressed at Thursday meetings that are not on the agenda. In the future, if an agenda is revised after Thursday morning Ms. Cornwell asked the new agendas be delivered. Council concurred.

Mayor Whitesel

Mayor Whitesel reported Mr. Padget wanted to know how the City will pay for a swimming pool.

Mayor Whitesel (continued)

Mayor Whitesel reported she was appointing a committee to study the feasibility of a city manager form a government. She asked Council for names of citizens from their Wards who may be willing to serve on the committee.

Mayor Whitesel advised Council of her use of a City cell phone when she is out of town and how she reimburses the City for her personal calls. Council asked that staff survey the surrounding municipalities to see how they handled city-owned cell phones. Council also asked Mr. Meng to research the available phone plans to ensure the City is participating in the best available plan.

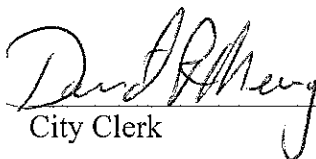
Mayor Whitesel advised Council of the new hotel and business complex that will be constructed on land north of the Civic Center.

5. CITIZEN COMMENT:

Cynthia Fobbs Morton addressed Council about a list of structures slated for demolition that will be presented at the June 5, 2000 meeting. She asked Council to revisit some of the homes slated for demolition, as there are funds available through the Community Revitalization.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM

Approved: June 19, 2000



City Clerk