

**Palmetto City Council  
Administrative Meeting  
November 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:**

**Garry Lowe, Palmetto Police Department  
Mary Jean Forrester, Acting City Clerk  
Mike Hickey, Public Works Director  
Diane Ponder, Administrative Assistant**

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

**1. YEAR 2025 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE –  
MICHAEL W. GUY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Mike Guy, Executive Director of the Manatee/Sarasota MPO addressed Council concerning the Long-Range Transportation Plan Update. He explained the update had to be done every five years. This plan will look at the horizon year 2025.**

**Mr. Guy introduced Bob Longfield for the USR Corp., the consultant who has done the model, explaining he would present the detail information regarding the plan. Mr. Longfield focused on key issues that may affect the City of Palmetto. In addressing the projected growth in Manatee County, the main topic of discussion was additional bridge crossing over the Manatee River and where they may occur. Mr. Longfield discussed possible increased traffic lanes on the DeSoto Bridge, Green Bridge and I75, in addition to the new bridge at the proposed Upper Manatee/Ft. Hamer location. Another suggested crossing was 15<sup>th</sup> St. E. in Bradenton to Canal Road. Mr. Longfield asked for Council's opinion on the expansion of existing bridges and location of existing and proposed river crossings.**

**Discussion was held concerning Palmetto's ability to handle additional traffic, given the expansion of existing crossings and proposed river crossings. Council agreed that double decking of the DeSoto Bridge was not an option the City of Palmetto wishes to pursue. Council concurred that a new bridge crossing was needed and advised the MPO a study on the west side of the Green Bridge should be done.**

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**Council also stated the 301 extension and the Canal Road extension should be studied.**

**Mayor Whitesel inquired about the status of the TOP Grant the City had recently applied for. Mr. Guy stated a special council established by the governor would review the grant application, and at this point no funding has been awarded. He further stated the approval of the high-speed rail might have an impact on the funding of the TOP Grant applications that had been submitted.**

## **2. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT**

### **Capt. Garry Lowe, Palmetto Police Department**

**Capt. Low reported an arrest has been made in connection with recent burglaries, closing 13 cases, and more arrests are pending.**

**The recent robbery of Checkers was performed by an ex-employee who was arrested with ten minutes of the robbery.**

### **Mike Hikey, Public Works Department**

**A meeting with Terra Ceia Golf & Tennis to discuss re-use water has been set for Wednesday, November 15, 2000.**

**A meeting with the City's Engineer and the engineers from Riviera Dunes to discuss the 7<sup>th</sup> Street extension is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, 2000.**

**The staghorn fern donated by Mr. and Mrs. Whittle that hangs in Heritage Park is secured by airplane strapping.**

**Repairs at the Heritage Chapel are completed, with the exception of the ramp railing, which is scheduled for installation the week following Thanksgiving.**

**The draft of the signage for public facilities is being prepared.**

**The paving schedule was discussed. Ms. Cornwell asked for an outline of the scheduled projects. She also suggested Public Works should look at curbs and sidewalks when paving the streets.**

**Ms. Bryant asked about the time frame for the completion of repairs at Celebration Center. Mr. Hikey reported repairs should be completed by the middle of January and stated accommodations have been made for people using the center. Ms. Bryant stated this has placed the Carnegie Library in an awkward position because it had held Sunday mornings open, but was now having to occupy the Library on Sunday mornings for the people who had been using Celebration Center.**

**The 30% plans for the Oakridge Stormwater project have not yet been designed. The engineers are planning on starting this project in fall 2001. Mrs. Lancaster**

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questioned why it would take until fall 2001 to start the project, stating she didn't want to loose the grant money or be put on the back burner. Mr. Williams asked for documentation concerning the amount of the awarded grant funds and stated if we have the funds we should move forward with this project as quickly as possible.

The Regatta Pointe crossover repairs were started this week.

#### **4. NOVEMBER 20, 2000 AGENDA**

The following items were added to the proposed agenda:

- 1) Ordinance prohibiting the slaughtering of animals within the City limits
- 2) SRF Loan Amendment 1
- 3) Budget Resolution concerning Grants Writer salary

**MOTION:** Ms. Bryant moved, Ms. Cornwell seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the November 20, 2000 agenda with modifications.

#### **5. MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Whitesel reported the Grant Coordinator has been hired at a salary of \$32,050. Ms. Bryant expressed concern in procedure, as there has been no benchmark established by Council for successful performance for the first year. She also stated the budget indicates a salary of \$30,930, which Mr. Williams stated Council had established at \$30,000. Ms. Bryant stated that for the future, the range for hiring an individual is what has been budgeted. Ms. Cornwell suggested that the salary be supported by the same mathematical formula the City has paid outside consultants.

The Finance Director position has been filled by Mrs. Simpson, who will start at the bottom of the salary range. Geri Harris has been hired as Purchasing Director at the bottom of the range. We do not have a City Clerk.

#### **6. INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS**

##### **Ms. Bryant**

Ms. Bryant apologized for her phone interrupting the meeting.

A citizen complaint form has been completed for the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 6<sup>th</sup> Street, where the drainage is too high and is damaging tires.

The Historical Commission is seeking a letter of support from the City for a grant it is applying for from the Bishop Foundation. The letter will be prepared for the Mayor's signature.

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**Several letters have been received applying for a spot on the 7 member Historical Board.**

**Mrs. Keefer**

**Mrs. Keefer reported a citizen has lodged a complaint about a very loud party at Still's Motel Friday night. Capt. Lowe is to research the complaint and report back his findings.**

**The agricultural office's vehicle storage on 17<sup>th</sup> Street between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue was discussed. Capt. Lowe will look into the situation and Code Enforcement is to be notified of the situation. Ms. Bryant commented on a call she has received concerning the buses that are parked in the same area. Ms. Cornwell stated she thinks the buses will be moved back to Lincoln Middle after construction, but she will confirm and report back to Council.**

**Mrs. Keefer commented on the construction project near Super Sound, stating the traffic situation is awful. Mayor Whitesel said a commitment has been made the project will be completed by the end of the month.**

**Mrs. Keefer asked if 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue is now passable. Mr. Hikey stated the whole area is slated to be paved by the end of the month.**

**After speaking with several of the Public Works employees, Mrs. Keefer informed Mr. Hikey he was developing a very good reputation.**

**Mrs. Lancaster**

**Palmetto was not designated as a Weed & Seed.**

**Mr. Charles Jackson reports how pleased his is with his house. Ms. Bryant reported there are no SHIP funds available until next year.**

**Mr. Williams**

**Mr. Williams briefed Council on the conversation he had with Carol Marchner concerning CRA's. In addition to the information provided to Council concerning CRA's, Mr. Williams reported there are only a little over 100 CRA's in the state and 10 – 15 of those are county governments sitting as the agency. There are very few, if any, other than our agency, that are independent; the governing body sits as the agency. Advisory Boards for CRA's are used. The municipality approves CRA budgets and CRA employees are paid from municipality funds. In all cases, usually the Council appoints the representative to the Advisory Board. The Redevelopment Agency will send someone to review our program but the City will absorb the cost of housing and meals.**

**The SERVE Program was approved with the CRA, adding an additional \$3,000 into the program. Ms. Cook's memo to Council stated the program is looking for 40**

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homes needing repairs. There is no financial requirement but the home should be owner-occupied. Names should be turned into Ms. Cook or the CRA.

The application to the CRA revitalization program is being reviewed. The CRA attorney is drawing up some of the revitalization program. Ms. Bryant mentioned that the issue of using Mr. Palmer for condemnation proceedings was brought up and a possible conflict of interest. Both attorneys are aware of it and will be communicating.

Mr. Williams questioned why Nextel is not required to have an occupational license. If the attorney says they do not have to have an occupational license, he would like to know why. Ms. Cornwell volunteered to find out this information and also find out if they are required to have a license, if it is retroactive.

Mr. Williams asked for a list of where we distribute the baskets.

Mayor Whitesel stated she found the letters from the parks and will copy them to Council.

The Department Head Meetings minutes prior to October 12, 2000 will be placed in the notebook.

Ms. Cornwell asked if everything was ready for the Tomato Festival.

Ms. Cornwell stated signage should be placed at the Estuary Park prohibiting motors, littering and illegal dumping.

A letter is to be sent to the Fair Board advising them Ms. Cornwell will attend meetings in the Mayor's absence.

#### 7. CITIZEN COMMENT

Cynthia Fobbs advised Council she had been asked to be liaison for the SERVE Program. She also asked why budgeted monies have dropped off the CRA budget.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Minutes approved: December 4, 2000

  
Acting City Clerk

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