

Palmetto City Council
January 26, 2004 4:00 PM

Elected Officials Present:

Larry Bustle, Mayor
Tamara Cornwell, Vice Mayor
Shirley Bryant, Council Member
Charlie Grace, Council Member
Mary Lancaster, Council Member
Brian Williams, Council Member

Staff and others present:

Attorney Alan Prather
J. E. Free, Jr., City Clerk
Chief Garry Lowe
Chris Lukowiak, Public Works Director
Jessica McCann, Planner
Diane Ponder, Administrative Assistant

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

Pastor Lawrence Livingston, Eternity Temple, gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Public Works Director Chris Lukowiak recognized employees of the Sanitation Department for outstanding performance in removing 51.43 tons of residential refuse following the Christmas holiday.

1. APPROVAL OF WORKSHOP AGENDA

MOTION: Ms. Bryant moved, Mrs. Lancaster seconded and motion carried 5-0 to approve the January 26, 2004 4:00 p.m. agenda.

2. DISCUSSION - RIVIERA DUNES' NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGE

Linda Svenson addressed Council concerning the Notice of Proposed Change to the Riviera Dunes DRI that has been submitted to Tampa Bay Regional Planning. The Notice of Proposed Change is requesting the south-bound lane addition on US 41 heading south of Haben Blvd to DeSoto Bridge be eliminated, based on information from the Public Works Department stating the additional lane would remove land from the Estuary Park. It also requests approval to trade retail for residential, increasing density by 62 units to a total of 750 units. If the property had been developed the maximum allowed by city zoning, total density could have been 1700 units. The Notice of Proposed Change is currently at the Department of Community Affairs and is scheduled for consideration at the February 9, 2004, Planning and Zoning Board meeting.

3. DISCUSSION - CITY FUNDING OF AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM'S UTILITIES

Attending the meeting on behalf of the Agricultural Museum was Dan McClure, Nick Baden and Byron Smith. Mr. McClure requested Council fund an additional \$1,000 for the utility bills for the months of February and March. He further suggested Council consider placing \$6,000 in the city's budget on an annual basis for the Museum's utility bills.

MOTION: Ms. Bryant moved, Mr. Williams seconded and motion carried 5-0 to approve the request made by the Agricultural Museum that the City of Palmetto fund additional two months of utilities pending the location of funds.

Mr. Free will advise the Agricultural Museum and Mr. McClure the information the city should be provided in for the city's next year's budget. Mr. McClure invited the Mayor and Council to tour the Museum.

4. DISCUSSION - TUITION REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

Sharon Jones announced the members of the Tuition Reimbursement Committee, stating how the Committee had developed the policy under consideration. The Committee recommended placing \$10,000 in a non-departmental fund for funding the policy vs. the current \$7,500 in the budget. The Committee requested Council adopt the policy effective January 4, 2004.

Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Lukowiak discussed the proposed policy with Council, which resulted in the following changes:

- Up to \$10,000 will be set aside in a non-departmental account for reimbursement expenses.
- Applications will be date stamped and may be accepted by the Department Head.
- Reimbursement will be limited to one course per session, three courses per calendar year, per person.
- Only classes that are directly related to a job within the city will be reimbursed.
- "Time Will Be Prorated" in the Employee Acknowledgement portion of the Educational Reimbursement Form will be deleted.

Attorney Prather opined there is an enforcement mechanism that can be developed regarding the employee leaving the city of their own accord within two years of reimbursement of a class.

A revised policy and the enforcement mechanism will be brought back to Council for further review. The Tuition Reimbursement Policy will be adopted by resolution.

Edenfield Property

Council concurred with Mayor Bustle's request that Tanya Lukowiak be allowed to update Council regarding the Edenfield property. Mrs. Lukowiak advised Council CRA paid Zoller, Najjar & Shroyer for an engineering firm specializing in brown field and environmental properties to perform a thorough review of the city's files and correspondence with DEP regarding the Edenfield property. Mrs. Lukowiak and Public Works Director Chris Lukowiak are now prepared to negotiate with DEP to determine what they want done with the property to protect the health and safety of the neighborhood. The second part of the equation is for it to go out for bids to accomplish whatever is negotiated with DEP. The property is included in the RFP currently out seeking a Master Plan for the waterfront property.

Sales Tax

Mayor Bustle informed Council he had solicited the attorney's guidance in what the Council and he can do to advocate the one-half cent sales tax. Attorney Prather has advised that as long as no city funds are spent without a definite public purpose there is no restriction on advocating for the sales tax issue. Mr. Nick Baden spoke to Council, explaining how the sales tax revenue, if approved, will be divided among the county and municipalities: 22% to the cities and 78% to the county, of which 50% will go toward the purchase of conservation lands once the lands have been approved by the Environmental Lands Committee. The balance of the county's share is pledged to the active parks, greenway trails, blueways with a small portion for sidewalks. Mr. Baden stated fund raising is now in process to print educational brochures on the issue. Mr. Baden also informed Council the county has pledged to drop the one-quarter mill that is presently paying for property like the Estuary if the sales tax is approved.

5. CARNEGIE LIBRARY

One proposal of \$19,860 has been received on replacing the Carnegie Library roof. The city has \$7,000 in the current budget which may be increased to \$10,000. Mayor Bustle has spoken to several County Commissioners about the county contributing the other \$10,000, which looks promising. Geoff Seger was advised Mrs. Hazel Smith left \$10,000 to the Palmetto Historical Society. Ms. Bryant suggested approving the repair pending location of the second part of the funding. Ms. Cornwell suggested the historic forum February 12, 2004, contains a grant writing session. Mr. Williams suggested that if the Historical Commission is willing to expend \$10,000 at this time, the city will place the \$10,000 in its next year's budget for reimbursement to the Palmetto Historic Commission.

Mr. Lukowiak and Mr. Seger will attempt to meet with the Palmetto Historical Commission regarding the roof repair. Staff will attend the historic forum.

MOTION: Mr. Williams moved, Ms. Bryant seconded and motion carried 5-0 to move forward in replacing the roof and expend up to \$10,000 for replacing the roof at Carnegie Library.

MOTION: Ms. Bryant moved, Mrs. Lancaster seconded and motion carried 5-0 to approve a conditional award of the contract to Manson Roofing, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$19,860 upon confirmation of all funding

6. DISCUSSION - WATER RATE INCREASE

Mr. Free advised Council Manatee County has raised the cost of acquiring water rates by approximately 20%. The raise results in an approximate 7.5% increase in the overall cost to provide water to city utility customers. The current base rate for 3,000 gallons will increase to \$15.55 and for every 1,000 gallons over the 3,000 gallons the cost will increase to \$3.30. The city's utility customers will be notified of the county's increase via the utility bills and will become effective March 1, 2004.

The RFP for the Water, Sewer & Reuse Rate Study is due February 17, 2004.

7. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

February 7, 2004, is the town hall meeting at Tropic Isles Mobile Home Park at 8:00 a.m. Ms. Bryant discussed the code enforcement issue ongoing at the park and her belief the issue needs to be address prior to the meeting; it does not need to be discussed in a public forum. Attorney Prather will have Attorney Michelle Hall prepare a status report for the park's board prior to the meeting.

The other town hall meetings are planned for February 21, 2004, at Palmetto Youth Center. Other possible dates are Saturday, February 28, 2004 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church and Monday, March 22, 2004, 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Saturday times are planned for 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Ms. Bryant informed Council Manatee Community College Workforce is holding a Sunshine Law class at Holmes Beach on February 13, 2004, from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at a cost of \$25. The class is recommended for new board members.

Mr. Williams commented on the potential fence at the cemetery. Ms. Bryant discussed there is a tremendous need for refurbishing and maintenance in the cemetery.

Ms. Cornwell asked Council to consider rescheduling the April 19, 2004 to April 26, 2004.

MOTION: Ms. Cornwell moved, Ms. Bryant seconded and motion carried 5-0 to change the meeting scheduled for April 19, 2004 to the following Monday, April 26, 2004, at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Williams informed Council the JPC reviewed and approved the Thornton annexation.

The contamination at the Police Department will be brought to Council for discussion in February.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Minutes approved: February 16, 2004



J. E. Free, Jr.
City Clerk