

**Palmetto City Council
June 24, 2002 4:00 PM**

Elected Officials Present:

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

Staff and others present:

**Mary Jean Forrester, Deputy City Clerk
Garry Lowe, Chief of Police
Mike Hickey, Public Works Director
Margaret Tusing, Planning & Zoning Administrator
Diane Ponder, Administrative Assistant**

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

Reverend Father William E. Gerhart, St. Philip's Anglican Church, gave the invocation, followed by the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag.

Mayor Bustle introduced Officer LaRowe, Officer Valone and Officer Oyler as new members of the Palmetto Police Department.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Ms. Bryant moved, Mrs. Lancaster seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the June 24, 2002 agenda.

2. DISCUSSION - CHURCH ON THE ROCK

Mr. Hickey reported staff had met with representatives of Zoller, Najjar to discuss a resolution to the drainage problems from Church on the Rock brought to Council's attention by the church's neighbor, Daniel West.

Lynn Najjar presented to Council the conceptual plan prepared by Zoller Najjar regarding drainage for the property owned by Church on the Rock. The proposal reduces the drainage into the pond bordering Mr. West's property via the creation of two additional retention areas interconnecting with a pipe under 14th Avenue to drain into the drainage ditch parallel with the avenue. Currently 12 acres drain into the existing pond. Upon completion of the proposed plan, the existing pond will be returned to its natural condition and only 4 acres will drain into it. Mr. Najjar stated the proposed plan had been developed to the 25-year storm requirements.

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Mr. Najjar also discussed the development surrounding Mr. West's property, which has all been built higher, thereby leaving him vulnerable to flooding if he experiences another rain fall that exceeds the 25-year standard.

Mr. Najjar discussed the engineer's error in not obtaining an easement from Mr. West as part of the permit issued by Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Tom McCullem, director of planning for Zoller, Najjar, stated the city previously approved the master plan for the project, but over time the plan has changed. He also discussed the building permit the company was seeking for a new nursery/school room for the church. Mrs. Tusing discussed the fact the infrastructure for the project has not been completed, therefore no further building permits should be issued by the city.

Brenda Rogers, Agriculture & Natural Resources, expressed concerns regarding diversion of storm water runoff from Church on the Rock across 14th Avenue and onto the property owned by Manatee County and the Manatee River Fair Association. She stated the Extension Service offices frequently experience flooding.

Mayor Bustle instructed staff to arrange a meeting of the DRC to review the amended master plan for Church on the Rock and present their finding at the July 29, 2002 Council meeting. Because Zoller, Najjar is the engineer of record for Church on the Rock as well as the city's engineering firm an independent engineer will be retained to review the church's master plan.

3. SPECIAL FUNCTION PERMIT-EXCEPTION TO CITY NOISE ORDINANCE

MOTION: Ms. Cornwell moved, Ms. Bryant seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Waygood Marine Special Function Permit for the August 9, 2002 groundbreaking ceremony.

Alan Zirkelbach officially notified City Council the fencing on the property for the ceremony would remain in place after the event.

4. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT

Chief Lowe, Palmetto Police Department

Chief Lowe discussed the \$39,000 salary level for the captain's position as not being attractive. Discussion ensued on the amount advertised as the beginning salary. It was suggested this be addressed during budget meetings. It was also suggested the salary could be reviewed in six months. Chief Lowe was asked to prepare a profile on the applicant chosen to fill the position.

Sgt. Chris Gillum tendered his resignation effective July 9, 2002, to take a position with the Sheriff's Department at a higher salary.

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5. MAYOR'S REPORT

According to Commissioner Amy Stein, the effective date of the ACCORD is May 23, 2002.

MPO has granted the city \$280,000 for the light at Hwy 301 and 7th Street. A property owner is donating \$50,000. The city is waiting for information from FDOT on the cost of the light.

6. INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS

Mrs. Lancaster

Discussed a grate that was placed in the sidewalk at 11th St. Dr. and 3rd Avenue. Public Works will look into the situation.

Commented on the phone calls from Alice Kaddatz and the need to resolve the problem in that ward. Mayor Bustle and Mr. Williams explained the steps the city has taken, with Mayor Bustle stating all citizens of the city will be treated the same.

Ms. Bryant

Discussed the \$2,500 line item for the Great Outdoor Conservancy. Ms. Bryant discussed the CRA funds should be used for services. She suggested a policy should be adopted prohibiting donations to 501C3 organizations.

Ms. Cornwell

Suggested that during budget Department Heads should separately consider individuals who have received a pay raise within the last three months.

Informed Public Works water is backing up on 14th Avenue and the drains should be looked at for any needed maintenance.

Suggested aluminum buildings are being placed in inappropriate places. Suggested looking at zoning and permitting and amend the codes if necessary.

Mr. Grace

CRA is planning on buying the Love property. Attorney Chulock has advised CRA that before City Council votes to approve the transaction two appraisals must be obtained.

The Great Outdoor Conservancy is planning a fund raising event at the arena on September 27, 28 and 29, 2002.

CRA has declined spending \$2,500 to teach conversational Spanish to city employees; the city should absorb the cost. Ms. Bryant expressed her hope the CRA would reconsider as the ability to communicate improves community relations.

Weeds and grass are growing in sidewalks and curbs around Albertson's. Suggested calling Albertson's to have their landscaper spray.

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CRA will write the \$53,000 check for Carr Drain when instructed.

Mr. Williams

Commented on the letter from Code Enforcement concerning 810 20th Avenue. Discussion ensued on the infractions at the location and the need to follow-up on the situation. Council asked for follow-up on this topic.

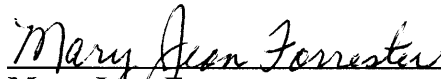
A summary of the liability claims will be provided.

Asked that the attorney contact Council Members concerning the Creel property survey.

Mrs. Lancaster requested the labor camps in the city be looked at and county officials notified if necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Minutes approved: August 5, 2002



**Mary Jean Forrester
Deputy City Clerk**