

Palmetto City Council
November 20, 2000 7: 05 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:

Alan Prather, Attorney
Chief Bright, 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 7:05 p.m.

Pastor Peter Wittier of the Palmetto United Methodist Church gave the invocation followed by the pledge of allegiance to the United States Flag.

The Palmetto Make a Difference Day Committee sponsored an event this year to raise funds for the family of Erin Polson, a young girl who lost her life to leukemia. Mayor Whitesel honored her family and presented her parents with the funds that were raised at the benefit to help defray medical expenses accumulated during their daughter's illness. Chairman of the event Ron Koper, was thanked for the time he spent planning the benefit, as well as the many city employees and donated their time to make the event a success.

1. INVESTIGATION OF TRAFFIC SAFETY AT 3RD STREET DRIVE, WEST AND 4TH STREET WEST

Public Works Director Mike Hickey discussed the process that was used to study this intersection, and advised Council the City had other areas that faced the same problems. Mr. Hickey stated safety grant assistance would be available in 2003, but this project would be rated low, as there has not been accident statistics during the recent year. Mr. Williams asked Chief Bright to research the intersection for accident reports for several years. Mr. Hickey stated a certified right-of-way would cost the City a lot of money, but Pubic Works has determined the right-of-way within a few inches. Mr. Hickey recommended the City take the following action:

- a) **Install an observation triangle as described in the City Ordinance, which includes the trimming of foliage within 30' feet of the intersection to a height of 30 inches.**
- b) **Post No Parking signs on 3rd Street Drive**
- c) **Post a Stop sign for east bound traffic on 4th Street West**
- d) **Take an inventory and address other intersections of the City**

Mrs. Lancaster recommended that when trimming foliage and trees, they should be trimmed to allow street lights to illuminate the area.

Mr. Hickey stated he would coordinate with property owners before any action is taken by Public Works.

Mr. Robert Miller addressed Council about the activities of the City's Board of Adjustments.

2. FINAL PLAT APPROVAL – HABITAT OAKS SUBDIVISION

Mr. Prather stated the document had been reviewed by the attorney and was in keeping with City Codes. He stated the City does not have the Joinder and Dedication document; title work indicates a mortgage by First Family Financial Services, Inc.

MOTION: Mr. Williams moved, Mrs. Lancaster seconded and motion carried unanimously to table the item of the Final Plat Approval of Habitat Oaks Subdivision.

3. 1ST READING & APPROVE FOR ADVERTISING ORDINANCE NO. 701

Mr. Prather discussed the two drafts of the ordinance pertaining to this topic. He suggested that Council review both draft ordinances, looking at the longer ordinance, and set a workshop. It was consensus of Council to place this on the November 27, 2000 agenda.

Jeff Siewert of Smith and Gillespie Engineers updated Council on the City's current projects as follows:

- a) **E2 – 8th Street West: Project is under construction and on schedule. Completion is anticipated in the next couple of months.**
- b) **G3 – Hidden Lakes Subdivision: The contractor has been selected and given a Notice to Proceed. A Letter of Mobilization will be issued November 27, 2000. A SWFWMD Cooperative Funding Grant was used to purchase the land, which will help the City establish a park in the future.**

- c) **Mixing Zone & Biological Study:** This project is ahead of the schedule established by the Consent Order. Both reports have been submitted and DEP now has 60 days to respond. City Engineers feel very comfortable in securing a mixing zone for affluent from the wastewater plant.
- d) **B3 – Oakridge:** Anticipate the preliminary plan will be submitted to the Public Works Department by mid December. The preapplication with SWFWMD is November 21, 2000, where S&G engineers will be discussing the storm sewer and water quality elements of the project. This project has a SWFWMD and Water Advisory Board grant totaling \$583,000.
- e) **ASR Well Study:** This is just getting started. The study and sampling phase to determine the quality of the affluent for the storage is proceeding.

Mr. Siewert discussed the grants that have been awarded to the City. SWFWMD Cooperative Funding Program has awarded \$700,000 on the 10th & 10th. Since this project the City has been on the SWFWMD program for an annual grant receipt.

- a) **G3 –** Have a signed Agreement for Cooperative Funding in file. This grant provided \$73,000 for land acquisition.
- b) **B3 –** Has a similar type of agreement with SWFWMD in the amount of approximately \$280,000. This is being finalized now by SWFWMD and will be ready soon for the Mayor's signature. Similarly, the Water Advisory Board has approved \$308,000. FDEP has requested a change in scope, as this was originally submitted as project E3. The funds from these grants will be available for construction the beginning of the next fiscal year.
- c) **E3 – 14th Ave. W.** Going to be submitting application for cooperative funding December 6, 2000. This will be a water quality project.

Mr. Siewert stated SWFWMD has requested a five-year projection, which reflects the City's facility plan, which will enable the City to continue the cooperative funding relationship and leverage the City's funds in the State Revolving Fund as supported by the storm water utility.

A discussion was held concerning the grants. Mr. Williams asked for a letter from the appropriate authority on the B3 project, stating the amount of awarded grant funds.

4. SRF LOAN – AMENDMENT 1

Ms. Cornwell asked why the City failed to comply with the established schedule under the SRF Loan Program. Mr. Siewert stated the SRF Loan Amendment 1 was

addressing the SRF application for wastewater projects, which was completed in 1997. This amendment is addressing a change in the original agreement because the original schedule wasn't followed. The SRF Loan required a debt service obligation for the wastewater utility, but it has yet to be determined.

This amendment will be an option for this City to keep, in addition to the Florida League of Cities loan program. It is still up to Council to determine if it wants to consider this amendment.

Mr. Prather stated that in his review of the documents it was not indicated which schedule the City failed to meet. He stated the City has had a loss of the preferred interest rate of 3.8 percent under the DEP SRF Loan. If it is the desire of the City to keep this SRF Loan on hold, there is now an extension of the activities the City must meet. The City can adopt this amendment and wait until the funding from the Florida League of Cities is secured. The City could then inform DEP the agreement is terminated, but will be required to pay back the monies that have been borrowed at DEP's currently established interest rate. Mr. Prather suggested the City may never use this program, but if Amendment 1 is not executed and returned to DEP, the City will not have the opportunity to take advantage of the program. Mr. Siewert reminded Council that if they chose to go with the SRF Loan, eventually a schedule to pay back the money must be established.

Mrs. Lancaster asked Mr. Siewert if the Mayor was authorized to sign Amendment 1, if the City would have to establish the debt service at that point in time. Mr. Siewert explained that the City would establish the wastewater facility plan and determine the amount of monies the City will need to complete the projects.

MOTION: Mr. Williams moved, Ms. Cornwell seconded and motion carried unanimously to authorize the Mayor to sign Amendment 1 with SRF.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Minutes: October 30, 2000 Administrative Meeting
 November 6, 2000 Litigation Assessment Meeting
 November 6, 2000 City Council Meeting
- b) Special Function Permit: Family Celebration of Lights
 Southeastern Guide Dogs Car Show

Ms. Cornwell corrected the November 6, 2000 City Council meeting minutes to reflect her no vote on the Final Plat Approval of Peninsula at Riviera Dunes.

MOTION: Ms. Cornwell moved, Mrs. Keefer seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda with the correction to the November 6, 2000 City Council meeting.

6. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT

Chief Bright, Palmetto Police Department

Chief Bright shared the Police Department's new program NEON (Night Eyes on Neighborhoods) that is being implemented as the result of an agreement with the City's landlords. Officer Scott Tyler developed the idea of the program, whereby landlords will be responsible for eviction of tenants after multiple police responses.

Mike Hickey, Public Works Department

Mr. Hickey reported the paving around Palmetto Elementary is complete and the two alleys will soon be finished.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

It was consensus of Council to cancel the Administrative Meeting scheduled for December 25, 2000.

Mayor reported the Palmetto Make a Difference Day event for the Polson family had raised \$5,101.

Tallahassee Mayor Scott Maddox, who is also president of the Florida League of Cities, will be in Palmetto November 29, 2000. A tour of City Hall is scheduled, together with a luncheon with surrounding mayors. Council was asked to attend the luncheon. Ms. Cornwell asked that Mayor Maddox tour Lincoln Middle School.

8. INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS

Ms. Bryant

Ms. Bryant recognized Geoff Seger and the rest of City staff for their efforts in organizing the Tomato Festival, stating it was an excellent event. She commented that there had been complaints that there were no fried green tomatoes and the Chapel was not open. The railing for the Chapel is to be installed Monday after Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Keefer

Mrs. Keefer commended Mr. Seger and staff on their efforts, also stating she felt it had been an excellent event. Mrs. Keefer suggested that Council Members volunteer to handle the fried green tomatoes next year. Ms. Bryant stated the former Tomato Queens may come up with an organization that will do the fried green tomatoes.

Mrs. Keefer shared with Council research she had done through the Florida League of Cities on department head salary structures in cities with populations under 50,000. She feels the City's salary structure is unfair, as the city clerk does not have the same degree of responsibility as the department head of Public Works and the Police Department. Palmetto's city clerk is the fourth highest paid position, while

the directors of public works and the police departments are the lowest paid positions in the survey. She suggested before hiring a city clerk the City should further research this topic. Mrs. Lancaster suggested also comparing employee's salaries. Mr. Williams asked to see revenue factors that went along with the League's survey.

Mrs. Lancaster

Mrs. Lancaster advised the Chief she needed to see cruisers in Ward 1.

Mr. Williams

Mr. Williams informed Mr. Hickey that a solid core door with a lock needs to be installed at the stairs at Carnegie Library before the Celebration of Lights event, so the upstairs of the Library can be secured.

Mr. Williams reported he has had a conversation with Dick Hickey concerning the City's reuse. Mr. Williams is questioning why we have \$300,00 in the fund and have no crew to install the reuse.

Mr. Williams stated he no longer has time on Mondays for MPO.

Mr. Williams asked about the 2000 in 2000 and if the special function permit had been approved.

Mr. Williams inquired why add-ons were added to the agenda after approval.

Ms. Cornwell

Ms. Cornwell inquired about the new 2001 calendars.

Ms. Cornwell thanked Council Member Keefer for the donation of Christmas lights to decorate city hall.

Ms. Cornwell reported on her meeting of the Florida League of Cities Telecommunications Board. Beginning in January, certain verbiage must be included in the City's franchise agreements or we must apply to the State. Mr. Prather advised Council that Mr. Dye is working on this topic.

The City will recognize Curtis Johnson during the Martin Luther King holiday event.

Ms. Cornwell stated she would be unable to attend the meeting with Terra Ceia Golf and Tennis Club on January 9, 2001.

Ms. Cornwell suggested the City research the possibility of having one calendar that contains information for each department that individuals can access.

Mayor Whitesel

Mayor Whitesel related to Council that Olympia Development Co. will donate 700 to 1,000 toys for needy children in the City for a Christmas party on December 16, 2000 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Elementary schools will be notified and flyers will be placed at Oakridge.

Mr. Williams informed Mayor Whitesel Desiree Garcia is interested in being on the CRA Board. Mayor Whitesel asked that she submit a resume.

9. CITIZEN COMMENT

Jane Springrose, manager of the Kids Spot, a rehab facility for children, addressed Council about the lack of unrestricted parking on 10th Avenue.

MOTION: Ms. Bryant moved, Mr. Williams seconded and motion carried unanimously to extend the two-minute limit.

The Kids Spot asked Council to consider the needs of all businesses and agencies at the south end of 10th Avenue.

A discussion was held concerning the parking, resulting in Mr. Hickey being instructed to remove two of the limited parking signs.

Alice Kaddatz discussed the traffic safety issue on 3rd Street Drive. She stated she has building permits issued by the City issued 11 years ago that allowed construction in the right-of-way, and asked what is going to happen if the City enforces the 50-foot right-of-way. Mr. Prather and Mr. Hickey are to meet to discuss this so the topic can be settled with Ms. Kaddatz.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Minutes approved: December 4, 2000


Acting City Clerk

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