

**Palmetto City Council**  
**February 5, 2001 7: 00 PM**

**Elected Officials Present:**

**Shirley Groover Bryant, Vice-Mayor**  
**Tamara Cornwell, Council Member**  
**Donna Keefer, Council Member**  
**Mary Lancaster, Council Member**  
**Brian Williams, Council Member**

**Elected Officials Absent:**

**Pat Whitesel, Mayor**

**Staff and other present:**

**Chief Ken Bright, Palmetto Police Department**  
**Mary Jean Forrester, Acting City Clerk**  
**Allen Tusing, Public Works Supervisor**  
**Diane Ponder, Administrative Assistant**

**Vice Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.**

**Chief Bright gave the invocation followed by the pledge of allegiance to the United States Flag.**

**Vice Mayor Bryant read a proclamation declaring February 8, 2001 through February 10, 2001 as Shriner's Hospital Benefit Days in the City of Palmetto. Accepting the proclamation were representatives from the Shriner's Club.**

**In keeping with past policy, Vice Mayor Bryant introduced mayoral candidate Larry Bustle. Mr. Bustle expressed his commitment to his community and his pleasure in getting to know everyone and working with them during the campaign.**

**1. EXPENDITURES OVER \$500 – PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Mr. Tusing explained that in addition to the expenditure report in the agenda packet there is also an addendum for Council's consideration. Mr. Tusing detailed the Expenditures Over \$500 report as follows:**

- 1) Palmetto Estuary fencing, as required by the P2000 Grant, not to exceed \$13,700**
- 2) Palmetto Estuary trash receptacles, as required by the P2000 Grant, totaling \$1,350**
- 3) Ten 2-yd ; Five 6-yd, Four 8-yd Dumpsters totaling \$7,346.00**
- 4) Five-year term lease purchase of 3-Crane Carrier with 25-yd Loadmaster Bodies totaling \$72,396.00**

Discussion was held on the type of fencing being proposed at the estuary, the placement and the linear foot coverage. Discussion was also held on the particulars of the requested trucks. The expenditure of \$72,396 was budgeted this year and will also be included in the 2201-2001 budget.

**MOTION:** Ms. Cornwell moved, Mr. Williams seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Public Works Department Expenditures Over \$500 not to exceed \$94,792.00.

Mr. Tusing presented the Public Works Department Expenditures Over \$500 Addendum in the amount of \$2,485. The funds will be used to purchase two automated time clocks. Each department will contributed \$225.91 from its operating expense accounts.

**MOTION:** Ms. Cornwell moved, Mrs. Keefer seconded and motion carried 4 to 1 to accept the Florida Time Clock, Inc. Time Calculator Data Terminal not to exceed \$2,485. Mrs. Lancaster voted no.

Mr. Williams requested a list of all the Expenditures Over \$500 requests that had been approve since October.

## 2. CONSENT AGENDA

- a) City Council Minutes January 8, 2001
- b) City Council Minutes January 22, 2001
- c) January Check Register
- d) Dye, Deitrich, Prather, Petruff & St. Paul Billing January Billing through December 31, 2000

**MOTION:** Ms. Cornwell moved, Mrs. Keefer seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda.

## 3. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

### Palmetto Police Department – Chief Bright

Chief Bright distributed copies of the Expenditures Over \$500 that will be included on the February 19, 2001 agenda.

Chief Bright discussed the memo from Geri Harris, Purchasing Department, relating to the Professional Automotive contract that has been in effect since July 21, 1997. Ms. Harris has suggested that an addendum needs to be attached to the existing contract to allow for current prices. Chief Bright stated there has been increases to some of the items in the contract, due to his request for additional work as suggested in schools conducted by Ford, and the machinery Mr. Lee purchased to perform Ford's recommended maintenance. He expressed his satisfaction in how the police cars are

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being maintained. When Vice-Mayor Bryant questioned the term of the contract, Chief Bright replied there was no term. Mr. Williams suggesting that while negotiating the contract the 40% increase on parts needs to be negotiated. Ms. Cornwell suggested Chief Bright contact the attorney to determine if the city is allowed to make an addendum to the existing contract or will the city need to go back out to bid. Vice-Mayor Bryant stated she is never comfortable with a contract when there is no term. Chief Bright was instructed to contact the attorney and bring the information back to Council at the February 19 meeting.

**City Clerk's Office – Mary Jean Forrester**

**Mrs. Forrester clarified Mr. Williams' request for the Expenditures Over \$500 reports.**

**Mrs. Forrester commented on the information provided Council on the Heritage Chapel. Ms. Bryant thought there might be additional lighting expenses that have not been submitted and asked this topic be reviewed February 19, 2001.**

**Public Works Department – Allen Tusing**

**Mr. Tusing advised Council the cost to install Miami curb and gutters vs. swales in the G3 project would cost the city an additional \$28,000. Of that price, \$10,000 is sub-grade work, which is more than anticipated or what the contractor discussed. Mr. Tusing stated that amount may be able to be reduced once the fieldwork is started.**

**MOTION: Mr. Williams moved, Ms. Cornwell seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve Public Works to change the swale design to Miami curb for the G3 drainage project not to exceed \$28,000.**

**4. INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS**

**Ms. Cornwell**

**Requested the questions and their answers from the mobile home park visits be compiled and distributed to Council.**

**Clarified she was requesting at this point that bins be placed at businesses for recycling cans. Suggested Mr. Hickey review how Bradenton conducts its business-recycling program so the city can start a program and move forward.**

**Mrs. Keefer**

**Commenting on the Great Florida Clean Up, she asked about the exact location of where the drop sites would be. The locations will be correctly stated in the public notice.**

**Suggested that when Council is commenting in a frivolous manner the public should be advised so comments are not misinterpreted.**

**Mrs. Lancaster**

**Asked Mr. Tusing when sinkholes on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue toward the packinghouse will be repaired. Mr. Tusing will research the problem and respond to Mrs. Lancaster.**

**Mr. Eurice contacted Mrs. Lancaster about the fence that was taken down by Public Works, destroyed and replaced by a different type of fencing. In October the project will be started and the fence will again be taken down. Mr. Tusing will contact Mr. Eurice about the fence.**

**Mr. Williams**

**Requested if the attorney had sent a memo explaining his absence from the meeting.**

**Florida League of Cities has responded on the US Filter contract, stating they do not offer opinions to municipalities on this type of issue. Discussion was held on obtaining a second opinion from Ron Witt, a local attorney who served as a past Council Member, at a cost of approximately \$500. Mrs. Keefer questioned if the city should seek an opinion from an attorney from another governmental agency. Ms. Cornwell stated an RFP would cost an equal amount, this is outside the scope of services, US Filter has a year's contract and in April 2002 the city should go out to bid and taxpayers money should not be wasted. Mrs. Lancaster suggested our attorney confer with the Florida League of Cities attorney, as per their suggestion. Mrs. Lancaster concurred with Ms. Cornwell about spending additional funds on this topic. Vice-Mayor Bryant stated she would hesitate in moving forward to get another opinion.**

**As Council requested, the amendment to the contract with US Filter has been discussed with Mr. Hickey and Mr. Patterson. Because of the absence of Mayor Whitesel and Mr. Hickey this will be brought back to Council.**

**Ms. Bryant**

**Discussed the required filings by candidates and inquired of any associated costs for this service if handled by the Supervisor of Elections office. Mrs. Forrester advised Council there were no costs involved.**

**MOTION: Vice-Mayor. Bryant moved, Mr. Williams seconded, and motion passed 3 to 2 authorizing Bob Sweat's office to take care of the filings of the city's documents and all required quarterly reports. Mrs. Keefer and Mrs. Lancaster voted no.**

**5. CITIZEN COMMENT**

**Dan Kohler, Debbie Franz, Ed Johnson, Kent McFarland, and John Hubert, had comments on the project at 12<sup>th</sup> Street Drive, West.**

**Mr. Tusing described the construction plan of this project, explaining the road would be four feet wider but two feet on each side will be curbing. Vice Mayor Bryant explained the additional \$28,000 that was earlier approved by Council would be for this area. Mr. Williams described the design of Miami curbing. Mr. Tusing was instructed to determine the additional cost of putting in sidewalks on 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue for Council's review February 19, 2001. Mr. Tusing discussed the wetland that has been re-graded,**

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**the vegetation and muck that has been removed and how reclaimed water will used to complete the wetland. He advised the residents of the stormwater treatment area that will polish the water before it goes into the wetland and the wetland discharge point. Mr. Tusing also stated that before reclaimed could be used, DEP would have to issue additional changes in the wastewater treatment plan discharge permits, which will be brought back to Council at a future point.**

**Mr. Tusing also informed the public the city purchased the wetland and an additional 10 acres - the acreage with the pond and island and the land to 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue. There will be no homes build on that area, as it will become parkland.**

**Letitia Ackles addressed Council, questioning why four homes in an entire neighborhood did not have reclaimed water. Mr. Tusing stated there was one block where lines were not extended. Mr. Tusing explained the logistics the city faced when installing the reuse lines, but the service was in the plans for the future. Ms. Ackles also advised she has had trouble with flooding due to an in-ground hold that is constantly stopped up. Mr. Tusing will look at this complaint.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.**

**Minutes approved: February 19, 2001**

  
**Mary Jean Forrester  
Acting City Clerk**

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