

Palmetto City Council
September 24, 2001 7:00 PM

Elected Officials Present:

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

Staff and others present:

Alan Prather, City Attorney
Karen A. Conlon, City Clerk
Chief Kenny Bright Palmetto Police Department
Mike Hickey Public Works Department
Margaret Tusing, Planning & Zoning Director
Karen Simpson, Finance Director
Diane Ponder, Administrative Assistant

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

1. FINAL MILLAGE AND BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

Attorney Prather advised Council regarding the formal process of adopting the final millage rate and 2001-2002 budget.

Mayor Whitesel opened the public hearing.

Mr. Prather confirmed with the city clerk the tentative millage rate of \$4.1645 adopted at the September 17, 2001 meeting, which exceeds the rolled-back rate by 5.74%.

There was no public comment, nor Council Member comment. Mayor Whitesel closed the public hearing.

Attorney Prather announced the taxing authority as the City of Palmetto. The rolled-back rate is 3.9384; the percentage of increase over the rolled-back rate is 5.74%. The millage rate to be levied is 4.1645 mills.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-17

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALMETTO, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE MILLAGE FOR THE TAX YEAR 2001 AND LEVYING AD VALOREM TAXES ON PROPERTY WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF PALMETTO FOR THE TAX YEAR 2001

Attorney Prather read Resolution No. 01-17 in its entirety.

MOTION: Mrs. Keefer moved, Ms. Bryant seconded and motion carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 01-17.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-18

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALMETTO, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING AND ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001-2002; MAKING APPROPRIATION OF MUNICIPAL FUNDS AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Attorney Prather read Resolution No. 01-18 in its entirety.

MOTION: Mr. Williams moved, Mrs. Keefer seconded and motion carried unanimously to adopt Resolution No. 01-18.

2ND READING & PUBLIC HEARING - ORDINANCE NO. 01-713

Attorney Prather read Ordinance No. 01-713 by title.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALMETTO, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING, ADOPTING AND ENFORCING THE FINAL MILLAGE, BUDGET AND THE RECEIPT AND COLLECTION OF AD VALOREM TAXES ON PROPERTY WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF PALMETTO FOR THE TAX YEAR 2001; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO CERTIFY COMPLIANCE AND THE MILLAGE; AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR OF MANATEE COUNTY TO COLLECT SAID AD VALOREM TAXES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

MOTION: Mrs. Keefer moved, Ms. Bryant seconded and motion carried unanimously to adopt Ordinance No. 01-713.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

- A) Minutes: September 10, 2001 Council
September 10, 2001 Budget Workshop
September 17, 2001 Council
- B) Special Function Permit: Children's Parade & Party in the Park
Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser
- C) Dye, Deitrich, Prather, Petruff & St. Paul, P.L. July and August Billing

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

3. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT

Attorney Alan Prather

Advice Council he had reviewed the CSX Agreement and had drafted the resolution to authorize execution of the document. He informed Council the legal address of the city is city hall and the document should be corrected. Attorney Prather also advised Council the city faces a 25-day deadline for return of the executed agreement.

4. MAYOR'S REPORT

The city has been awarded the \$50,000 Taylor Park Grant.

The city will hold a ceremony at Riverside Park East on September 26, 2001 at 5:30 p.m. honoring the victims, rescue workers and volunteers involved in the World Trade Center tragedy.

Ms. Bryant moved, Mrs. Keefer seconded and motion carried unanimously approving the October 1, 2001 agenda.

5. INDIVIDUAL COMMENT

Mrs. Lancaster

Commented on the police department randomly patrolling the city vs. assigned areas.

Inquired the status of Mr. Myrick.

Ms. Cornwell

Asked that during the Charter review consideration be given to the title "council" or "commissioner".

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

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Robert Coleman reported city workers working on the property of Brian Williams stating his opinion of misfeasance, malfeasance and a blatant abuse of power by Mr. Williams. A copy of Mr. Coleman's statement and accompanying photographs are attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. City employee Robert Walker spoke, explaining about the sewer problem and the reasons the employees were at the location. Allen Tusing, Supervisor of Public Works also explained why city employees were working at the location. Mr. Tusing confirmed that Mr. Williams had asked if it was his responsibility to call a plumber for repair rather than the city investigate the problem. David Hartshorne commented on the issue.

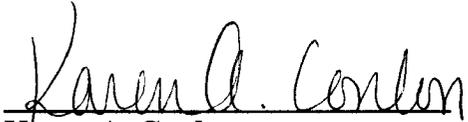
Mrs. Keefer commented on the step and grade pay plan.

MOTION: Mrs. Keefer moved, Mr. Williams seconded and motion carried unanimously to accept the step and grade plan for October 2001-2002 as presented and that employees within the proposed step and grade plan cannot be moved from one step to another without prior approval of Council until October 1, 2002.

Mayor Whitesel advised Council the attorney had rendered his opinion on the clarification of Section 2-2 of the Code of Ordinances, and they had been provided a copy.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Minutes approved: November 5, 2001


Karen A. Conlon
City Clerk

ATTACHMENT
SEPTEMBER 24, 2001





MY NAME IS ROBERT COLEMAN. I LIVE AT 448 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, PALMETTO. I LIVE ABOUT THREE DOORS FROM MR WILLIAMS, OUR ELECTED COUNCILMAN. THIS MORNING, SEVERAL PEOPLE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CALLED ME TO TELL ME THAT CITY EMPLOYEES WERE WORKING IN MR WILLIAMS' YARD. I DROPPED BY TO SEE FOR MYSELF WHAT WAS GOING ON. I TOOK THE PHOTOS THAT I HAVE HANDED TO YOU. THERE WERE SIX CITY EMPLOYEES WORKING ON MR WILLIAMS' PROPERTY. YOU CAN SEE MR WILLIAMS IN THE PHOTO DIRECTING THE WORKERS. THERE WERE FOUR CITY TRUCKS, ONE PUMP TRUCK, AND THE CITY'S BACK HOE ON MR WILLIAMS PROPERTY. A LARGE HOLE WAS BEING DUG. THE WORKERS AND EQUIPMENT WERE ON MR WILLIAMS' PROPERTY WORKING FOR AT LEAST FOUR HOURS.

I CALLED PUBLIC WORKS BUT GOT NO RETURN CALL. FINALLY, I CALLED THE MAYOR WHO GOT IN TOUCH WITH MR. HICKEY. MR HICKEY AND MR TUSING CAME BY MY HOUSE. THEY TRIED TO CONVEY TO ME THAT THEY HAD MADE A MISTAKE AND THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN DIGGING ON MR WILLIAMS' PROPERTY. THE CITY WORKERS THEN COVERED UP THE LARGE HOLE THAT HAD BEEN DUG IN MR WILLIAMS YARD USING MORE OF THE CITY WORKERS' TIME.

I ASKED THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTORS WHO HAD AUTHORIZED WORK ON MR WILLIAMS PROPERTY. I GOT NO FIRM ANSWER.

WITH ALL THE TRASH PILED UP IN THE YARDS IN PALMETTO THAT COULD BE A HEALTH HAZARD, IT IS MY STATEMENT TO YOU THAT THE CITY WORKERS

TIME COULD BE MUCH BETTER SPENT RATHER THAT
WORKING FOR MR WILLIAMS.

IN MY OPIONION AND MY ATTORNEY'S OPINION, THIS
IS MIS FEANCE AND MAL FEANCE AND A BLATENT
ABUSE OF POWER BY MR WILLIAMS. MY FULL
INTENTIONS ARE TO PURSUE THIS MATTER TO
RIGHTFUL CONCLUSION. I CALL FOR MR WILLIAMS TO
RESIGN FROM THIS COUNCIL IMMEDIATELY.

SIGNED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Coleman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ROBERT COLEMAN
CONCERNED CITIZEN OF PALMETTO