

**Palmetto City Council
Community Redevelopment Agency
Joint Meeting
May 22, 2000 - 6:00 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

CRA Board Members Present:

Allen Langford
Scott Maloney
Stanley Roberts

Staff and others present:

Karen Hartman, Director
Dave Meng, City Clerk
Diane Ponder, Administrative Assistant

1. CITY COUNCIL/CRA DISCUSSION REGARDING A CITY-WIDE VISION PLAN

Ms. Hartman addressed Council stating her belief that everyone moving into Palmetto hopes their property appreciates. Citizens moving into a community take certain services for granted; they are looking for a lifestyle. Ms. Hartman asked each council member for projects they would like to see accomplished in Palmetto over a five year period, assuming funding would be available for each listed project. The board members of CRA also contributed the projects they would like to see completed. Ms. Hartman requested another joint meeting where she will present the compiled list for review by Council and board members of CRA. At this future joint meeting, Council will be asked to prioritize the list of projects over a five-year period.

2. LANDSCAPING

Vacant Property

Ms. Hartman stated CRA is willing to fund another city code enforcement officer to help in bringing all properties within the CRA designated area up to code standards. She also stated legislature had been passed whereby the City no longer had to notify property owners of property not meeting minimum standards; areas can be addressed and liens attached.

Mayor Whitesel advised Council Ms. Cook is preparing a list of all projects needing attention to comply with standards. Mr. Meng and Ms. Cook are also determining the funds necessary to complete this project. Mayor Whitesel stated a temporary code officer may be necessary when all the information is gathered, but she did not believe a full-time employee was warranted and felt the funds CRA were willing to commit for the position could be better spent in other areas. Mayor Whitesel asked Ms. Hartman to get the information regarding the passed legislation to Council for their review.

Palmetto Trace

Ms. Hartman discussed Palmetto Trace and what she believed were violations to the original agreement between the City and the complex. Ms. Hartman advised she has contacted Palmetto Trace about the violations.

Mr. Williams asked that Ms. Tusing, because of her involvement in the original negotiations, together with Ms. Hartman, speak with Palmetto Trace concerning the violations. Mayor Whitesel will review the project and if necessary check with the attorney concerning the matter.

3. CODE ENFORCEMENT

Mr. Williams stated he didn't know if Council could ignore CRA's offer to fund a full-time code enforcement officer. Mr. Meng addressed the fact the city could use the money from the CRA to enforce code enforcement rather than employ another code enforcement officer. Ms. Hartman stressed the funding from CRA would have to be spent in the CRA area.

Mr. Maloney stated Council had to support recommendations from the code enforcement officer.

Palmetto City Council
CRA Joint Meeting
May 22, 2000

4. OCCUPIED/UNOCCUPIED BUILDING INSPECTION

Ms. Hartman asked that the City's building inspector also observe structures for soundness. A discussion ensued as to the power of the code enforcement officer and building inspector relating to existing buildings.

Mayor Whitesel presented a \$300 check for reimbursement to the CRA and asked Ms. Hartman to reimburse her with personal funds. The CRA Board explained their position concerning the original expenditure, stating it was not the intent to do anything inappropriate. Ms. Bryant thanked Mayor Whitesel for addressing the matter.

5. CITIZEN COMMENT

Don Whitesel addressed Council about the visionary plan, stating he envisioned 10th Ave. being a historical shopping area.

Cynthia Fobbs applauded the City Council and the CRA Board for the meeting. She asked that quality housing be addressed as well as landscaping into subdivisions.

William McMillian asked that equity standards be established and maintained for areas occupied by non-traditional populations. In these area there should be training opportunities for young adults.

6. COUNCIL COMMENT

Mr. Williams passed out information concerning the relocation of the weigh scales.

Ms. Cornwell advised Council the Mayor had the power to make appointments to the CRA Board. If Council wishes to disapprove the appointment it must be done by a 4 to 1 vote. Mayor Whitesel advised Council there had been a resignation on the CRA Board. A discussion was held concerning the expansion of the board and the need to have a list of citizens wishing to apply for the vacancy on the CRA Board. The ordinance addressing the CRA Board expansion will be included on the June 5, 2000 City Council Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Approved: June 19, 2000


City Clerk

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