

**Palmetto City Council
Administrative Meeting
November 27, 2000 4: 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**

Staff and other present:

**Chief Kenny Bright, Palmetto Police Department
Mary Jean Forrester, Acting City Clerk
Mike Hickey, Public Works Director
Margaret Tusing, Planning and Zoning
Diane Ponder, Administrative Assistant**

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

Vice Mayor Cornwell advised Council she would have to leave the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Mayor Whitesel asked permission to allow Margaret Tusing to bring the Habitat Oaks Final Plat Approval for Council's review today.

1. DISCUSSION – ORDINANCE NO. 701

Mrs. Lancaster stated she had reviewed both drafts of the ordinance and looked closely at the 2nd alternative. She questioned Mr. Dye what "class" under Section 6-18 Enforcement and Penalties meant. Mr. Dye explained that different infractions allowed different fines, depending on the severity of the infraction. A discussion of the draft ordinances was held, with Council instructing Mr. Dye to amend the 1st alternative draft by including the following:

- 1) One Class addressing the intentional killing of animals.**
- 2) Exception for an animal owner putting an animal down for humane reasons.**
- 3) Exception for killing when protecting property.**

A discussion was held concerning the lack of control of animals in the City and how residents had to address the problem by either containing the animal or offering photographic proof of the specific incident. Mr. Dye suggested an affidavit would be just as much proof as a photograph.

Mr. Williams asked about the possibility of an interlocal agreement, which would allow the Palmetto Police Department to enforce the county animal control ordinance. Mr. Dye stated it was his understanding the county's ordinance is intended for use in all municipalities, unless the municipality chooses to opt out of the ordinance. He suggested it might be appropriate to clarify with the county animal control department that the City of Palmetto is considered an area it controls. Mr. Williams stated that as a taxpayer, he would like to know how much of our tax dollar goes to animal control and how much time is spent in the City of Palmetto. Mr. Williams asked Mr. Dye to find out if the Palmetto Police Department can enforce the county animal control ordinance and bring this information back to Council at the December 4, 2000 meeting. Ms. Bryant asked Mr. Dye to get clarification of what the county's policy is for controlling an animal and how it is enforced. Mrs. Keefer suggested asking the department head of the county's animal control department to come to the next Council meeting to address this problem.

2. HABITAT OAKS SUBDIVISION FINAL PLAT APPROVAL

Mrs. Tusing explained this is a minor subdivision and is not required to go to the Planning and Zoning Department for approval prior to Council's approval authorizing the Mayor to sign the plat. One lot will be created and a portion of the alley included in the lots will be vacated as part of the plat. The remainder of the alley will be open to accommodate a water line.

MOTION: Ms. Cornwell moved, Mrs. Keefer seconded and motion carried unanimously to authorize the Mayor to sign the plat for Habitat Oaks Subdivision.

Due to Vice Mayor Cornwell having to leave the meeting early, the balance of the agenda was taken out of order to allow for topics to be brought forward for discussion.

Mayor Whitesel informed Council she had spoken with Linda Stearns, who stated she might be interested in returning as City Clerk. Mayor Whitesel stated the one applicant for the position will be interviewed, but the application will be put on hold.

Ms. Cornwell inquired when the Christmas lights would be installed. Mayor advised Council they were being installed today and would be finished tomorrow.

Ms. Cornwell stated the move into Lincoln Middle School would begin Tuesday.

Ms. Cornwell advised Council she had given the attorney the update from Florida League of Cities concerning telecommunication franchises.

Mayor Whitesel referred to the letter to Council from employee Geoff Seger concerning a pay increase. Mr. Williams stated the manner in which this was handled was totally inappropriate, stating this should go to his supervisor. Mr. Hickey will make his decision and report back to Council.

Ms. Bryant informed Council Jay Taylor and his associates would be unable to continue contributions to Curtis Johnson for further training, therefore other resources must be found. Mayor Whitesel stated she would bring this topic to the attention of the department heads so they could develop some ideas for Council's consideration. Ms. Bryant stated she felt this should be a countywide effort.

Vice Mayor Cornwell departed the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

3. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chief Bright

Presented a list of out-of-town classes for the Palmetto Police Department. Mrs. Lancaster and Mr. Williams suggested cross-training as many officers as possible.

The weekly list of citations was distributed to Council.

Chief Bright briefly discussed a COPS Grant that he will present at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Hickey

Mr. Hickey briefly discussed the purchase of computers that he will present at the next Council meeting.

4. DECEMBER 4, 2000 AGENDA

The Habitat Oaks Subdivision Final Plat Approval and Ordinance No. 701 were removed from the agenda.

MOTION: Mr. Williams moved, Mrs. Keefer seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the December 4, 2000 agenda with changes.

5. INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS

Ms. Bryant

Ms. Bryant discussed the memo from Ms. Hartman, where she offered to talk with city business owners about manning the fair booth. Staff was asked to notify Ms. Hartman to proceed with her offer.

Mike Lowrey has informed Ms. Bryant of the need to move the Edwards Home that is located on First Baptist Church property. Mayor Whitesel asked Council Members and Mr. Hickey to review the structure to see if the City can possibly utilize the structure.

Mrs. Keefer

Mrs. Keefer inquired when the fiscal year-end numbers would be ready. Mrs. Forrester stated the auditor is still making adjustments.

Mrs. Keefer commented that the list of citations didn't tell her of speeding on 8th Avenue. Chief Bright reported no speeding citations had been issued.

Mrs. Lancaster

Mrs. Lancaster spoke on Geoff Seger's behalf, stating that when the topic of his pay increase comes back, she hopes Council will consider how well he represents the City and how hard he works for the City.

Mr. Williams

Mr. Williams distributed a proposed floor plan to allow the combining of the building department at the public works facility. He stated Van Brown, Frank Baxter and he had looked at difference scenarios and eliminated the 2nd floor on City Hall, the 17th Street Park and Bank of America locations. Mr. Williams said he had spoken with Karen Hartman and she stated that if CRA occupied the building CRA could absorb one-half of the cost of the expansion and renovation at a cost of roughly \$43 per square foot. A discussion followed concerning the combination of the department, the revenue it generated and the funds that could be used to pay constructions costs. Mayor Whitesel discussed engineering, planning & zoning and code enforcement revenue funds that now go into the general fund rather than the building department. Mrs. Forrester was instructed to verify where these revenue funds are currently booked. Another issue discussed was the structure of employees in the department.

Mr. Williams distributed a letter and resume from Desiree Garcia, expressing her desire to fill the vacancy on the CRA Board. He also stated Isabel Cabaleros has expressed interest in the vacancy.

Mr. Williams asked that a calendar of the January Council meetings be put in memo form, along with the meeting scheduled with Terra Ceia Palms.

Mayor Whitesel expressed her delight that Council would be joining her in welcoming Mayor Scott Maddox, president of the Florida League of Cities to the City of Palmetto.

Mr. Williams stated that he was speaking as an irate member of the Historical Society regarding the event scheduled at the Wedding Chapel. Mayor Whitesel stated the handrail has arrived and will be installed before the end of the week.

Mr. Williams introduced Jeff Siewert of Smith and Gillespie Engineering, stating Mr. Siewert had spoken to him of a unified effort between the City of Palmetto and Bradenton in having a single ASR, sharing the cost of developing the well.

Mr. Siewert addressed Council, explaining that an opportunity of a co-municipal ASR well exists, as the City of Bradenton is applying for funding for the well's development through SWFWMD, and the City of Palmetto needs an ASR. Mr. Siewert reported the City of Bradenton was receptive to the idea of sharing the well. Coastal Power, an electrical generating plant, has expressed interest in using the excess reuse for cooling. Coastal Power would contribute to the cost of construction and pay for reuse water used in its cooling operation. Mr. Siewert stated the cooperative funding application with SWFWMD due December 6, 2000, would be for a co-municipal ASR well, where the City of Palmetto and the City of Bradenton will share construction costs. A discussion ensued concerning the logistics of the project. Mr. Williams stated Council must make the decision whether or not to join Bradenton in the application to SWFWMD. Mr. Siewert proposed that the City of Palmetto apply for its own ASR and also apply for a cooperative municipal ASR. Mr. Williams asked that Steve Minnis of SWFWMD be asked to attend the December 4, 2000 meeting to answer Council's questions. It was consensus of Council to proceed with the application, reserving the right to cancel the application if Mr. Minnis could not attend the December 4, 2000 Council Meeting. Mrs. Keefer suggested that Mr. Minnis call each Council Member if he could not attend the meeting. Mr. Siewert suggested Mr. Williams be named as point of contact for Council concerning this project.

Mr. Williams addressed the memo from Mr. Burkhardt concerning the City's calendar. Mrs. Keefer suggested that one person be responsible for updating the calendar. Mrs. Lancaster suggested the department heads bring updates to their meetings for inclusion on the calendar.

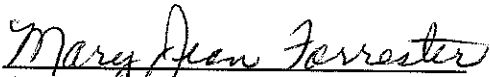
Ms. Bryant discussed the letter from Mr. Seger, agreeing he has done an excellent job for the City. But, she didn't feel Council wanted to be in the position of micromanaging each department as far as employee merit raises are concerned. She suggested the letter from Mr. Seger should be remanded to Mr. Hickey. Mrs.

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Lancaster reminded Council about her opinion of the building official being rehired and the starting salary, stating the City should be fair in addressing all employees.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Minutes approved: December 18, 2000


Acting City Clerk

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