

**Special Meeting
Palmetto City Council
May 3, 2001 5: 00 PM**

Elected Officials Present:

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

Staff and others present:

**Karen A. Conlon, City Clerk
Mary Jean Forrester, Deputy City Clerk
Diane Ponder, Administrative Assistant
Stanley Roberts, CRA Chairman of the Board
Scott Maloney, CRA Board Member
Cynthia Fobbs, CRA Board Member**

Mayor Whitesel called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Informed Council CRA Chairman Stanley Roberts, City Clerk Karen Conlon and she had met and Mr. Roberts informed them Ms. Hartman's resignation as Executive Director of the CRA was immediate. Mayor Whitesel called the special meeting because the CRA Administrative Assistant would be left alone and she can not assume the responsibility of the CRA Director, as she works for the CRA Board. Subsequent to that meeting Mayor Whitesel stated she was advised Ms. Hartman's resignation was effective May 22, 2001. Mayor Whitesel stated she wished to cancel the meeting but Council felt it necessary to hold the meeting to discuss issues concerning the CRA.

Mrs. Keefer discussed the conversation concerning the CRA was held at the April 30, 2001 Council Meeting.

MOTION: Mrs. Keefer moved and Mr. Williams seconded to disband the CRA Board.

Mrs. Keefer discussed the advantages to the city if the CRA Board is disbanded and the City Council assumed the responsibility.

Mr. Prather explained legal issues of which the Council should be aware before making a decision; strict separation of City Council actions and CRA Board actions, as well as strict separation of city and CRA expended funds. Mr. Prather discussed what the city would legally have to accomplish to assume the responsibility of the

CRA Board, stating a motion would not be sufficient, the transfer of responsibility would have to be by city resolution. Mr. Prather further suggested rewording the motion to dissolve the CRA Board rather than disbanding it, because bonding obligations of the CRA would become the obligation of the city.

Mr. Williams withdrew his second to the motion on the floor. Mrs. Keefer withdrew the motion.

Mr. Prather discussed how an interlocal agreement between the city and CRA could allow transfer of the CRA duties to the City Clerk, relocation of the CRA office and personnel to city hall and allow a city employee to serve as interim director. Mrs. Conlon was instructed to draft an interlocal agreement for Council's review at the May 7, 2001 meeting.

CRA Chairman Roberts stated he had spoken with Mr. Thomas, a past CRA Chairman, about how the director's position was filled.

Discussion ensued concerning Ms. Hartman's contract, and if all requirements had been met.

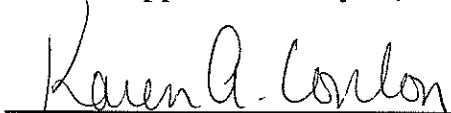
CRA Board Members Maloney addressed Council about the responsibility of being on the CRA Board, the knowledge of things that need to be done and the fact the CRA Board wouldn't appointment a director the City Council wasn't able to support. He spoke of his disappointment in the fact City Council would consider disbanding the Board

Mayor Whitesel stated the CRA Board Members were very much appreciated for the job they have done.

CRA Board Member Cynthia Fobbs addressed Council about how the Board has made things happen for the city and the fact the City Council has not lost the people they had faith in appointing to the Board. Ms. Fobbs also suggested that meetings between the CRA Board and City Council should occur throughout the year rather than just at the time of the budget.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Minutes approved: May 21, 2001



Karen A. Conlon
Karen A. Conlon
City Clerk

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