

Palmetto City Council
June 7, 2004 4:00 PM

Elected Officials present:

Larry Bustle, Mayor
Tamara Cornwell, Vice Mayor
Eric Ball, Council Member Elect
Shirley Bryant, Council Member
Mary Lancaster, Council Member
Brian Williams, Council Member

Staff and others present:

Attorney Michele Hall
J. E. Free, Jr., City Clerk
Captain Clyde Hedrick
Chris Lukowiak, Public Works Director
Diane Ponder, Administrative Assistant

Mayor Bustle called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm, followed by his invocation and the pledge of allegiance to the United States Flag.

1. APPROVAL OF WORKSHOP AGENDA

MOTION: Ms. Cornwell moved, Ms. Bryant seconded, and motion carried 4-0 to approve the June 7, 2004, 4:00 pm agenda.

2. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Representative Bill Galvano briefly reported on the recent legislative session.

3. HAZEL SMITH RECOGNITION

Mr. Lukowiak reviewed the proposed entryway into the 14th Ave. cemetery funded by a \$25,000 donation from the Estate of Hazel. Savannah brick walls will be built on both sides of the entry, designed to support a future arch and electrical service. A bronze plaque recognizing Mr. and Mrs. Thurmond L. Smith will be set into one wall. The item will be placed on the 7:00 pm agenda for action.

Before moving to the next agenda item, Mr. Lukowiak updated Council on the cleaning efforts at Riverside Drive. Equitas has determined it does not have equipment capable of removing the accumulated grease and rust in the pipe and has recommended utilizing Florida Jet Cleaning to complete the project.

Mr. Lukowiak advised Council Florida Jet Cleaning will charge \$1,750 per day and anticipates completion in two days. Equitas will remain on the site for the bypass and to video and vacuum the pipe during its cleaning, which may result in a small reduction in the contract price.

Discussion ensued on whether it would be cheaper to replace the pipe. Mr. Lukowiak voiced concern about replacing the pipe because the section under discussion is located under the Manatee River and it could be very costly. He could not guarantee the pipe would not collapse, but stated if that occurred the \$50,016 approved for Insituform would not be spent and the determination would be made as to how to proceed. Mr. Tusing advised Council that in the event of a collapse the bypass in service could be quickly shut down to prevent saltwater intrusion. He also stated he was confident the pipe could be cleaned and lined without collapse because it is cast iron.

MOTION: Ms. Bryant moved, Mrs. Lancaster seconded and motion carried 4-0 to declare the work as noted by the Public Works Department an emergency.

MOTION: Ms. Bryant moved, Mrs. Lancaster seconded and motion carried 4-0 to move forward with the declared emergency for the Public Works Department not to exceed \$3,500.

4. HABEN BLVD. GATEWAY STUDY

Ms. Lukowiak discussed Haben Blvd. being a gateway into the City and the congestion it is experiencing due to the growth along the artery. She stated she was seeking Council's approval for the CRA to explore a comprehensive traffic study to include different options such as a traffic signal at the entry to Riviera Dunes, a roundabout at the location, realignment of Manatee School of the Arts driveway. Council requested that the mobile home parks be included in the study to alleviate traffic on 301. It was suggested FDOT should be included in the planning. Council concurred with the study. Mrs. Lukowiak stated it would be discussed at a June 16, 2004 Special CRA meeting.

Mrs. Lancaster commended the CRA for keeping the City abreast of and seeking approval of its projects. Ms. Bryant stated she has received comments about the early response to the public's inquiries.

Ms. Lukowiak advised Council the CRA did not approve the negotiation of the waterfront plan contract. She stated of the responses received, Wallace, Robert & Todd of Coral Gables was selected from the final three short listed firms. The proposal included such things as environmental analysis, safety, security, traffic and parking, marketing analysis, CRA incentives tied to each property, land development codes. She stated CRA was anticipating the plan to cost approximately \$50,000; the submittal from Wallace, Robert & Todd is \$146,000. CRA has determined the price to be fair, but the CRA board wanted Council to be aware of the cost before moving forward. Council concurred more information was needed before making a decision. CRA will invite the firm to make a presentation at the June 21, 2004 Council workshop meeting.

5. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS REORGANIZATION

Mr. Lukowiak reviewed his proposed reorganization plan for the Public Works Department. The proposed changes include:

Creation of a division entitled Engineering & Project Management to be overseen by Frank Woodard. Mr. Woodard's proposed title would be Deputy Director of Engineering and Project Management. The division will consist of the Engineering Department and will encompass the reassignment of the Planning and Zoning Department and the Building Department. Personnel changes will be the creation of a new title, Project Inspector, and addition of two new positions - Assistant City Planner and an office assistant. Budget impact is the salaries for the two new positions. Council concurred that approval would be granted only for one new position for Planning and Zoning.

Creation of a division entitled Operations to be overseen by Allen Tusing. Mr. Tusing proposed title would be Deputy Director of Operations. There were no personnel issues with the creation of the division.

Creation of a division entitled Public Buildings, Parks and Recreation to be overseen by Geoff Seger. Mr. Seger's proposed title would be Deputy Director of Public Buildings, Parks and Recreation. Personnel issues associated with the division are title and salary changes. Budget impact is the salary for the deputy director's position. The division would be moved to the 17th Street Park building.

Mr. Lukowiak reviewed his justification for the proposal, citing efficiency, productivity and accountability as the major reasons he felt reorganization of the affected departments is necessary. To accommodate the moved of the Planning and Zoning and Building Department would result in expenditure of approximately \$2,200 for IT support and building renovations. The relocation of the Public Buildings, Parks and Recreation Department will be a minimum expense: IT support will be provided with the completion of the fiber optic ring.

Council discussed the proposal; including the budget impact and the fact the salary increases should be considered in the upcoming budget rather than at this point in the year; all the new positions should be posted rather than automatically filled by current City employees; Planning and Zoning fees developed supporting the proposed changes; development of a policy regarding transportation of money between Public Works and City Hall; CRA supporting a portion of the expense because of the growth in the CRA; why the Building Department moved to City Hall. Several Council members concurred that a \$2,500 fee for DRC review had been previously approved and was to have been implemented.

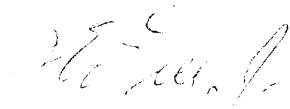
Mayor Bustle stated the proposal was being presented to garner Council's opinion on the reorganization of Public Works; the development of policies and

financial support of the reorganization would begin if Council granted approval of the plan.

Mr. Lukowiak will bring back to Council a fee schedule to support Planning and Zoning. He acknowledged understanding that Council would consider one position in the Planning and Zoning Department, positions would be posted and determination of why the Building Department moved to City Hall would be made.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Minutes approved: June 21, 2004



J. E. Free, Jr.
City Clerk