

**Palmetto City Council
January 14, 2002 4:00 PM**

Elected Officials Present:

**Larry Bustle, Mayor
Shirley Bryant, Vice-Mayor
Tamara Cornwell, Council Member
Charlie Grace, Council Member
Mary Lancaster, Council Member
Brian Williams, Council Member**

Staff and others present:

**Karen A. Conlon, City Clerk
Chief Garry Lowe, Palmetto Police Department
Mike Hickey, Public Works Director
Diane Ponder, Administrative Assistant**

Mayor Bustle called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Mrs. Lancaster gave the invocation followed by the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag.

Chief Lowe presented a certificate of promotion to Corporal Teri J. Nuwer. In presenting the certificate, Chief Lowe stated Corp. Nuwer was the first female to achieve any rank in the Palmetto Police Department.

1. CITY BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Discussion ensued on the expiring appointments to the city's boards. The attorney will be consulted to determine if citizens can serve on more than one board and if a Council Member can appoint a spouse to a board. A Council Member recommended that citizens seeking to serve on city boards submit a resume. Discussion ensued on times city boards should meet to allow for involvement from the city's residents. Appointments will be made at the January 28, 2002 council meeting.

2. WARD BOUNDARIES

Mrs. Conlon displayed a map depicting the city wards and their population, as prepared by the Supervisor of Election's office. Mrs. Conlon asked Council's concurrence in allowing her to utilize the elections office to create different options in redistricting the ward boundaries. Mrs. Conlon also discussed the need to correctly identify the city boundaries, stating she will bring the topic to Council in the future. It was consensus of Council to move forward in obtaining three options from the Supervisor of Elections.

3. DIVERSITY TRAINING

Mrs. Conlon, in cooperation with Chief Lowe and Mr. Hickey, will develop a schedule allowing every employee to receive the mandated diversity training. Ms. Cornwell informed Council the community forum could be held at Lincoln Middle School and requested two dates.

4. RETREAT

In addition to researching available dates for the retreat at Dayspring, Mrs. Conlon was asked to locate alternative sites for the retreat. Council was requested to inform Mrs. Conlon of the dates they would not be available. Mrs. Conlon will bring back possible retreat dates for Council's review.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

Commented on the Community Traffic Safety Team and the need for the city to have representation on the team. Chief Lowe will assign an officer to the team.

Mayor Bustle read from his initial comments the portion pertaining to department heads, requesting that Council Members allow him to work through any problems, giving him and the department heads time to oversee the departments and then base decisions concerning contract extensions on results of management. Discussion ensued on the appropriateness of Ms. Cornwell meeting with the attorney to discuss her issues. Mayor Bustle delayed the discussion until the January 28, 2002 meeting.

6. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT

Mrs. Conlon, City Clerk

CRA executive director Tanya Lukowiak gave a brief overview of the CRA Housing Revitalization Program asking Council's permission to allow her to get a phone consensus on the program after Council has had time to review the printed material. Council concurred with her request.

Informed Council the finance director has tendered her resignation effective February 1, 2002.

The insurance for the Martin Luther King Day parade will be in the city's possession by January 15, 2002.

The city budgeted revenue of \$18,000 from the communication tax but has received a \$47,000 deposit.

Mr. Hickey

Informed Council 71 articles had been removed in the free white goods pickup.

Has received verbal confirmation the city has been awarded a permit for the mixing zone.

7. INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS

Mrs. Lancaster

Reported the survey commissioned by the Enterprise Zone concludes the basic criteria to attract industry is not present.

February is Black History Month. Mrs. Lancaster stated the need to recognize black heritage by possibly utilizing the library as a place to display the information.

Ms. Bryant

Requested the park fees be placed on the January 28, 2002 agenda, and that the schedule be distributed before the meeting.

Reported the Palmetto Historical Commission is requesting a flag pole and flag be placed in Heritage Park.

Inquired the status of the Charter Review Committee. Mayor Bustle suggested Council Members appoint two members and asked they bring names to the January 28, 2002 meeting.

Manatee County Fair opens January 17, 2002 at 5:00 p.m and runs through January 26, 2002.

Ms. Cornwell

Discussed developing the schedule for visiting the mobile home parks.

Events have occurred at Lincoln Middle and Palmetto High resulting in the need for the city to diligently watch for graffiti.

Discussed the letter with no return address that had been placed unopened in her mail box.

MOTION: Ms. Bryant moved, Ms. Cornwell seconded and motion carried unanimously that in the event letters come in that look suspicious they go through the safety policy to protect city employees, with Council Members waiving their privacy.

Requested the church be notified in writing of the upcoming car show.

Discussing the liaison to city hall, Mayor Bustle stated he would make the assignment.

Mayor Bustle updated Council on the meeting regarding the charter government issue. The group will scale down to a group of six to eight volunteers, of which he

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will be one, and will develop discussion points to be presented at the January 24, 2001 meeting of the County Commissioners.

Mr. Williams

Requested Code Enforcement review the area around the packinghouse and CSX.

Reported on the recent CRA meeting, stating his support of the Housing Revitalization Program and the need to put TIFT money in the program. Reported CRA will hold a retreat after Council has completed theirs.

Mayor Bustle

Discussed the letter from the city attorney regarding the Jerome Waiters suit, stating the Florida League of Cities will not represent the city if "willful violation" is determined. The attorney is recommending Attorney Groff be assigned to the case so he will be familiar with the case from its start.

MOTION: Mr. Grace moved, Ms. Bryant seconded and motion carried unanimously that Dick Groff represent the City of Palmetto in the lawsuit, along with the Florida League of Cities attorney.


Discussed the number of outstanding water bills in the city. Currently liens are attached to the property, but the city may want to look at stronger measurers to collect the debt. Ms. Cornwell reminded Council laws are in place to protect households with handicapped individuals. The topic will be brought back to Council after research.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Cynthia Fobbs addressed Council on her water bill being so large since construction in October at her complex. She stated the entire complex had experience an increase in the bill. Staff was instructed to research the topic.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes approved: January 28, 2002



Karen A. Conlon
City Clerk