

Palmetto City Council  
November 18, 2002 4:00 PM

Elected Officials Present:

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

Staff and others present:

Karen A. Conlon, City Clerk  
Chief Garry Lowe, Palmetto Police Department  
Allen Tusing, Public Works Superintendent

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

Vice Mayor Mary Lancaster gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

Mayor Bustle turned the meeting over to Amy Perez, district safety engineer for FDOT. Ms. Perez introduced Frank Meares, FDOT's community liaison.

Ms. Perez discussed the US 41 at 7th Street signal slated for construction in 2004. FDOT is currently designing the job. The city can consider whether or not to produce the project. Mayor Bustle inquired about accelerating the project, possibly through a joint planning agreement and FDOT reimbursing the city in 2004. Mr. Meares stated the project is in FDOT's tentative schedule, which prevents any execution of a joint planning agreement until after July 1, 2003 when the project is placed in FDOT's adopted program. Mr. Meares stated FDOT will investigate available funds in state legislature that allows FDOT to enter into contracts outside the five year work plan. But, he also cautioned there is no physical way the project can be completed by October, 2003.

Mr. Meares further discussed the LAP certification, stating FDOT encourages municipalities undertaking what FDOT considers local project to become LAP certified. The Local Agency Agreement allows the use of federal funds for projects. The municipality would become an agent of FDOT by producing and managing the project. Being certified, municipalities building off the state highway system can build to a lesser standard. To become certified, the city would fill out the necessary paperwork and submit the plan. Zoller, Najjar & Shroyer has been requested to provide a proposal to do the plan.

Ms. Perez discussed the things FDOT can do for the city: 1) Traffic Operations Studies, 2) Funding, 3) Federal Safety Grants awarded by the State Safety Office, 4) Safety Improvement Projects prioritized by District Safety Office. Ms. Perez elaborated on grants the city can compete for.

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Ms. Perez also discussed the traffic operations issues in Palmetto. A possible solution for 8th Avenue from 10th Street to 17th Street would be to go from four lanes to three lanes with a middle turn lane. Ms. Perez stated FDOT has reviewed three years of accident reports and did not identify any significant crash patterns on 8th Avenue. Ms. Perez stated FDOT has scheduled a pedestrian study and a turning movement study in the vicinity of Albertson's in December. Mayor Bustle will submit a letter to FDOT detailing what items the city wants to be included in the study FDOT will perform on 8th Avenue.

Ms. Perez discussed the progression on 8th Avenue. Stacking on the side streets during peak time and school time at 7th Street will be looked at by FDOT.

The absence of a turn signal for the turn lane at the intersection of 7th Street and 8th Avenue was discussed. Ms. Perez stated FDOT had looked at the intersection and found the left turn signal was not warranted. Ms. Perez will speak with the traffic operations engineer regarding Council's concerns as they relate to the intersection and report back to the city.

Ms. Perez advised the city would see changes on US 41 at the intersections of 23rd Street and 17th Street. The lights have been retimed and are now being finalized.

The bike path at the Green Bridge has been marked. FDOT is correcting the size of the arrows to make the markings more visible to both bikers and automobiles. Public Works will review the city's contract regarding debris removal from the bridge.

Mayor Bustle inquired about beautification on 10th Street east of 8th Avenue. Ms. Perez recommended working with the MPO for funding. Mr. Meares advised a highway grant for landscaping with a 50/50 match could be applied for.

The FDOT representatives were informed the entrances into businesses off 8th Avenue are a problem since the resurfacing and after a hard rain the northbound outside lanes are under water. Ms. Perez stated she will turn this over to the drainage department.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Minutes approved: December 2, 2002



Karen A. Conlon  
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City Clerk