

**Palmetto City Council**  
**February 26, 2001 4: 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:**

**Chief Bright, Palmetto Police Department**  
**Mary Jean Forrester, Acting City Clerk**  
**Margaret Tusing, Planning & Zoning Director**  
**Mike Hickey, Public Works Director**  
**Diane Ponder, Administrative Assistant**  
**Karen Simpson, Finance Director**  
**Tonya Lukowiak, Grant Writer**  
**Geoff Seger, Parks & Recreation Supervisor**  
**Allen Tusing, Public Works Supervisor**  
**Captain Garry Lowe, Palmetto Police Department**

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

**1. ZONING CODE AMENDMENT**

Mrs. Tusing reviewed the proposed amendment to the Zoning Code as related to mobile homes, stating the Planning and Zoning Board had approved the amendment with changes at its January 29, 2001 meeting. Discussion was held concerning the proposed changes, with Council Members adding their recommendations. Mrs. Tusing was instructed to take the document to the mobile home parks for their recommendations and to ensure the city's mobile home parks are aware of when the public meetings on this topic would be held

**MOTION:** Ms. Cornwell moved, Mrs. Keefer seconded and motion carried unanimously to required the two public hearings to be held on March 19 and April 2, 2001 for the Zoning Code Amendment for the maximum age of mobile homes brought into the mobile home parks.

On behalf of the City of Palmetto, Chief Bright presented a lifesaving award to the following individuals who were recently involved in saving a young boy from drowning:

- Marie Chirico, a teacher at Lincoln Middle School, who taught her students a CPR class
- Joe Martinez, the Lincoln Middle School student who rescued the child from a pool
- Joshua Campos, the Lincoln Middle School student who administered CPR

Also recognized were Lincoln Middle School Principal Reid Wallace and Palmetto Police Officer Camacho.

## **2. TOMATO FESTIVAL – DEVELOPMENT OF COMMITTEE**

Geoff Seger discussed the formation of a committee of community representatives to plan and organize the Tomato Festival scheduled for the weekend before Thanksgiving. Discussion was held on the festival's funding, events, and length. Mr. Seger was instructed to prepare a budget for the event for Council's review and approval.

**MOTION:** Mrs. Keefer moved, Mrs. Lancaster seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the development of the Tomato Festival Committee.

## **3. PROJECTS IN PROCESS**

Items were individually discussed.

1. **Utility Code Revision:** Staff is to determine the date when this will be brought back to Council.
2. **Sign Ordinance Revision:** Businesses will be identified and noticed of a joint meeting with Planning & Zoning scheduled for April 9, 2001 at 5:30 p.m. for discussion of the proposed ordinance.
3. **Billboard:** Mayor Whitesel stated First Dartmouth Homes can charge rental fees on the city side of the sign or they can move the sign. The city owns the billboard but does not have a lease with First Dartmouth Homes for the land where the billboard is erected. Mrs. Tusing stated the city does not currently allow billboards and the city should exercise caution given the proposed sign ordinance.

Ms. Bryant asked (1) if the person utilizing the sign would be responsible for their share of the electrical expense; (2) how the person using the sign would be selected; and (3) the term of use. Mayor Whitesel stated Mr. Maggio indicated at some point the billboard would be illuminated and the city would pay its fair share and would

**also pay its fair share of maintenance on the billboard. Mayor Whitesel recommended the city charge the person on the billboard in the future, according to normal practice in the billboard industry.**

**Mrs. Keefer has been asking for the city's face of the billboard for some time and will have the city's face for one year free of cost because that has been the practice in the past.**

**Mrs. Lancaster stated the city should not have to pay for costs associated with the billboard. She discussed the need to develop a plan for the billboard that is approved by Council.**

**Mayor Whitesel advised Council CRA has been handling the billboard for some time and that is how Christmas Dreams obtained the billboard at no cost.**

**Brian Williams commented on the number of businesses in the community and the length of time before all businesses could use the sign if the contract is for one year. Mr. Williams stated the full control of the sign had been given to the CRA and Council should not be discussing this topic. CRA needs to approve a motion giving control of the billboard back to the city. Mayor Whitesel stated she had done all she planned to do on the billboard. Mr. Williams suggested taking down the billboard. Mr. Williams stated rules had been established that the city could not receive any revenue from the billboard. He suggested Mayor Whitesel contact previous Council Members about the statement that the city could make no revenue on the billboard.**

**Mrs. Lancaster referred to the memo and the fact Riviera Dunes would have approval of what advertisement is placed on the city's side of the billboard. Mrs. Lancaster voiced her opinion that this would be discrimination.**

**Ms. Cornwell suggested turning this item over to the new city attorney for a recommendation to the Council. Mrs. Lancaster asked for opinion from the attorney whether or not Riviera Dunes having approval of the advertisement will break regulations.**

**Mr. Williams asked who approved the contract to Mrs. Keefer. Mr. Williams again asked who has control of the billboard. Also, what happens if rules change in 90 days – is Mrs. Keefer exempt? Mr. Williams suggested Mrs. Keefer should have documentation from the CRA concerning her use of the billboard.**

**It was suggested CRA be contacted to obtain a one-year contract for use of the billboard by Mrs. Keefer.**

**This topic will be brought back to Council April 30, 2001.**

4. Town Meetings: Each Council Member will set their own meeting. Mrs. Keefer said she would like to see a Town Meeting be held before summer. Council Members are to give Mrs. Ponder items they want placed on an agenda. No additional comments were made on item 5.

6. Fence-Retention Pond: Exercise trail has not been completed, shrubbery has not been completely finished, and lighting was left out. Chief Bright will contact FPL about the lighting. The Optimist Club has dissolved, but monies have been slated for the park bench.

7. Magnetic Signs or Panel for Vehicles: The new city attorney will be asked for an opinion on the signs.

8. Fee Schedule for the Use of City Facilities

9. Operating Policy for Heritage Park: Council tabled Resolution No. 00-07. These two items will be brought back together to Council.

No additional comments were provided on items 10, 11, 12 and 13.

14. Building Department to be Combined with P&Z and Code Enforcement: As liaison, Mrs. Lancaster will contact CRA about moving into a new building at Public Works at a total cost of \$90,000, of which CRA would contribute \$30,000. It was suggested that funds begin to be budgeted for a future combination of the departments.

15. Historical Cemetery: Availability of grant money is being researched to consider new fencing for the historical cemetery.

16. North River Action Team: Response is being drafted and will be provided to Council for review.

17. Right of Way – Alice Kaddatz: The city will pay for the required survey and proceed with the vacation.

No additional comment on item 18.

19. Anti-Displacement Policy: CRA is currently looking at this topic and will advise Council at a future date.

No additional comments on items 20 and 21.

22. Dates for City Events: Discussion was held on the various events. Geoff Seger will be asked to coordinate the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

**ITEMS REMOVED:**

**Skate Park:** A park has been opened in Sarasota. Mr. Williams will determine who has opened the park.

**Palmetto Estuary Project**

Jeff Siewert has developed the signage. Mrs. Lukowiak stated the management plan needs to be updated and submitted to DEP, due to the city's inability to complete items contained in the original plan. Staff is currently reviewing newly proposed plans. Mr. Williams voiced his displeasure in the Council not being apprised of when changes were made. Mrs. Lukowiak stated all funding and planning agencies have been asked to send all information to staff.

Mr. Williams asked the status of the north side of the project. Council must make a decision on the proposed road before the project can proceed. This topic was added to the March 5, 2001 agenda.

**Swimming Pool North of the River:** Mayor Whitesel will be attending a meeting with the county administrator next week and will discuss this item.

**4. EMPLOYEE RELATIONS COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

Mrs. Keefer discussed the creation of an Employee Relations Committee and the need to develop cohesiveness and confidence in the city's employees. Mrs. Keefer stated the employees need to have a voice in what happens to them. Mrs. Keefer further stated the city has three departments, not three companies, and they all need to be on the same page. The committee would be comprised of one hourly employee from each department. Mrs. Lancaster and Mr. Williams voiced their concern that one employee from each department would not be sufficient. Ms. Bryant stated she didn't believe it would be a positive thing for the city. Mrs. Keefer asked for suggestions on how to provide stability to the employees.

**5. EXPENDITURES OVER \$500 – POLICE DEPARTMENT**

This item was placed on the March 5, 2001 agenda.

**6. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT**

There were no department head reports.

**7. MAYOR'S REPORT**

There was no Mayor's report.

**8. INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS**

**Ms. Cornwell**

The baseball opening will be Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Chief Bright was asked to RSVP for Council.

Asked the date of the Jet Mobile Home Park meeting. Staff will page Council with the correct information.

Thanked Council for recognizing the students from Lincoln Middle School involved in the drowning incident.

Staff was requested to contact the county about loose dogs.

**Mrs. Keefer**

Referred to the letter from the ex-attorney. Mayor Whitesel stated he would continue to work for the city on an as needed basis at \$175 per hour. Mrs. Keefer asked if there was any recourse in the action taken on the appointment decision. Mayor Whitesel stated the decision had been made.

**Mrs. Lancaster**

Asked Mr. Hickey to thank Mr. Tusing for speaking with Mr. Eurice.

**Mr. Williams**

Requested Mr. Hickey look at the patches on Riverside to direct water away from the repairs.

Mr. Williams moved to approve the March 5, 2001 agenda with additions, Ms. Bryant seconded and motion carried unanimously.

**Ms. Bryant**

The 17<sup>th</sup> Street project was discussed. Scenario 1 would include the middle turn lane in certain areas. Scenario 2 would include the middle turn lane from 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Hwy 41. Sidewalks and bike paths will be on both sides of the street. Janet McAfee and Mr. Foley indicated they would be happy to make a presentation to Council. Staff was instructed to contact Ms. McAfee to make arrangements for the presentation. Ms. McAfee and Mr. Foley will be meeting with Public Works. Mr. Hickey was instructed to include US Filter in this meeting. Mr. Williams asked that he be notified of the date and time of the meeting.

Inquired why the city had to spend \$28,000 on the Hidden Lake issue if the design by the engineer was not in keeping with the neighborhood, stating she felt the engineer should absorb a portion of the fees. Mr. Hickey is to obtain an itemized report of the expense and the appropriateness of the design for the neighborhood.


**Palmetto City Council  
February 26, 2001**

**Ms. Bryant discussed the DeLesline issue and why the city is paying engineers who do not recommend the correct thing to do in a certain situation. Mayor Whitesel was instructed to send a letter to the engineers concerning the DeLesline settlement, asking them to pay a portion of the expense. This will be discussed in the department head meeting and will be brought back to Council.**

**Mr. Williams asked if 10<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> has been finalized, and also if engineering has advised the city to use inappropriate planting material. Mr. Hickey will determine if funds are payable to finalize the project. Mr. Hickey spoke of the Lake Rowlett mitigation and the vegetation that had been planted. He will research to determine if the engineers are recommending proper vegetation.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.**

**Minutes approved: March 19, 2001**



**Karen A. Conlon  
City Clerk**

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