

**Palmetto City Council
October 8, 2001 4:00 PM**

Elected Officials Present:

**Pat Whitesel, Mayor
Shirley 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
Capt. Kenny Bright, Palmetto Police Department
Mike Hickey Public Works Department
Karen Simpson, Finance Director
Diane Ponder, Administrative Assistant
Alan Zirkelbach, P&Z Board Member
Duane Bustle, P&Z Board Member
Charlie Ugarte, P&Z Board Member**

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

Council observed a moment of silence for recently deceased members and friends of the community.

1. PRESENTATION OF SIGN ORDINANCE

P&Z Board Chairman Ugarte presented the proposed Sign Ordinance. A brief overview of the P&Z Board revisions was discussed. The P&Z Board will amend the following sections of the ordinance:

- Section 1.0503 Measurement of Height (clarification of measurement)**
- Section 3.03.05 Electronic Message Sign (definition added)**
- Section 4.02.08 Roof Signs on Autos (signage type & size clarified)**
- Section 4.02.19 Inflatable Signs (reference changed to Section 5.04)**

The P&Z Board will make revisions, after which the city attorney will review the proposed ordinance. City Council will schedule a workshop after the review is completed.

2. COUNTY CHARTER

As a citizen of Palmetto, Alan Zirkelbach provided Council information on the draft county charter proposed by Mr. McClash. Mr. Zirkelbach expressed concerns he felt could occur as a result of the legislature, including the possibility of Palmetto being controlled by the county at large and losing its own destination. Ms. Bryant advised Council Florida League of Cities has staff that can make a presentation on

this topic. Mr. Zirkelbach stated Attorney Ed Vogler is very knowledgeable on charter governments and will probably make a presentation to Council on the information he has gathered. Mr. Zirkelbach stressed to Council Members they need to address this topic in a timely manner, as this is a major concern to the city. Discussion of the topic took place between Council Members.

MOTION: Mr. Williams moved, Ms. Cornwell seconded and motion carried unanimously to submit a letter to Manatee County Government elected officials suggesting the City of Palmetto is not in favor of the charter type of government.

The letter is to be prepared for the October 11, 2001 Council of Government Meeting for reading into the record.

MOTION: Ms. Cornwell moved, Mrs. Lancaster seconded and motion carried unanimously to send a letter to the mayors of other municipalities asking for help in enforcing the non-favorable form of government.

Ms. Bryant suggested a joint municipal elected official meeting be scheduled to share information.

3. GRANT ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. Conlon informed Council the Grant Administration Policy distributed in June needed to be implemented to remove the issue from the auditor's Management Letter. This topic will be placed on the October 15, 2001 agenda.

4. MANATEE ZONE

Council determined the best avenue for citizens inquiring about the protection of Manatees in waters adjacent to the city's shoreline would be for citizens to place signage on their private docks and seawalls advising the presence of Manatees. The address for Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is to be provided to Council.

5. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chief Bright

Advised Council the police department has the opportunity to purchase a 2001 vehicle for \$2,500 to be used for salvaged parts. Chief Bright discussed the expenses the department has recently incurred replacing a transmission and drive train.

MOTION: Mr. Williams moved, Ms. Cornwell seconded to allow Chief Bright to purchase the used, wrecked vehicle for parts, purchasing it out of the repair/maintenance line item.

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Mrs. Lancaster expressed the need to know the 2001 parts would be compatible with existing police vehicles. Mrs. Lancaster stated she would vote contingent upon the receipt of documentation advising the parts would be compatible.

Ms. Bryant inquired if Special Law Enforcement funds could be used for the purchase of the vehicle. This funding is available but requires a budget resolution passed by Council. Chief Bright also informed Council this account has to be dissolved by July.

Mr. Williams withdrew his motion and Ms. Cornwell withdrew her second. Chief Bright will bring the requested documentation to the October 15, 2001 meeting for resolution at that time.

There were no further department head reports.

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

There was no report from the Mayor.

7. INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS

Ms. Cornwell

Requested a copy of the article advising the public of assistance available through FEMA.

Stated the city needs to look at possible problem solving issues concerning students using the overpass as a route to Lincoln Middle School. Discussion ensued on proactive approaches the city can consider. The Mayor will develop a plan to remember the student that was lost in the traffic accident.

Lincoln Middle School has been awarded a \$72,000 grant for the environmental pond on campus. It was consensus of Council to allow city staff to develop a plan of how much water can be placed on the site during wet times and bring it for review before submission to Lincoln Middle School.

Mrs. Keefer

Verified the damaged police vehicle will be submitted to the insurance carrier. Mrs. Keefer also requested a copy of the insurance report on the police vehicle damaged in April.

Mrs. Lancaster

Requested when the Oakridge project will begin. The design will be ready this month and will then go out to bid.

Speed bumps have been located where drivers are no longer able to drive off the street to avoid them.

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Requested Mr. Hickey provide a list of supervisors and foremen, together with their length of service.

Mr. Williams

Discussed the warning signs at Palmetto Elementary and Lincoln Middle School, suggesting the changes should be reviewed by the traffic engineer and then be approved by Council before the changes are instituted.

A map for reclaimed water is in the process of being developed.

Ms. Bryant

The Tomato Festival excess funds designated as scholarship funds need to be transferred to the Farm City Week fund, which will then award a scholarship. The same format will apply this year. The funds from sponsors should be sent directly to the Farm City Week agency, thereby eliminating the city's involvement.

MOTION: Ms. Bryant moved, Mrs. Lancaster seconded and motion carried unanimously that scholarship funds received by the city would be expended back to Farm City Week Committee for their administration of the scholarships.

Mr. Williams inquired about the request from Maria Martinez and the memo to Ms. Martinez from Lt. Hannaford. Chief Bright expressed his opinion this is an administrative issue, he has not spoken with the employee and would like the chance to speak with the employee before discussing the topic with Council.

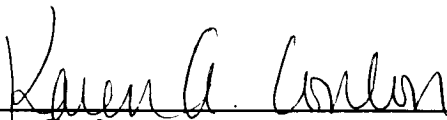
Ms. Bryant moved, Mrs. Keefer seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the October 15, 2001 agenda.

Mayor Whitesel

Expressed her opinion to Mr. Williams that all comments should be made in a public format.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes approved: November 5, 2001



Karen Conlon
City Clerk