

Palmetto City Council
November 26, 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:

Interim Chief Garry Lowe, Palmetto Police Department
Mike Hickey, Public Works Department
Karen Simpson, Finance Director
Diane Ponder, Administrative Assistant

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

Interim Chief Lowe presented Emilio Morales a certificate acknowledging his contribution of educational materials for the Bicycle Safety Program conducted at Palmetto Elementary by the Police Department. Ms. Cornwell also recognized Mr. Morales for his participation on the MAC Committee at the magnet schools.

1. COMPENSATION – INTERIM CHIEF GARRY LOWE

Discussion ensued on the memo received from Attorney Groff advising how the city can compensate Capt. Lowe based on his performance in the role of Interim Chief. Mayor Whitesel, as the department head approving the compensation, will determine the compensation and bring the amount to Council for approval at the December 3, 2001 meeting.

2. US FILTER CONTRACT

Finance Director Simpson sought direction from Council concerning the SRF loan covenant requiring reserve accounts be established by December 15, 2001. Also discussed was the utilization of the SRF loan, i.e. reuse system installation, ASR well, planning updates to the wastewater treatment plant.

Jeffrey Siewert, Jones, Edmunds & Associates updated Council on the status of the ASR well. Two and one-half years into the process, the SRF loan has funded \$95,000 on the planning phase of the project. Mr. Siewert stated the city could anticipate having a functional well in 2004. It was consensus of Council that the SRF loan would be used only for planning expenses associated with the ASR well.

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Council discussed the feasibility of using the SRF loan for construction of the reuse installation, ASR well and treatment plan improvements vs. a conventional construction loan with a banking institution.

Council discussed the pay as you go installation of the reuse distribution currently under contract to US Filter, the success of the program, the fact engineering expenses would be required and the city would have to seek competitive bidding on the project if the SRF loan funded the installation.

Don Patterson, US Filter, stated he concurred that the ASR well is needed and the city should work on both projects at the same time. He also stated the city could not bid the reuse project as it is currently being done, and he felt the US Filter contract could be renewed without competitive bidding. He further discussed the savings the city has realized by US Filter doing the distribution system.

Mr. Williams discussed staff members had suggested to him the need to include in the US Filter renewal contract a specific amount of feet of pipe the company would commit to laying per month. Mr. Tusing stated he is a proponent of linear feet prices, stating that is the way the city has always done business. He further stated he would like to see a labor only contract, separating the equipment and possibly the equipment rental. Mr. Tusing suggested the contract should be discussed to determine the best accounting purposes of the dollars being spent by the city.

Ms. Cornwell discussed the approval of U.S. Filter contract Amendment One. She reminded Council the attorney had recommended the city needed to go to bid. Ms. Cornwell asked Mr. Patterson if US Filter would bid the job and he replied no. Ms. Cornwell questioned if the city is required to go to bid, because in her opinion there is no longer an emergency. Mr. Patterson stated Amendment One allowed for renewal. Council instructed staff to contact the attorney for his opinion on whether or not the city must go to bid, and placed the topic on the December 3, 2001 agenda.

3. PURCHASE OF FURNITURE FROM CONCEPT ONE

Staff advised Council an appraisal placed a liquidation value of \$85 to \$100 on the furniture. Council was also advised the appraiser had advised her insurance company no longer insures a chair with only four stars. Mayor Whitesel removed the item from the agenda.

4. DISPOSITION OF 1995 CROWN VICTORIA

MOTION: Mrs. Keefer moved, Ms. Bryant seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the total loss disposition of a 1995 Crown Victoria in the amount of \$5,761.67.

5. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Interim Chief Lowe

Questioned the status of the bids for the diversity training.

MOTION: Ms. Bryant moved, Ms. Cornwell seconded and motion carried unanimously to set a time certain two-week period to have the proposals in order to move forward.

Mike Hickey

There was no report from the Public Works Department.

6. INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS

Ms. Cornwell

Put into the record the MPO 2025 Financially Feasible Transportation Plan.

Informed Council city attorney had advised her the appointments for the attorney and chief of police positions had to be done at the January 7, 2001 meeting. The city attorney is to be informed this topic will be discussed at the December 3, 2001 meeting so he can address the issue.

Stated she is very uncomfortable with the fact department heads have no set working hours. Discussion ensued which included topics of whether or not Council could set definite hours the department heads should be on duty, whether the same perimeters pertain to exempt employees, and if time cards are required for these employees. The city attorney is to be informed this topic will be discussed at the December 3, 2001 meeting so he can address the issue.

Mayor Whitesel departed the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Suggested the conference table and chairs in the Mayor's office be used in the Council's office. Ms. Bryant suggested looking at the office to determine the most functional way to utilize the office.

Discussed the new furniture going out to bid for city hall and the fact it was not addressed in the budget as furniture. Ms. Cornwell suggested looking at revamping the furniture in city hall in phases.

Interim Chief Lowe department the meeting at 6:20 to attend the Citizen's Academy Graduation.

Discussed the glass partition at the end counter and the need for a voice box. Ms. Cornwell again discussed the need to move forward slowly, as the furniture was not presented in the budget.

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Mrs. Keefer

Stated 75% of robberies are not committed with a gun.

Mrs. Lancaster

Commented on the Governor's Mentoring Program, inquiring if any Council Member will be attending. Ms. Cornwell advised Manatee County School Board also offered classes to anyone interested in being a mentor.

Mr. Williams

Mr. Williams moved, Mrs. Lancaster seconded and motion carried unanimously to approve the December 3, 2001 agenda with the additions.

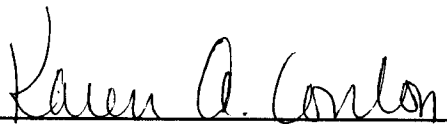
7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ellen Leonard stated that as chairman of the committee that revised the Personnel Policy, department heads are exempt from the wage and hour provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. If Council takes action which converts the department head to an hourly paid employee they lose the exempt status and are entitled to time and one-half overtime. Mrs. Leonard cautioned Council to take care in regulating the specific hours of department heads.

A date recognizing volunteer committee members will be discussed December 3, 2001.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Minutes approved: December 17, 2001



**Karen A. Conlon
City Clerk**