

CITY COMMISSION MEETING

March 1, 2021

7:00 pm

This Commission Meeting was conducted utilizing Communications Media Technology. Staff members were present in the Commission Chambers while others were present via the Zoom application to respect the social distancing guidelines.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT IN CHAMBERS:

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor
Brian Williams, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, Ward 3
Sheldon Jones, Commissioner-at-Large 1
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2
Harold Smith, Commissioner, Ward 1
Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner, Ward 2

STAFF PRESENT IN CHAMBERS:

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney
Jim Freeman, City Clerk
Mohammed Rayan, Director of Public Works
Scott Tyler, Chief of Police
Jeff Burton, CRA Director
Penny Johnston, Executive Administrative Assistant
Vanessa Cochran, Assistant City Clerk

STAFF PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY:

Todd Williams, Information Technology (IT) Consultant

Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

All person intending to address the City Commission were duly sworn.

1. **PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS PROCLAMATION**

Commissioner Cornwell read the Problem Gambling Awareness proclamation. No one was present to accept the proclamation at this time.

2. **CITY COMMISSION AGENDA APPROVAL**

Motion: Commissioner Williams moved, Commissioner Jones seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the March 1, 2021 City Commission Agenda.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Glen Gibellina submitted an online submittal form and was not present at the City Commission Meeting. Copies of the submittal form was given to the Commissioners and is a part of the minutes.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Resolution 2021-04 Capital Lease Resolution (J. Freeman)
- b. Res 2021-08 Budget Resolution-Law Enforcement Reserve (J. Freeman)

Motion: Commissioner Williams moved, Commissioner Cornwell seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as presented by staff.

5. FIRST READ ORDINANCE 2021-01 GENERAL EMPLOYEE PENSION INTERNAL REVENUE CODE CHANGES (J. Freeman)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALMETTO AMENDING CHAPTER 22, PERSONNEL ARTICLE IV, GENERAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PALMETTO; AMENDING SECTION 22-86, BENEFIT AMOUNTS AND ELIGIBILITY; AMENDING SECTION 22-87, PRE-RETIREMENT DEATH; AMENDING SECTION 22-90, OPTIONAL FORMS OF BENEFITS; AMENDING SECTION 22-95, MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS; AMENDING SECTION 22-109, REEMPLOYMENT AFTER RETIREMENT; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HERewith AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion: Commissioner Williams moved, Commissioner Cornwell seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2021-01 and authorize staff to advertise for a public hearing.

6. FIRST READING ORDINANCE 2020-11 PARK HOURS (S. Tyler)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALMETTO, FLORIDA, REGARDING PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES IN CITY PARKS, AT CITY FACILITIES, AND ON PUBLIC PROPERTY AND FACILITIES WITHIN THE CITY OF PALMETTO; AMENDING CHAPTER 20 OF THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES; AMENDING THE HOURS OF OPERATION FOR CITY PARKS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

This item is a continuation of the discussion that was presented to the Board during the Commission Workshop Meeting today at 4:30 p.m. to amend the Riverside Park restroom closing hours from staying open 24 hours a day to closing at 10:00 p.m.

Motion: Commissioner Williams moved, Commissioner Varnadore seconded, and the motion failed 2-3 to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2020-11 and authorize staff to advertise for a public hearing. Commissioners Smith, Jones, and Cornwell voted nay.

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Mayor Bryant recessed the City Commission Meeting at 7:32 p.m. to open the March 1, 2021 CRA Board Meeting.

Mayor Bryant reconvened the City Commission Meeting at 9:28 pm.

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

7. TRAFFIC UPDATE

Mr. Rayan, Public Works Director (PWD), gave an update on the 23rd Street Project. He stated that after the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) approves the preliminary improvements, the round-about project will start early next year.

8. POLICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING UPDATE

Mr. Rayan, PWD provided updates on the design development drawings, the geotechnical report, and the furniture/fixtures.

COMMENTS:

9. DEPARTMENT HEADS' COMMENTS

Mr. Rayan informed the Board that he discussed the crossing repairs on 7th Street with CSX and was told that they will forward the matter to their corporate office for a decision. And, he will notify Attorney Barnebey on their verdict when it is received. Then, Mr. Rayan addressed the various projects going on throughout the City.

Mr. Burton, CRA Director, suggested creating a Business Retention Program that will assist in connecting with existing businesses to prevent turnover. Mayor Bryant requested that Mr. Burton collect the information and bring it back to the Board to review.

Chief Tyler reported that people have lost a lot of money to phone scams where the callers have identified themselves as IRS or Covid representatives. Then, he gave some strategies to help prevent it.

10. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bryant addressed the issue regarding the boats damaging the docks and stated that she wanted to write the legislators and ask for their assistance if the Board agrees. And, the Board agreed with the Mayor's suggestion.

She complimented Penny Johnston, Executive Administrative Assistant, for her support at the Food Distribution Center at Mt. Carmel Missionary Church where about 300 people received assistance. And, she reported that the Palmetto Animal Control received a vast donation of items for the animals.

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11. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Smith requested the status of the pavement project at 14th Street and 4th Ave. W. Mr. Rayan, PWD, replied that he will contact the former Public Works Director and get back with Commissioner Smith.

Commissioner Jones stated that a new business at 721 8th was having a ribbon cutting, and the Commissioners are invited. He asked Chief Tyler about the body cameras, and Chief Tyler requested that the Commissioner give him a call to schedule a meeting.

Mayor Bryant adjourned the meeting at 9:55pm.

MINUTES APPROVED: APRIL 19, 2021

JAMES R. FREEMAN

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CITY CLERK