

**CITY OF PALMETTO
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
December 16, 2013
7:00 PM**

Elected Officials Present

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor
Tambra Varnadore, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, Ward 2
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2
Jonathan Davis, Commissioner-at-Large 1
Charles Smith, Commissioner, Ward 1
Brian Williams, Commissioner, Ward 3

Staff Present

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney
Jeff Burton, CRA Director
Jim Freeman, City Clerk
Allen Tusing, Public Works Director
Rick Wells, Chief of Police
Amber Foley, Assistant City Clerk

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

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

Commissioner Williams recognized the Palmetto Pride Softball team for their recent win at tournament. Tammy Stinton, Palmetto High School Softball Coach, recognized the team's coaches DJ Childers and Lacey Stovall for their excellent job on coaching these young girls.

1. CITY COMMISSION AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion: Commissioner Cornwell moved, Commissioner Varnadore seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the December 16, 2013 Agenda.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

A. Mayor's Office

1. 2014 Appointment List
2. Appointment of Sixth and Seventh Trustee to the General Employees' Pension Board
3. Appointment of Mike Fuller as the Fifth Trustee to the Police Officers' Pension Board

B. Clerk's Office

1. Minutes: November 18th and December 2nd
2. Approval of Contract with BS&A
3. YMCA 5K Special Function Permit

Mayor Bryant informed Commission that the YMCA 5K event scheduled for January 18, 2014 will begin at the fairgrounds at 10:00 a.m. and is to be over by noon. The route takes place through the west side of Palmetto.

Motion: Commissioner Varnadore moved, Commissioner Williams seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the December 16, 2013 Consent Agenda.

4. TRAFFIC REGULATION AT 7TH STREET AND 11TH AVENUE WEST

Several residents have signed a petition for the installation of an all-way stop at the intersection of 7th Street West and 11th Avenue. Mr. Tusing and Chief Wells both stated that this intersection is a dangerous one due to the inability to see west when stopped on 11th Avenue. When there is a car in the driveway on 7th Street, or there are garbage cans, the view is severely obstructed. There have been several accidents that have occurred due to the visibility.

Commissioner Varnadore and Davis both stated they have received calls from other residents in the City complaining that the City seems to be installing all-way stops everywhere lately. They recognize the need for something to be done along 7th Street, but would like some discussion on an alternative to stop signs. Chief Wells has thought about this issue and cannot think of a suitable alternative other than to create the necessary stop signs for this intersection.

Commissioner Cornwell requested a traffic study be performed on this intersection before a vote is taken on whether to install the stop signs or not. Commissioner Smith agreed with Commissioner Cornwell, stating that normal procedure is to do a traffic study; however, in this particular intersection he understands that something needs to be done before another accident happens.

Commissioner Davis stated that this is a blind intersection and he does not see an alternative to the creation of an all-way stop. Commissioner Varnadore said that there are several blind intersections throughout the City and she encourages Commission to explore other alternatives to installing stop signs at every intersection.

Commissioner Smith discussed a blind intersection along 11th Street Drive East. There is a stop sign located inside of a resident's fence. Mr. Tusing stated he will go by and look at this and address it.

Mr. Burton said that Commission may want to consider reviewing the transportation element of the Comprehensive Plan. This will provide information on the capacity of the City's major roads. He recommended that Ms. Lyn could provide a copy of all the traffic related ordinances and this would make it easier for Commission to modify and update transportation related issues in the City.

Motion: Commissioner Williams moved, Commissioner Varnadore seconded, and the motion carried 4-1 to authorize Public Works to install the appropriate signs to create an all-way stop intersection at 7th Street and 11th Avenue West. Commissioner Cornwell voted no.

Commissioner Cornwell stated she prefers that a traffic study be performed on all intersections where a stop sign is being proposed for installation.

Commissioner Davis requested that flags be placed on the new stops signs to alert the residents to stop.

Mayor Bryant would like to see the City be proactive on the blind intersection issues in the City. She asked Mr. Tusing to meet with City Planner Lorraine Lyn to look at blind sight triangle issues and intersections throughout the City.

5. 1ST READ ORDINANCE 2013-19 USE AND LOCATION OF DROP BOXES

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF PALMETTO, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE PALMETTO CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF THE USE AND LOCATION OF DROP BOXES; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion: Commissioner Varnadore moved, Commissioner Davis seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to schedule Ordinance 2013-19 for a public hearing on February 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as same can be heard in these chambers and direct staff to advertise for same.

6. 1ST READ ORDINANCE 2013-20 USE AND LOCATION OF OUTDOOR VENDING MACHINES
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF PALMETTO, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE PALMETTO CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF THE USE AND LOCATION OF OUTDOOR VENDING MACHINES; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Cornwell expressed concerns regarding the water machines that are installed outside of schools and at the athletic fields. She opined it is necessary for these types of vending machines.

Commission would like to have a workshop on this item for further discussion and clarification. This item will be placed on the January 6, 2014 workshop agenda and on the 7:00 p.m. agenda for a first read.

Action Request: Motion to schedule Ordinance 2013-20 for a public hearing on February 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as same can be heard in these chambers and direct staff to advertise for same.

No action was taken at this time. This item will be discussed on the January 6, 2014 workshop and will be placed on the 7:00 p.m. agenda for a first read.

7. 1ST READ ORDINANCE 2013-21 USE AND LOCATION OF PORTABLE STORAGE CONTAINERS
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF PALMETTO, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE PALMETTO CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF THE USE AND LOCATION OF PORTABLE STORAGE CONTAINERS; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Davis requested that the requirement of the storage containers being placed on a concrete or asphalt pad be removed from the ordinance because if the storage container is temporary there should not be a requirement of a permanent pad.

Commissioner Smith opined that the 60 consecutive days on a property per year is too short. He expressed concern for those containers that have been on a piece of property for several years. Commissioner Smith would like to see those in existence be given 90 days.

Commissioner Cornwell questioned if the temporary and portable storage containers applied to those that are located at schools and in the industrial park. Attorney Barnebey stated that this proposed ordinance does not exempt any particular zoning district, but that Commission could exempt properties that are located in the Commercial Heavy Industrial (CHI) Zone. Mr. Barnebey informed Commission that this proposed ordinance does not affect any portable storage that meets the building code.

Commissioner Williams questioned paragraph 7 of the ordinance that states that portable storage containers associated with a construction site are permitted for the duration of construction and shall be removed within fourteen days of the end of construction; he questioned when the end of construction is. Attorney Barnebey will review this paragraph and determine what language can be inserted to ensure that there is a specific time limit on how long the storage container can be on site during and after construction.

Mayor Bryant asked Attorney Barnebey to make the above requested changes including changing the time-frame from 60 days to 90 days for those storage containers that are already in existence, and to leave it for 60 days to all new containers.

Motion: Commissioner Williams moved, Commissioner Cornwell seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to schedule Ordinance 2013-21 for a public hearing on February 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as same can be heard in these chambers and direct staff to advertise for same.

8. NOVEMBER CHECK REGISTER (*Informational Only*)

9. BASEBALL FIELD UPDATE

10. ASR WELL UPDATE

Mr. Tusing informed Commission that the ultra-violet disinfection unit will be delivered on Thursday. This will be used instead of chlorine to disinfect the water.

11. DEPARTMENT HEADS' COMMENTS

Mr. Tusing—The baseball fields' lights will be delivered today and the construction is coming along.

Mr. Freeman—Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Chief Wells—Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Attorney Barnebey—Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

12. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bryant thanked Veolia for their contribution to the Employee Appreciation Party. She thanked all sponsors and the City employees who helped to make the party a success.

She thanked Commissioner Varnadore for covering the Christmas in the Park for her and Commissioner Williams for attending the MPO meeting today so that she could attend Deputy Chief Tyler's moms' visitation.

Mayor Bryant asked Commission to let Deanna know if they will be riding in the MLK Parade and if they would like to hand out beads or candy. The consensus was to hand out beads during the parade.

She reminded Commission that there is still a vacant position on the Planning and Zoning Board and she requested their help on finding someone to serve.

Mayor Bryant explained that, because there is a dire need for a new Police Department, she has negotiated with CCNA to do a spatial need assessment on that building. She plans on moving forward on that. Commissioner Varnadore asked if, after the spatial needs assessment is performed, will the City follow through and begin the process on building a new Police Department. The Mayor stated that this is the beginning of the process and there are private partnerships that will help the City and the Police Department.

Mayor Bryant said that she received a petition from the businesses along 10th Avenue requesting the Seafood Festival be extending down to 4th Street so that they can be included in the event. She is seeking feedback from Commission regarding this.

Commissioner Varnadore expressed concern about the apartments on 10th Avenue. Gary Kortzendorf, Chair of the Hernando DeSoto Historical Society Seafood Festival, explained that he would like to meet with the owner of the apartments and discuss parking options. Mr. Freeman will provide Mr. Kortzendorf with the owner's information.

In regard to incorporating the businesses along 10th Avenue, Mr. Kortzendorf stated he would love to include them and help increase their business during the festival. Mr. Freeman stated that an amended Special Function Permit would need to be submitted along with a new map showing the road closures and traffic flow. Mr. Kortzendorf stated, with the extension, he will be able to include more vendors along that road as well as put in a second stage for the event.

13. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Smith—Asked about suspending water turn-offs until after the first of the year due to the holidays. Mr. Freeman stated that, currently, turn-offs are Tuesday this week and then not until after the first of the year. Mayor Bryant cautioned about deviating from the utility policy that Commission established regarding water turn-offs.

Commissioner Davis—Thanked Ray D'Auito and Veolia for the great food at the Employee Appreciation Party. He attended the Concert in the Park this weekend and said it was great. Mr. Davis wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Cornwell—Stated she attended the Fair Board meeting and the theme this year is The Great Outdoors. Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Commissioner Varnadore—She is looking forward to seeing suggestions on traffic plans for the City. She wished everyone a safe and Happy Holiday.

Commissioner Williams—Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He stated that the Employee Appreciation Party was wonderful and all the volunteers did a great job. Mr. Williams thanked Ray from Veolia for his delicious food.

Mayor Bryant adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Minutes approved: January 6, 2014

James R. Freeman

James R. Freeman
City Clerk