

Palmetto City Commission  
Special Meeting and Press Conference  
January 16, 2007 5:00 p.m.

Elected Officials Present:

Larry Bustle, Mayor  
Eric Ball, Vice Mayor (entered at 5:05 pm)  
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner  
Mary Lancaster, Commissioner  
Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner  
Brian Williams, Commissioner

Staff and Others Present:

James R. Freeman, City Clerk  
Chief Garry Lowe  
Michele Hall, Attorney  
Diane Ponder, Deputy Clerk-Administration

Mayor Bustle called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm, followed by a moment of silence for overseas military personnel and the Pledge of Allegiance.

All persons planning to address Commission were sworn in.

1. AGENDA APPROVAL

Upon Commission's approval to Mayor Bustle's suggestion, the two items on the agenda were reversed in order.

**MOTION: Mr. Williams moved, Mrs. Lancaster seconded and motion carried 4-0 to approve the January 16, 2007 7:00 pm agenda. Mr. Ball was absent for the vote.**

2. CITY ATTORNEY APPOINTMENT APPROVAL

**MOTION: Mr. Williams moved, Ms. Varnadore seconded and motion carried 3-1 to approve the appointment of Michele Hall as City Attorney, for a term ending January 21, 2008. Ms. Cornwell voted no.**

3. DISCUSSION: PALMETTO/NORTH RIVER PARKS AND RECREATION

Mayor Bustle explained that in late 2006 he started receiving complaints from the Palmetto Little League regarding the conditions of the fields at the complex. Research confirmed the City had no responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of the fields, so the City intervened and contacted the appropriate county department.

Mayor Bustle referred to a letter he sent to Manatee County in 2004 concerning his perception of the inequities representative in county parks north of Manatee River, vs. other county parks, which went unanswered. December 7, 2006, another letter concerning the same topic was dispatched to Manatee County, which prompted a response from the commission chairman and another commissioner during a public Board of County Commission meeting. Mayor Bustle stated his opinion comments made by the two individuals were very negative in manner.

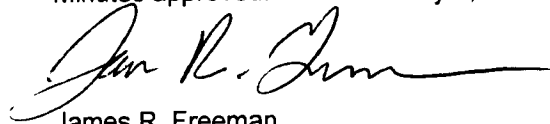
Mayor Bustle proceeded to respond to each individual comment made by the two commissioners. He also narrated a power point presentation comparing photographs of amenities at Palma Sola Park, Coquina Beach and GT Bray Park to the same amenities at Blackstone Park and Lincoln Park.

County Commissioner Carol Whitmore, the only county commission who attended the meeting, stated that as a previous mayor of a municipality she understood the Commission's concerns, and based on the formation provided, the concerns are justified. Commissioner Whitmore requested a copy of the power point so it could be provided to the each county commissioner and the Parks and Recreation Department.

Mayor Bustle reminded the audience the fair begins this week. He also congratulated the new City Attorney.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Minutes approved: February 5, 2007



James R. Freeman  
City Clerk