

Palmetto City Commission and  
CRA Board  
September 17, 2007 5:02 p.m.

Elected Officials Present:

Larry Bustle, Mayor  
Eric Ball, Vice Mayor  
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner  
Mary Lancaster, Commissioner  
Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner  
Brian Williams, Commissioner

CRA Board Members Present:

Alan Zirkelbach, Chair  
Sia Mollanazar  
Shaun Frazier  
Dr. Scott Maloney (entered at 5:30 pm)  
Tanya Lukowiak, Executive Director

Staff and Others Present:

James R. Freeman, City Clerk  
Chief Garry Lowe  
Chris Lukowiak, Public Works Director  
Diane Ponder, Deputy Clerk-Administration

Mayor Bustle called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm, followed by a moment of silence for overseas military personnel and the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

All persons planning to address Commission were sworn in.

1. AGENDA APPROVAL

**MOTION: Mr. Ball moved, Mrs. Lancaster seconded and motion carried 5-0 to approve the September 17, 2007 5:01 pm agenda.**

2. JOINT MEETING/CITY COMMISSION AND CRA BOARD

Mayor Bustle individually introduced the CRA Board members in attendance.

Mrs. Lukowiak informed the Commission the CRA Board approved its budget by resolution at its last meeting. She stated that of the \$3 million available funding in the FYE 2008 budget, \$1,420,000 is committed, as follows:

Morehead Industrial Park (12 <sup>th</sup> St. E.)	\$325,000
Riverside Dr. & 8 <sup>th</sup> Ave. intersection (Matching MPO Grant)	150,000
Purchase of 200 11 <sup>th</sup> St. Dr. W.	35,000
8 <sup>th</sup> Ave. W. flooding engineering study	50,000
Haben Blvd. drainage & traffic improvements	500,000
Purchase of Ford Triplexes (Closing 10/31/07)	360,000

Mrs. Lukowiak stated \$1.7 million is available for potential projects, which includes the plan to execute a \$1.2 million loan but, given the recent Strand decision, there is a possibility CRA will not be permitted to issue any additional debt.

Attorney Hall stated the Supreme Court decided the Strand v. Escambia County case. The primary difference between this Supreme Court ruling and existing case law is that repayment of loans issued for longer than one year with ad valorem tax revenue must be approved by referendum. She informed the Commission the CRA has joined the Florida League of Cities and other participating agencies in a motion to allow the agencies to file a brief, which will request that the scope of the Court's decision be narrowed to not impact CRA indebtedness and City lease/purchase financing debt.

Attorney Hall also related that she and Mr. Freeman have reviewed the City's two outstanding loans. In both loans, the City pledged non-ad valorem tax revenue, or user fee revenue, for repayment. She opined the City's two bank loans are more secure than the existing CRA loan.

Closing her briefing of the Strand v. Escambia case, she cautioned that the City should be very cautious in spending any un-drawn loan funds or issuing any new debt until this issue has been resolved.

Mrs. Lukowiak reviewed the potential projects the CRA Board has identified, stating there is funding of approximately \$500,000 available, and the Board is seeking direction from Commission as to how the list should be prioritized or amended. Chairman Zirkelbach discussed his belief the CRA Board's role is to investigate potential projects to determine the economic benefit to the City, prior to bringing a project to Commission for approval. Commission commented as follows on the potential projects identified by the CRA Board:

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| CSX Property:           | Negotiate the price  |
| Parking Garage:         | Begin investigation into viability of project  |
| Municipal Auditorium:   | Research public/private partnership; commented on the fact the total reflects only the purchase price. – what will be the cost to renovate.              |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> Avenue: | Lower priority; Mayor Bustle suggested staff should research cost involved to set aside right-of-way for future sale or development of the CBI property. |
| Riverside Dr. Seawall:  | Lower priority; Mr. Lukowiak informed Commission the City has not been successful in obtaining funding from FEMA for repairs.                            |
| School land assembly:   | Site on 33 <sup>rd</sup> Street is not acceptable; School Board determination necessary before City knows how to proceed.                                |

Mayor Bustle and Commissioners complimented the CRA Board and Mrs. Lukowiak for accomplishments made in the CRA District to date.

### 3. PUBLIC HEARING – TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE AND TENTATIVE FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008 BUDGET

Mayor Bustle opened the public hearing for the adoption of the tentative millage rate and tentative Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Budget.

Mayor Bustle announced the Fiscal Year 2008 operating millage is 4.6662 mills, which is less than the rolled-back rate of 5.1277 by nine percent, as recommended by legislation. He discussed the purposes for which ad valorem revenues are used, stating the City has returned as

much as possible to the taxpayers, while preserving as much as possible the services provided by the City. Mayor Bustle read into the record the summary amount of each fund contained in the tentative Fiscal Year 2008 Budget totaling \$36,003,564.

Public Comment: Tom Rodgers, representing the citizens of the Tropic Isles community, stated the citizens pay a proportionate amount of millage but do not feel they receive a proportionate amount of services, and requested the issue be considered when developing the budget. He clarified his statement by explaining the City does not repair the community's streets or provide sewer or water maintenance. Mayor Bustle explained the City does not provide these services in any private gated communities. Mr. Rodgers compared a sewer repair on a City street being performed by City personnel, but a sewer repair expense in Tropic Isles would have to be borne by the Tropic Isles citizens. Mr. Lukowiak told Mr. Rodgers he would contact him to discuss the issue.

Mr. Freeman reviewed changes recently made to the tentative Fiscal Year 2007-2008 budget. Upon learning the VOCA Grant revenue had been eliminated, the Department Heads agreed the Victim's Advocate position is needed in the Police Department, reviewed the budget and proposed it be funded by the surplus in the General Fund. Commission discussed the other changes and made no further amendments to the tentative budget.

After no further public comment, Mayor Bustle closed the public hearing.

RESOLUTION NO. 07-35

Resolution No. 07-35 was read in its entirety.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PALMETTO OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR THE CITY OF PALMETTO FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**MOTION: Mr. Ball moved, Mrs. Lancaster seconded and motion carried 5-0 to adopt Resolution No. 07-35.**

RESOLUTION NO. 07-36

Resolution No. 07-36 was read in its entirety.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PALMETTO OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**MOTION: Mr. Ball moved, Mrs. Lancaster seconded and motion carried 5-0 to adopt Resolution No. 07-36.**

4. DEPARTMENT HEADS' COMMENTS

Mr. Lukowiak  
No report.

Mr. Freeman  
The final millage rate and Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Budget will be adopted at the October 1, 2007 7:00 pm Commission meeting. He will forward information regarding the January referendum.

Chief Lowe  
No report.

Attorney Hall

Information requested at the previous Commission will be printed on placed in Commission's mail boxes.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bustle stated the budget process this year has been quicker and more satisfying than any year since he has served as Mayor.

Commented on the large participation in the recent Manatee Glens' Suicide Walk for Life.

The Library Board of Trustees and County Commission has approved the naming of a conference room in Palmetto's library for Alice Myers. He will inform Commission of the date and time of the ceremony.

6. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Cornwell

The County Commission will discuss Blackstone Park at Tuesday's meeting. Mr. Lukowiak will advise Commission of the time of the discussion.

The Manatee County Fair will be held January 17 – 27, 2008 with the theme of "What's Cooking".

Mrs. Lancaster

Commented on the current situation surrounding the Manatee Opportunity Council.

Mr. Williams

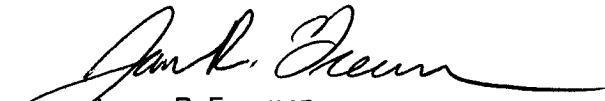
Offered apologies to the Mayor and Commission for his recent altercation concerning an agenda.

Ms. Varnadore

Thanked Public Works staff for their quick response to an elevator problem during the recent Palmetto Historical Commission's dedication of the Alice V. Myers Archive Center.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Minutes approved:       October 1, 2007

  
James R. Freeman  
City Clerk