

**CITY OF PALMETTO  
CITY COMMISSION MEETING  
FEBRUARY 27, 2012  
7:00 PM**

Elected Officials Present

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor  
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 1  
Charles Smith, Commissioner, Ward 1  
Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner, Ward 2

Elected Officials Absent

Brian Williams, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, Ward 3  
Alan Zirkelbach, Commissioner-at-Large 2

Staff Present

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney  
Jim Freeman, City Clerk  
Allen Tusing, Public Works Director  
Rick Wells, Chief of Police  
Diane Ponder, Deputy Clerk-Administration

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

Swearing-in of all persons intending to address City Commission.

Non-agenda Item Public Comment: None

1. CITY COMMISSION AGENDA APPROVAL

**MOTION: Commissioner Varnadore moved, Commissioner Cornwell seconded and motion carried 3-0 to approve the February 27, 2012 Agenda.**

2. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

**A. CITY CLERK'S OFFICE**

1. Minutes: February 6, 2012
2. Legal Billing: Kirk Pinkerton
3. Special Function Permits: Palmetto Riverside B&B
4. Energy Study Proposal from Trifecta Construction not to exceed \$9,500
5. Resolution No. 2012-07 to provide budget for the ASR Project L608

**B. POLICE DEPARTMENT**

1. Modification of the 2011 Edward Byrne Community Recovery Allocation Grant #2011-DJ-BX-2706 to allocate \$21,925 to equip four sergeant vehicles

Item 2B was pulled for discussion.

**MOTION: Commission Varnadore moved, Commissioner Smith seconded and motion carried 3-0 to approve item 2A of the February 27, 2012 Consent Agenda.**

Item 2B POLICE

1. Modification of the 2011 Edward Byrne Community Recovery Allocation Grant #2011-DJ-BX-2706 to allocate \$21,925 to equip four sergeant vehicles.

Chief Wells explained that approval was received from the grant agency to modify the grant and use the allocation to purchase the equipment. Every patrol car will now have computers.

**MOTION: Commissioner Cornwell moved, Commissioner Smith seconded and motion carried 3-0 to approve item 2B of the February 27, 2012 Consent Agenda.**

3. SECOND PUBLIC HEARING: ORDINANCE NO. 2011-33

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF PALMETTO, FLORIDA, AMENDING CODE OF ORDINANCES, ZONING CODE, TO PROVIDE STANDARDS FOR FARM LABOR CAMPS AS A CONDITIONAL USE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**Reopen the public hearing continued from January 23, 2012.**

**MOTION: Commissioner Cornwell moved, Commissioner Smith seconded and motion carried 3-0 to continue the public hearing for Ordinance No. 2011-33 to April 2, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in these chambers, or as soon thereafter as this topic can be heard.**

Mayor Bryant recessed the City Commission meeting at 7:07 p.m. to open the CRA Board Meeting.

Mayor Bryant reconvened the City Commission meeting at 7:40 pm.

4. JANUARY CHECK REGISTER (Informational only)

5. BASEBALL FIELD UPDATE

A meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2012, where the conceptual plan will be presented. The Interlocal agreement is being finalized by the county attorney. Mayor Bryant assured Commission that Manatee County has been informed the City will not contribute 30% to the project. The county attorney has also opined that county Park & Recreational Impact Fees can fund the project because the ball fields have been deemed as regional fields.

6. ASR WELL UPDATE

Southwest Florida Water Management has issued the draft permit, which the City must now advertise. The grant agency has given approval for the project to be bid, which should occur in March.

7. DEPARTMENT HEADS' COMMENTS

Mr. Tusing

The Haben Blvd. roundabout is open for traffic coming into town from east. The other lane of traffic will be opened when the landscaping is completed in approximately one week. A multi-head sable palm will sit in the middle of the roundabout.

Mr. Freeman

The next Commission meeting is Monday, March 5th; agendas will be prepared on Thursday. In response to Commissioner Cornwell's inquiry if the workshop could be combined with the Commission meeting, Attorney Barnebey confirmed Commission is not required to have a workshop meeting. He anticipates the criminal nuisance abatement, small sign ordinance and redistricting will be ready for the next workshop agenda.

Requested permission to have a company he has been in discussion with regarding telemetry meters to make a presentation at a workshop. Commission agreed to the presentation. Mr. Freeman estimated it would be on an agenda by April.

Chief Wells

Reported they are actively investigating the homicide that occurred last Tuesday night. He thanked Commissioner Smith for his help in the investigation.

Mr. Barnebey

Reported his office is working on numerous items, including the Shell station issue.

8. MAYOR'S REPORT

Commented of the Public Wharf mural recently installed in the chamber, noting a resident had saved it from being discarded by Wells Fargo bank.

Named the upcoming public community meetings. Requested that Commission Smith work with Ms. Roberts to arrange the meeting he had requested. Commissioner Smith stated the meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. so the Commissioners and more of the public can attend.

Reported that Leisure Lake is petitioning FDOT to close the road going through the park. While Leisure Lake is not in the city limits, she would like FDOT take a look at the intersection. She will communicate her concerns to FDOT via written correspondence.

9. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Varnadore

Reported she is receiving complaints regarding the traffic lights at 7<sup>th</sup> St. and 10<sup>th</sup> Ave., 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 10<sup>th</sup> St., and 10<sup>th</sup> St. and 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. Mr. Tusing discussed the loops imbedded in the streets and how they can affect the changing of a traffic light. He will report the light at 7<sup>th</sup> St. and 10<sup>th</sup> Ave., as it is on a timer.

Stated her opinion that the regional light timing project is not the best it can be.

Ms. Cornwell

Reported she has sent Mr. Freeman the minutes from the community meeting on Saturday and requested that they are sent to the Commission. Mayor Bryant will send inquiries of subjects for discussion before the upcoming meetings.

Mr. Smith

Commented on the fact the police department has had the same number of officers for the last 20 years. He stated his belief there is a need for them to have better equipment, as they are not "up to par" when faced with a very serious situation. He asked that Chief Wells compile a list of the police department's needs. Ms. Roberts will schedule a meeting for him with the Mayor and Chief Wells.

Commented on his conversation with Attorney Barnebey where he inquired why the city does not have a Housing Authority. Attorney Barnebey stated Statutes create a Housing Authority for jurisdictions with populations over 5,000. The authority has to be activated by the Commission or can be activated by

petition containing 25 signatures. Attorney Barnebey suggested it may be appropriate to bring forward an ordinance or resolution regarding the topic. Mayor Bryant stated that research must be completed to see how the creation of the authority will affect the City. Mr. Smith opined the authority will allow the City to apply for federal grant monies.

Meeting adjourned at 8: 15 p.m.

Minutes approved: March 5, 2012

*James R. Freeman*

James R. Freeman  
City Clerk