

CITY COMMISSION MEETING

August 23, 2021

7:00 pm

This Commission Meeting was conducted utilizing Communications Media Technology. Some 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:

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor

Brian Williams, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, Ward 3

Sheldon Jones, Commissioner-at-Large 1

Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2 (Entered the meeting at 7:02 p.m.)

Harold Smith, Commissioner, Ward 1

Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner, Ward 2

STAFF PRESENT:

Scott Rudacille, City Attorney

Mohammed Rayan, Public Works Director

Scott Tyler, Chief of Police

Jim Freeman, City Clerk

Cheryl Miller, Finance Director

Jeff Burton, CRA Director

Xaiver Colon, Assistant CRA Director

Penny Johnston, Executive Assistant

Vanessa Cochran, Assistant City Clerk

STAFF PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY:

Todd Williams, Information Technology (IT) Consultant

1. 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.

2. CITY COMMISSION AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion: Commissioner Varnadore moved, Commissioner Smith seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the August 23, 2021 City Commission Agenda.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following members of the public spoke regarding their opinions that involve the City's electronic signage ordinance, the sewer system upgrades, and a pedestrian median at 17th Street West and 2nd Avenue West near the Youth Center.

Ed Sanford
Conchita Delgado
Park Crisp
Ellen Wile

Jack May
Kari Martin
Erin Brosious

Lynn Meier
Betty Rhodes
Melton Little

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4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes: July 19, 2021
- b. Legal Bills
- c. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Agreement (J. Freeman)
- d. MLK Park Restroom Contract - Building Project #20-787 (M. Rayan)
- e. Resolution 2021-19 MLK Park Restroom Budget Amendment (J. Freeman)

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

5. July Check Register (Informational Only)

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

6. TRAFFIC UPDATE

Mr. Rayan, Public Works Director, gave a brief update on the various projects going on throughout the City. US 41 and intersections at 23rd Street and 26th Street construction dates are pending, and the roundabout project remains on schedule, and the design will be completed by the first quarter in 2022, and construction in the fall of 2022.

7. POLICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING UPDATE

Chief Tyler commented on the guaranteed maximum price (GMP) for the PD building. And, Mr. Freeman added that the Request For Proposal (RFP) results from the bank loan will be presented in September, and the final PD construction GMP in October.

Recess the City Commission Meeting to open the August 23, 2021 Special CRA Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Reconvene the City Commission Meeting at 7:55 p.m.

8. RESOLUTION 2021-20 FLORIDA MAIN STREET PROGRAM

Upon motion made tonight at the August 23, 2021 Special CRA Board Meeting, Item 8, Resolution 2021-20 Florida Main Street Program is added for Commission approval.

Motion: Commissioner Williams moved, Commissioner Cornwell seconded, and the motion carried 4-1 to approve Resolution 2021-20 allowing the City of Palmetto and CRA to apply for the Florida Main Street Program. Commissioner Jones voted nay.

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COMMENTS:

9. DEPARTMENT HEADS' COMMENTS

In regards to the August 17th Lamp Post Place Neighborhood Community Meeting, Mr. Rayan informed the Board about the below residents' concerns.

- Resume Homeowners Association (HOA)
- Pond Maintenance
- Street Lighting

Mr. Freeman recapped the upcoming Commission and CRA Meetings' dates and addressed the scheduling of a special budget meeting. Next, he provided the Board with the vacant positions information that was requested at the August 23rd Commission Workshop Meeting involving the Salary Study.

Commissioner Smith questioned why Public Works is losing employees.

Commissioner Jones requested the status of 1507 and 1508 20th Avenue water stagnation problem and commented on the LED signage issue that was mentioned in the public comments.

Commissioner Varnadore asked Mr. Rayan to give a brief description on the 20th Avenue sewer manhole issues. The three issues discussed were the August 4th sanitary sewage spill, 3/4 of the City's sewage going through this area, and the gravity sewer lines. Mr. Rayan reported that an engineering firm is collecting the data for Public Works and will present the results for a potential solution.

Commissioner Cornwell commented on the sewer spill issue and requested that Public Works keep the Board updated.

Commissioner Williams made comments on several subjects pertaining to the sewage spill, Public Works' vacant positions, and the Lamp Post Place subdivision issue.

Mr. Freeman announced that the previous scheduled August 30th Budget Meeting will be cancelled and will work on getting it rescheduled.

Chief Tyler addressed the public comment regarding 17th Street West and 2nd Avenue West near the Youth Center. He stated that the area is overseen by Manatee County, and he believes the pedestrian median was installed to assist pedestrians crossing the road, but will reach out to Manatee County to get it better marked. Commissioner Smith reported that the area now has cones placed around it, so Manatee County is probably addressing the issue.

10. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bryant stated that she received an email from Colonial Manor Mobile Home Park regarding U-turn signs on 301 and requested that Mr. Rayan reach out to them. She also informed the Board that she presented a resolution to a Palmetto veteran resident, Sam Scott, who turned 100 years old, wishing him a happy birthday and thanking him for his service. Also, Mayor Bryant announced the retirement of Hazel Isom, who served 18 years in the Public Works Department.

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11. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Cornwell reported on the Palmetto Historical Commission Meeting that she attended, and the next meeting is scheduled August 24th. She mentioned that school has started and thanked Chief Tyler/staff for doing a great job.

Commissioner Williams inquired why Waste Management does not close the lids after emptying the containers, and Mr. Rayan replied that he was told that this indicates the containers have been emptied.

Commissioner Varnadore suggested a Citizen Advisory Board be developed and requested a Workshop be scheduled to discuss.

Mayor Bryant adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: OCTOBER 18, 2021

JAMES R. FREEMAN

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CITY CLERK