

Palmetto City Commission  
May 2, 2005 4:00 PM

Elected Officials present:

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

Staff and others present:

Michele Hall, Attorney  
J. E. Free, Jr., City Clerk  
Chief Garry Lowe  
Chris Lukowiak, Public Works Director  
Jessica McCann, City Planner  
Diane Ponder, Deputy Clerk-Administration

Mayor Bustle called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

A moment of silence for overseas military personnel was observed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

1. APPROVAL OF WORKSHOP AGENDA

Mayor Bustle advised the Commission item #4 was being removed. Mr. Williams requested the removal of item #7 to allow for the collection of more supporting documentation before Commission's review.

MOTION: Mr. Williams moved, Ms. Varnadore seconded and motion carried 5-0 to approve the May 2, 2005 4:00 PM agenda as modified.

2. DEPARTMENT HEAD APPOINTMENTS EXPIRATION DATE

The issue discussed was the previous motion to appoint department heads to a term expiring with the November 2008 election. Commission discussed modifying the motion to allow the department heads' term to expire at the conclusion of a regular meeting after the election. Discussion resulted in a decision to extend the appointment of incumbent department heads to the first regular meeting after the mayor's election in November 2008.

The order of the agenda was altered to accommodate the arrival of Manatee County attorney Robert Eschenfelder, the presenter of the proposed Verizon franchise.

3. DISCUSSION – POSSIBLE CLOSING OF CSX RAILROAD CROSSINGS

Mayor Bustle informed the Commission Manatee County is trying to extend 44th Avenue east of 15th Street, and to do so must cross CSX tracks. CSX will not open a new crossing without closing an existing crossing. Mayor Bustle informed the Commission that in the spirit of cooperation with the County, it was suggested the City may consider closing the CSX crossing at 7th Avenue (behind Walgreens) if Manatee County would support the City's attempt to obtain CSX's permit for a directional bore under the track on 8th Avenue as part of the City's fiber optic ring; Manatee County agreed to negotiate the directional bore issue with CSX on behalf of the City.

Commission discussed the topic and agreed to delay making a decision about closing 7th Avenue until Manatee County has completed negotiations with CSX. Mayor Bustle stated he will contact the City's congressional representatives regarding the railroad during Manatee County's negotiations.

During the discussion Public Works was advised of complaints Commissioners have received regarding the condition of existing rail crossings in the City.

#### 4. SANITARY MANHOLE REHABILITATION

Mr. Lukowiak informed the Commission the presentation is in response to Commission's request to obtain additional information on refurbishing the City's brick manholes. Mr. Woodard and Mr. Brad Miller of Haz Equipment narrated a presentation of how the company seals the interior of brick manholes. Mr. Miller discussed how refurbishment of the manholes will benefit the I&I program, the history of the sealant and the warranties that will be provided the City. Mr. Lukowiak is proposing a pilot program to refurbish the 64 manholes in the lift station #4 system, which will cost approximately \$165,250. There are 30 lift stations throughout the city containing approximately 750 manholes. The highest cost to rehabilitate an existing City manhole is estimated at approximately \$5,000 vs. a maximum of \$49,000 for construction of a new manhole.

Commission discussed the project. Grants Coordinator Tanya Lukowiak informed Commission there could potentially be grant funding through the Basin Board or the CRA could assist in funding any portions of the project located within the CRA district.

#### 5. DISCUSSION – PROPOSED VERIZON FRANCHISE

Manatee County attorney Robert Eschenfelder and cable franchise director Frizzelle McCartney presented Commission with the concept of a county-wide cable television consortium. He explained the consortium would negotiate franchise agreements with cable television companies wishing to provide service in Manatee County. The consortium would have a representative from each participating municipality. The municipalities of the County may opt out of the consortium, but their participation would ensure their residents receive the same benefits as County residents. If the municipalities participate in the consortium an interlocal agreement must be executed and the municipalities will relinquish their cable television franchise rights to Manatee County. Mr. Eschenfelder stressed that each municipality will continue to receive the simplified telecommunications tax revenue to which they are entitled; in turn the municipalities would pay an administrative fee to staff the consortium on a pro rata basis .

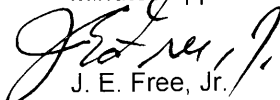
When questioned how the proposed consortium could affect the City's fiber optic ring, Mr. Eschenfelder opined the cable television companies would most likely ignore the ring.

Mr. Eschenfelder stated that if the Commission is interested in pursuing the subject, a resolution would be forthcoming for Commission's approval authorizing City staff to enter into negotiation for the development of an interlocal agreement to create a Manatee County Cable Television Consortium. He stated Manatee County is currently negotiating the Verizon franchise agreement and it would be beneficial to complete the negotiation of the interlocal agreement as soon as possible.

It was a consensus of Commission to participate in the consortium. Appropriate staff should concurrently pursue the negotiations and development of the interlocal agreement. The proposed resolution will be placed on the May 16, 2005 agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Minutes approved: May 16, 2005

  
J. E. Free, Jr.  
City Clerk