

Palmetto City Commission
August 7, 2006 4:00 p.m.

Elected Officials Present:

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

Staff and Others Present:

James R. Freeman, City Clerk
Chris Lukowiak, Public Works Director
Frank Woodard, Deputy Public Works Director
Chief Garry Lowe
Deputy Chief Mike Mayer
Karen Simpson-Deputy Clerk-Finance
Diane Ponder, Deputy Clerk-Administration

Mayor Bustle called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. A moment of silence was observed for our military personnel serving overseas, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. APPROVAL OF WORKSHOP AGENDA

MOTION: Mrs. Lancaster moved, Mr. Williams seconded and motion carried 5-0 to approve the August 7, 2006 4:00 pm agenda.

2. FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007 BUDGET

Mr. Ball led a discussion regarding the possibility of reducing the proposed aggregate millage rate based on the increase in existing property values in the City. He opined the 18.59% increase in the millage rate is too high, and suggested it may be possible to reduce the rate by one-quarter mill, which will reduce the ad valorem property tax revenue by \$222,545 (according to his calculations). Mr. Freeman confirmed the first budget showed a \$250,000 surplus. The proposed general employee pension changes discussed at the previous meeting reduced the surplus to \$150,000, as reflected in the updated version. Mr. Ball's proposal was discussed, but Commission made no definitive decision to lower the millage rate at this time.

Commission began the budget review. A list of items for reconsideration at the end of the review process will be maintained by staff. Commission discussed each cost center, making the following amendments, specific recommendations, or requests:

MAYOR AND COMMISSION

No amendments were made. START, Broadcast of Commission meetings, and the Commission and Department Head Retreat were placed on the reconsideration list.

ATTORNEY

Mayor Bustle informed Commission he has requested Dye, Deitrich advise him whether or not they will renew the contract for an additional year at a set rate of \$23,000 per monthly for general professional services. He stated that if they do not accept the terms he is prepared to recommend the City create a job description and post the position at a salary of \$125,000 per year. Commission discussed the topic; Ms. Cornwell stated she would not support an internal attorney until an RFP had been posted to determine what other firms offer the City.

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CITY CLERK

The City Clerk will advise Commission in writing the status of all departments being under the same cell phone contract.

Operating Expenses

State Lease-Submerged Land was increased by \$65,000 to reflect the State's rental increase.

FINANCE

No amendments were made.


HUMAN RESOURCES

No amendments were made.

The next Budget Workshop meeting will begin with the IT Department.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Minutes approved: August 21, 2006


James R. Freeman
City Clerk