

Palmetto City Commission
December 4, 2006 4:00 p.m.

Elected Officials Present:

Larry Bustle, Mayor
Mary Lancaster, Vice Mayor
Eric Ball, Commissioner
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner (entered at 4:10 pm)
Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner
Brian Williams, Commissioner

Staff and Others Present:

James R. Freeman, City Clerk
Chris Lukowiak, Public Works Director
Chief Garry Lowe
Tanya Lukowiak, CRA Executive Director
Michele Hall, Attorney
Frank Woodard, Public Works Deputy Director
Diane Ponder, Deputy Clerk-Administration

Mayor Bustle called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm. A moment of silence for overseas military personnel was observed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. APPROVAL OF WORKSHOP AGENDA

Motion: Mr. Williams moved, Mrs. Lancaster seconded and motion carried 4-0 to approve the December 4, 2006 4:00 agenda. Ms. Cornwell was absent for the vote.

2. PROPOSED DOCK ORDINANCE NO. 06-909 and ORDINANCE NO. 06-910

Mr. Lukowiak informed Commission that during the City's confirmation of the level of approval authority agencies have in the City's waterways, issues are arising from docks that are being permitted by the outside agencies. Proposed Ordinance No. 06-909 requires a City issued building permit for dock construction and Ordinance No. 06-910 proposes a moratorium on the construction of new dock permits until the City can determine the responsibility level of each approving agency, i.e. Department of Environmental Protection, Army Corps of Engineers, Southwest Florida Water Management District, etc.

Ms. Hall distributed an updated version of Ordinance 06-909 that reflected comments Mr. Williams had suggested. After discussion of the updated proposed ordinance and concurrence on additional minor revisions, Commission approved the ordinance for inclusion on the 7:00 agenda.

Commission reviewed proposed Ordinance 06-910. Reference to the City performing any studies on the ecological health or impact of waterbodies within the City's jurisdiction was eliminated from the ordinance. Commission approved the ordinance for inclusion on the 7:00 agenda.

Commission requested that a matrix be developed that clearly defines the responsibility of each agency.

3. RENEWAL OF HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS

Mr. Freeman informed Commission the current agreement for insurances services between Self Insured Plans, LLC and the City expires December 31, 2006. A renewal contract has been negotiated based on the same level of benefits in comparison to fiscal year 2006. Self Insured

Plans, LLC will continue as the third party provider and GE Financial will continue as the re-insurer.

The fixed portion of the insurance increased approximately 10%. The variable portion is subject to an annual change. Currently there is a reserve balance of approximately \$500,000. The total cost of the agreement, based on current employee census, will not exceed \$1,206,117. The FYE2007 budget for insurance benefits was figured at \$6,324 per year, per employee, which will fund both components of the insurance expense.

Mr. Freeman also discussed the dependent care coverage subsidy the City contributes. There are five categories of dependent care and the City subsidizes a different percentage for each category. Mr. Freeman suggested there is no consistency in the subsidy levels, and suggested that at a minimum, Commission may wish to consider an equal percentage rate of subsidy for the dependent care categories. Mike Towns, agent of record for the City, concurred with Mr. Freeman's suggestion.

Commission discussed the dependent care facts and requested that staff put the dependent care subsidy on the Suspense Log with a high priority. Ms. Cornwell suggested this may be the appropriate time to also consider medical insurance benefits for the mayor and commission positions.

Commission approved carrying the renewal contract for medical insurance forward to the 7:00 agenda for Commission action.

4. PALMETTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LAND ASSEMBLY – RESOLUTION NO. 06-40

Mrs. Lukowiak informed Commission the information contained in tab five is administrative support for the land assembly issue.

Mrs. Lukowiak reviewed the issue of keeping Palmetto Elementary in the downtown as follows:

Total land acquisition costs amounts to approximately	\$3.8 million (110% value)
School Board offered approximately	<u>\$2.2 million</u>
Difference	\$1.6 million
CRA contribution in land acquisition costs for 3 properties	\$1.2 million

Mrs. Lukowiak stated some Commissioner's comments have indicated an unwillingness to commit the City to \$1.5 million. She stated if that is the case, before any more City resources are expended, the School Board should be contacted as to their intentions concerning the \$1.6 million difference. Mrs. Lukowiak informed Commission the School Board has not indicated to her any willingness to make any further monetary contribution.

Mayor Bustle discussed his understanding of the issue and the cost to the CRA to keep the school in downtown Palmetto. He reviewed the history of the topic and also discussed his meetings concerning the topic with School Board representatives, Dr. Dearing and Mike Pendley; renovations to the current school, alternative school sites, new construction; the City's opinion the school should remain at its current location.

Commission requested staff schedule a joint meeting with the School Board to discuss the topic and possibly open negotiations to share the total costs and keep Palmetto Elementary in downtown Palmetto.


Mrs. Lukowiak also requested direction on the property scheduled for closing December 15, 2006 and the design costs in the relocation of the Day Care. Mrs. Lukowiak described how the acquired property could be developed; public use or private developed use. After discussing this

Palmetto City Commission Workshop
December 4, 2006
Page 3 of 3

issue, Mrs. Lukowiak was instructed to proceed with the purchase and closing of the Hutema property, but not spend the \$5,000 for the feasibility study of the Day Care.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Minutes approved: December 18, 2006


James R. Freeman
City Clerk