

Palmetto City Commission
July 9, 2007 4:00 p.m.

Elected Officials Present:

Larry Bustle, Mayor
Eric Ball, Vice Mayor
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner
Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner

Elected Officials Absent:

Mary Lancaster, Commissioner
Brian Williams, Commissioner

Staff and Others Present:

James R. Freeman, City Clerk
Deputy Chief Mike Mayer
Chris Lukowiak, Public Works Director
Tanya Lukowiak, CRA Executive Director
Diane Ponder, Deputy Clerk-Administration

Mayor Bustle called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. A moment of silence and appreciation was observed for overseas military personnel.

1. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION: Mr. Ball moved, Ms. Cornwell seconded and motion carried 3-0 to approve the July 9, 2007 4:00 pm agenda.

2. FY 2007-2008 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Freeman reviewed the budget planning calendar as it pertains to TRIM Compliance. He explained the City is unable to set the tentative budget public hearing date, as Manatee County has not yet set its budget public hearing dates. He requested Commission schedule a special meeting the week of July 30, 2007 to approve the proposed millage rate and schedule the public hearing for the tentative budget hearing so DR420 can be submitted to the Property Appraiser before the TRIM Compliance deadline of August 3, 2007.

Mr. Freeman also reviewed an analysis of millage rates and ad valorem taxes from 2001, including projected 2008 figures. Mr. Freeman explained the 2008 estimated millage rate of 4.6662 was computed as stipulated by the recent legislative requirements, including the 9% reduction based on the compound annual growth rate. The state will certify that rate July 13, 2007, after which new computations will be made, if necessary. Briefly discussed were possible ramifications if the voters approve the special homestead exemption legislation.

Commission began the review of the budget with the assumptions that were discussed at the July 2, 2007 workshop meeting. Of the listed assumptions, Commission requested additional information on the sick leave buy back benefit and the total amount of longevity and who is affected.

Public Works Salary Adjustment Justifications

Commission requested five comparisons from cities similar in size to Palmetto for the minimum salary paid the Planning Supervisor/Zoning Administrator position. Mr. Lukowiak stated he would like to return the Sign Technician position to the budget if there are sufficient funds.

MAYOR & COMMISSION

The following items were identified for possible reduction/deletion:

Office Supplies –	Reduce by \$1,000 to \$1,500
Small Tools & Equipment -	Delete \$320

CITY CLERK

The following item was identified for possible deletion:

Agenda Automation	Delete \$3,000
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Commission requested staff prepare a summary of events contained in the Fairs & Festivals line item, showing each event and its total associated expense. Historical data on the City-wide Tuition Reimbursement is to be gathered to determine the necessity of maintaining the current \$10,000 amount.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Commission discussed the police in-car video system. Deputy Chief Mayer explained the issues surrounding the system, stating that if the system was not totally operational by the end of July the vendor will be informed the City will purchase no further equipment. He further stated it is his belief that with IT support, all issues can be resolved. Ms. Varnadore stated her opinion the system should be tested for one year before expending any further funds, and recommended deleting the \$88,000 for the purchase of ten additional systems.

Also identified as a possible deletion was the time management system budgeted at \$15,000.

ATTORNEY

Ms. Cornwell requested the total amount of legal expenses the City has expended this year.

FINANCE

Staff was requested to account for all membership entries the same way throughout the budget.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Staff will confirm what is included in the Employee Incentive line item.

Mr. Freeman confirmed with Commission that a special meeting could be held the week of July 30, 2007, preferably on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Minutes approved: August 6, 2007


James R. Freeman
City Clerk