

Palmetto City Commission
January 7, 2008 4:00 p.m.

Elected Officials Present:

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

Staff and Others Present:

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

Mayor Bustle called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm, followed by a moment of silence for overseas military personnel and the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION: Mrs. Lancaster moved, Mr. Ball seconded and motion carried 5-0 to approve the January 7, 2008 4:00 pm agenda.

2. PRESENTATION: CITY DEBT ANALYSIS

As per Commission's request, the information previously discussed at the December 17, 2007 workshop was returned to the agenda in the event Commission wished to continue the discussion.

Mr. Freeman informed Commission staff is continuing to seek assistance for capital long-term planning, and has had an initial discussion with RBC Dain Capital Markets concerning services that are available to the City. He also commented on financial policies that are being developed and will be brought to Commission for consideration, stating the General Fund Reserve Balance Policy and the Debt Policy will be completed prior to next year's budget process.

Mr. Freeman also discussed the services the City's outside auditor performs regarding the City's debt. He stated he is hesitant to request the audit firm make recommendations regarding debt thresholds and then perform an audit of the city's finances because of the lack of independence.

Mr. Freeman requested that Commission contact him with any questions they may have concerning the information presented.

3. DISCUSSION: ORDINANCE NO. 08-957

Mr. Lukowiak stated the proposed ordinance regulating the use of mobile homes and construction trailers is being brought forward for consideration to ensure consistency with the Florida Building Code. Mr. Lukowiak discussed specific examples of sites where the proposed ordinance could be applied.

Commission discussed the proposed ordinance, which will be brought back at a future meeting with the following amendments:

- Criteria for granting an extension; delete "demonstrated cause" in Sec. 21-8(c)
- Language addressing remedy when a violation occurs as the result of not removing the building at the completion of the project or expiration of a valid building permit; staff was instructed to research removal of utilities, assessment of liens against the property
- Possible increase over the \$500,000 permit threshold and/or language differentiating between a mobile home and modular building; protection against mobile homes being used as "guard" buildings in residential zoned areas

Mr. Lukowiak withdrew his request to move the item forward to the 7:00 agenda. Commission concurred.

4. DISCUSSION: COMP PLAN DENSITY ORDINANCE

Mrs. Lukowiak explained that clarification concerning density in the PD category to ensure that the 45 dwelling units per acre ratio is applicable only to the development of the Downtown Core. Attorney Hall stated changes are being made to be consistent with Ord. 06-892 (Attainable Housing) and Ord. 07-930 (Downtown Core definition). Commission requested that the proposed ordinance be brought back in track changes, that the existing ordinances documenting the proposed changes is included in the agenda packet, and that additional guidance be included in the point paper.

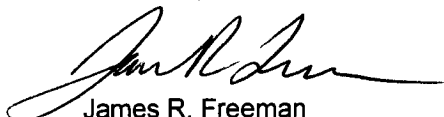
Mayor Bustle informed Commission the Hometown Democracy issue is not on the January 29, 2008 ballot.

Mayor Bustle also informed Commission of educational material regarding the property tax amendment on the January 29, 2008 ballot is being printed and will be mailed to each utility customer of the City. The information will also be placed on the City's website and will be available for the public at the City's fair booth.

Mayor Bustle updated Commission on the School Board's efforts to control the mold at Palmetto Elementary. He also related that another meeting between Manatee Fruit, School Board staff and City staff is scheduled for Thursday.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Minutes approved: January 22, 2008



James R. Freeman
City Clerk