

Palmetto City Commission
January 22, 2008 4:00 p.m.

Elected Officials Present:

Larry Bustle, Mayor
Tambra Varnadore, Vice Mayor
Eric Ball, Commissioner
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner
Mary Lancaster, 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 4:06 pm, followed by a moment of silence for overseas military personnel and the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION: Ms. Varnadore moved, Mrs. Lancaster seconded and motion carried 5-0 to approve the January 22, 2008 4:00 pm agenda.

2. REPRESENTATION IN BANKRUPTCY MATTERS

Mr. Freeman informed Commission that due to the increase in bankruptcy and foreclosure filings and the legal intricacies associated with bankruptcy cases, staff was seeking permission to retain the legal services of Sacha Ross of Grimes, Goebel, Grimes, Hawkins, Gladfelter & Galvano to provide assistance to City Attorney Michele Hall. Ms. Hall discussed how she intended to utilize the expertise of Ms. Ross when dealing with bankruptcy filings.

Commission discussed the proposed retainer letter from the firm. The majority of Commissioners elected to accept the proposal, provided it was amended to reflect an hourly rate of \$190, a termination date of September 30, 2008, and acknowledgement that the firm will bill a maximum of \$2,000. Ms. Cornwell opposed the proposal because staff had not obtained additional quotes from other legal firms.

It was consensus of Commission to remove the item from the 7:00 agenda so that a new proposal letter could be obtained from the legal firm.

3. PRESENTATION: MANATEE COUNTY AREA TRANSIT

Ralph Heseler, Transit Manager for Manatee County Area Transit briefed Commission on a planned new transit center at 8th Avenue and 19th Street West, which will replace the current exchange center at the fair grounds. The new center will also offer park and ride services for commuters going south, as far as Sarasota County. Future services may include express bus services to counties north of the center.

Commission discussed the center with Mr. Heseler. He confirmed the proposed building will meet all state and federal requirements. He stated an area of the building may be offered as a temporary outpost to Palmetto Police and Manatee Sheriff's Department. He also confirmed the express bus service is planned for Wifi services.

Mr. Schmitt confirmed the project has been reviewed by the City, which resulted in comments concerning the planned route through a residential area. He stated the City has asked that all residents along the planned route be notified, but the City will also suggest that the route leaving

the center should be 19th Street to 8th Avenue, 8th Avenue north to Bayshore, Bayshore back to 17th Street. Mr. Heseler discussed the 10 day public notice that will occur because of the major route change, and confirmed that if the City prefers, letters to affected residents will be sent. Mr. Schmitt read the comments into the record, acknowledging that portions of the project fall under the jurisdiction of Manatee County. City Engineer Dick Clark discussed the requirements for the stormwater and outfall requirements.

Mr. Heseler then reviewed the proposed new routes for Palmetto and other areas north and east of the City.

4. DISCUSSION: COMP PLAN DENSITY ORDINANCE

Ms. Lukowiak reviewed the changes to Ordinance No. 06-898 the proposed ordinance will accomplish;

- To clarify for a potential real estate purchaser that 45 dwelling units per acre will not be allowed outside the downtown waterfront area; and
- Permissible density bonus will be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Schmitt confirmed that while reviewing a planned project in the downtown area, the unintentional consequences of Ordinance No. 06-898 was discovered, thus the proposed ordinance.

After discussing sections three and four, specific to the new language referring to the description of "Downtown Core" and "maximum density limits", staff will amend the language for further clarity.

Mrs. Lukowiak confirmed that with the real estate market as it is, the attainable housing topic will be brought back to a workshop in the near future, so Commission can determine appropriate revision of the attainable housing ordinance.

Commission suggested that for consistency, sections 1 and 2 should have a descriptive title.

5. DISCUSSION: PALMETTO FARMER'S MARKET

Mr. Lukowiak informed Commission a group is trying to establish a Farmer's Market in Riverside Park West each Saturday, and is requesting the City's participation at the beginning of the venture. The group is requesting waiver of the park rental fees for the first three months and use of onsite restrooms facilities and waste disposal containers. Kevin Lindbloom discussed his and his team's qualifications in this type of venture, stating the market will be local produce and local craft oriented.

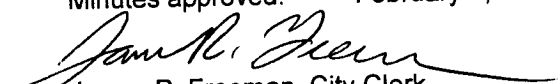
When questioned whose responsibility clean-up will be, Mr. Lukowiak stated that because this is a presentation to determine Commission's opinion on such a venture, there will be further discussion with Mr. Lindbloom about clean-up, etc.

Ms. Cornwell commented on the fact Palmetto High School currently holds a flea market one Saturday a month. Mr. Lindbloom stated he would reach out to the local produce vendors participating at the school.

Mr. Lukowiak stated he will bring the topic back to Commission as a Special Function Permit.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Minutes approved: February 4, 2008


James R. Freeman, City Clerk