

Palmetto City Commission  
August 4, 2009 5:30 PM

Elected Officials Present:

Shirley Bryant, Mayor  
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner  
Mary Lancaster, Commissioner  
Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner  
Brian Williams, Vice Mayor  
Alan Zirkelbach, Commissioner

Staff Present:

James R. Freeman, City Clerk  
Chief Garry Lowe (entered the meeting at 7:15 p.m.)  
Karen Simpson, Deputy Clerk-Finance  
Allen Tusing, Public Works Director  
Diane Ponder, Deputy Clerk-Administration

Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. A moment of silence was observed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. 2009-2010 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Mr. Freeman concluded the review of the memorandum Mrs. Simpson prepared responding to questions raised by Commission during recent budget meetings. The following topics were discussed:

1. Citywide budget for office supplies
2. Allocation calculations
3. Amounts associated with cost saving efforts

Commission discussed the budget to purchase the police vehicles. A compromise to delete the purchase of a vehicle this year was suggested, with the understanding that two vehicles will be purchased next year. Mrs. Simpson was instructed to research the grant documentation to determine if unused grant funds can be used to fund the purchase of a vehicle. Mayor Bryant requested that Commission defer discussion on the PD budget until Chief Lowe can be present.

Staff reviewed the potential savings from the eliminated positions. The net savings, without accounting for potential unemployment expense is \$203,000 in the Building Department and \$266,000 in the General Fund.; Budget Version 2 reflects the eliminated positions in the Police Department. The Building Department still reflects a deficit of \$198,000 and the General Fund is still reflects a deficit of \$138,000; the Parks position funded by CRA will have to be reassigned, or the CRA will have to fund another expense.

Commissioner Williams inquired if the positions not being funded in the General Fund will be eliminated from the Budget. Mr. Tusing stated his department's eliminated positions can be removed from the budget. Commission agreed that the positions should be eliminated from the budget.

Commissioners stated they wish to have a conversation with Chief Lowe concerning positions eliminated from his budget.

Public Works

Commission requested the following information:

Reason for the fuel, oil and lubricants increase  
A report on fuel consumption for the last seven years  
Possibility of sharing the cost of the Safety Training cost of \$700  
Assessment of the technical training and office supplies in Version 3

Discussion ensued on how a department head can make less than the staff he supervises.  
Mayor Bryant suggested that a conversation with counsel regarding the topic should occur.

Engineering

Mr. Tusing is still reviewing the department's personnel needs.

Planning

Mayor Bryant requested that Commission postpone the review. Commission concurred.  
Commission requested that Mr. Tusing bring back an explanation of the document scanning line item.

Fleet

Requested information on why PD is outsourced when the City has three mechanics.  
Repair & Maintenance may be lowered given the fact new garage doors are being installed.

Parks

Expenses associated with City Festivals will be housed in the CRA.

Commission directed that overtime in every department should be flexed when possible.


Commission requested that Version 3 be available before they depart for the Florida League of Cities conference.

Mr. Freeman stated he anticipates having information on health insurance at the August 17, 2009 meeting.

Mayor Bryant informed Commission Nat from Rico's will be contacting them.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Minutes approved: August 17, 2009

  
James R. Freeman  
City Clerk