

Palmetto City Commission
August 18, 2009 5:30 PM

Elected Officials Present:

Shirley Bryant, Mayor
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner (entered at 5:40 p.m.)
Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner
Brian Williams, Vice Mayor
Alan Zirkelbach, Commissioner

Elected Officials Absent:

Mary Lancaster, Commissioner

Staff Present:

James R. Freeman, City Clerk
Capt. Rex Hannaford
Cheryl Miller, Sr. Finance Analyst
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 discussed the RFP issued for medical, dental and life insurance, which garnered ten responses. The Insurance Committee reviewed all the submittals and then interviewed four finalists, which were rated on nine different attributes. Mr. Freeman distributed documentation supporting the Insurance Committee's decision to recommend that Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) be awarded the bid to provide medical insurance services to the City. He informed Commission that all three BCBS plans represent a total cost that is less than the current provider's renewal quote.

Mr. Freeman explained the alternatives that can be chosen for the medical insurance, as they compare to the current coverage. He stated all three BCBS plans are within FY10 budget dollars and are assumed at a City subsidy rate of 55% for dependent health care. Alternatives available are:

- Offer a low cost plan #3359 at a total cost of \$924,871; or
- Offer a middle cost plan # 3769 at a total cost of \$958,472; or
- Offer a premium cost plan #3559 at a total cost of \$1,004,724
- City fund the employee portion of the middle cost plan #3769 and allow the employee to buy up to the premium cost plan #3559

Mr. Freeman further explained that because BCBS is a fully insured plan, the City will face a run-out period for claims with the current insurance carrier, which has been estimated at approximately \$238,000. He stated that the run-out expenses will have to be funded from reserves.

Commission discussed other alternatives such as a flat monthly amount for each employee to use to purchase insurance from a cafeteria style plan and health savings plans.

A final decision on the health insurance will be made at the next budget workshop meeting so that open enrollment can occur before the renewal date of October 1, 2009.

Police Department

All cars were removed from the budget. One car was placed on the suspense list of items to be considered at the conclusion of the budget review.

The balance of the budget will be reviewed when Chief Lowe is in attendance.

Building Department

No changes were made.

Road & Bridge

Reported he has not purchased the attenuators necessary for the FDOT Street Sweeping Agreement. He proposed reducing revenue from the agreement by \$2,200 per quarter; FDOT will sweep and the City will address when necessary. It was consensus to allow the reduction in revenue, contingent upon legal review of the City's liability if sweeping is done without the required equipment.

Solid Waste

No changes were made.

Cross Connect

Ms. Miller discussed this being a new department; therefore costs have been estimated. Commissioner Varnadore reserved the right to revisit this department.

Water Department

Commissioner Varnadore reserved the right to revisit this department.

Sewer

No changes were made.

Customer Service

No changes were made.

WWTP

Requested a report of what the contract services are and the benefits of the way it is run now vs. when the City ran the plant. Also inquired what comprises the increase in chemical costs.

Stormwater

No changes were made.

Requested confirmation on the percentage listed.

Reuse

Requested an update on what areas of the City are still not covered and plans to continue the expansion.

CRA

Confirm the employment status of Jim Free and the criteria used to provide insurance to a part-time employee.

Adjust the salary for the executive director position.

Determine if Publix has requested the tax abatement credit.

The \$60,000 study by CPH was prompted by the beautification program for 8th Avenue. Mr. Tusing will contact the engineer that performed the original drainage study regarding any shortfall in the original study and report back to Commission. The \$1,219,000 line item was discussed. Commissioner Zirkelbach will provide the matrix the CRA Board worked from during his tenure on the board.

Grants


Ms. Miller discussed the new reporting format for grant tracking and reporting. All grant expenditures and matching expenditures will be placed in this new cost center rather than be housed in the individual department budgets.

Mr. Freeman informed Commission Steve Palmquist is available to attend a meeting to discuss the actuarial and budget impact of the proposed ordinance amending the Police Officers' pension Plan, but it will cost approximately \$2,500. Commission concurred that if the adoption of the ordinance is not time sensitive, it should be postponed until a meeting October when Mr. Palmquist or Attorney Christiansen is available to attend by conference call.

Mr. Tusing reported that Manatee County has received calls from the Little League regarding the information received at the Commission meeting regarding 23rd Street and the baseball fields. He also reported the league has viewed the CRA owned building that will be available to them for storage. The agreement will be corrected to reflect the correct league name before execution.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes approved: September 14, 2009


James R. Freeman
City Clerk