

**CITY COMMISSION  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
October 4, 2010  
4:30 PM**

Elected Officials Present:

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor  
Tamara Cornwell, Vice Mayor, Commissioner-at-Large 2 (entered at 4:40 p.m.)  
Alan Zirkelbach, Commissioner-at-Large 1  
Mary Lancaster, Commissioner, Ward 1  
Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner, Ward 2  
Brian Williams, Commissioner, Ward 3

Staff Present:

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney  
Jim Freeman, City Clerk  
Allen Tusing, Public Works Director  
Rick Wells, Chief of Police  
Diane Ponder, Deputy Clerk-Administration

Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m., followed by a Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item #2 was moved to be considered first on the agenda.

1. DISCUSSION: AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM

In 1997 the City executed a 50-year lease, with the opportunity for renewal for an additional 50 years. In 2007 an Interlocal Agreement between the City, Palmetto Historical Commission, Manatee Ag Museum and Manatee County Clerk of the Circuit Court was executed. Questions were raised during the budget discussion regarding the City's payment of utilities. Mayor Bryant pointed to the area of the Interlocal Agreement that states it supersedes the agreement executed in 1997. Attorney Barnebey opined the Interlocal Agreement clearly states that the City is responsible for the utilities until 2017. The topic will not be considered again until the agreement's renewal date.

2. FLORIDA COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

Debra Gestner, Capital Philanthropy Group, informed the Mayor she would not be able to attend the meeting, but will be present at the meeting scheduled for Thursday to discuss the ball field project. She will make herself available on Thursday to meet individually with the Commissioners to discuss the grant application.

Regarding the Florida Community Contribution Tax Credit Program, Mayor Bryant suggested that the City should base any payment for writing the application on the percentage of return the City would receive. Other concerns were raised regarding how the renewal requirements.

Mayor Bryant encouraged the Commissioners to contact Ms. Gestner to further discuss the benefits the City could derive from participating in the program.

Mr. Freeman stated that Commission had given authorization to execute the \$250,000 EECB grant contract awarded by the Florida Clean Air Energy Commission. The agency has acknowledged receipt of the executed contract and has advised the City to implement the items under the grant. This grant will fund wastewater treatment plant upgrades, IT equipment, an energy study and lighting at City Hall.

He also informed Commission that the second Florida Clean Air Grant the City had applied for was also approved for \$287,000. It is anticipated the contract will be presented to City Commission in the near future, and funding will begin in the early part of next year. This grant will fund new HVAC units city wide and the electric car and charging station at City Hall.

The ball fields are scheduled to go to County Commission on Thursday. Should approval happen, there will be one month due diligence period. The grant application can be submitted as soon as the contracts are signed.

Training on the Commissioners laptops will be scheduled. Staff will research the possibility of software that will allow Commissioners the ability to make notes on the agenda materials. It was suggested that staff should explore the possibility of attaching the netbooks into the existing monitors.

The car allowance for the Mayor will be discussed at the next workshop. Attorney Barnebey was asked to provide an opinion on the matter and to develop an amount that is adequate to cover actual mileage and personal vehicle use. It was consensus of Commission to grant the allowance.

Mayor Bryant will contact the Imagine Charter School regarding the bus that is traversing through the Palmetto Mobile Home Park.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Minutes approved: October 18, 2010

*James R. Freeman*

James R. Freeman  
City Clerk