

**CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2011
4:30 PM**

Elected Officials Present

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor (entered at 4:45 p.m.)
Alan Zirkelbach, Vice Mayor, Commissioner-at-Large 1 (entered at 4:35 p.m.)
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2 (entered at 4:35 p.m.)
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
Karen Simpson, Deputy Clerk-Finance
Allen Tusing, Public works Director
Rick Wells, Chief of Police
Diane Ponder, Deputy Clerk-Administration

Commissioner Lancaster called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

1. DISCUSSION: FY2012 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mrs. Simpson stated there is a little over \$3 million, including funds left over from the sale of the property allocated to 23rd Street realignment, 10th & 10th (grant monies) and including cash and loan funds for the ASR, that can fund CIP projects, Of the Bank of America \$1.5 million loan funds that are presently unused, only \$98,000 is uncommitted. Mr. Tusing and Mrs. Simpson will discuss the allocation funding and adjust the CIP prior to it coming back Commission.

Mr. Tusing confirmed the \$874,000 from the sale of the land will remain in the CIP in the event grant funds are received for the entire the baseball field relocation project. The 23rd Street realignment will not happen if the fields are relocated to a different site.

Discussion ensued on the projects Mr. Tusing reviewed in 2012 and Existing Funding columns contained in a version of the CIP prepared after the distribution of the agenda.

Mr. Tusing confirmed that CRA funds cannot be used for the wastewater treatment plant projects.

Mayor Bryant recognized Manatee County Commission Chair Carol Whitmore.

Mr. Tusing explained the \$200,000 in the Regional Reuse System (MARS) project that is funded in 2015 is kept active in the event it becomes beneficial to have a connection with the county's reuse system in the future. Mayor Bryant commented on the funding Manatee County has received and inquired of Commission Whitmore if there is an ability to work with the county's funding to expand the City's reuse program. Commissioner Whitmore stated she would ask Dan Gray to give the City an update on the MARS funding. Discussion ensued on the City participating in the MARS program.

Mr. Tusing was asked to bring to the next meeting the amount of funds that are available, identify the funding sources for the projects, identify State mandated projects, and to provide the amount spent on individual capital projects last year.

Mr. Tusing confirmed \$187,799 of the ASR pooled cash remaining is not available for use until the ASR design is completed, as the City has a committed match that must be funded.

Mr. Tusing opined that Commission needs to consider a plan to fund the CIP in the future, as the City cannot rely on the funds in the budget. He suggested that the policy for fund reserves could be considered. He proposed that this year the approximate \$697,000 that can be rolled into reserves for the General Fund, Road & Bridge and Water & Sewer could be reduced by 50%. This would still increase the reserves and would begin establishing funding for CIP projects that the City cannot afford to fund.

As a second alternative to funding the CIP, Mr. Freeman suggested that at some point in the future, rate studies could also be considered for Water and Water & Sewer. Projects related to infrastructure are based on user fees, and it has been four years since any studies have been performed. He also commented on changes that are coming in accounting functions relating to reserve funds that will also help move funds specifically for the CIP.

The CIP will be brought back to City Commission at a future meeting.

Mayor Bryant stated she has been authorized by the family owning the property where the double homicide occurred to announce, on their behalf, that the club will not be reopened, nor will another club opened in that building. The property owner, with assistance from the CRA, will seek a business that is more community friendly. She asked that individuals with any information about the crime contact the Police Department or Crime Stoppers.

2. DISCUSSION: COMMISSION QUASI JUDICIAL RULES & PROCEDURES

The item was moved to the next workshop agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Minutes approved: September 26, 2011

James R. Freeman

James R. Freeman
City Clerk