

**CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2012
4:30 PM**

Elected Official Present

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor
Alan Zirkelbach, Vice Mayor, Commissioner-at-Large 1
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2 (entered at 4:35 p.m.)
Charles Smith Commissioner, Ward 1
Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner, Ward 2
Brian Williams, Commissioner, Ward 3

Staff Present

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney
Jim Freeman, City Clerk
Scott Rudacille, Chief Assistant City Attorney
Rick Wells, Chief of Police
Diane Ponder, Deputy Clerk-Administration

Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

PRESENTATION: COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (CAFR) AWARD for the fiscal year ending 2010. Mr. Freeman recognized Karen Simpson and her staff, Cheryl Miller and Matt Misco.

1. DISCUSSION: REDISTRICTING OF WARD BOUNDARIES (M. Barnebey)

Attorney Barnebey discussed the Charter's requirement that the City review ward boundaries after every Census, which was last done in 2003. Attorney Barnebey recommended that the City look at this issue sooner than normal because of the election this year to fill the Ward 1 seat. As a courtesy, the FSU Demographics Studio looked at current census data, which reflect significant population changes in the wards over the last ten years.

Attorney Rudacille referred to the memo discussing data that was provided by the Studio for each of the wards, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. The attorney confirmed that population is one criteria used to draw the ward boundaries to ensure equal voting districts. They also discussed other factors that can be considered in the redistricting of ward boundaries other than simply population.

Discussion ensued on the impact of minority voting strength when redistricting. Attorney Rudacille confirmed the Commission will have to consider the dilution of the minority vote and ensure that not all minorities in a certain class are placed in one ward. He also explained that a ward can be kept smaller in order to not dilute the minority vote.

Discussion ensued on whether or not it is necessary to complete the redistricting at this time. Attorney Barnebey recommended that Commission look at the issue this election cycle so it can be documented that commission has reviewed the topic. This action can avoid challenges in future elections. Mr. Freeman explained that this issue is not a budgeted item but funds can be taken from the account set aside for special elections.

Even though there was not unanimous agreement to pursue the redistricting, this item will be carried forward to the 7:00 agenda for consideration to negotiate a contract with Florida State University to propose revision to ward boundaries, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.

2. AGENDA ORDER

Attorney Barnebey referred to the 7:00 agenda and inquired if Commission wished to continue to allow all the opportunities for public comment. It was consensus of Commission to eliminate the public comments at the end of the agenda.

Attorney Barnebey reported that the phase 1 environmental study has been performed on the Cadence property, the L-shaped property around the Shell station. There are some restrictions on the report. The contract purchaser is proposing some ground water sample locations, which Mr. Zirkelbach will review. They (contract purchaser) do not think there are issues from the Shell station that affect this property. Further information may be available by the January 23, 2012 meeting.

Mayor Bryant requested that Attorney Barnebey research to ensure the parking lot ordinance in place will not create a conflict with parking boats on the property.

Mayor Bryant congratulated Attorney Barnebey on his recertification as board certified city, county and local government law attorney.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Minutes approved: February 6, 2012

James R. Freeman

James R. Freeman
City Clerk