

**CITY OF PALMETTO  
CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING  
FEBRUARY 6, 2012  
4:30 PM**

Elected Officials Present:

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor  
Brian Williams, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, Ward 3  
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 1  
Alan Zirkelbach, Commissioner-at-Large 2  
Charles Smith, Commissioner, Ward 1  
Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner, Ward 2

Staff Present:

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney  
Jeff Burton, CRA Director  
Jim Freeman, City Clerk  
Lorraine Lynn, City Planner  
Allen Tusing, Public Works Director  
Rick Wells, Chief of Police  
Diane Ponder, deputy Clerk-Administration

Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

1. DISCUSSION: CRIMINAL NUISANCE ABATEMENT

Attorney Barnebey referred to FS §893.138 and reviewed criteria that can constitute a public nuisance. Currently the City's ordinance only pertains to drugs. He suggested that Commission should consider updating the Code, as it was last amended in 1988.

Commission discussed the topic and authorized Attorney Barnebey to move forward with the update to the current nuisance abatement ordinance. Attorney Barnebey and Mayor Bryant concurred that the ordinance will apply to all properties in the City.

2. DISCUSSION: UPDATE ON SIGN ORDINANCE

Mr. Tusing stated he would like to place a draft of the sign ordinance on the February 27, 2012 workshop. His staff is encountering difficulty in administering the ordinance in the Code that was adopted in 1987. Ms. Lynn supported Mr. Tusing's recommendation.

Mr. Freeman discussed immediate needs that need to be addressed, such as the political/temporary signs and signage on the vacant land and/or vacant structures. He also stated that the Code is silent on conditional uses on signage and he would like to broaden the language to be applicable to conforming and non-conforming signs. He suggested that if Commission wished, the topics could be included in the draft Mr. Tusing is proposing for review at the next workshop.

Attorney Barnebey suggested that a comprehensive review of the entire sign ordinance would take time and the political signs need to be taken care of in the current ordinance, and before the next election. The issue is that the City treats the political signs differently, based on content. He opined that political signs are temporary signs and most of the regulations in the Code are for temporary signs. Discussion ensued on the various types of temporary signs that are being used throughout the City.

Debate ensued about whether the sign ordinance should be reviewed in its entirety or if Commission should consider the items that need immediate attention. Mayor Bryant recommended that the items

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needing immediate attention should be taken care of as fast as possible. She charged staff to coordinate a meeting at their level to ensure that all departments regulating signs are in agreement regarding a proposed ordinance. She also requested that Ms. Lynn work to schedule a joint meeting with the Commission and the P&Z Board to review the ordinance brought forward by staff.

It was general agreement among the Commission to review the items needing immediate attention at the next scheduled workshop.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Minutes approved: February 27, 2012

*James R. Freeman*

James R. Freeman  
City Clerk