

**CITY OF PALMETTO
CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING
July 2, 2012
4:30 PM**

Elected Officials Present

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor
Brian Williams, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, Ward 3
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2 (Arrived 4:37 p.m.)
Charles Smith, Commissioner, Ward 1
Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner, Ward 2
Alan Zirkelbach, Commissioner-at-Large 1 (Arrived 4:37 p.m.)

Staff Present

Scott Rudacille, Chief Assistant City Attorney
Jeff Burton, CRA Director
Jim Freeman, City Clerk
Allen Tusing, Public Works Director
Rick Wells, Chief of Police
Amber Foley, Assistant City Clerk

Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

Jeff Burton briefed Commission on the July 4th event. He explained that Commission will be invited on stage at 6:45 p.m. to lead the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the National Anthem. At 7:00 p.m., Three Dog Night will take the stage, to end around 8:30 p.m. giving a 30 minute break before fireworks begin at 9:00 p.m.

Parking at the Woman's Club along with the Baptist Church on 11th Avenue will be available. The Methodist Church located on 11th will have parking, but it will be parking by donation only. There is a map of parking for the public to view on the City website. The Celebration Center will be open for VIPs. If there are any problems, please call Mr. Burton or Chief Wells.

Mayor noted that there will be a CRA table set up during the event for the public to come and get information. Mr. Burton informed Commission that there will be more vendors at this year's event than past years.

Mr. Burton updated Commission on the 5th Street project. He noted it has been delayed some because of the rain. In some areas the project is ahead of schedule and in some areas it is behind. The pavers should be starting anytime this week.

Commissioner Zirkelbach noted that during the rain from last week, 5th Street was a dry street. Mayor Bryant discussed how it is the first green street in Manatee County, if not the state.

Mr. Burton advised that SWFWMD has discussed possibly doing a video to promote 5th Street.

Regarding grants, Mr. Burton advised Commission that, come December, discussion can start on which projects should be done next. Commissioner Williams would like to bring the CRA project plan to a workshop meeting for re-evaluation.

Commissioner Cornwell thanked staff for their diligent work on 5th Street and the July 4th event.

1. Discussion: Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget

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Mr. Freeman advised Commission that the budget presented before them is a first draft and there will be several meetings over the next few weeks to further discuss the budget. He is expecting a revised budget book will be provided to Commission by the end of July.

Mr. Freeman advised that the budget has been entered with the assumption of the current rollback rate of \$5.2171 mills which allows for the collection of the same amount of taxes as last year.

Mr. Freeman reviewed two graphs regarding property taxes and values and millage rates. These graphs have been attached and made part of these minutes.

Commissioner Cornwell requested information regarding the millage rate and the impact it will have on a homeowner. Mr. Freeman will put that together for the next budget workshop as well as a comparison to the other municipalities.

Mr. Freeman reviewed the Assumptions for the 2013 Budget:

- General Fund ad valorem revenues are approximately \$3.2 million
- Revenues are budgeted at 95% of what the City expects to collect
- TIFF monies from the City to CRA and the County to the CRA are down this year
- Reimbursement from CRA to the City to support programs in the General Fund is down 14% compared to last year.
- Utility fees remain unchanged with no increases being proposed in current year; staff recommends a rate study be performed in FY 2013
- Subsidy to Stormwater from Road and Bridge and Water and Sewer has been reduced by \$40,000.00 to \$160,000.00.
- Building Department is in a deficit and will use reserves to balance the budget again this year.

Commissioner Varnadore requested that Allen Tusing provide Commission with information regarding how many building inspections and permits have been done over the past year.

- There will be no COLA or step increases again this year.

Commissioner Cornwell requested a cost of living report be done.

- Cost for health insurance decreased by 10% for the same level of benefits when compared to last year. There will be an addition of an HMO option this year.
- There are currently 140 funded positions with 116 full-time, 18 part-time, and 6 Elected Officials.
- Currently there are 8 vacant positions funded in the budget
- Personnel changes include the removal of the Project Manager position from Public Works and the Equipment Operator moved to Road and Bridge fund
- Property Casualty and Worker's Comp premiums have been entered at the same rate as FY 2012, still awaiting final numbers from FLC this month.

Allen Tusing further discussed the removal of the Project Manager position.

Commissioner Smith expressed his concerns regarding the Phase 2, Ward 1 project. There have been complaints regarding the project and Commissioner Smith feels that it is necessary to have a project manager oversee the project.

Discussion continued regarding the Phase 2, Ward 1 project.

Mr. Tusing advised that he anticipates the completion date for the Phase 2, Ward 1 project should be by the end of this month.

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Mayor Bryant requested that Mr. Freeman continue the FY 2012-2013 Budget discussion after the 6:30 Commission meeting.

Mayor Bryant adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes approved:

James R. Freeman

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City Clerk