

CITY OF PALMETTO
CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING
June 3, 2013
4:30 PM

Elected Officials Present

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor
Tambra Varnadore, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, Ward 2
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2
Jonathan Davis, Commissioner-at-Large 1
Charles Smith, Commissioner, Ward 1—(Entered at 4:40 p.m.)
Brian Williams, Commissioner, Ward 3

Staff Present

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney
Jeff Burton, CRA Director
Jim Freeman, City Clerk
Allen Tusing, Public Works Director
Amber Foley, Assistant City Clerk

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

1. DISCUSSION: ORDINANCE 2013-07 ABANDONED SHOPPING CART

Attorney Barnebey presented a proposed ordinance on how to control abandoned shopping carts throughout the City.

Bill Strollo, Code Enforcement Director, displayed pictures of abandoned shopping carts around the City over the past few years. He explained that when Code Enforcement locates these shopping carts, the businesses are called and asked to come pick them up. Some businesses have been proactive in trying to keep their shopping carts on their property by installing a locking system on the carts. Mr. Strollo said that Walmart routinely goes around the City collecting their carts. He opined that businesses that have shopping carts need to establish a plan.

Attorney Barnebey stated that there are State Statutes that limit what a municipality can do regarding businesses and their abandoned shopping carts. He also said that there is a statute that says it is illegal to remove a shopping cart from the business property, citing it is a First Degree Misdemeanor punishable by fines and possible incarceration. Attorney Barnebey suggested a notice be posted on the properties of these businesses reminding patrons that it is illegal to remove shopping carts from the property. When law enforcement sees a person with a shopping cart from one of these establishments they can issue a warning to them.

Discussion ensued on different ways to hold businesses accountable for their property. Commission would like to see each business develop a plan to keep their carts on site and to routinely go and retrieve them from around the City. Commissioner Cornwell would like to see a requirement for businesses to install locking devices around the perimeter of their stores to deter shopping carts from being removed.

Mayor Bryant stated that the main reason for the ordinance is to get retailers to take responsibility for their property and help keep the City clean. She asked that this ordinance come back to the next workshop meeting on June 17th for further discussion.

Commission thanked Mr. Strollo for his hard work and wished him a happy retirement.

Mayor Bryant adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Minutes approved: July 22, 2013

James R. Freeman

James R. Freeman
City Clerk