

CITY OF PALMETTO
CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING
June 17, 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
Brian Williams, Commissioner, Ward 3

Staff Present

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney—(Arrived at 4:38 p.m.)
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. REPRESENTATIVE JIM BOYD: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Representative Boyd updated the City Commission on the recent legislative session. Bills briefly discussed included election and ethics reform, campaign finance reform and manufacturing bill. He stated that the budget for this year is \$74 billion. Money is being put in reserves to pay down debt and education is receiving a \$2 billion funding increase.

2. DISCUSSION: ORDINANCE 2013-07 ABANDONED SHOPPING CART

Mayor Bryant introduced Mr. Waters, Store Manager of Sweetbay Supermarket and Mr. Beards, Store Manager from Publix. Both stores have installed a locking device on their shopping carts to deter them from being removed from the property.

Attorney Barnebey stated he has modified Section 4 of the proposed ordinance. He added an incentive system to encourage the return of the carts, if approved by the City, as a method of compliance. A warning was also added to the ordinance citing the Florida Statute for the possession of a shopping cart without written consent of the owner. Mr. Barnebey explained that each owner of shopping carts will have to create a plan to address the retention or collection of carts and submit to the City for approval if necessary.

Michael Beards, Store Manager of Publix, informed Commission that he estimates the cost for the locking device to be \$100-\$150 per cart.

In regard to Section 5, Identification of Carts, Commissioner Varnadore suggested that the name, address, phone, and email be left with the City as opposed to marked on the cart. Attorney Barnebey stated that the City can issue a Code Enforcement violation if a business does not properly mark their carts and if they do not leave contact information with the City.

Discussion ensued regarding Section 7, Uncollected Carts. Mayor Bryant is not in favor of the three day time-frame for the business owner to collect the cart. Mr. Freeman stated the City has tags that Code Enforcement uses for abandoned vehicles and opined that these tags could be used for abandoned shopping carts as well.

Commissioners Cornwell and Smith would like to require all businesses to install locking devices on their carts. Commissioner Varnadore stated she sees the need for this ordinance; however she feels that requiring all businesses to install locking devices on their shopping carts would place a hardship on smaller businesses.

Dean Cushmor, City of Palmetto resident, stated he has had to collect shopping carts off his property and has had to take them back to the stores they belong to.

Attorney Barnebey will be removing all other methods of compliance in Section 4 of the proposed ordinance, leaving option B, electronic wheel locking mechanism, as the only method for a business to comply with the retention of shopping carts. Any other measure approved by the City as a means of preventing carts from being removed from the premises will be kept in the ordinance. This proposed ordinance will be brought forward to the next workshop meeting for further discussion.

Mayor Bryant adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes approved: July 22, 2013

James R. Freeman

James R. Freeman
City Clerk