

**CITY OF PALMETTO  
CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING  
September 9, 2013  
4:30 PM**

Elected Officials Present:

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor  
Tambra Varnadore, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, Ward 2—(Entered at 5:12 p.m.)  
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2  
Jonathan Davis, Commissioner-at-Large 1  
Charles Smith, Commissioner, Ward 1  
Brian Williams, Commissioner, Ward 3—(Entered at 4:48 p.m.)

Staff Present:

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney  
Jeff Burton, CRA Director—(Entered at 4:41 p.m.)  
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 4:32 p.m.

1. DISCUSSION: FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 BUDGET

Commissioner Smith exited the meeting at 4:33 p.m.

Mr. Freeman stated that staff has worked on the requests from Commission since the last meeting. The following significant changes were made to the budget since Version #3:

- Mayor salary was increased to \$45,000 as directed by the motion made at the last meeting.
- One dispatch position was added to the Police Department's budget; a new dispatcher cannot be hired before December 1, 2013.

Next Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, will be a special Commission meeting to adopt the tentative millage and budget at 7:00 p.m. On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the final millage and budget will be on the agenda during the regular scheduled Commission meeting at 7:00 p.m.

In regard to funding for the Mayoral salary increase, Mr. Freeman stated that the money will be taken from current year revenues from the General Fund.

Commissioner Smith returned to the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

Mr. Freeman stated that the CRA budget is currently loaded in this version of the budget. There is a tentative joint meeting with the CRA Advisory Board scheduled for this Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. If there are any changes made during that meeting, then staff will have to create another version of the budget for Commission's review for the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>. If no changes are made, the current version, Version #4, is the final version of the budget.

Commissioner Williams asked Mr. Burton why the CRA Budget does not include funding for the Manatee County Fair. Mr. Burton explained that the fair is outside of the CRA district and he has seen little benefit to the CRA from participating in the fair. He opined that the funds that were allocated for the fair last Fiscal Year (FY) could be used in a better way this coming FY. Commissioner Williams disagreed with Mr. Burton, stating that Florida Statute encourages local cities to support their county fair. Mayor Bryant asked Mr. Burton to develop a plan over the next year to consider using the fair booth to better address how the CRA is dedicated to removing slum and blight within the CRA District in the City. Mr. Freeman

clarified that the City of Palmetto does sponsor the Manatee County Fair, even if the CRA does not. Discussion continued regarding the CRA and City funding local events like the Manatee County Fair and the Ribfest. Commissioner Cornwell suggested conducting surveys at the fair to find out what businesses and citizens would be interested in moving to the City and CRA District.

Mr. Burton explained that the budget for General Property Upgrades is for improvements to the City parks in the CRA District. Commissioner Williams stated that he attended the meeting with the Historical Board on Saturday who stated they have been working with Mr. Moore on a conceptual plan that has been submitted to the CRA Advisory Board. Discussion ensued regarding funding for the Historical Park. Commissioner Williams requested a meeting be set up between him, the Mayor, and Mr. Burton. Mr. Burton clarified that the conceptual drawing is to be put on the CRA Advisory Board agenda for the October meeting. This has been an ongoing work in progress for a little over two years. Mayor Bryant and Mr. Burton will meet with the Historical Park Board to address some of their concerns. If there are changes that need to be made to the CRA Budget, those changes can be brought forward at a later date in the form of a budget amendment.

Karen Simpson, Finance Director, was asked to clarify why the CRA Executive Salary was increased beyond the COLA (the budget shows a 109% increase). Mrs. Simpson indicated that 109% increase is due to the salary being increased earlier this current Fiscal Year without a budget amendment being done. Mr. Freeman stated a budget amendment will be brought forward to the meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to adjust the budget reflecting the increase in the salary.

Commissioner Varnadore questioned what would be done with the \$604,000 loan proceeds. Mr. Burton explained that the CRA Advisory Board has stated they would like to use the dollars to pay the loan off. He stated that there are different projects that the loan proceeds could be used for. Discussion ensued regarding the various projects. Mr. Freeman was asked to put this topic as a discussion on the next agenda.

Commissioner Williams asked the City to research different cell phone carriers and compare rates. Mr. Freeman has a meeting set up with T-Mobile on Friday morning.

The consensus of the Commission was to cancel the joint meeting with the CRA Advisory Board and the CRA Board for Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Bryant adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Minutes approved: September 23, 2013

*James R. Freeman*

James R. Freeman  
City Clerk