

**CITY OF PALMETTO
CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING
October 21, 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
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. 2030 COMP PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Burton handed out a copy of the CRA scope of work regarding the Downtown Commercial Core Master Plan. He stated that this discussion on the 2030 Comprehensive Plan will take place over the next several workshops and this handout will be what is discussed. He marked the scope of work in red for the items he would like to remove and/or clean-up from the Comp Plan. The highlighted areas in yellow are things he would like Commission to review and consider either removing from the Comp Plan or adding different language. This scope of work is also being discussed in front of the Planning and Zoning Board.

2. MASTER UTILITY ORDINANCE NO. 2013-14

Mr. Freeman informed Commission that the Master Utility Ordinance has not been updated since 2004. Staff has updated the ordinance to reflect the discussion and direction given at previous meetings and to include the results of the latest utility rate study that was performed on water, sewer, and reclaimed water. Mr. Freeman reviewed the ordinance with Commission citing the changes made that were marked in red.

Mr. Freeman answered Commissioner Smith's questions regarding the increase in fees; disconnect dates and surcharges on water for services provided to customers not in the City. Mr. Freeman discussed the wholesale water agreement that the City has with the County. Mr. Tusing suggested a resolution could be drafted to add a surcharge on sewer to those customers that receive sewer services but are not annexed into the City.

Commissioner Williams questioned if there can be a requirement for customers to annex into the City if they are receiving City services. Attorney Barnebey stated that notice could be given to property owners that they need to annex into the City by a given date if they have an agreement stating that they are to annex in to receive City services.

Commissioner Varnadore opined that the increase in reclaimed water rates may be too aggressive, especially right before the holidays. She suggested that the City increase at a smaller rate.

Mr. Freeman clarified the procedure that the City takes regarding tenants who have a utility account in their name but are not the actual property owners.

Discussion ensued between Staff and the Commission regarding the increase in utility rates. Commissioner Varnadore suggested the City implement Option 2 as presented at the last meeting

instead of Option 1 that was incorporated in the proposed ordinance. Commissioner Cornwell opined that increasing utility rates on November 1st, right before the holidays, may not be in the best interest of the residents. She suggested implementing an increase after the first of the year. Commissioner Smith stated he is not in support of an increase in the utility rates; however, he would consider the increase if it occurred after the holidays.

Mr. Tusing discussed the reclaimed water project, answering several of Commissioner Williams' questions. Mr. Freeman reminded Commission that the revenue the City receives from reuse is paying back the money borrowed from the Trailer Park Trust Fund for the construction of the ASR Well.

Mayor Bryant introduced Tara Poulton, Government Affairs Program Manager for the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Mr. Freeman informed Commission that the utility ordinance is on the 7:00 p.m. agenda for a public hearing and to consider adoption; also, Andy Burnham, Burton and Associates, will be in attendance to answer their questions.

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

Minutes approved: November 18, 2013

James R. Freeman

James R. Freeman
City Clerk