

**CITY OF PALMETTO
CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING
May 19, 2014
4:30 PM**

Elected Officials Present

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor
Jonathan Davis, Vice Mayor, Commissioner-at-Large 1
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2—(Entered the meeting at 5:01 p.m.)
Charles Smith, Commissioner, Ward 1
Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner, Ward 2—(Entered the meeting at 4:34 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
Rick Wells, Police Chief
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 City Commission on the recent legislative session. The budget for this year is \$77 billion. Education, K-12, is receiving the highest amount of funding in history (close to \$20 billion). He stated that a few taxes and fees were cut, this includes motor vehicle taxes. The sales tax holiday is extended this year and hurricane supplies tax free holiday is back this year. He discussed projects that were funded for Manatee County that include a beach re-nourishment project that is scheduled to begin in the fall and funding for the Manatee County Fairgrounds.

Discussion ensued regarding the Medical Marijuana distribution that will be on the ballot for vote this year. Representative Boyd stated that an initiative went out to poll Florida residents to gain an understanding on how the State felt about it; 84 percent of those that took the poll voted yes that they were for legalizing marijuana for medical reasons. Mr. Boyd stated that the wording on the poll was in such a way that it would be hard to answer no to legalizing marijuana for medicinal use. Commissioner Smith opined this should be removed from the agenda tonight.

Commissioner Williams discussed the recent meeting that took place between the City and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) regarding the traffic back-up along the Green Bridge south to Manatee Avenue. FDOT has developed a solution; however, funding is an issue causing the solution to not be feasible until 2016. Representative Boyd took notes and stated he will contact FDOT and see what he can do regarding funding for the project.

2. CRA DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL CODE

Mr. Burton stated that this is the last month of the grant; all changes shall be finalized by the end of next month. He has been meeting with the Planning Department and the City Attorney. The Commercial Code will go before the CRA Advisory Board first and then to the CRA Board next month. The Comprehensive Plan amendment will go before the Planning and Zoning Board for their approval as well. Mr. Burton stated that when he sent the amendment of the Comprehensive Plan to the State, they asked that the definition of "urban sprawl" be added back into the Plan. He plans on reorganizing the Plan and cleaning it up before it comes to Commission in June.

3. PURCHASING ORDINANCE 2014-13

Mr. Freeman informed Commission of three proposed changes to the current Purchasing Ordinance:

- Authority shall be given to Department Heads or Mayor to sign contracts, agreements, proposals, and quotations less than \$50,000 provided that all other provisions in the Ordinance have been met.
- Language has been added to clearly state that a recommendation made on a Request for Proposal (RFP) must be approved by Commission for amounts over \$50,000 and subject to successful negotiations of the contract.
- Addition of language to piggyback methods of bidding to allow the City to use competitive cooperative organizations.

Mr. Freeman stated that staff would like feedback on the following items:

- Raising the current threshold of \$50,000 for RFPs
- Addition of an invitation to negotiate

Commissioner Varnadore does not agree with Section 2(c) stating that a Department Head should not have the authority to sign and approve contracts. She agreed that all contracts and agreements should be reviewed and approved by the attorney regardless of dollar amount.

Commissioner Williams stated that he would like to see the threshold for RFPs increased to \$100,000. He stated that if the contract or agreement is \$50,000 or less it should not have to be approved by Commission; however, if more than \$50,000 he would like to have Commission's approval on that. Commissioner Smith agreed that the threshold amount on RFPs should be increased to \$100,000.

Discussion ensued regarding a multi-year contract. Commissioner Varnadore stated that there should be a renewal limit. Commissioner Williams opined that if a contract time-frame is longer than 3 years, it should come before Commission. Mayor Bryant agreed that there should be a time limit.

Mayor Bryant expressed concerns about having the attorney review every contract, agreement, quotation that comes before the City. She asked that language be included in the Ordinance regarding when the attorney needs to review the contract and when it is not required.

Commissioner Varnadore would like to have language added to the Ordinance in Section 2B(6) that states "once negotiations have been made from a bid or proposal, that contract that was agreed upon shall come back to Commission.

4. TRAFFIC POLICY DISCUSSION

Mr. Tusing explained that he would like to repeal Administrative Policy #05-14 because the Ordinance and the Administrative Policy do not match. He stated the additional work and cost to the Department to mail out a copy of the proposed traffic regulation to all residents in the area that will be affected plus the cost to advertise the notice of public hearing in the newspaper is burdensome. On June 2nd there will be a proposed traffic regulation for an all-way stop to be erected in the City which required staff to mail out 220 notifications to residents and advertise the notice in the newspaper. Mr. Tusing would like to see that the Ordinance take precedent over the Administrative Policy and that all major traffic regulations come before City Commission as addressed in the Ordinance.

Commissioner Varnadore opined to amend the current Administrative Policy to eliminate the requirement of noticing the residents and an advertisement in the newspaper.

Commissioner Williams stated that he would like the entire Traffic Regulation be reviewed and amended.

This item will be on the 7:00 p.m. agenda for a motion.

5. NOISE ORDINANCE 2014-06 (M. Barnebey)

6. OUTDOOR EATING AND DRINKING ESTABLISHMENTS ORDINANCE 2014-07 (M. Barnebey)

7. PAIN MANAGEMENT CLINIC REGULATIONS ORDINANCE 2014-10 (M. Barnebey)

8. MEDICAL MARIJUANA FACILITIES ORDINANCE 2014-11

DUE TO TIME, ITEMS 5 THROUGH 8 WERE NOT DISCUSSED; THEY WILL BE BROUGHT FORWARD TO THE NEXT WORKSHOP MEETING FOR DISCUSSION.

Mayor Bryant adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.

Minutes approved: June 16, 2014

James R. Freeman

James R. Freeman
City Clerk