

**CITY OF PALMETTO
CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING
March 2, 2015
4:30 PM**

Elected Officials Present

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor
Brian Williams, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, Ward 3
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2
Jonathan Davis, Commissioner-at-Large 1
Harold Smith, Commissioner, Ward 1
Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner, Ward 2—(arrived at 5:00 p.m.)

Staff Present

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney
Jim Freeman, City Clerk
Allen Tusing, Public Works Director
Scott Tyler, Deputy Chief of Police
Amber Foley, Assistant City Clerk

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

1. BRADENTON AREA RIVERWALK REGATTA EVENT RECAP

Frankie Amato, Pauls Pizza by the Foot, expressed her opinions about the event. She stated that because of the road closure at 7th Street it did not allow for a lot of traffic to pass by her restaurant. She had very little customers that day; none after 2:00 p.m.

Captain Tom Hanchett, Riverside Tours, had a productive business day during the event. He did opine that the wait time to take the water taxi from Bradenton to Palmetto was a little long, something he will try to correct at future events.

John Horne, Anna Maria Oyster Bar Bradenton, explained he was on the Committee for the food vendors for the event. He stated that the Committee tried to get as many local vendors to participate in the event as possible.

Mayor Bryant and Commission expressed their opinions about the event stating that:

- Traffic routing deterred people from travelling through Palmetto.
- The event promoted spectator access to the boat pits in Palmetto; however, the pits were closed to public.
- The Christian music concert was cancelled and never replaced.
- There was little regatta related activity to attract visitors to the north side of the Manatee River.
- The promoted race route was shortened which kept most of the action on the south side of the Manatee River.
- There was a long walk across the Green Bridge with no service to help the elderly and disabled to see the races from the Bridge.

Mayor and Commission also noted that several businesses have been in contact with them stating that there was a decline in sales for the Saturday as compared to previous Saturdays.

Betsy Benac, Chairman of Manatee County Commission, agreed that there are things that need to be changed for next year's event. There needs to be more inclusion for the City of Palmetto. Rita Bernot, City of Palmetto resident, was a spectator at the event. She agreed that there was little for people to do in the City of Palmetto related to the event.

Dave Gustafson, City of Bradenton Downtown Development Authority (DDA), listened to the Commissioners' and resident's complaints. He stated that he worked endlessly on this event to try to make it the best he could for both cities. He recognizes that there are things that need to be different and hopes that next year and the years after can be even better. He reminded the City that every first event starts somewhere and there are always ways to improve for the next years to follow.

Mayor Wayne Poston, City of Bradenton, and Mr. Gustafson stated that they would like to see that next year there is one person dedicated to planning this event and working with both cities. Mayor Poston stated that Mr. Gustafson cannot do this again next year; it takes too much of his time away from the responsibilities he has to their DDA.

Terry Wilson, Hernando DeSoto Historical Society, offered the DeSoto's services to help next year with organizing and planning the event with each City.

2. ORDINANCE 2015-01 SOLICITATION

Attorney Barnebey stated that this ordinance clarifies the limitations on solicitation in the road ways of the City. This ordinance removed the existing permitting exemptions for certain organizations as well. Mr. Barnebey added the restriction of soliciting within 15 feet of automated teller machines (ATMs) or the entrance to a bank and 15 feet of a bus stop or public transit facility.

Mayor Bryant questioned the length of time that a permit can be issued for and she also expressed concerns with the revocation of the permit itself seeming too difficult of a process.

Commissioner Cornwell questioned requirement 8 as mentioned in the point paper that states "solicitation of the occupants of a vehicle is prohibited when the solicitor is located on or within 5 feet of the edge of a public roadway." She expressed her displeasure with the 5 foot rule and wanted to see it made larger. Attorney Barnebey stated that the larger you make the feet from the road way the harder it is to justify that it is for safety reasons only. Commissioner Williams and Cornwell questioned if this applies to being approached by a solicitor in a parking lot. Attorney Barnebey said no, but will add some language in there regarding solicitation on private property.

In regards to revoking a permit, currently the ordinance is that the City Clerk is to revoke it. Attorney Barnebey suggested that the police could immediately suspend the permit if they are found in violation with the City Clerk to revoke it and he will add language to indicate that.

Commissioner Varnadore asked that language be added to the ordinance to specify that the Solicitor's Permit shall be obtained from the City Clerk's office.

Discussion ensued regarding the 15 feet from an ATM and bank entrance. Commissioner Varnadore would like to extend it to greater than 15 feet. Attorney Barnebey will change the feet from 15 to 25.

In regards to soliciting in the median, Attorney Barnebey will remove "median" from the ordinance.

Discussion ensued regarding soliciting in the clear sight triangle. Attorney Barnebey agreed to include a prohibition to the solicitation in the clear sight triangle.

In regards to a time frame for the Solicitor Permit to be valid, Mr. Freeman said that six months should be the maximum allowable time; Commission agreed.

Commissioner Williams questioned the sales on private property, like Girl Scouts selling cookies in front of Walmart or Publix; Mr. Barnebey said that even if they have the permission from the store owner/property owner, they will still need to get a permit from the City. Commission did not agree with this.

3. CITY'S GATEWAY SIGN GUIDELINES (J. Burton/J. Freeman)

Due to the time, this item was not discussed and will be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

4. ORDINANCE 2015-03 CEMETERY (M. Barnebey/A. Foley)

Due to the time, this item was not discussed and will be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

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

Minutes approved: March 16, 2015

James R. Freeman

James R. Freeman
City Clerk