

**CITY OF PALMETTO  
CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING  
April 18, 2016  
4:30 PM**

Elected Officials Present:

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor  
Harold Smith, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, Ward 1  
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2  
Jonathan Davis, Commissioner-at-Large 1  
Brian Williams, Commissioner, Ward 3

Elected Officials Absent:

Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner, Ward 2

Staff Present:

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

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

Mayor Bryant added the Employee of the Quarter recognition to the workshop agenda (it was scheduled for the 7:00 p.m. meeting tonight). The nominees were:

Jessica Becerril	Amber Foley
Deanna Roberts	Penny Johnston
Kathy Riley	Jeff Scott
Scott VanDerMolen	Matt Bloome
Ken Green	Bobby Simpson
Ramon Guerrero	Rudy Guerrero
Lupe Cantu	Captain Stinson
Oscar Kieffer	Det. Rogers
Lola Foy	Ofc. Evans

Mayor Bryant and City Commission recognized Deanna Roberts, Employee of the Second Quarter.

PRESENTATION: Mr. Freeman presented the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for FY2016 to the City's Finance Department.

PRESENTATION: Mr. Freeman gave a brief presentation on the FY2014/2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. He discussed the City's major initiatives for this year as well as in the future. The operating income for 2015 was \$2.7M versus \$1.6M in 2013 with a total net position of \$26.1M. The City received an unmodified opinion which is the highest opinion you can receive. Jeff Gerhardt, of CS&L Certified Public Accountants, was present and congratulated the City and the Finance Department on their recognition and hard work.

1. ORDINANCE 2016-04 CHARTER DISCUSSION

Attorney Barnebey informed Commission of the changes made to the Charter:

- Section 9-all candidates for City Commission now must have been residents of the City for 365 consecutive days prior to qualifying. A separate requirement to be a resident of the ward for 180 days prior to qualifying for a ward commissioner was removed.
- Section 10-Consideration is to be given to the availability in the appointment of the Vice Mayor.
- Section 12-Qualifications for appointment of vacancies in the Commission refers back to the qualifications contained in Section 9.
- Section 26-Qualifications and parameters for the duties of the Charter Review Committee (CRC) are more clearly set forth. Further, the CRC is only required to be appointed every ten (10) years (it could be established sooner by resolution of the City Commission)
- Section 27-the effective date for amendments was clarified.

Mr. Barnebey made some grammatical clarifications to Section 9 and, after discussion with the City Commission, clarified that ward Commissioners have to be residents of their ward and have to remain residents of their ward during their term of office.

Alan Zirkelbach, Chairman of the CRC, explained the decisions of the Committee, more specifically to the residency requirement. He explained that the Committee felt a need to be consistent whether a person was running for a ward Commissioner or an at-large Commissioner. In regard to the Section 10 change, he said that the Committee saw a need to have it written that availability be considered before appointing a Commissioner as Vice-Mayor.

Discussion ensued regarding ward and at-large residency. Commissioner Cornwell opined that there should be a specific residency requirement for a ward seat. She did not like the idea that someone could move into a ward a day before qualifying and run for that ward, even though they have lived in the City for 365 consecutive days. Attorney Barnebey clarified that the person running for the ward will have to live in that ward for 4 years (the term of the seat).

Commissioner Williams requested more clarification on the parameters of the Charter Review Committee, specifically one employee being appointed. Mr. Zirkelbach stated that the reason the Committee decided upon only one employee being appointed is so that there is not an issue with employees "hijacking" the vote in the City Employees favor.

Discussion ensued regarding Section 10 Vice-Mayor. Mr. Zirkelbach explained that the Committee thought it would be beneficial to Commissioners to outline what is expected of a Vice-Mayor before a Commissioner accepts the responsibility.

## 2. ORDINANCE 2016-06 PARKING IN LIEU (M. Barnebey)

## 3. ORDINANCE 2016-07 ALARM (M. Barnebey/Chief Tyler)

**Due to the time, the two items above were not discussed and will be carried forward to the next meeting.**

Mayor Bryant adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Minutes approved: May 16, 2016

*James R. Freeman*

James R. Freeman  
City Clerk