

**CITY OF PALMETTO
CITY COMMISSION BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING
August 24, 2016
5:30 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
Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner Ward 2

Staff Present:

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 5:32 p.m.

Mayor Bryant announced that all Department Head salaries will be the same.

1. FY2017 BUDGET VERSION 4 DISCUSSION

Mr. Freeman presented Version 4 of the FY2017 budget. The insurance numbers entered in this version are final. Page 5 of this Version notates the changes in this version as compared to the last version. He noted that there is a \$300 thousand dollar surplus in the CRA budget that needs to be allocated.

Commissioner Varnadore started a discussion regarding a rate study on water and sewer services. Stormwater last had a rate study done in 2008 with all other utility rates done in 2012. It was determined that staff will look into the cost of another utility rate study for all utilities before next budget season begins.

Karen Simpson, Director of Finance, was asked to review the budget for duplicate expense items, such as decibel meters for the Police Department.

Discussion ensued regarding the budget for fencing in the City. Mr. Tusing indicated it is for the soccer field fence located along 14th Avenue West and some fencing for Estuary Park. It was questioned why the tennis and basketball court fencing in Lamb Park was not budgeted for repair. Commissioner Varnadore requested funds be added to the budget for the fence repair on the courts in the event that the fencing does need to be replaced during the fiscal year. Due to the CRA making plans to update and renovate both Sutton and Lamb Park, staff stated that no plans have been made to make significant investments in either of those parks until plans were conceptually finalized by the Commission/CRA Board. A safety report on both courts at Lamb Park will be provided to Commission.

Commissioner Varnadore questioned why funds were not budgeted for a community garden as previously discussed. Discussion continued regarding the CRA budget. Several questions were raised including the allocation of funds, the amount of "miscellaneous" line items, and the appropriation of the \$300,000.00 surplus. Due to Mr. Burton being absent from the meeting, the Commissioner's questions were noted by Mayor Bryant and will be forwarded to Mr. Burton for answering.

Mayor Bryant adjourned the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Minutes approved: September 12, 2016

James R. Freeman

James R. Freeman
City Clerk