

**CITY OF PALMETTO
CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING
November 21, 2016
4:30 PM**

Elected Officials Present:

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor
Harold Smith, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, Ward 1
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2—(arrived at 4:32 p.m.)
Jonathan Davis, Commissioner-at-Large 1
Brian Williams, Commissioner, Ward 3—(arrived at 4:34 p.m.)
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.

1. UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA MULTIMODAL PRESENTATION

Students from the University of South Florida (USF) gave a presentation to Commission regarding multimodal transportation in the City.

Christine Williams, Multimodal Transportation Planning Professor, gave brief introductions on the students in attendance and the presentation.

Katrina Corcoran, group leader, gave an introduction on the community vision for multimodal transportation in the City. She stated that to develop a mobility plan, the City needs to look at transportation network services and strategies, land use and urban design strategies, and improvement of programs and fees. This mobility plan should then be incorporated into the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Andrea Papandrew discussed the multimodal environment as it pertains to transportation and land use. It was determined that the City has some policies that reinforce a strong urban core, but more specific comprehensive policies are necessary. She stated that it appears the City lacks specific strategies, recommendations, standards, or measures for improving bicycle/pedestrian facilities. A walkability assessment was conducted in October and some suggested improvements are:

- ADA compliant sidewalks
- Addition of bike lanes
- Landscaping: pedestrian scaled lighting/street trees
- Limit curb cuts

A review of the transit facilities along 8th Avenue were conducted and it was determined that the bus stops should be sheltered, there should be clearly identified bus route markings, easy sidewalk accessibility, and consistency in bus stop designs.

Austin Gible expanded upon the transportation and land use as it pertains to transit compatibility and density. He stated that the City's Comprehensive Plan outlines density maximums but does not outline density minimums in the CRA. He suggested a form-based code should be explored and density should be strong enough to support a mix of uses, such as small commercial shops, and transit use.

Alexander Henry presented the network improvement evaluation of the study. He explained that the City benefits from a well-connected street grid. Most traffic is concentrated onto arterials with a

Comprehensive Plan that discourages the expansion of local roads. The evaluation determined that the City is lacking, most specifically, a bicycle network. Seeing as 8th Avenue is considered a major corridor, it is significantly lacking as a multimodal network, again, most specifically for bicycles. The City should consider mapping existing bicycle and pedestrian networks to help identify missing network links and deficiencies. Mr. Henry elaborated on the recommendations, stating that the Plan update should consider redefining roadway functional classifications based on surrounding context, and the City should establish multimodal design standards requiring specific sidewalk widths, bicycle facility widths, and other considerations for different roadway types.

Midblock crosswalks were discussed as a recommendation to enhance pedestrian safety and connectivity, and to channelize pedestrian crossings to predictable locations; areas to consider would be high levels of pedestrian demand and long distance between crossings.

While the City does not currently have the density required for the bus rapid transit, it could benefit from the unique branding/stations of such systems. The City may wish to consider working with Manatee County Area Transit to improve these areas.

Tatiana Childress and Emily Phelan presented the operations and safety evaluation. She displayed 2004-2014 crash data indicating that US Business 41 is in need of pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements, and recommending that 8th Avenue be identified as a future roadway improvement corridor in the Palmetto Comprehensive Plan. The data presented for 2004-2014 showed that pedestrian fatalities was 28% and bicycle fatalities were 17% (combination of Manatee County and City of Palmetto statistics) compared to the national average of 14% and 5.5% respectively.

It was noted that Policy 2.2.6 currently states that the City shall continue to prioritize improvements at intersections with unusually high accident rates; what are the intersections? Miss Childress indicated the City should consider updating this Policy to be more specific.

Miss Childress gave a recommendation that the City consider installing roundabout alternatives for signal replacement as a safety, low maintenance alternative. Studies indicate that roundabouts have 90 percent less fatalities and 75 percent less injury crashes.

Regulatory techniques was discussed. It was mentioned that the City should regulate driveway spacing, sight distance, and corner clearance; restrict number of driveways per existing parcel on developing corridors; increase minimum lot frontage along thoroughfares; and encourage joint access and parking lot cross access.

Joshua Barber finalized the presentation by discussing implementation. Concurrency should be finalized or removed from the City's Plan. Revenue sources should be considered i.e. parking fees and parking management. Incentives should be considered for contributions to the system like streetscaping. Overall, the City of Palmetto's Transportation Plan has a solid foundation from which it can build an improved and focused Multimodal Transportation Plan for years to come. A more detailed report will be available at the end of the semester.

Commissioner Varnadore requested information be made available in the detailed report regarding implementation and transition from what currently exists to what has been recommended.

Mayor Bryant questioned how likely it is that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will consider a crosswalk going east to west on 8th Avenue West. Mr. Henry stated that FDOT does consider these types of crosswalks and would need to do a study on the corridor first.

Commissioner Williams complimented the presentation and echoed Commissioner Varnadore's remarks.

Mr. Henry reiterated that even though 8th Avenue is a State Road, the City is not restricted on enhancing that corridor or being proactive in making pedestrian and multimodal improvements.

2. ORDINANCE 2016-08 AUTO REPAIR SHOP MORATORIUM

Debra Woithe, City Planner, discussed the handouts in the agenda. A map was created showing the 10th Avenue character district which would be the geographic area bounded by Riverside Drive, 11th Avenue West, 9th Avenue West and 11th Street West, needs to be further discussed tonight. The use table was also discussed with Mrs. Woithe indicating that the only change was adding the vehicle repair category towards the end of the table; this is because in the City's Code/definitions, there is a distinction between motor vehicle repair and vehicle repair.

Mrs. Woithe elaborated on the definition of 10th Avenue District, stating that the District has been established to further encourage a vibrant, mixed use, pedestrian oriented Old Main Street and downtown core. The regulations that apply to the historic downtown character district are in addition to those established by the underlying character districts. Inappropriate uses that shall not be permitted include industrial uses, motor vehicle repair-major, motor vehicle repair-minor, service stations, and vehicle repair.

Commissioner Williams would prefer to call the district "Old Main Street" district as opposed to 10th Avenue District. Commissioner Varnadore would like to include Old Main; however, suggested it be named 10th Avenue/Old Main District.

This item is on the 7:00 p.m. agenda for a first read.

3. ORDINANCE 2016-09 NOISE (M. Barnebey)

(TAB 2)

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

(TAB 3)

5. DISCUSSION: MANATEE COUNTY FUNDING A POOL IN PALMETTO

Due to time, items 3, 4, and 5 were not discussed.

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

Minutes approved: December 19, 2016

James R. Freeman

James R. Freeman
City Clerk