

CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING
June 19, 2017
4:30 PM

Elected Officials Present:

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

Elected Officials Absent:

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor

Staff Present:

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney
Jeff Burton, CRA Director
Allen Tusing, Public Works Director
Scott Tyler, Chief of Police
Penny Johnston, Executive Assistant

Vice Mayor Brian Williams called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Representative Wengay “Newt” Newton provided a 2017 Legislative Update. Mr. Newton, representing district 70, said his main goal is to provide more constituent services. He introduced his staff Charles Martin III and Cyrus Calhoun III. He spoke of legislative major assaults on Home Rule. He also mentioned very damaging legislation to be placed on the ballot against ad valorem increasing the tax exemption \$25,000, with the only entity being exempt is the School Board. Every municipality will be affected. In order to balance the budget municipalities will have to raise mileage, increase fees or cut jobs. The third legislative issue he mentioned was to reduce resources for Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs) due to abuse taking place in one county. Mr. Newton encouraged being good stewards of whatever funds we do receive. On a more positive note, additional funding may be available for Enterprise Florida/ Visit Florida to increase state marketing. Two-year colleges and technical schools will receive funding for a jobs program and more training. Last items included continued efforts to increase local school funding, and remove the Red-Light Program to perhaps start a HALO program.

1. DOWNTOWN PARKING STUDY

CRA Intern Mr. Wes Bengé spoke about the *supply* side of the downtown parking study. He suggested removing the large tree from the middle of the First Baptist Church parking lot. CRA Intern Mr. Mark O’Leary talked about the *demand* side of the project. Mr. O’Leary suggested incentivizing parking to improve the parking ratio between supply and demand. Parking demands in downtown commercial core almost double supply. Downtown area alone requires more parking than is currently available. He suggested building a parking garage with retail on the bottom level and he opined the City should update antiquated ordinances. Additional recommendations included keeping off-street parking to a minimum; a public/ private partnership with First Baptist Church; diagonal parking around Sutton Park; complete streets; mixed use developments; and useful public art for bike racks or signage. He suggested hosting a Downtown Market or maybe a Food Truck Rally to showcase City amenities. Commissioner Varnadore asked to clarify Place Making- establishing a “feeling”, an ethos for Palmetto. Mrs. Varnadore requested a map showing public parking. Representative Newton interjected that staff needs ideas, but also should focus on funding mechanisms. He suggested studying the growing pains and solutions from other cities regarding transit, trolleys, or shuttles with a downtown partnership. Commissioner Cornwell requested a map of project priorities.

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2. ORDINANCE 2016-09 NOISE (S. Tyler/M. Barnebey)
Mr. Barnebey suggested we continue this item until 7/17/17.

Vice Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Minutes approved: July 17, 2017

James R. Freeman
James R. Freeman, City Clerk