

CITY OF PALMETTO
CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING
August 7, 2017
4:30 PM

Elected Officials Present:

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

Staff Present:

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

Mayor Bryant opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

RECOGNITION: Mayor Bryant recognized the following employees for their recent nomination for Employee of the Third Quarter:

Nixa Haisley	Donna Gross
Det. Sgt. Ryan LaRowe	Ofc. Jason Schroeder
Det. Richard Wilson	Bobby Simpson
James Council	

Mayor Bryant and the City Commission recognized Nixa Haisley, Purchasing Agent, as Employee of the Third Quarter.

PRESENTATION: Mr. Freeman presented the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to Finance for budget year 2017.

Mayor Bryant switched items 3 and 4 of the agenda.

1. PARK SURVEY PRESENTATION (M. O'Leary)

Mr. O'Leary presented a park presentation to the Commission. This is attached to and made part of the minutes. The parks in the survey include:

- 14th Avenue Park
- 17th Street Park
- Estuary Preserve
- Heritage Park (Historical Park)
- Hidden Lake Park
- Hydrant Park
- Lamb Park
- Martin Luther King Jr. Park
- Recreational Trail
- Riverside Park (East and West)
- Sutton Park
- Taylor Park

The goal of the survey was to examine existing conditions and provide recommendations. A baseline for acceptable standards needs to be established. Additionally, there are a few larger scale proposals, which have had initial vetting by the public. The report is organized into sections by the above listed parks, with subcategories for each park. These subcategories include: existing conditions, quantitative analysis, and recommendations.

Mr. O'Leary used Esri123 to collect the data. This programs mobile application allowed staff to use their cell phone and get accurate GPS coordinates. Multiple staff members worked on this project to increase validity and verify judgement. Staff also created a survey using Qualtrics that was available to the public through local restaurants, the Palmetto Library, and handed out during the Fourth of July event. Only 25 people responded which means the sample size is not large enough to justify changing of policy, but is large enough to get an idea of what people are feeling. Staff recommends that the Planning Department and the Parks Department hold a proper charrette to see what people want in the parks.

The only "negative" comment was that the City parks do not have free Wi-Fi accessibility. Other comments from the surveys included:

- Residents feel overall safe in the parks
- Residents use the park for a variety of reasons, but community/club events is the most popular
- The comments section revealed:
 - Some residents really want a dog park
 - Others want the sand to be cleaned at playgrounds, specifically Sutton Park
 - Some residents want playground equipment upgraded at Sutton and 17th Street Park, although staff determines they are in fine condition
 - Multiple respondents asked for more events at Sutton Park
 - The second most in-demand future amenity was "more to do" along the waterfront at Riverside Park West

Mayor Bryant clarified that there is Wi-Fi at Sutton Park provided by Spectrum for those with a Spectrum account to use.

Staff's additional recommendations were:

- Convert 14th Avenue Park into a shaded dog park
- Update the level of service (LOS) standards in the Comprehensive Plan
- If unable to keep all parks up to adequate standard, then there should be fewer parks and focusing of resources on maintaining the remaining ones
- More events at Sutton Park
- The City should try to siphon some of the pressure off Sutton Park to other parks. 17th Street is a great park for community gatherings and birthday parties
- Look into current trends such as disc golf

Mr. Burton explained the next step, other than community meetings, is to figure out which parks should be used for what and what type of amenities should be expected and upgraded. An action plan can then be developed along with a financing plan.

Commissioner Varnadore would like to see this plan expedited especially for the parks that have limited amenities like Hydrant Park. She asked that the parks with the most needs be addressed first with a plan and financing options and then move on to the other parks.

2. ORDINANCE 2017-08 ABANDONED VESSELS

Attorney Barnebey informed Commission that he and the Chief made changes to the City's existing code, Chapter 18, Junked, Wrecked, Abandoned, or Vacant Property. It was determined, that, overall the existing ordinance was pretty good. The definition of "Public Property" was slightly modified and Sections 18-4 and 18-5 were changed in their entirety.

Mayor suggested at the 7:00 p.m. meeting tonight, the public hearing be opened and continued.

Commissioner Williams discussed the noticing requirements as outlined in Section 18-4. It was clarified that the "within 5 days" means 5 days from the posting of the notice.

This item will be on the 7:00 p.m. meeting for a public hearing.

4. FY 2017-2018 Budget Discussion

Mr. Freeman reminded the Commission that the next budget meeting will be August 14 at 5:30 p.m. with a Version 2 to be provided. Along with the budget discussion, staff will discuss the Capital Improvement Plan and ½ Cent Sales Tax funds.

3. ORDINANCE 2016-09 NOISE

The Chief and the Attorney would like direction by consensus on some issues related to decibel level enforcement.

1. Does the Commission want to be able to potentially enforce the noise ordinance in court?
The consensus was yes.
2. Is the proposed level of noise generally appropriate: between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and midnight-60 dBa or 65 dBc with all other times being 55 dBa or 60 dBc?

It was clarified that question 2 above mimics what Manatee County has in place. The consensus was yes to number 2.

Commissioner Varnadore requested that questions 3 through 5 (of the attached point paper/outline) be skipped and that the Attorney ask for questions regarding question 6. Question 3 asked about designating an "Entertainment Zone"; question 4 asked about dBa/dBc exemptions for events with a Special Function Permit; question 5 asked about the creation of a Special Noise Permit. Commissioner Varnadore stated no on questions 3 through 5. Discussion ensued.

This ordinance will be brought back to the next Workshop meeting.

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

Minutes approved: August 28, 2017

James R. Freeman

James R. Freeman
City Clerk