

**CITY OF PALMETTO**  
**CITY COMMISSION BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**August 23, 2017**  
**5:30 PM**

Elected Officials Present:

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor  
Brian Williams, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, Ward 3  
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2—(arrived 5:34 p.m.)  
Jonathan Davis, Commissioner-at-Large 1  
Harold Smith, Commissioner, Ward 1  
Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner, Ward 2

Staff Present:

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

Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

1. FY2017-2018 CRA BUDGET ONLY

Mr. Burton gave a presentation regarding the CRA Budget. His presentation included an overview of the projects that have been done or plan to be done by the CRA. Upcoming/ongoing projects include the parking structure at Riverside and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue area, linear park trail connecting Martin Luther King Jr. Park to Lincoln Park, arterial street parking, Armory historic preservation with 2018 grant application, and 505 5<sup>th</sup> Street West Park Plan. Mr. Burton discussed the capital expenses to include the Riverside project, the multi-modal enhancement corridor (MMEC) project, and Historical Park improvements. The CRA is also discussing a partnership with Florida Power and Light (FP&L) to plant solar trees; Mr. Burton is proposing in this budget for two prototypes at the new bus stations at the Riverside Parks.

Commissioner Varnadore commented on the solar tree prototypes and would prefer some information before any purchase is made. She would prefer a tree style with a more historic feel as opposed to the modern design as presented.

In regards to the “Seahorse” project located at Riverside Park West, Mr. Burton explained the property value swap scenario. He stated that there were federal grants given to the City back in the 1980’s, and in order to use the property for the “Seahorse” project, the CRA has to find and purchase undeveloped property, that is valued at the same amount as the current property in Riverside Park West; this is to offset the loss of recreation associated with developing the “Seahorse” property. The property also has to be available for recreational use. Mr. Burton has been trying to negotiate and obtain the property west of the Historical Park; however, the discussions have not been in the CRA/City favor, so Mr. Burton is working hard to find another property or properties that are as much as the value of the property where the potential “Seahorse” will go.

Commissioner Williams commented on the timeliness of receiving and discussing the CRA budget and asked, if possible, next year discussions can begin earlier than the end of August.

Mr. Freeman asked the Commission when they would like to discuss the budget further for the CRA; there is a regularly scheduled CRA Board meeting on September 11 where Mr. Freeman is proposing that the Board formally adopts the budget at that time. It was decided that a special CRA Board meeting will be held on Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The meeting can always be cancelled.

## 2. DISCUSSION: HALF CENT SALES TAX PROJECTS

Mr. Freeman discussed the spreadsheets presented to Commission with a list of various projects to use the half-cent sales tax. The money can be used for projects in the following categories:

- Transportation
- Public Safety and Law Enforcement
- Parks and Community Facilities

Staff has compiled a list of ideas for projects in the City for the above categories. This is not a hard and fast list; rather, it is to be viewed as a fluid document that can change as needed. The money cannot be spent on anything other than capital projects that relate to those categories as listed above.

Mr. Freeman would like to see this list adopted via a resolution sometime in October.

In regards to the license plate recognition cameras as identified in the Law Enforcement category, Commissioner Cornwell requested information be provided to the Commission that indicates the software for the cameras will work with the City's current system.

A new Police Department was heavily discussed with the consensus of the Commission indicating this is a top priority. Mayor Bryant informed the Commission that further discussion regarding the building will be had at a workshop.

This document will be brought forward to future workshops for further discussions and prioritization.

Mayor Bryant announced the Complete Streets Study workshop that will be held at the Palmetto Library by the Florida Department of Transportation. The workshop begins at 5:30 p.m. A calendar invite will be sent out.

Mayor Bryant adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes approved: September 25, 2017

*James R. Freeman*

James R. Freeman  
City Clerk