

CITY OF PALMETTO
CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING
April 16, 2018
4:30 PM

Elected Officials Present:

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor
Jonathan Davis, Vice Mayor, Commissioner-at-Large 1
Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2
Harold Smith, Commissioner, Ward 1
Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner, Ward 2
Brian Williams, Commissioner Ward 3

Staff Present:

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney
Jim Freeman, City Clerk
Allen Tusing, Public Works Director
Scott Tyler, Chief of Police
Amber LaRowe, Assistant City Clerk

RECOGNITION: The City of Palmetto recognized Karen Simpson, Finance Director, for her fifteen years of service. Mr. Freeman highlighted her achievements over the years to include 12 consecutive CAFR awards and 8 consecutive Budget Awards. Karen has also helped implement the new Caseware software for financials as well as helped to write many of the financial policies the City has in place today. Mr. Freeman invited staff and Commission to Karen's going away party where cake will be served at City Hall on May 10th.

1. ORDINANCE 2018-11 LIVESTOCK AND FOWL

Karla Owens, Development and Services Director, discussed the changes made since the Workshop on April 2nd. The changes include:

- Section 6-31 was amended to:
 - create definitions of the types of birds regulated and restricted,
 - clarification of areas where chickens may be kept,
 - provides other language regarding sanitation and the construction of chicken enclosures;
 - chickens do not have to be kept in a constructed coop, they must be in a secured area at the rear of the house and located at least ten feet from the nearest occupied residence
- Roosters, peafowl, ducks, geese, and other poultry and fowl are not allowed within the City limits.
- All existing roosters, poultry, and fowl other than chickens kept in compliance with this Ordinance must be relocated within 90 days of the effective date of this Ordinance.

- Exceptions have been added to the Ordinance for estate residential (ER), property in excess of four acres and for bona fide agricultural activities as defined in Section 823.14, Florida Statutes.

Commissioner Cornwell expressed her opinions regarding this Ordinance and the potential affect it will have on children who raise fowl for the fair and/or with 4-H/FFA. Mayor Bryant asked Mrs. Owens to reach out to members of the 4-H and the FFA to speak to them about the Ordinance. Mrs. Owens informed Commission that this Ordinance is very similar to Manatee County. She also noted that this Ordinance does not apply to properties zoned P like schools are.

Mr. Tusing asked that the word “bird” under General Requirements be changed to match the correct verbiage regarding fowl in this Ordinance.

David Sylvester, resident of the City, is in favor of adopting this Ordinance. He recently made a complaint to Code Enforcement regarding a rooster next door that was a nuisance. He agrees in aligning the City’s Ordinance to mirror that of the County.

This Ordinance is on the 7:00 p.m. Agenda for a first reading.

Mayor Bryant exited the meeting at 5:26 p.m.

2. RESOLUTION 2018-11 CAPITALIZATION POLICY

Mr. Freeman explained that the City last adopted a Capitalization Policy in 2009 that established guidelines for capitalization threshold and depreciation methodology. In reviewing the Policy, staff found it necessary to make revisions to the threshold, the useful life, and definitions. Useful life for computer equipment is being suggested to change from 7 years to 4 years, and infrastructure from 50 years to 40 years. Based on Governmental and Accounting Standards Board (GASB) 34 best practices for capital assets, the capitalization threshold for land should be zero; all land should be capitalized regardless of cost.

Discussion ensued regarding the depreciation of equipment like computers and cars. Mr. Freeman reiterated that just because the depreciation is 4 years for computer equipment does not mean the City is disposing of computers every 4 years and purchasing new computers. The computers are used as long as they’re working and updated; the 4 years is for depreciation calculations.

Mayor returned to the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

This Resolution is on the 7:00 p.m. agenda for adoption.

3. ORDINANCE 2018-07 PARKING VIOLATION SCHEDULE OF FINES

Mrs. LaRowe informed the Commission that staff is working on different parking ticket software to streamline the ticketing process for the officers. During this process, the existing Ordinance was reviewed and it was noticed that no changes have been made since 1994. Mrs. LaRowe

surveyed the surrounding jurisdictions and came up with the amounts as attached. Staff's preference is to allot for a higher fine (\$35) for those violations that could potentially put someone's life in danger like parking on a sidewalk, a fire lane, or bicycle path. All violations as outlined in the attached are per Florida State Statute. The Commission had no comments regarding the fines as provided.

4. DISCUSSION: AMENDING PARK OPERATING HOURS (S. Tyler)

Due to time, this item was not discussed and will be carried forward to the next meeting.

Mayor Bryant adjourned the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Minutes approved: May 7, 2018

James R. Freeman

James R. Freeman
City Clerk